

## CHAPTER XXV.—LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

## A.—PRICES.

## § 1. Wholesale Prices.

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

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

## INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE.

(Base 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	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
1905 ..	772	850	804	980	942	1,209	801	859	910
1906 ..	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907 ..	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908 ..	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909 ..	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910 ..	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,086
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,393	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,506
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428
1932 ..	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933 ..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,195	1,714	1,487	2,061	2,106	1,409

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

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

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

## § 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

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

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

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

Index-numbers are computed monthly for five representative towns in each State (the "30 towns"), for Canberra, and for a few other special towns. Index-numbers are computed annually in November for 200 towns, including those referred to above (see § 4, following). The same regimen of Food and Groceries is used throughout all the retail price indexes that follow.

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

(c) *All Household Expenditure*. Since 1919, prices have been collected quarterly in the "30 towns" for other household expenditure in two groups, "Clothing" and "Miscellaneous", the latter including household utensils, fuel, light, tobacco and a number of other items. These prices are combined with food prices and rents (four and five-roomed houses) to give the "all-items" ("C" Series) index of retail prices. The base is the period 1923 to 1927 (see § 3 following). This index has almost wholly replaced the "A" Series as regards wages regulated by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court.

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

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

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

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Sydney .. .. .	523	553	646	1,062	1,090	984	876	852	800
Melbourne .. .. .	517	523	610	1,063	1,004	913	791	758	713
Brisbane .. .. .	530	569	603	1,014	951	844	778	738	699
Adelaide .. .. .	532	570	679	1,055	1,055	937	789	761	731
Perth .. .. .	670	753	728	1,116	1,084	961	836	804	757
Hobart .. .. .	565	592	678	1,133	1,025	952	816	797	757
Weighted Average (a) .. .. .	533	559	640	1,064	1,044	941	826	796	751

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii) *Housing*. In issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 19, the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under four rooms to seven rooms and over. Since 1925, houses of four and five rooms only have been taken into account in accordance with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians at Adelaide in 1924. The following table is on this basis, but the old index is still computed for the use of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court (see *Appendix*).

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Sydney .. .. .	593	701	760	989	1,162	1,197	1,026	894	864
Melbourne .. .. .	455	569	628	820	1,094	1,011	867	816	801
Brisbane .. .. .	283	373	466	630	841	775	680	641	681
Adelaide .. .. .	510	706	655	809	986	916	755	691	694
Perth .. .. .	458	524	539	739	955	979	881	810	795
Hobart .. .. .	405	452	518	881	932	914	901	868	860
Weighted Average (b) .. .. .	497	612	662	862	1,073	1,047	901	817	804

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

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1923.	1933.
Sydney .. .. .	548	606	687	1,036	1,115	1,059	929	867	822
Melbourne .. .. .	495	539	616	977	1,036	948	818	778	742
Brisbane .. .. .	442	500	554	877	912	819	743	704	690
Adelaide .. .. .	524	618	671	975	1,030	929	777	736	716
Perth .. .. .	594	672	679	982	1,038	968	852	805	768
Hobart .. .. .	508	542	621	1,044	992	939	846	822	792
Weighted Average (b) .. .. .	520	578	648	992	1,054	978	852	803	768

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

4. *Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency*.—The tables previously given are now converted into money units by substituting 20s. od. for the base of 1,000. The figures for the last six quarters are added to the yearly figures. The figures show the

sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such quantities of the several commodities and such housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in the five-yearly base period—1923-1927 :—

**RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1934 TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD HAVE COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN THE FIVE-YEARLY BASE PERIOD—1923-1927, IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.**

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).*</b>							
1907 .. .. .	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911 .. .. .	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1914 .. .. .	12 11	12 2	12 1	13 7	14 7	13 7	12 10
1921 .. .. .	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1929 .. .. .	21 10	20 1	19 0	21 1	21 8	20 6	20 11
1930 .. .. .	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10
1931 .. .. .	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1932 .. .. .	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1933 .. .. .	16 0	14 3	14 0	14 7	15 2	15 2	15 0
1933 { 1st Quarter..	15 11	13 9	13 10	14 3	14 9	14 9	14 9
2nd " ..	16 0	14 1	13 11	14 7	15 6	15 0	15 0
3rd " ..	16 2	14 6	14 1	14 10	15 2	15 7	15 2
4th " ..	15 11	14 8	14 1	14 10	15 1	15 3	15 2
1934 { 1st Quarter..	16 3	14 6	14 5	15 2	15 8	14 11	15 4
2nd " ..	16 5	15 0	14 7	15 9	16 6	15 8	15 8

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

1907 .. .. .	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911 .. .. .	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1914 .. .. .	15 2	12 7	9 4	13 1	11 9	10 4	13 3
1921 .. .. .	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1929 .. .. .	23 3	21 11	16 10	19 9	19 1	18 8	21 6
1930 .. .. .	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931 .. .. .	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1932 .. .. .	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1933 .. .. .	17 3	16 0	13 7	13 11	15 11	17 2	16 1
1933 { 1st Quarter..	17 6	16 1	13 2	13 10	15 11	17 1	16 1
2nd " ..	17 3	16 0	13 11	13 10	15 11	17 2	16 1
3rd " ..	17 1	16 0	13 8	13 11	15 11	17 3	16 1
4th " ..	17 2	16 0	13 9	13 11	15 11	17 3	16 1
1934 { 1st Quarter..	17 3	16 0	13 11	14 0	15 10	17 3	16 1
2nd " ..	17 4	16 0	13 9	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2

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

1907 .. .. .	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911 .. .. .	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1914 .. .. .	13 9	12 4	11 1	13 5	13 7	12 5	13 0
1921 .. .. .	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1929 .. .. .	22 4	20 9	18 3	20 7	20 9	19 10	21 1
1930 .. .. .	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931 .. .. .	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1932 .. .. .	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1933 .. .. .	16 5	14 10	13 10	14 4	15 4	15 10	15 4
1933 { 1st Quarter..	16 5	14 7	13 7	14 1	15 1	15 6	15 2
2nd " ..	16 5	14 8	13 10	14 4	15 7	15 9	15 4
3rd " ..	16 6	15 0	13 10	14 6	15 5	16 2	15 6
4th " ..	16 4	15 1	13 11	14 6	15 4	15 11	15 5
1934 { 1st Quarter..	16 7	15 0	14 2	14 9	15 9	15 9	15 7
2nd " ..	16 9	15 4	14 3	15 1	16 3	16 3	15 10

\* Reduced to 44 Commodities from 3rd Quarter, 1932.

### § 3. Variations in the Cost of Food, Groceries, Rent, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Expenditure. ("C" Series.)

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

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

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

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

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

This series has now assumed importance owing to its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, from the 1st May, 1934, for the fixation and adjustment of wages regulated by the Court.

Similar index numbers indicating the separate movement of the Clothing and Miscellaneous items will be found in the annual Labour Reports.

4. **Variations in Cost in the Principal Towns.**—The following table gives the combined index (generally known as the "all-items" index) for all household expenditure, for the thirty-two towns in respect of which the tabulation is made:—

\* These Indexes may be converted to the 1914 base by multiplying them by 1.4556.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX.  
("C" Series.)

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.—TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE—(FOOD, GROCERIES, HOUSING—4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY, CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE) WITH WEIGHTED AVERAGE FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES DURING THE FIVE-YEARLY PERIOD 1923-1927 AS BASE (= 1,000).

State and Town.	Nov- em- ber, 1921. *	Year 1926.	Year 1927.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.	Year 1930.	Year 1931.	Year 1932.	Year 1933.	1934.	
										1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>											
Sydney ..	1,046	1,033	1,029	1,042	1,073	1,026	922	867	832	837	842
Newcastle ..	1,041	1,010	1,015	1,014	1,028	991	888	840	819	826	836
Broken Hill ..	975	988	1,000	997	1,018	973	882	834	806	813	821
Goulburn ..	1,013	1,050	1,062	1,074	1,108	1,039	922	877	843	847	855
Bathurst ..	947	978	952	964	979	959	867	820	801	810	809
Weighted Average ..	1,042	1,030	1,027	1,038	1,067	1,022	918	863	830	836	841
<b>VICTORIA—</b>											
Melbourne ..	1,003	998	990	992	1,017	956	846	813	789	790	801
Ballarat ..	992	931	922	929	957	909	808	776	760	774	784
Bendigo ..	1,002	933	940	936	969	926	833	808	789	804	814
Geelong ..	1,019	984	985	973	980	917	822	794	772	773	785
Warrnambool ..	1,034	946	945	941	960	939	860	838	812	816	830
Weighted Average ..	1,003	992	985	987	1,011	951	843	811	787	790	801
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>											
Brisbane ..	923	950	922	917	923	859	798	764	751	761	764
Toowoomba ..	949	945	914	906	916	885	816	788	778	787	793
Rockhampton ..	972	947	929	903	904	868	806	779	752	758	768
Charters Towers ..	1,025	925	918	925	939	883	827	794	762	761	762
Warwick ..	994	951	946	914	931	882	815	777	757	759	762
Weighted Average ..	941	949	923	915	922	863	801	768	753	763	766
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>											
Adelaide ..	989	1,026	1,018	1,027	1,037	952	837	802	789	804	816
Kadina, etc. ..	998	935	932	927	943	885	801	772	747	757	766
Port Pirie ..	1,025	988	970	960	980	927	834	791	762	772	786
Mount Gambier ..	1,029	956	945	948	963	918	831	816	800	799	804
Peterborough ..	948	1,016	1,023	1,017	1,043	980	884	848	832	829	837
Weighted Average ..	992	1,020	1,012	1,019	1,030	948	836	801	787	801	813
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>											
Perth, etc. ..	1,008	992	984	1,012	1,026	977	885	840	811	820	837
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	1,048	1,002	984	995	1,032	986	937	940	937	948	985
Northam ..	1,030	998	988	1,003	1,022	969	878	844	814	817	832
Bunbury ..	1,045	978	963	963	978	966	877	842	824	834	850
Geraldton ..	1,056	1,012	1,010	1,029	1,051	1,029	951	904	851	851	872
Weighted Average ..	1,020	994	985	1,009	1,026	979	891	852	825	834	848
<b>TASMANIA—</b>											
Hobart ..	1,070	1,035	998	980	1,000	956	875	844	825	821	838
Launceston ..	1,067	973	953	957	967	949	865	832	817	816	832
Burnie ..	1,003	957	936	941	966	918	837	811	775	762	786
Devonport ..	904	948	925	909	948	920	831	800	773	776	785
Queenstown ..	1,031	956	932	934	972	949	881	875	867	867	879
Weighted Average ..	1,057	1,007	977	966	986	951	869	838	820	817	833
Weighted Average for 30 Towns ..	1,013	1,006	997	1,003	1,026	971	870	829	803	809	818
Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities ..	1,013	1,011	1,002	1,009	1,033	975	873	830	804	810	818
Townsville (Q.) (a) ..	..	1,073	1,050	1,023	1,026	966	914	878	850	853	857
Port Augusta (S.A.) (a) ..	1,035	1,035	1,037	1,050	1,061	1,026	914	853	814	819	831

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.

\* Figures for the country towns are only available from 1921, and the following are the corresponding index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities for November, 1914, and November, 1920 :—

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
November, 1914 ..	712	671	611	699	707	687	687
November, 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

5. Relative Household Expenditure.—The following table shows for the thirty-two towns covered by this Series of index-numbers the relative amount spent on each of the groups of total household expenditure:—

**TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.—THE " ALL ITEMS " INDEX (" C " SERIES). INDEX-NUMBERS, 32 TOWNS, SHOWING RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD, GROCERIES, HOUSING (4 and 5 Rooms), CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE, WITH WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXPENDITURE FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES DURING THE FIVE YEARLY PERIOD 1923-1927 AS BASE (= 1,000).**

Town.	1932.					1933.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms.)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms.)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>										
Sydney .. .. .	330	190	177	170	867	309	184	171	168	832
Newcastle .. .. .	323	170	194	153	840	309	165	189	156	819
Broken Hill .. .. .	368	132	166	168	834	340	134	164	168	806
Goulburn .. .. .	321	179	227	150	877	303	173	218	149	843
Bathurst .. .. .	317	166	184	153	820	301	166	184	150	801
Weighted Average .. .. .	330	186	179	168	863	310	180	173	167	830
<b>VICTORIA—</b>										
Melbourne .. .. .	293	173	189	153	813	276	170	187	156	789
Ballarat .. .. .	297	133	196	150	776	283	135	193	140	760
Bendigo .. .. .	301	137	215	155	808	283	136	216	154	789
Geelong .. .. .	301	157	185	151	794	285	153	183	151	772
Warrnambool .. .. .	310	171	215	142	838	288	169	214	141	812
Weighted Average .. .. .	294	170	190	157	811	276	167	188	156	787
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>										
Brisbane .. .. .	286	136	187	155	764	270	145	182	154	751
Toowoomba .. .. .	282	138	212	156	788	262	151	210	155	778
Rockhampton .. .. .	312	124	192	151	779	290	121	191	150	752
Charters Towers .. .. .	339	115	175	165	794	310	110	176	166	762
Warwick .. .. .	298	131	195	153	777	280	130	194	153	757
Weighted Average .. .. .	290	134	189	155	768	273	141	185	154	753
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Adelaide .. .. .	295	147	192	168	802	283	148	191	167	789
Kadina, &c. .. .. .	328	80	202	162	772	310	80	196	161	747
Port Pirie .. .. .	316	133	182	160	791	290	128	183	161	762
Mount Gambier .. .. .	298	130	223	165	816	286	130	221	163	800
Peterborough .. .. .	316	149	220	163	848	299	151	219	163	832
Weighted Average .. .. .	297	143	193	168	801	284	144	192	167	787
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Perth, &c. .. .. .	311	172	194	163	840	292	169	189	161	811
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. .. .	377	158	240	165	940	362	174	238	163	937
Northam .. .. .	330	171	190	153	844	312	167	182	153	814
Bunbury .. .. .	321	161	208	152	842	307	164	201	152	824
Geraldton .. .. .	333	208	198	165	904	294	200	192	165	851
Weighted Average .. .. .	319	172	200	161	852	300	170	194	161	825
<b>TASMANIA—</b>										
Hobart .. .. .	308	184	204	148	844	293	183	203	146	825
Launceston .. .. .	301	162	222	147	832	285	164	221	147	817
Burnie .. .. .	321	149	200	141	811	295	144	195	141	775
Devonport .. .. .	318	148	193	141	800	296	144	192	141	773
Queenstown .. .. .	349	143	246	137	875	337	149	244	137	867
Weighted Average .. .. .	309	173	210	146	838	292	173	209	146	820
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. .. .	310	170	187	162	829	291	167	184	161	803
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. .. .	308	174	185	163	830	290	171	181	162	804
TOWNSVILLE (Q.) (a) .. .. .	332	172	213	161	878	312	170	207	161	850
PORT AUGUSTA (S.A.) (a) .. .. .	340	133	216	164	853	317	129	206	162	814

(a) Not included in above weighted averages;

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

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

2. **Detailed Results, 1931 to 1933.**—The base of the table is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911, and is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the element of rent in the base itself differs from that contained in this table, but the index-numbers are comparable throughout.

Column A shows the relative cost of food in the various towns; Column B the relative cost of food and rent of four-roomed houses; and Column C the relative cost of food and rent of five-roomed houses. The difference between Columns B and A, and C and A, represents in each case the relative costs of four-roomed and five-roomed houses for each town. In comparing rents for various towns, therefore, these differences must first be ascertained in order to make the necessary allowance for the differences due to food as between towns. The last-mentioned factor may be ascertained from Column A.

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

State and Town.	1931. November.			1932. November.			1933. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>New SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Albury .. .. .	873	1,343	1,461	811	1,290	1,340	788	1,263	1,340
Arncliffe .. .. .	885	1,290	1,363	854	1,212	1,295	768	1,122	1,209
Ballina .. .. .	880	1,226	1,364	870	1,227	1,339	850	1,177	1,282
Bathurst .. .. .	879	1,213	1,300	826	1,174	1,234	816	1,180	1,233
Bega .. .. .	954	1,322	1,427	890	1,241	1,311	832	1,183	1,247
Berry .. .. .	899	1,215	1,288	893	1,209	1,282	857	1,173	1,252
Blackheath .. .. .	943	1,321	1,425	869	1,238	1,340	843	1,209	1,258
Bourke .. .. .	1,018	1,380	1,478	878	1,230	1,338	879	1,208	1,339
Bowral .. .. .	938	1,320	1,431	872	1,247	1,333	846	1,202	1,298
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,031	1,339	1,459	938	1,257	1,385	920	1,253	1,362

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

State and Town.	1931.			1932.			1933.		
	November.	December.	January.	November.	December.	January.	November.	December.	January.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—con- tinued.</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Castino .. .. .	888	1,327	1,414	832	1,240	1,358	817	1,225	1,344
Cassino .. .. .	874	1,179	1,234	817	1,120	1,202	799	1,065	1,102
Colbar .. .. .	1,008	1,224	1,283	944	1,166	1,229	1,060	1,228	1,297
Cooma .. .. .	1,026	1,335	1,473	957	1,230	1,401	900	1,203	1,335
Coonamble .. .. .	984	1,502	1,408	895	1,175	1,269	888	1,173	1,248
Cootamundra .. .. .	900	1,383	1,510	816	1,289	1,369	770	1,175	1,291
Corralang .. .. .	929	1,350	1,447	863	1,262	1,324	808	1,200	1,269
Gowra .. .. .	889	1,262	1,362	851	1,191	1,306	784	1,210	1,278
Gronulla .. .. .	934	1,590	1,480	896	1,327	1,422	831	1,247	1,340
Deniliquin .. .. .	893	1,274	1,380	816	1,181	1,272	867	1,198	1,324
Dubbo .. .. .	868	1,441	1,549	752	1,258	1,380	722	1,218	1,256
Forbes .. .. .	879	1,301	1,439	857	1,309	1,393	829	1,272	1,413
Gladesville .. .. .	912	1,223	1,295	838	1,134	1,200	824	1,120	1,186
Glen Innes .. .. .	877	1,243	1,366	814	1,176	1,274	798	1,160	1,245
Gouldburn .. .. .	852	1,288	1,355	856	1,297	1,344	811	1,241	1,294
Grafton .. .. .	873	1,294	1,461	806	1,234	1,378	790	1,218	1,363
Greenell .. .. .	918	1,326	1,428	848	1,244	1,393	813	1,208	1,340
Griffith .. .. .	1,011	1,807	1,998	896	1,692	1,883	901	1,663	1,826
Gulgong .. .. .	893	1,169	1,241	836	1,134	1,225	795	1,040	1,116
Gunnedah .. .. .	861	1,246	1,336	799	1,159	1,283	771	1,140	1,267
Hay .. .. .	966	1,297	1,489	938	1,270	1,416	912	1,260	1,436
Inverell .. .. .	943	1,495	1,584	871	1,309	1,410	811	1,236	1,301
Junee .. .. .	943	1,495	1,584	832	1,316	1,441	814	1,265	1,393
Katumba .. .. .	984	1,537	1,641	873	1,429	1,512	824	1,350	1,448
Kempsey .. .. .	856	1,227	1,361	829	1,182	1,306	821	1,236	1,333
Klamla .. .. .	983	1,279	1,509	892	1,182	1,353	862	1,152	1,329
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	884	1,176	1,273	811	1,102	1,177	792	1,046	1,143
Leslie .. .. .	965	1,571	1,656	909	1,496	1,593	854	1,413	1,512
Lisborne .. .. .	877	1,282	1,483	831	1,247	1,393	814	1,249	1,421
Lithgow .. .. .	898	1,237	1,289	858	1,186	1,225	812	1,156	1,162
Maitland .. .. .	870	1,201	1,315	808	1,141	1,240	770	1,058	1,247
Moree .. .. .	977	1,515	1,573	941	1,467	1,521	880	1,406	1,505
Most Vale .. .. .	894	1,250	1,389	844	1,187	1,323	824	1,173	1,260
Mudgee .. .. .	888	1,305	1,415	803	1,197	1,329	780	1,122	1,240
Narrabri .. .. .	920	1,509	1,395	866	1,238	1,324	811	1,206	1,245
Narrandera .. .. .	1,010	1,486	1,598	916	1,376	1,486	844	1,304	1,409
Newcastle .. .. .	886	1,277	1,388	852	1,230	1,348	845	1,256	1,335
Nowra .. .. .	972	1,323	1,410	917	1,248	1,391	875	1,267	1,338
Orange .. .. .	892	1,303	1,407	792	1,192	1,297	790	1,200	1,354
Parkes .. .. .	903	1,284	1,386	855	1,239	1,323	824	1,182	1,275
Parrith .. .. .	851	1,179	1,269	820	1,119	1,251	782	1,065	1,186
Port Kembla .. .. .	952	1,355	1,478	850	1,267	1,340	845	1,233	1,313
Portland .. .. .	944	1,204	1,270	880	1,114	1,179	846	1,110	1,175
Queanbeyan .. .. .	980	1,368	1,476	883	1,155	1,242	838	1,117	1,196
Quinalba .. .. .	984	1,258	1,450	883	1,157	1,283	878	1,208	1,314
Richmond .. .. .	847	1,233	1,359	844	1,239	1,305	802	1,196	1,262
Singleton .. .. .	943	1,371	1,456	840	1,274	1,350	808	1,233	1,316
Stirling .. .. .	913	1,282	1,370	871	1,196	1,302	795	1,131	1,221
Tamworth .. .. .	848	1,375	1,471	805	1,307	1,385	786	1,200	1,346
Taree .. .. .	934	1,331	1,357	809	1,169	1,258	780	1,144	1,227
Terrara .. .. .	924	1,393	1,475	841	1,283	1,393	803	1,230	1,331
Tenterfield .. .. .	828	1,458	1,570	850	1,343	1,444	803	1,297	1,397
Tumut .. .. .	926	1,420	1,523	825	1,100	1,239	775	1,120	1,211
Umarra .. .. .	939	1,478	1,602	840	1,307	1,439	824	1,311	1,402
Umarra .. .. .	939	1,578	1,695	894	1,533	1,621	815	1,210	1,342

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

State and Town.	1931. November.			1932. November.			1933. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i></b>									
Wagga Wagga .. .. .	898	1,424	1,560	825	1,315	1,403	793	1,247	1,423
Walcha .. .. .	921	1,250	1,379	867	1,198	1,295	841	1,170	1,279
Wellington .. .. .	900	1,229	1,308	815	1,114	1,223	794	1,104	1,202
Weston .. .. .	868	1,159	1,257	811	1,103	1,155	804	1,095	1,148
Windsor .. .. .	881	1,341	1,440	855	1,282	1,381	822	1,250	1,348
Wollongong .. .. .	928	1,376	1,457	799	1,241	1,326	795	1,254	1,311
Wyalong .. .. .	892	1,205	1,260	849	1,156	1,217	843	1,166	1,205
Yass .. .. .	912	1,306	1,394	826	1,187	1,262	798	1,143	1,242
Young .. .. .	908	1,350	1,457	852	1,313	1,376	816	1,224	1,319
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) .. .. .	912	1,354	1,453	861	1,286	1,370	827	1,244	1,334
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Ararat .. .. .	871	1,216	1,378	813	1,142	1,302	819	1,138	1,266
Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	887	1,316	1,423	773	1,108	1,260	775	1,119	1,254
Bairnsdale .. .. .	912	1,209	1,401	860	1,135	1,289	882	1,124	1,247
Ballarat .. .. .	834	1,095	1,279	769	1,064	1,213	771	1,074	1,227
Beechworth .. .. .	923	1,219	1,285	867	1,163	1,229	826	1,122	1,175
Benalla .. .. .	859	1,242	1,306	836	1,189	1,290	799	1,125	1,298
Bendigo .. .. .	853	1,149	1,268	786	1,097	1,206	785	1,072	1,200
Camperdown .. .. .	891	1,286	1,424	806	1,217	1,319	806	1,197	1,333
Casterton .. .. .	880	1,235	1,340	847	1,209	1,288	834	1,196	1,261
Castlemaine .. .. .	867	1,120	1,228	801	1,073	1,157	787	1,082	1,178
Colac .. .. .	851	1,318	1,453	803	1,237	1,367	801	1,216	1,317
Creswick .. .. .	842	974	1,000	827	958	985	782	914	996
Daylesford .. .. .	831	1,087	1,175	811	1,031	1,119	806	1,016	1,094
Dunolly .. .. .	854	1,002	1,058	812	973	1,013	780	960	1,006
Echuca .. .. .	843	1,189	1,294	779	1,079	1,199	785	1,085	1,210
Ennora .. .. .	850	1,416	1,238	828	1,161	1,237	810	1,113	1,170
Geelong .. .. .	813	1,181	1,368	783	1,140	1,307	771	1,124	1,298
Hamilton .. .. .	864	1,287	1,410	840	1,255	1,376	803	1,189	1,318
Healesville .. .. .	822	1,105	1,194	799	1,089	1,141	804	1,070	1,146
Horsham .. .. .	875	1,265	1,401	849	1,176	1,308	807	1,155	1,267
Kerang .. .. .	842	1,306	1,434	807	1,201	1,267	793	1,187	1,253
Koroit .. .. .	880	1,143	1,209	851	1,114	1,180	808	1,071	1,130
Korumburra .. .. .	855	1,223	1,364	778	1,099	1,242	776	1,089	1,252
Kyneton .. .. .	847	1,163	1,294	780	1,060	1,194	743	1,035	1,146
Lilydale .. .. .	874	1,240	1,361	833	1,183	1,280	826	1,158	1,240
Maffra .. .. .	851	1,240	1,323	812	1,185	1,259	801	1,172	1,252
Maldon .. .. .	888	1,019	1,072	833	945	998	832	944	1,017
Maryborough .. .. .	847	1,123	1,222	775	1,006	1,101	770	1,025	1,095
Melbourne .. .. .	812	1,246	1,360	754	1,160	1,282	759	1,163	1,287
Mildura .. .. .	915	1,458	1,652	879	1,398	1,526	887	1,419	1,555
Morwell .. .. .	848	1,279	1,371	802	1,237	1,296	839	1,260	1,352
Nhill .. .. .	884	1,213	1,345	866	1,166	1,307	840	1,143	1,256
Orbost .. .. .	917	1,272	1,373	874	1,229	1,311	877	1,219	1,333
Portland .. .. .	886	1,217	1,325	833	1,169	1,241	831	1,160	1,226
Port Fairy .. .. .	895	1,154	1,270	849	1,108	1,224	801	1,091	1,196
St. Arnaud .. .. .	866	1,225	1,357	869	1,212	1,290	847	1,164	1,278
Sale .. .. .	867	1,217	1,355	802	1,121	1,256	826	1,169	1,253
Seymour .. .. .	915	1,247	1,375	873	1,202	1,301	824	1,153	1,258
Shepparton .. .. .	856	1,266	1,432	792	1,186	1,313	777	1,156	1,300
Stawell .. .. .	900	1,199	1,314	865	1,142	1,244	844	1,103	1,228

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

State and Town.	1931. November.			1932. November.			1933. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
<b>VICTORIA—<i>continued.</i></b>									
Swan Hill .. ..	845	1,371	1,592	812	1,338	1,536	782	1,292	1,473
Terang .. ..	937	1,304	1,459	876	1,200	1,338	840	1,163	1,281
Traralgon .. ..	842	1,197	1,367	780	1,153	1,277	773	1,111	1,256
Warragarfa .. ..	854	1,316	1,418	814	1,268	1,380	824	1,267	1,378
Warracknabeal ..	875	1,220	1,362	827	1,130	1,251	790	1,109	1,199
Warragul .. ..	830	1,344	1,513	760	1,286	1,454	751	1,285	1,451
Warrnambool .. ..	850	1,259	1,420	812	1,207	1,369	779	1,173	1,341
Wonthaggi .. ..	842	1,232	1,359	773	1,155	1,227	776	1,105	1,212
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) .. ..	822	1,235	1,356	765	1,156	1,279	767	1,155	1,280
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Ayr .. ..	967	1,423	1,481	873	1,317	1,439	846	1,293	1,416
Barealdine .. ..	1,078	1,447	1,543	911	1,283	1,346	874	1,249	1,308
Bowen .. ..	982	1,344	1,432	932	1,283	1,384	860	1,215	1,287
Brisbane .. ..	815	1,125	1,235	748	1,050	1,151	733	1,071	1,161
Rundaberg .. ..	875	1,167	1,212	817	1,105	1,160	761	1,039	1,085
Cairns .. ..	937	1,421	1,574	888	1,360	1,575	857	1,370	1,548
Charleville .. ..	968	1,435	1,626	904	1,326	1,474	894	1,324	1,438
Charters Towers ..	937	1,222	1,286	900	1,137	1,232	820	1,070	1,136
Chillagoe .. ..	1,194	1,392	1,451	1,126	1,330	1,383	960	1,157	1,210
Cloncurry .. ..	1,059	1,469	1,591	1,045	1,462	1,624	955	1,340	1,429
Cooktown .. ..	1,050	1,247	1,313	972	1,170	1,236	934	1,079	1,131
Cunnamulla .. ..	982	1,399	1,464	911	1,306	1,393	966	1,301	1,433
Dalby .. ..	872	1,240	1,370	799	1,161	1,263	783	1,141	1,253
Gayndah .. ..	971	1,287	1,373	859	1,135	1,241	803	1,073	1,132
Gladstone .. ..	878	1,192	1,289	837	1,151	1,247	783	1,112	1,204
Goondwindl .. ..	938	1,333	1,373	863	1,258	1,324	836	1,230	1,318
Gympie .. ..	878	1,185	1,269	790	1,117	1,212	776	1,107	1,220
Hughenden .. ..	1,069	1,494	1,595	979	1,374	1,486	953	1,361	1,446
Innisfail .. ..	990	1,576	1,681	969	1,525	1,680	898	1,450	1,582
Ipswich .. ..	838	1,094	1,183	769	980	1,110	767	990	1,109
Longreach .. ..	1,092	1,408	1,566	962	1,282	1,405	914	1,226	1,356
Mackay .. ..	951	1,368	1,478	850	1,222	1,331	813	1,208	1,339
Maryborough .. ..	887	1,216	1,347	815	1,144	1,254	754	1,083	1,192
Mount Morgan .. ..	903	1,128	1,161	877	1,044	1,092	833	1,017	1,026
Nambour .. ..	911	1,240	1,319	794	1,092	1,200	761	1,065	1,158
Rockhampton .. ..	892	1,178	1,261	816	1,120	1,162	772	1,074	1,119
Roma .. ..	922	1,253	1,373	850	1,179	1,298	848	1,085	1,214
Stanthorpe .. ..	901	1,335	1,434	879	1,281	1,359	807	1,162	1,228
Toowoomba .. ..	791	1,102	1,173	734	1,103	1,133	700	1,103	1,128
Townsville .. ..	984	1,399	1,460	868	1,283	1,358	827	1,228	1,315
Warwick .. ..	827	1,156	1,222	788	1,095	1,153	759	1,052	1,131
Winton .. ..	1,063	1,374	1,503	1,010	1,306	1,438	953	1,216	1,368
Weighted Average for State (52 Towns) .. ..	859	1,178	1,276	790	1,102	1,196	763	1,096	1,182
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. ..	793	1,152	1,274	754	1,079	1,227	772	1,107	1,249
Freeling .. ..	832	1,095	1,161	773	1,036	1,102	770	1,033	1,099
Gawler .. ..	831	1,114	1,182	782	1,053	1,134	771	1,017	1,096
Kadina, etc. .. ..	879	1,068	1,112	840	1,024	1,091	840	1,022	1,094
Kapunda .. ..	813	1,008	1,080	803	1,031	1,092	756	958	1,052

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

State and Town.	1931. November.			1932. November.			1933. November.		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
SOUTH AUSTRALIA— <i>cont.</i> <i>(200 Towns).</i>	801	1,171	1,251	831	1,084	1,180	812	1,141	1,207
Kooronga .. .. .	842	1,207	1,280	801	1,087	1,200	797	1,071	1,174
Millicent .. .. .	802	1,047	1,192	783	1,045	1,174	765	1,022	1,158
Mount Gambier ..	791	1,054	1,153	723	976	1,055	747	988	1,122
Murray Bridge ..	872	1,188	1,329	808	1,155	1,256	811	1,180	1,250
Peterborough .. .	944	1,278	1,298	883	1,185	1,311	868	1,159	1,283
Port Augusta .. .	862	1,207	1,310	802	1,122	1,231	777	1,084	1,196
Port Pirie .. .. .	871	1,156	1,210	828	1,111	1,173	819	1,115	1,194
Renmark .. .. .	951	1,343	1,477	946	1,344	1,472	801	1,109	1,222
Victor Harbor .. .	869	1,329	1,467	825	1,273	1,418	885	1,280	1,345
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. . .	805	1,150	1,266	765	1,081	1,219	777	1,100	1,234
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Albany .. .. .	961	1,289	1,349	838	1,179	1,213	834	1,132	1,224
Beverley .. .. .	921	1,256	1,342	910	1,239	1,348	893	1,268	1,382
Bridgetown .. . .	1,042	1,559	1,437	905	1,234	1,332	925	1,226	1,319
Broome .. .. .	1,226	1,754	1,934	1,243	1,704	1,901	1,217	1,678	1,875
Bunbury .. .. .	881	1,300	1,341	852	1,267	1,330	822	1,239	1,307
Cannaryon .. . .	1,117	1,606	1,670	1,062	1,511	1,605	1,023	1,477	1,587
Collie .. .. .	966	1,277	1,375	825	1,189	1,285	762	1,168	1,236
Geraldton .. . .	951	1,465	1,629	838	1,347	1,480	804	1,288	1,421
Greenbushes .. .	1,020	1,197	1,243	938	1,123	1,156	908	1,073	1,112
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,038	1,475	1,509	997	1,453	1,554	975	1,466	1,544
Karranning .. . .	891	1,252	1,391	846	1,200	1,324	810	1,132	1,256
Leonora and Gwalia	1,135	1,398	1,464	1,079	1,343	1,395	1,083	1,346	1,412
Meekatharra .. .	1,028	1,467	1,592	1,102	1,562	1,760	1,080	1,541	1,738
Narrogin .. .. .	884	1,315	1,421	862	1,326	1,401	845	1,249	1,379
Northam .. .. .	907	1,344	1,453	852	1,251	1,379	833	1,237	1,346
Perth and Fremantle	839	1,259	1,358	800	1,202	1,296	779	1,174	1,273
Warin .. .. .	970	1,282	1,367	914	1,169	1,243	857	1,112	1,166
York .. .. .	864	1,193	1,272	817	1,146	1,225	807	1,123	1,176
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. . .	875	1,292	1,384	832	1,233	1,330	810	1,209	1,308
TASMANIA—									
Bencoufield .. .	871	977	1,003	795	914	953	784	902	942
Burnie .. .. .	881	1,267	1,348	843	1,212	1,299	787	1,155	1,239
Campanbelltown ..	884	1,116	1,151	835	1,091	1,151	820	1,029	1,087
Deloraine .. .. .	823	1,113	1,218	830	1,143	1,222	796	1,119	1,188
Devonport .. . .	844	1,265	1,329	833	1,251	1,307	803	1,212	1,274
Franklin .. .. .	952	1,162	1,215	900	1,137	1,229	860	1,097	1,156
Hobart .. .. .	834	1,181	1,219	809	1,254	1,379	797	1,237	1,370
Launceston .. . .	826	1,112	1,359	789	1,178	1,290	760	1,163	1,271
New Norfolk .. .	832	1,214	1,214	856	1,177	1,224	825	1,141	1,167
Queenstown .. .	961	1,288	1,369	942	1,304	1,393	916	1,311	1,357
Scottsdale .. . .	787	1,090	1,151	868	1,071	1,163	767	1,030	1,123
Uverstone .. . .	841	1,156	1,269	866	1,144	1,228	811	1,052	1,126
Zeelan .. .. .	1,002	1,200	1,233	994	1,192	1,225	987	1,185	1,217
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. . .	843	1,246	1,371	817	1,220	1,330	796	1,200	1,310
Federal Capital Territory(a)									
Gamberra .. . .	963	1,528	1,638	899	1,459	1,573	902	1,465	1,574
Weighted Averages—									
Australia (200 Towns) ..	864	1,271	1,378	811	1,200	1,304	794	1,182	1,288
Thirty Towns .. . .	855	1,269	1,377	805	1,199	1,304	790	1,185	1,292
Six Capitals .. . .	851	1,276	1,383	800	1,202	1,307	786	1,188	1,295

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B or C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus for November, 1933, the index-number for food and groceries in Albany (column A) is 834. Subtracting this from 1,132 (column B) gives a difference of 298, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,224 (column C) gives a difference of 390, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns.

### B.—WAGES.

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

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

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1929 to 1933 :—

#### AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

State.	1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.								
New South Wales .. .. .	55	27	31	16	46	40	38	25	30	24
Victoria .. .. .	46	..	83	..	204	..	103	..	138	..
Queensland .. .. .	21	16	14	44	48	28	21	4	55	21
South Australia .. .. .	13	9	17	1	64	15	18	8	16	1
Western Australia .. .. .	15	29	8	38	7	10	5	4	10	9
Tasmania .. .. .	4	2	10	1	31	3	11	3	9	3
Commonwealth Court .. .. .	29	26	17	10	11	16	21	9	8	6
Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator .. .. .	4	..	5	..	1	..	1	..	1	..
Total .. .. .	187	109	185	110	412	112	218	53	267	64

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

#### BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards which had made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913 .. .. .	505	387(b)	575(c)	401
31st December, 1920 .. .. .	475	440	1,041	972
31st December, 1925 .. .. .	575	524	1,181	607
31st December, 1930 .. .. .	644	582	1,285	601
31st December, 1931 .. .. .	651	583	1,317	614
31st December, 1932 .. .. .	657	591	1,337	625
31st December, 1933 .. .. .	657	583	1,363	653

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

Considerable expansion of the principle of the fixation of a legal minimum rate of wage and of working conditions took place during the period under review. At the end of 1933, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 788 and 252 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

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

**BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913, AND 1933.**

Particulars.	Commonwealth.									
	At 31st Dec.	Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
<i>Industrial and Wages—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1933 ..	..	..	(a) 319	189	2	75	19	53	657
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1933 ..	..	..	279	167	2	65	17	53	583
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 ..	17	..	265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1933 ..	167	44	490	173	275	75	85	54	1,303
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 ..	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1933 ..	147	..	148	..	149	33	166	10	653
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1933 ..	..	..	100	115	33	86	35	67	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1933 ..	..	..	37	68	20	25	14	37	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	1933 ..	..	..	39	36	30	32	29	29	..

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act, (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and at the end of 1933, 286 Committees were in force.

**§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.**

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

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

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

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, 1929 to 1933.**—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to is taken for each industrial group. These averages are weighted in accordance with census results to give the average of all occupations for the States and for Australia.

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

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

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

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

**RATES OF WAGE.**

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1929 ..	102 11	101 1	101 2	97 2	100 7	94 8	101 2
31st December, 1930 ..	99 1	96 11	92 5	92 8	99 7	92 1	96 9
31st December, 1931 ..	93 5	82 2	89 0	75 0	84 1	79 9	86 10
31st December, 1932 ..	84 11	77 10	88 5	72 7	81 9	78 1	81 10
31st March, 1933 ..	84 9	76 5	88 1	71 11	81 1	77 8	81 3
30th June, 1933 ..	84 11	77 5	88 2	73 2	81 1	78 0	81 9
30th September, 1933 ..	84 3	76 11	88 2	73 2	81 2	77 7	81 4
31st December, 1933 ..	81 11	77 0	88 1	73 5	81 4	78 0	80 6

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

31st December, 1929 ..	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974
31st December, 1930 ..	1,933	1,891	1,803	1,807	1,943	1,797	1,887
31st December, 1931 ..	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
31st December, 1932 ..	1,657	1,518	1,726	1,416	1,595	1,523	1,597
31st March, 1933 ..	1,653	1,492	1,718	1,404	1,582	1,516	1,585
30th June, 1933 ..	1,657	1,511	1,721	1,428	1,583	1,523	1,595
30th September, 1933 ..	1,644	1,501	1,721	1,428	1,583	1,513	1,587
31st December, 1933 ..	1,598	1,502	1,718	1,433	1,587	1,522	1,570

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1933, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. The average rates of wage declined rapidly during 1931, the results at the end of each quarter in all States showing lower average rates than those for the previous quarter. The weighted average nominal rate of wage for Australia at the end of 1933 was 80s. 6d., as compared with 81s. 10d. at 31st December, 1932, a reduction of 1s. 4d. per week. The greatest fall occurred in New South Wales where the average wage declined 3s. per week. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the third quarter of 1929 when the average wage was 101s. 5d. per week.

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

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

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

Industrial Group.		Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—							
		31st Dec., 1929.	31st Dec., 1930.	31st Dec., 1931.	31st Dec., 1932.	31st March, 1933.	30th June, 1933.	30th Sept., 1933.	31st Dec., 1933.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 104/10	s. d. 100/3	s. d. 85/7	s. d. 83/4	s. d. 82/8	s. d. 83/8	s. d. 83/1	s. d. 82/8
	Index-No.	2,046	1,956	1,669	1,627	1,612	1,632	1,621	1,613
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 103/6	s. d. 99/1	s. d. 86/3	s. d. 81/6	s. d. 80/10	s. d. 82/0	s. d. 81/5	s. d. 81/4
	Index-No.	2,019	1,933	1,683	1,589	1,577	1,600	1,588	1,587
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 100/10	s. d. 97/1	s. d. 88/6	s. d. 84/2	s. d. 83/9	s. d. 84/2	s. d. 83/9	s. d. 83/3
	Index-No.	1,967	1,894	1,727	1,642	1,634	1,642	1,633	1,625
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 99/6	s. d. 99/5	s. d. 83/11	s. d. 77/3	s. d. 76/0	s. d. 76/9	s. d. 76/10	s. d. 76/7
	Index-No.	1,942	1,949	1,638	1,507	1,498	1,498	1,499	1,494
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 119/1	s. d. 116/5	s. d. 102/0	s. d. 98/3	s. d. 97/2	s. d. 98/5	s. d. 97/7	s. d. 97/6
	Index-No.	2,323	2,271	1,991	1,918	1,895	1,920	1,904	1,902
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage ..	s. d. 102/2	s. d. 97/10	s. d. 85/4	s. d. 80/7	s. d. 79/6	s. d. 80/0	s. d. 79/7	s. d. 79/5
	Index-No.	1,994	1,909	1,664	1,572	1,551	1,560	1,552	1,549
VII. Building ..	Wage ..	s. d. 113/0	s. d. 109/8	s. d. 98/9	s. d. 93/11	s. d. 93/2	s. d. 93/3	s. d. 92/9	s. d. 92/3
	Index-No.	2,205	2,139	1,926	1,833	1,818	1,820	1,809	1,800
VIII. Mining, etc. ..	Wage ..	s. d. 110/7	s. d. 107/10	s. d. 102/5	s. d. 98/2	s. d. 97/6	s. d. 97/4	s. d. 97/3	s. d. 97/0
	Index-No.	2,157	2,104	1,999	1,916	1,903	1,899	1,897	1,893
IX. Railways, etc. ..	Wage ..	s. d. 105/2	s. d. 100/2	s. d. 86/7	s. d. 80/11	s. d. 80/4	s. d. 81/1	s. d. 80/11	s. d. 80/4
	Index-No.	2,052	1,955	1,690	1,579	1,567	1,582	1,578	1,567
X. Other Land Transport	Wage ..	s. d. 96/9	s. d. 92/10	s. d. 83/11	s. d. 78/3	s. d. 77/6	s. d. 78/8	s. d. 77/5	s. d. 76/9
	Index-No.	1,888	1,812	1,638	1,527	1,511	1,535	1,510	1,497
XI. Shipping, etc.(a)	Wage ..	s. d. 107/0	s. d. 99/6	s. d. 81/10	s. d. 79/6	s. d. 78/2	s. d. 80/5	s. d. 80/6	s. d. 80/9
	Index-No.	2,087	1,941	1,596	1,552	1,525	1,569	1,571	1,575
XII. Agricultural, etc.(b)	Wage ..	s. d. 95/6	s. d. 87/5	s. d. 80/3	s. d. 74/9	s. d. 74/0	s. d. 74/9	s. d. 74/9	s. d. 71/11
	Index-No.	1,863	1,706	1,566	1,458	1,460	1,458	1,458	1,404
XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	Wage ..	s. d. 92/6	s. d. 91/3	s. d. 85/3	s. d. 76/5	s. d. 76/0	s. d. 76/3	s. d. 75/5	s. d. 74/10
	Index-No.	1,804	1,780	1,663	1,492	1,483	1,488	1,471	1,460
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	Wage ..	s. d. 96/8	s. d. 93/7	s. d. 83/11	s. d. 78/11	s. d. 77/11	s. d. 78/8	s. d. 78/0	s. d. 77/5
	Index-No.	1,886	1,826	1,637	1,540	1,520	1,534	1,521	1,511
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage ..	s. d. 101/2	s. d. 96/9	s. d. 86/10	s. d. 81/10	s. d. 81/3	s. d. 81/9	s. d. 81/4	s. d. 80/6
	Index-No.	1,974	1,887	1,694	1,597	1,585	1,595	1,587	1,570

(a) Including the value of victualling and accommodation where supplied.

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

(c) Weighted average.

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1933, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 97s. 6d. per week, followed by Groups VIII. (Mining), 97s. 0d. per week; VII. (Building), 92s. 3d. per week; III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 83s. 3d. per week; I. (Wood Furniture, etc.), 82s. 8d. per week; and II. (Engineering), 81s. 4d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 71s. 11d. per week. During the year, rates of wage declined in all groups, except "Shipping, etc." which showed an increase of 1s. 3d. per week, the greatest decreases occurring in the following groups :—Agricultural, etc., by 2s. 10d. per week; Building, by 1s. 8d. per week; Domestic, etc., by 1s. 7d. per week; Miscellaneous, by 1s. 6d. per week; Other Land Transport, by 1s. 6d. per week; Other Manufacturing, by 1s. 2d. per week; and Mining, etc., by 1s. 2d. per week. The decrease during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 1s. 4d. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1929, the highest point recorded for that date in any year, wages at the end of the year 1933 showed a decrease of 20s. 8d. per week.

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

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

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

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

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.						
31st December, 1929 ..	53 11	54 1	54 10	51 4	58 10	53 9	54 1
31st December, 1930 ..	53 8	53 6	52 11	51 2	60 1	53 8	53 7
31st December, 1931 ..	49 8	45 10	47 11	43 11	51 7	45 8	47 5
31st December, 1932 ..	44 8	43 0	46 9	40 11	49 7	43 4	44 2
31st March, 1933 ..	44 5	42 9	46 6	40 8	48 4	43 2	43 10
30th June, 1933 ..	44 6	42 11	46 7	40 8	48 2	43 2	43 11
30th September, 1933 ..	44 0	42 8	46 9	41 0	48 4	43 2	43 9
31st December, 1933 ..	43 2	42 9	46 9	41 0	48 4	43 1	43 5

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1929 ..	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
31st December, 1930 ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
31st December, 1931 ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
31st December, 1932 ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
31st March, 1933 ..	1,634	1,574	1,713	1,496	1,779	1,588	1,614
30th June, 1933 ..	1,637	1,579	1,713	1,497	1,772	1,590	1,616
30th September, 1933 ..	1,619	1,572	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,590	1,609
31st December, 1933 ..	1,589	1,573	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,587	1,599

(a) Weighted average.

There was an increase in the nominal rates of wage in all States during 1928, with the result that the average wage for females for Australia increased from 52s. 10d. at 31st December, 1927, to 53s. 10d. by the end of 1928. Increases were recorded in four States during the third quarter of 1929, raising the average nominal wage for Australia to 54s. 2d. per week, the highest average rate recorded. There was very little movement in the average rates of wage for female employees during 1930, the average nominal rate at the end of the year being 53s. 7d. as compared with 54s. 1d. per week at the end of the year 1929. Wages for female employees showed a steady decline during 1931 and 1932, and at the end of the latter year the weighted average for Australia was 44s. 2d., as compared with 47s. 5d. per week at the end of 1931, a decrease of 3s. 3d. per week. During 1933 wages again declined, but only slightly in comparison with previous years, and at the end of the year the weighted average for Australia was 43s. 5d. per week, a decrease of 9d. per week on the average at the end of the previous year.

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

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

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

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V., and VI. All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, etc.(a)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups. (b)
RATES OF WAGE.						
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
31st December, 1929	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
31st December, 1930	48 4	54 2	52 7	54 2	52 10	53 7
31st December, 1931	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
31st December, 1932	41 0	42 4	44 2	46 2	47 0	44 2
31st March, 1933	40 11	42 0	43 8	45 11	47 0	43 10
30th June, 1933	41 2	41 11	44 2	46 0	47 0	43 11
30th September, 1933	40 8	42 1	43 10	45 8	46 4	43 9
31st December, 1933	40 6	41 11	43 5	43 4	45 11	43 5

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1929	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990
31st December, 1930	1,777	1,994	1,934	1,994	1,945	1,971
31st December, 1931	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
31st December, 1932	1,508	1,559	1,625	1,700	1,730	1,624
31st March, 1933	1,507	1,544	1,608	1,689	1,730	1,614
30th June, 1933	1,515	1,544	1,625	1,695	1,730	1,616
30th September, 1933	1,497	1,550	1,612	1,681	1,706	1,609
31st December, 1933	1,491	1,542	1,599	1,594	1,691	1,599

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

During the year 1933 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups showed a decline as compared with those for the previous year, the greatest decreases occurring in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), by 2s. 10d. and Group XIV. (Miscellaneous) by 1s. 1d. per week. The weighted average for all groups decreased by 9d. per week.

3. **Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1929 to 1933.**—(i) *General.* The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs relate to the minimum payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in many instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. In order to secure what may be for some purposes a more adequate standard of comparison, it is desirable to reduce the comparison to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour. Particulars are given in the following table classified according to States, for male and female occupations separately, at the end of the years 1929 to 1933. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage; (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work; and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes the value of

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

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

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

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage (a)	102/11	101/7	101/2	97/2	100/7	94/8	101/2
	Working Hours (b)	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/4	2/2½	2/4	2/1½	2/2½	2/0½	2/3
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage (a)	99/1	96/11	92/5	92/8	99/7	92/1	96/9
	Working Hours (b)	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/2½	2/1½	2/1½	2/0	2/2½	1/11½	2/1½
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage (a)	93/5	82/2	89/0	75/0	84/1	79/9	86/10
	Working Hours (b)	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/2½	1/9½	2/0½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/11½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage (a)	84/11	77/10	88/5	72/7	81/9	78/1	81/10
	Working Hours (b)	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Hourly Wage (b)	1/11½	1/8½	2/0½	1/7	1/10	1/8½	1/10
31st Dec., 1933	Weekly Wage (a)	81/11	77/0	88/1	73/5	81/4	78/0	80/6
	Working Hours (b)	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Hourly Wage (b)	1/11	1/8	2/0½	1/7½	1/10	1/8½	1/9½
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage	53/11	54/1	54/10	51/4	58/10	53/9	54/1
	Working Hours	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage	1/2½	1/2½	1/3	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage	53/8	53/6	52/11	51/2	60/1	53/8	53/7
	Working Hours	45.85	45.44	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	45.48
	Hourly Wage	1/2	1/2	1/2½	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage	49/8	45/10	47/11	43/11	51/7	45/8	47/5
	Working Hours	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage	1/1½	1/0	1/1	0/11½	1/1½	1/0	1/0½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage	44/8	43/0	46/9	40/11	49/7	43/4	44/2
	Working Hours	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage	1/0½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/1	0/11½	0/11½
31st Dec., 1933	Weekly Wage	43/2	42/9	46/9	41/0	48/4	43/2	43/5
	Working Hours	43.93	45.44	44.03	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.81
	Hourly Wage	0/11½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/0½	0/11½	0/11½

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

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

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

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

(Weekly Rates\*—M = 55/1; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2; F = 0/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1929	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,866	1,834	1,836	1,763	1,825	1,718	1,835
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	2,011	1,895	2,001	1,808	1,923	1,751	1,940
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,797	1,758	1,677	1,681	1,807	1,671	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,912	1,813	1,846	1,724	1,922	1,708	1,851
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,695	1,490	1,615	1,360	1,526	1,447	1,575
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,541	1,411	1,605	1,317	1,483	1,416	1,485
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,701	1,451	1,748	1,355	1,584	1,464	1,584
31st Dec., 1933	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,486	1,396	1,598	1,332	1,476	1,415	1,460
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,655	1,438	1,775	1,372	1,571	1,463	1,567
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1929	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,218	2,154	2,252	2,015	2,333	2,108	2,182
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,113	2,127	2,172	2,011	2,383	2,105	2,128
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,837	1,711	1,863	1,605	1,967	1,700	1,777
31st Dec., 1933	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,589	1,573	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,587	1,599
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,776	1,700	1,919	1,611	1,916	1,691	1,752

(a) See footnote to following table.

\* Approximate only—the indexes being calculated from the exact rates.

4. **Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1929 to 1933.

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

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus-tralia.
31st Dec., 1929	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
	Index-numbers ..	902	957	898	957	932	962	927
31st Dec., 1930	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	45.64	46.83	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Index-numbers ..	933	958	908	957	931	962	940
31st Dec., 1931	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Index-numbers ..	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
31st Dec., 1932	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Index-numbers ..	903	958	919	957	930	955	930
31st Dec., 1933	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Index-numbers ..	904	957	899	957	930	956	927

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

During the five years, 1929 to 1933, the average number of hours of labour per week showed little variation, the figure at the end of the year 1929 being 45.34 as compared with 45.36 at 31st December, 1933. In 1930, increases were recorded in New South Wales and Queensland, but in the other States the hours remained practically constant, the result of the changes being that the weighted average hours of labour for all States increased to 45.98 per week. At the end of 1931 the weighted average for Australia had declined to 45.51 per week, due to the reduction in hours in New South Wales caused by the restoration of the 44 hours of work per week. In Queensland, average hours increased slightly owing to revision by the Industrial Court of the standard hours in some industries and callings. The position at the end of 1932 with the average at 45.49 was practically unaltered, but at the end of 1933 the weighted average for Australia had declined to 45.36 hours per week due to the return to 44 hours per week in Queensland.

5. Nominal and Real Wages, 1901 to 1933.—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates necessarily are taken for places other than the capital cities. For the year 1914 and subsequent years the index-numbers in the following table are based on the average wage for the four quarters of each year:—

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.  
(WEIGHTED AVERAGE WAGE FOR AUSTRALIA IN 1911 = 1,000.)

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1930.												
New South Wales	158	874	858	1,003	1,093	1,862	1,909	1,974	2,003	2,012	1,983	1,851	1,734	1,638
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,062	1,803	1,926	1,951	1,956	1,964	1,937	1,683	1,552	1,502
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,035	1,879	1,955	1,953	1,971	1,976	1,898	1,769	1,731	1,720
South Australia	134	567	819	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,871	1,869	1,884	1,891	1,857	1,580	1,434	1,423
Western Australia	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,910	1,925	1,938	1,960	1,955	1,745	1,611	1,584
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,027	1,745	1,844	1,835	1,825	1,840	1,829	1,625	1,533	1,519
Australia (a)	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,081	1,827	1,914	1,946	1,963	1,972	1,930	1,752	1,630	1,584

(a) Weighted average.

During the period 1911 to the end of the year 1929 the average weekly rate of wage increased in New South Wales and Victoria, 100 per cent. ; in Queensland, 98 per cent. ; in South Australia, 87 per cent.; in Western Australia, 70 per cent. ; and in Tasmania, 130 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 97 per cent. Comparing the yearly average rates for 1929 and 1933 nominal wages declined in all States during the period, South Australia showing the greatest fall with 24.7 per cent., followed by Victoria, 23.5 per cent., and Western Australia, 19.2 per cent. The smallest decline was recorded in Queensland, i.e. 12.9 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for Australia declined 19.7 per cent. Compared with 1911 the average weekly nominal wage for Australia was 58.4 per cent. higher in 1933.

(ii) *Real Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus, 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal only to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the "real" wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1933.

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

#### "REAL" WEEKLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES.

States.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	
New South Wales	..	961	973	906	1,079	1,035	1,079	1,089	1,050	1,107	1,160	1,150	1,138
Victoria	..	915	1,037	961	1,038	1,069	1,095	1,120	1,084	1,158	1,162	1,126	1,139
Queensland	..	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,244	1,183	1,222	1,236	1,220	1,317	1,345	1,376	1,417
South Australia	..	948	957	929	1,027	1,076	1,073	1,089	1,067	1,166	1,178	1,133	1,152
Western Australia	..	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,139	1,165	1,199	1,156	1,143	1,229	1,232	1,212	1,246
Tasmania	..	827	838	942	977	1,037	1,072	1,099	1,064	1,111	1,104	1,067	1,094
Australia (a)	..	964	1,000	948	1,076	1,072	1,102	1,115	1,082	1,152	1,185	1,168	1,178

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the "real" wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the "real" wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1933 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the "real" wage in all States.

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

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

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

NOMINAL AND "REAL" WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

Year.	I.	II.	Rate of Wage Index-numbers, Allowing for Unemployment.	IV.	"Real" Wage Index-numbers.	
	Nominal Wage Index-numbers.	Percentage Unemployed.	III. Re-computed. (1911 = 1,000).	Retail Price Index-numbers. (Food, Groceries, Rent—all houses.)	V. Full Work.	VI. Allowing for Unemployment.
1901 ..	848	6.6	832	880	964	945
1907 ..	893	5.7	884	897	996	986
1908 ..	900	6.0	888	951	949	934
1909 ..	923	5.8	913	948	974	963
1910 ..	955	5.6	945	970	985	974
1911 ..	1,000	4.7	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,051	5.5	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913 ..	1,076	5.3	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914 ..	1,081	8.3	1,040	1,140	948	912
1915 ..	1,092	9.3	1,039	1,278	854	813
1916 ..	1,144	5.8	1,131	1,324	864	854
1917 ..	1,226	7.1	1,195	1,318	930	907
1918 ..	1,270	5.8	1,255	1,362	932	921
1919 ..	1,370	6.6	1,343	1,510	907	889
1920 ..	1,627	6.5	1,596	1,785	911	894
1921 ..	1,826	11.2	1,701	1,697	1,076	1,002
1922 ..	1,801	9.3	1,715	1,600	1,126	1,072
1923 ..	1,805	7.1	1,760	1,700	1,062	1,035
1924 ..	1,840	8.9	1,759	1,681	1,095	1,046
1925 ..	1,861	8.8	1,781	1,722	1,081	1,034
1926 ..	1,914	7.1	1,866	1,786	1,072	1,045
1927 ..	1,946	7.0	1,899	1,766	1,102	1,075
1928 ..	1,963	10.8	1,837	1,760	1,115	1,044
1929 ..	1,972	11.1	1,839	1,822	1,082	1,009
1930 ..	1,939	19.3	1,642	1,683	1,152	976
1931 ..	1,752	27.4	1,335	1,479	1,185	903
1932 ..	1,639	29.0	1,221	1,403	1,168	870
1933 ..	1,584	25.1	1,245	1,345	1,178	926

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

Nominal wages and retail prices fell less rapidly during 1933 than in 1932, but as wages declined to the lesser extent, the "real" wage index for full work increased to 1178 from 1168. For the first time since it began its upward course in 1928 from 7.0 per cent. in the preceding year, to reach in 1932 the highest percentage (29.0) yet recorded for Australia for a whole year, unemployment during 1933 showed a marked decline, with the result that the index allowing for unemployment improved from 870 to 926. Comparison with 1911 shows that the "real" wage for full time work was 17.8 per cent. higher, but allowing for unemployment was 7.4 per cent. lower during 1933.

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

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

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the "basic" wage is to 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 the Court. The amended Act of 1930 provides that any alteration of the "basic" wage or the principles on which it is computed, or any variation or interpretation of any award where the variation or interpretation would result in any such alteration, shall have no force or effect unless it is considered by the Court constituted as above-mentioned.

By a judgment of the High Court on the 21st April, 1933, however, the "basic" wage is taken to include, for the foregoing purpose, any "loading" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer, the wage payable for skilled labour being assessed on the basis of that primary wage. 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."

(ii) *History in Australia.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, and the same principle was enunciated in the New South Wales Arbitration Court in somewhat similar terms by Mr. Justice Heydon in 1905. In spite, however, of these pronouncements and the fact that wage-fixing tribunals had been in operation as early as 1896 (in the State of Victoria) it was not until the year 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This declaration was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and is popularly known as the "Harvester Judgment" on account of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per diem or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five," and was generally referred to as the "Harvester" wage. 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 rates for all other towns throughout Australia were fixed at practically the same rates until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the Retail Price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses, 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

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

† *Ibid.*

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 on their respective index-numbers, taking the index-number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to 42s. per week—or the base of the table 1000 as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made as regards many country towns, where certain loadings were applied to counterbalance their lower index numbers due to cheaper rentals.\*

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s."† was added 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, and in the same year the system was instituted of regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the retail price index-numbers.

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 war rendered such a review out of the question, particularly in view of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being automatically adjusted to changes in the cost of living. A Royal Commission (referred to later) was appointed in 1920 to assess a Basic Wage, but its recommendations were disregarded.

This method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage continued in force until 30th April, 1934, when it was superseded by a judgment of the Full Arbitration Court, delivered on 17th April, particulars of which appear below.

In the meantime, however, the Economic depression, which made itself felt severely in Australia in 1930, forced the employers to seek relief from the Court of part of the heavy burden of wages on industrial recovery; and in this section of the two preceding issues of the Official Year Book an account will be found of the proceedings which resulted in an order of the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931, together with references to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to rescind the Order on applications made by the Unions.

2. Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934.—(i) *Introductory*. As explained hereinafter, the 10 per cent. reduction of wages referred to above ceased to operate in the majority of awards as from the 1st May, 1934, following on a judgment of the Full Court delivered on the 17th April, 1934. The Court at the same time declared a new basic wage, to be periodically adjusted on the "All Items" ("C" Series) index-numbers computed by this Bureau. This new wage supersedes the former "Harvester" standard wage supplemented by the "Powers' 3s." with which the family unit of "about five persons" had been generally associated. For convenience of reference, the new basic wage will be known as the "Commonwealth 'Restoration' Basic Wage, 1934."

(ii) *Applications for Restoration*. In connexion with its former refusals to rescind the 10 per cent. reduction imposed from 1st February, 1931, the Court had indicated that although refusing restoration generally, it was possible that certain industries were in a condition to justify the restoration, and that the Court would be quite prepared to hear applications made on that ground. A number of full and partial restorations were actually made in this way by the Court, and also voluntarily by employers.

Applications by organizations generally renewing the request for rescission of the 10 per cent. reduction having been made, the case opened before the Full Court on the 19th February, 1934, and the hearing continued until the 14th March, 1934, the transcript of the evidence covering 865 pages exclusive of "exhibits" not incorporated. Very few witnesses were called, and as the Court declined to hear evidence on the domestic requirements of typical families, the case submitted by the Unions, in addition to traversing the general principles followed by State tribunals in determining the basic wage for their respective States, was mainly directed to prove that the national finances

\* As these indexes covered only 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.

† Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the Gas Workers' case.

had improved substantially; that commerce and industry had revived, and that balance sheets, enhanced prices of stocks and shares, increased productivity, and other ready means of measuring prosperity had proved the ability of industry to bear complete restoration of former wage standards; that the continuation of the reduction was hampering progress towards complete recovery; and that had the conditions prevailing in 1930 been similar to those of 1934, the Court would not have made the reduction. The employers denied generally the position as stated by the Unions, and submitted that the alleged improvement was more psychological than real; that although Commonwealth finances had apparently improved, the condition of State finances was still parlous; that the position of the railways and tramways was desperate, and that State deficits were largely due to the losses in those services.

(iii) *Judgment of the Court. (a) Capital Cities.* The reserved judgment was delivered by the Court on the 17th April, 1934, and came into operation on the 1st May, 1934. The decision was not unanimous, the majority judgment being signed by Dethridge, C.J., and Drake-Brockman, J.; Beeby, J., dissenting as to the amount at which the basic wage was declared. The basic rates awarded for the various capital cities are shown in Column 2 of the following table, while the basic rates being paid under the former systems, together with the increases and decreases on former standards, are added for comparative purposes:—

#### COMPARISON OF BASIC RATES AWARDED FOR CAPITAL CITIES.

City.	New Rates Awarded 1st May, 1934, "C" Series.	Rates being Paid prior to 1st May, 1934.(a)		Increase or Decrease.		
		Under "D" Series less 10 per Cent. "Cut."	Under "A" Series (Full).	Over "D" Series.	Over "A" Series.	Over "A" Series less 10 per Cent. "Cut."
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sydney .. ..	67 0	66 11	72 0	0 1	- 5 0	+ 2 2
Melbourne .. ..	64 0	63 4	67 6	0 8	- 3 6	+ 3 3
Brisbane .. ..	61 0	59 4	62 0	1 8	- 1 0	+ 5 2
Adelaide .. ..	64 0	60 2	63 0	3 10	+ 1 0	+ 7 4
Perth .. ..	66 0	59 3	64 0	6 9	+ 2 0	+ 8 5
Hobart .. ..	67 0	64 10	70 0	2 2	- 3 0	+ 4 0
Six Capitals .. ..	65 0	63 9	68 0	1 3	- 3 0	+ 3 10

(a) Calculated to nearest 6d., and including "Powers' 3s." or its equivalent.

NOTE.—For explanation of the "A," "C," and "D" Series see p. 16, Labour Report No. 24, 1933.

Column (3) represents the rates actually being paid to members of the applicant organizations, and the immediate gains are shown in Column (5), representing the difference of Columns (2) and (3). A comparison with past "standards" is made in Columns (6) and (7). Column (6) represents the increase or decrease compared with wages of workers not subject to the 10 per cent. reduction, who are still enjoying the standard represented by the "A" Series of index-numbers, which has existed since the "Harvester" wage was declared in 1907, plus the addition of the "Powers' 3s." in 1922. The most noteworthy feature of this column is the coincidence that the new rate for the Six Capital Cities combined is that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s.," but reference to Section (v.)—"Basis of New Wage"—of this article will disclose the fact that this rate was not used as the basis of the judgment. The rate for Hobart is likewise that formerly paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s.," while for Melbourne the rate is 6d. under that amount;

but in the case of Sydney, the decrease was 2s. in addition to that item. The increases disclosed by Column (6) for Adelaide and Perth are due to the higher relative rates under the "C" Series index-numbers for the towns mentioned, compared with those under the "A" Series. Column (7) represents the theoretical immediate gain to wages, had there been no adjustment of wages by means of the "D" Series index-numbers. It must be remembered in this connexion that the introduction of this system of adjustment in May, 1933, was merely a temporary measure adopted by the Court to arrest somewhat the steep drop in wages which was taking place as the result of adjustments made in accordance with the "A" Series index-numbers; and if, therefore, the 10 per cent. reduction had continued to operate upon the rates derived from the "A" Series, the increases over the rates ruling would, on such an hypothesis, have been those shown in Column (7).

(b) *Country Towns*.—The rates for country towns were, with certain exceptions, fixed at a figure 3s. below that of the Capital City, the exceptions being as follow:—Newcastle 67s.; Broken Hill 65s.; Geelong 63s.; Warnambool 63s. (on Geelong); Mildura 64s. (on Melbourne); Yallourn 64s. (on Melbourne); Whyalla 64s. (on Adelaide); Kalgoorlie 76s.; Geraldton 69s.; Launceston 66s.; Queenstown 62s. 6d. The rates for Adelaide, Hobart and Launceston were graduated so as to come into full operation by the 1st June, 1935. Special provisions were made in connexion with the Railway services. In the case of Tasmania a flat rate of 65s. or 2s. below that of Hobart was declared, whilst in the case of South Australia a flat rate of 64s. on the Five Towns index-number was fixed. In the cases of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, the Court decided to extend the flat rate to all industries within the Railway services (such as craftsmen in the metal and other trades), and to vary or modify the relevant awards or undertakings accordingly. In view of the financial position of Government transport services, the Court decided to remove the present restriction on State legislatures making reductions in the remuneration of employees covered by Federal Awards, etc., to meet financial stringency, and made the following provision:—

"Notwithstanding anything in this award, the Commissioner may in or from the rates of pay prescribed herein, make reductions or deductions not greater than a statute now or at any time requires to be made generally in or from substantially similar rates of pay of employees of the State or of State instrumentalities."

(c) *Exemptions*.—The following industries were exempted from the operation of the judgment until further consideration could be given to them, i.e., Fruitgrowing; Printing at Broken Hill; and the following cases in which cost of living adjustments have not applied—Municipal Employees; Bond Stores; Felt Hatters; Maltsters; Marine Stores; and Launceston Tramways.

(iv.) *Periodical Adjustments*.—The fixation and future adjustment of the new wage was transferred from the "D" Series of index-numbers to the "C" Series (Food, Groceries, Rent of four and five-roomed Houses, Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure). The greater suitability of the latter series for the purpose had been urged on the Court by the various parties at different times, and was partly adopted by the Court in May, 1933, in connexion with the "D" Series. The "A" Series will, of course, continue to apply to those industries which were not suffering the full 10 per cent. reduction at the date of the judgment. Provision was also made that no adjustment of wages on account of cost of living would be made unless the amount of the change reached at least 2s. per week. The dates of adjustment were altered to the first pay period in the months of June, September, December and March.

(v.) *Basis of New Wage*. The new wage adopted by the Court is to a large extent founded upon the amount of \$4s. per week, declared by the New South Wales Board of Trade in August, 1925.\* As this amount took into consideration the upward tendency of prices, which continued, the Commonwealth Court regarded that rate as applicable to the year 1926, and taking the fall in prices in Sydney since that date up to the fourth

\* See *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, No. 2, Vol. XXVIII., 1925, page 154.

quarter of 1933, as disclosed by the "All Items" index-numbers ("C" Series), the appropriate rate for Sydney was found to be 67s. per week. This rate was then equated to the "C" Series index-number for Sydney for the fourth quarter, 1933, viz., 829, and the proportionate rate for 1,000 (the base of the series) calculated as equal to 81s. per week. From the latter amount as base, a table of wages based on this series was calculated in divisions of 1s. per week (e.g.,  $994 - 1,006 = 81s.$  per week), and the value of all other index-numbers ascertained from the table.

(vi) *Reasons for Judgment.* The Court issued a lengthy statement specifying the reasons which actuated it in arriving at its judgment, but considerations of space preclude the insertion of this matter in the present chapter. Full particulars will, however, be found in Labour Report No. 24.

(vii) *The Family Unit.* The judgment discusses at some length the question of the propriety of identifying a typical family unit with the wage adopted. Hitherto the Court had regarded its basic wage as appropriate to the requirements of a unit of "about five persons," consisting of a man, wife and three dependent children, but in point of actual fact the average number of children per adult male is about one, while for married adult workers it is 1.8. The Court emphasizes the point of view, however, that the deciding factor is what industry in all its primary, secondary, or ancillary forms can pay to the average employee, and that irrespective of what family units have been laid down for, or adopted by Industrial Tribunals, the amounts actually paid have been governed by this consideration. The Court stated, however, that in view of the absence of clear means of measuring the general wage-paying capacity of total industry, the actual wage upon which well-situated labourers are at the time maintaining the average family unit could justifiably be taken as a criterion of what industry can probably pay to all labourers. The Court considered that Mr. Justice Higgins had very wisely used this criterion in the 1907 "Harvester" case, and that there was sound economic warranty for the ascertainment of the real family unit, and the cost of providing something like the standard which families of well-employed labourers had already reached; and that if the real family unit were departed from, or a standard sought for the likely maintenance of which experience gave no reason to hope, then an unrealizable wage level may be ordained. It would appear, therefore, that although not identifying its wage with a specific family unit, the remarks of the Court lead to the conclusion that the wage declared was arrived at partly because in its opinion the material before it suggested that the amount would be sufficient to meet the requirements of a man, wife, and two children, representing the average family responsibility of the married adult worker.

(viii) *Rate for Females.* The Court stated that it did not think it desirable, at any rate at the present time, to declare any wage as a basic wage for females, and continued the proportions in each existing award of the minimum wage for females to that for males—generally in the vicinity of 52 per cent. of the adult male rate.

(ix) *Minority Judgment.* In his minority judgment, Judge Beeby expressed the opinion that although the economic position was much better than twelve months ago, recovery was not sufficient or permanent enough to justify the belief that the Commonwealth can get back to pre-depression standards; that 20 per cent. of the population was still unemployed; that the prices offering for our primary products were lower than those of 1931, and the difficulties of finding markets for our surpluses had increased; that prices offering for our base metals are barely sufficient to meet costs of production; that we are not entitled to assume that the remarkable recovery of wool prices is permanent; that budgetary deficits are still piling up, and the floating debt and consequent interest charges steadily increasing. He stated that the foregoing did not preclude consideration of whether and to what extent the Court's drastic cut in real wages should be modified in the light of substantial economic recovery, nor an examination made of the results of the Court's original order. He analysed the distribution of the products of the industry as disclosed by manufacturing statistics which showed that since 1927-28 the proportions going to employers and workers had changed from 45.42 and 54.58 to 49.81 and 50.19 in favour of the employer, and considered that this decline of 4.39 per cent. in the share accruing to the worker called for complete

re-examination of the whole theory and methods of wage fixation. He considered that wages should be related to production. He expressed doubt as to whether the reduction of the real wages of a section of the workers materially contributed to the partial recovery of last year, and considered that such transfer of spending power is not conducive to recovery unless it be part of a planned scheme of reorganization which guarantees that the transferred amount is either spent immediately on commodities or re-invested in labour-employing concerns. He reviewed the steps taken in other countries towards economic reconstruction to show that the universal trend of economic thought from low wage to high wage theories and to shortening working hours should be considered by a Court exercising quasi-legislative functions. He considered that the rates awarded by the majority judgment were not commensurate with the degree of economic recovery, and that the following should be the amounts for the towns shown, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sydney .. .. .	3	9	0	Perth .. .. .	3	5	0
Melbourne .. .. .	3	5	6	Hobart .. .. .	3	6	0
Brisbane .. .. .	3	5	0	Launceston .. .. .	3	3	6
Adelaide .. .. .	3	3	0	Six Capitals .. .. .	3	6	0

He considered that the "All Items" index-numbers should be used for the future adjustments of wages, but the rates recommended were not proportionate to the "All Items" index-numbers, taking the rate for Sydney as base, but were arrived at after consideration of all prevailing circumstances, and that with these rates there should be corresponding adjustments for provincial towns. In other respects he agreed with the majority judgment.

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

The awards of various State tribunals in operation at the present moment are shown in the following statement. The Industrial Commission in New South Wales and the Industrial Court in Western Australia revised the living or basic rates of wage to be paid in the respective States during 1929. Particulars of these judgments are given in Labour Report, No. 20. The pronouncements of the Industrial Commission in New South Wales are published in the *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. XXXVI., No. 6, and deal exhaustively with matters relating to basic wages. The living wage of £4 2s. 6d. per week for adult males determined in 1929 by the Industrial Commission in New South Wales was not altered during the years 1930 and 1931. On 26th August, 1932, the Commission declared the following rates—£3 10s. per week for adult males, and £1 18s. per week for adult females. The wage was altered as from 1st May, 1933, to £3 8s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 17s. for adult females, and from 1st November, 1933, to £3 6s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 16s. for adult females. From 1st May, 1934, the rates were increased to £3 7s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 16s. 6d. for adult females.

The declarations and reasons for the judgments of the Industrial Court in Western Australia are published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*. A revision of the basic wage in this State was made in June, 1930, when the rate for adult male employees in the Metropolitan area was determined at £4 6s., and for adult female employees at £2 6s. 5d. per week. These rates were reduced in March, 1931, to £3 18s. and £2 2s. 2d. respectively. On 5th November, 1931, the rates for the Metropolitan area were declared at £3 13s. 6d. for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. 8d. for adult female employees. These rates remained in force until 1st March, 1932, when the basic rates for the Metropolitan area were declared at £3 12s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 18s. 11d. per week for adult female employees. On the 2nd November, 1932, the rates were reduced to £3 10s. 6d. and £1 18s. 1d., and on the 28th February, 1933, to £3 9s. and £1 17s. 3d. per week. They were further reduced to £3 8s. and £1 16s. 9d. on the 30th June, 1933, and increased to £3 9s. 3d. and £1 17s. 5d. on the 3rd August, 1933, the latter being the first increase in the basic wage since the 1st July, 1929. These rates were again declared by the Court from 1st July, 1934, and from 1st August, 1934, the rates declared were

£3 11s. for males and £1 18s. 4d. for females. The Court of Arbitration declares also basic rates of wage for areas outside the Metropolitan area. The rates declared for these areas from 1st August, 1934 were—Agricultural areas, etc., adult male employees, £3 11s. 6d. per week; adult female employees, £1 18s. 7d. per week; Gold-fields area, etc., adult male employees, £4 2s. per week; adult female employees, £2 4s. 3d. per week.

The Industrial Court in Queensland reviewed the basic rates of wage for that State during 1930, and reduced the rate for adult male employees from £4 5s. to £4 per week as from 1st August, 1930. A further revision during the year reduced the rate for adult males to £3 17s. per week as from 1st December, 1930. The Industrial Court fixed the basic rates as from 1st July, 1931, at £3 14s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation at the end of June, 1934. The declarations of the Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette*.

In 1925 the Board of Industry in South Australia determined the living wage for adult male employees in the Metropolitan area at £4 5s. 6d. per week; and at £1 19s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation for more than five years. On 11th October, 1930, after a public inquiry, the Board of Industry determined the living wage to be paid to adult male employees in the metropolitan area at 12s. 6d. per day or £3 15s. per week; and on 22nd December, 1930, the living wage for adult female employees in the Metropolitan area was declared at £1 15s. per week. These rates were reduced by the Board of Industry on 17th August, 1931, after a public inquiry, to 10s. 6d. per day or £3 3s. per week for adult male employees; and on 4th December, 1931, to £1 11s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were still operative on the 30th June, 1934, notwithstanding intervening exhaustive reviews by the Board of Industry. These declarations are published in the Bulletins of the Board of Industry, South Australia.

A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review. In the majority of cases the practice of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court of adjusting wages in accordance with the variations in the "Cost of Living" index-numbers has been followed in the past by these bodies. In the case of Victoria, however, by an amendment of the *Factories and Shops Act* (No. 4275—assented to 9th October, 1934) provision is made for the incorporation in all determinations of Wages Boards of the provisions of Awards of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court covering similar employees, and for the automatic adjustment of wages by the Secretary for Labour in accordance with the retail price index-numbers of this Bureau.

#### BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES FIXED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS.

State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales ..	(a) 3 7 6	1 16 6	1.5.34	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	1.7.31	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	(c) 3 3 0	(d) 1 11 6	..	..
Western Australia..	(e) 3 11 0	1 18 4	1.8.34	Man, wife and two children
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

(a) Plus child allowances. (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to a large extent. (c) Judgment dated 17th August, 1931. (d) Judgment dated 4th December, 1931. (e) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Goldfields Areas and portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males £4 2s.; females, £2 4s. 3d.; Agricultural Areas and S.W. Land Division—males, £3 11s. 6d.; females, £1 18s. 7d. Under the provisions of the "Financial Emergency Act," the Court of Arbitration may make orders, on the application of employers in a number of industries and callings, reducing the wages rate by 18, 20, or 22½ per cent. according to total salary received.

4. **Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.**—The Federal basic wage referred to in par. 1 (ii) *ante* was made operative in other parts of Australia on the basis of the relative retail price index-numbers applicable to the locality, but only one comprehensive attempt has been made by the Federal authorities to ascertain specifically what the actual requirements were in the various States according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household in respect of a family consisting of a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

was fixed at 2 per cent, and from 1st January, 1932, at the rate of 5d. in the £1 on all wages above £3 per week. The amount of levy collected during 1932-33 was £2,409,034, and £2,105,659 was paid away in allowances to 63,072 families. The levy was discontinued as from 1st January, 1934, the cost of endowment being met from Consolidated Revenue.

(iii) *Commonwealth Public Service.* The first payment of child endowment allowances in Australia was in connexion with the Commonwealth Public Service. From 1st November, 1920, child endowment at the rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child under fourteen years of age was paid to officers, with a limitation of salary plus allowance of £400 per annum. As the result of proceedings before the Public Service Arbitrator in 1923, this allowance was confirmed as a permanent payment to officers, and the necessary fund to meet it was created by deducting the average value of the payment from the basic wage of all adult officers, so that the officers are themselves providing the fund from which the allowance is paid. The deduction was originally £11 per annum, but is now £12. The payment is now limited to officers receiving up to £500 per annum inclusive of the allowance. Details regarding the introduction and method of calculating the payments under this scheme have been published in previous issues of the Official Year Book and will be found also in the *Labour Reports* issued by this Bureau.

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

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

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

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

#### § 4. Changes in Rates of Wage.

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

## C.—EMPLOYMENT.

## § 1. Industrial Disputes.

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

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

2. **Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1933.**—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1933, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the previous years was published in preceding issues of the Official Year Book and Labour Report:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1933.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Estab- lish- ments In- volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- directly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	150	..	150	450	375
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. ..	3	85	1,685	..	1,685	1,485	1,000
VI.	Other manufacturing .. ..	3	10	1,120	40	1,160	15,501	11,391
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining .. ..	42	42	9,388	1,568	10,956	27,438	27,793
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. .. ..	2	2	908	55	963	7,913	7,958
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. ..	3	3	155	..	155	317	243
	Total .. ..	54	143	13,406	1,663	15,069	53,104	48,760
VICTORIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. ..	1	1	60	..	60	120	104
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	196	..	196	980	845
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. ..	1	17	795	162	957	10,456	7,581
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. ..	1	1	133	132	265	265	100
VIII.	Coal-mining .. ..	5	5	5,150	..	5,150	14,050	11,300
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. ..	3	3	822	..	822	822	486
	Total .. ..	12	28	7,156	294	7,450	26,693	20,416
QUEENSLAND.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	48	..	48	48	34
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. ..	2	2	820	..	820	1,200	1,130
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining .. ..	1	1	71	..	71	71	74
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. .. ..	2	2	1,269	873	2,142	9,972	7,295
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. ..	1	1	180	..	180	180	163
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. ..	4	4	248	11	259	2,405	1,381
	Total .. ..	11	11	2,636	884	3,520	13,876	10,077
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	50	..	50	100	90
	Total .. ..	1	1	50	..	50	100	90

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL  
GROUPS, 1933—*continued.*

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num-ber.	Estab-lish-ments In- volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- directly.	Total.		
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								£
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	2	2	19	1	20	1,120	847
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining .. ..	3	3	1,169	40	1,209	5,769	4,710
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. .. ..	2	2	2,080	230	2,310	9,100	8,430
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. ..	3	3	376	5	381	907	543
	Total .. ..	10	10	3,644	276	3,920	16,896	14,530
TASMANIA.								
VIII.	Coal-mining .. ..	1	1	75	..	75	1,200	1,050
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. ..	1	1	21	8	29	87	125
AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. ..	1	1	60	..	60	120	104
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	5	5	413	1	414	2,598	2,101
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution .. ..	6	104	3,300	162	3,462	13,141	9,711
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. ..	1	1	133	132	265	265	100
VI.	Other manufacturing .. ..	3	10	1,120	40	1,160	15,501	11,391
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining .. ..	52	52	15,853	1,608	17,461	48,528	44,927
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. .. ..	6	6	4,257	1,158	5,415	26,985	23,683
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	50	..	50	100	90
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. ..	1	1	180	..	180	180	163
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. ..	14	14	1,622	24	1,646	4,538	2,778
	Total—Australia .. ..	90	195	26,988	3,125	30,113	111,956	95,048

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1929 to 1933.—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 1929 to 1933, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.). For the year 1913 the proportion of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high, ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to as much as 81 per cent. in 1921 and 1924. During the year 1933 disputes in the coal-mining industry represented 43 per cent. of the total, as compared with 61 per cent. during 1932. During the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work-people engaged in coal-mining amounted to 4,127,941, representing 63 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining (Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal Mining.	Other Mining, etc.			

## NUMBER.

1929 ..	29	8	193	11	9	9	259
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1932 ..	20	4	77	8	5	13	127
1933 ..	16	..	52	6	1	15	90
1929 to 1933 ..	107	16	527	37	30	76	793

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1929 ..	25,364	732	68,751	8,015	1,286	456	104,604
1930 ..	6,034	..	40,336	851	2,610	4,391	54,222
1931 ..	5,005	159	23,351	2,015	2,515	4,622	37,667
1932 ..	8,236	120	19,540	2,602	181	2,238	32,917
1933 ..	5,361	..	17,461	5,415	50	1,826	30,113
1929 to 1933 ..	50,000	1,011	169,439	18,898	6,642	13,533	259,523

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

1929 ..	1,896,091	4,456	2,496,028	31,748	30,237	2,918	4,461,478
1930 ..	77,732	..	1,328,142	3,798	46,427	55,642	1,511,241
1931 ..	29,032	1,006	124,089	36,012	19,861	35,091	245,091
1932 ..	50,692	1,561	131,154	21,402	1,038	6,471	212,318
1933 ..	31,625	..	48,523	26,985	100	4,718	111,956
1929 to 1933 ..	2,081,672	7,023	4,127,941	119,945	97,663	105,740	6,542,984

## ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1929 ..	1,680,629	5,060	2,810,623	36,468	33,971	2,554	4,569,305
1930 ..	73,126	..	1,398,706	5,111	48,304	67,095	1,592,342
1931 ..	28,694	901	126,535	29,249	13,553	28,799	227,731
1932 ..	24,051	1,434	115,407	19,691	720	4,279	165,582
1933 ..	23,407	..	44,927	23,683	90	2,941	95,048
1929 to 1933 ..	1,829,907	7,395	4,496,198	114,202	96,638	105,668	6,650,008

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1929 to 1933.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1929 to 1933, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
								£
New South Wales ..	1929	231	513	75,197	4,152	79,349	3,146,038	3,421,412
	1930	156	384	46,418	2,151	48,569	1,443,366	1,516,296
	1931	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,037	133,068
	1932	92	99	17,813	2,156	19,969	63,425	64,420
	1933	54	143	13,406	1,663	15,069	53,104	48,760
Victoria ..	1929	11	320	8,893	12,719	21,612	1,296,676	1,130,565
	1930	5	5	385	23	408	7,744	7,228
	1931	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
	1932	12	37	6,475	110	6,585	99,638	65,599
	1933	12	28	7,156	294	7,450	26,693	20,416
Queensland ..	1929	4	23	1,691	8	1,699	3,443	3,379
	1930	10	31	1,561	70	1,631	9,881	11,059
	1931	15	358	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
	1932	10	210	1,061	1,156	2,217	21,166	18,341
	1933	11	11	2,636	884	3,520	13,876	10,077
South Australia ..	1929	2	21	532	40	572	9,940	7,910
	1930	7	246	2,870	6	2,876	22,778	22,987
	1931	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
	1932	2	3	109	4	113	970	664
	1933	1	1	50	..	50	100	90
Western Australia ..	1929	4	8	827	50	877	2,672	2,771
	1930	2	26	468	..	468	27,072	34,378
	1931	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
	1932	8	16	2,531	162	2,693	11,203	9,538
	1933	10	10	3,644	276	3,920	16,896	14,530
Tasmania ..	1929	6	40	333	142	475	3,409	3,068
	1930	3	3	270	..	270	400	394
	1931	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
	1932	2	4	1,163	..	1,163	15,562	6,516
	1933	1	1	75	..	75	1,200	1,050
Northern Territory ..	1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
	1932	1	3	177	..	177	354	304
	1933	1	1	21	8	29	87	125
Fed. Cap. Territory ..	1929	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia ..	1929	259	926	87,493	17,111	104,604	4,461,478	4,569,305
	1930	183	695	51,972	2,250	54,222	1,511,241	1,592,342
	1931	134	616	34,521	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731
	1932	127	372	29,329	3,588	32,917	212,318	165,582
	1933	90	195	26,988	3,125	30,113	111,956	95,048

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during the years 1929 to 1933 and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1933 was 90, as compared with 127 during the previous year. In New South Wales 54 disputes occurred. Of this number 42 involved workpeople engaged in mining and quarrying. Working days lost during 1933 numbered 111,956 for all disputes in Australia, as compared with 212,318 working days lost during 1932. The estimated loss of wages was £95,048 in 1933 as compared with £165,582 for the year 1932.

5. Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1933.—(i) *General*. The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1933 classified according to Industrial Groups. The figures show large decreases compared with those of the previous year as regards number of working days and amount of wages lost. The number of disputes is the lowest recorded for any year during the period covered by the investigations. The tables show that of the total number of disputes (90) which occurred in 1933 no less than 52 were in connexion with the coal-mining industry, and of these 42 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £95,048, the lowest annual loss yet recorded. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £27,793 or 29 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia. Compared with earlier years there was no dispute of outstanding magnitude but in the following paragraphs particulars are given of the largest which occurred in the States mentioned.

(ii) *Details regarding Principal Disputes.*—(a) *New South Wales*. A demand for the immediate restoration of the 10 per cent. "cut" was the reason given for a stoppage of work in September, 1933. Several firms engaged in the Wool and Basil industry were involved, and after a stoppage of about three weeks, the members of the unions concerned were instructed by their Executives to return to work, pending a compulsory conference ordered by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

A dispute involving persons engaged in metalliferous mining occurred at Broken Hill in October, 1933. The employees demanded increased rates for breaking and filling ore underground. Negotiations between the parties concerned resulted in a resumption of work on the old conditions after a stoppage of about two weeks.

(b) *Victoria*.—Operations in the Meat Export industry were held up by a dispute which occurred in Victoria in September, 1933. Several firms in various parts of the State were involved, the cause of the trouble being the inability of the employees to agree to certain clauses in a new agreement between employers and employees which was being drafted.

The principal matters in dispute were the "institution of the 'team' system of killing", and "a reduction of approximately 10 per cent. in wages". Negotiations between the parties having failed to effect an amicable settlement of the dispute, the employers decided to employ non-union labour; and operations were resumed under these conditions, a number of unionists being ultimately re-engaged.

A dispute involving coal-miners occurred at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, in December, 1933, owing to the objection of the miners to certain working conditions. Negotiations between the management and representatives of the miners resulted in work being resumed after a few days' stoppage.

(c) *Queensland*.—A demand that two men who had been suspended for an infringement of rules should be reinstated caused a stoppage of metalliferous mining operations at Mount Isa in October, 1933.

Negotiations having failed to effect a settlement, the operations of the company concerned were suspended indefinitely.

(d) *Western Australia*.—Alleged misinterpretations of clauses of an award caused a stoppage of work at the Lake View and Star Gold Mine, Boulder, in September, 1933. Negotiations between employers and employees resulted in a general agreement on all points, and work was resumed after a stoppage of about one week.

Operations at two collieries in the Collie district were suspended for several days in September, 1933, owing to a dispute. The cause of the stoppage was a demand by the employees for increased pay for "dip work". The dispute was referred to the Board of Reference constituted under the Coal Mining Award, with the result that an extra payment of sixpence per ton was granted on coal won from developmental headings worked to the dip of the seam.

6. Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1933.—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated loss in wages, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1933, classified under the adopted limits of duration:—

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1933.

Limits of Duration.	Number.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less .. .. .	43	10,465	1,202	11,667	11,467	£ 10,664
2 days and more than 1 day	11	3,812	270	4,082	8,158	7,220
3 days and more than 2 days	14	4,820	930	5,750	15,550	14,073
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. .. .	4	667	22	689	3,435	3,320
1 week and less than 2 weeks	9	5,296	501	5,797	41,762	36,648
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	6	1,883	199	2,082	29,762	21,771
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	1	26	..	26	702	505
8 weeks and over .. .. .	2	19	1	20	1,120	847
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>26,988</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>30,113</b>	<b>111,956</b>	<b>95,048</b>

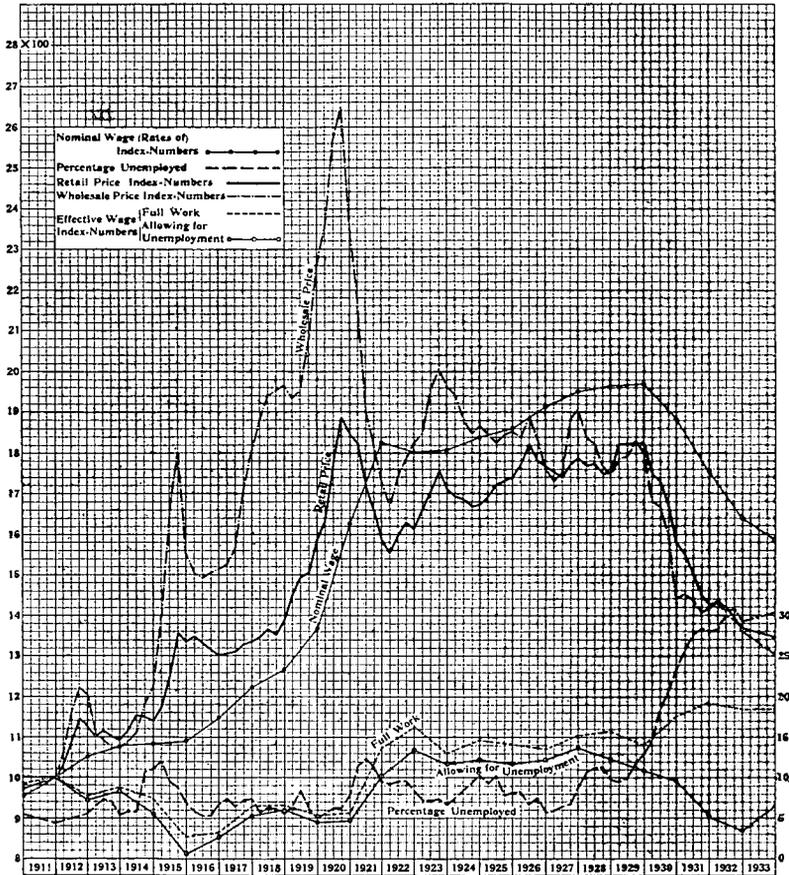
The details for previous years will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book and in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

7. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1933.—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes during the years 1913 and 1928 to 1933, classified according to principal cause:—

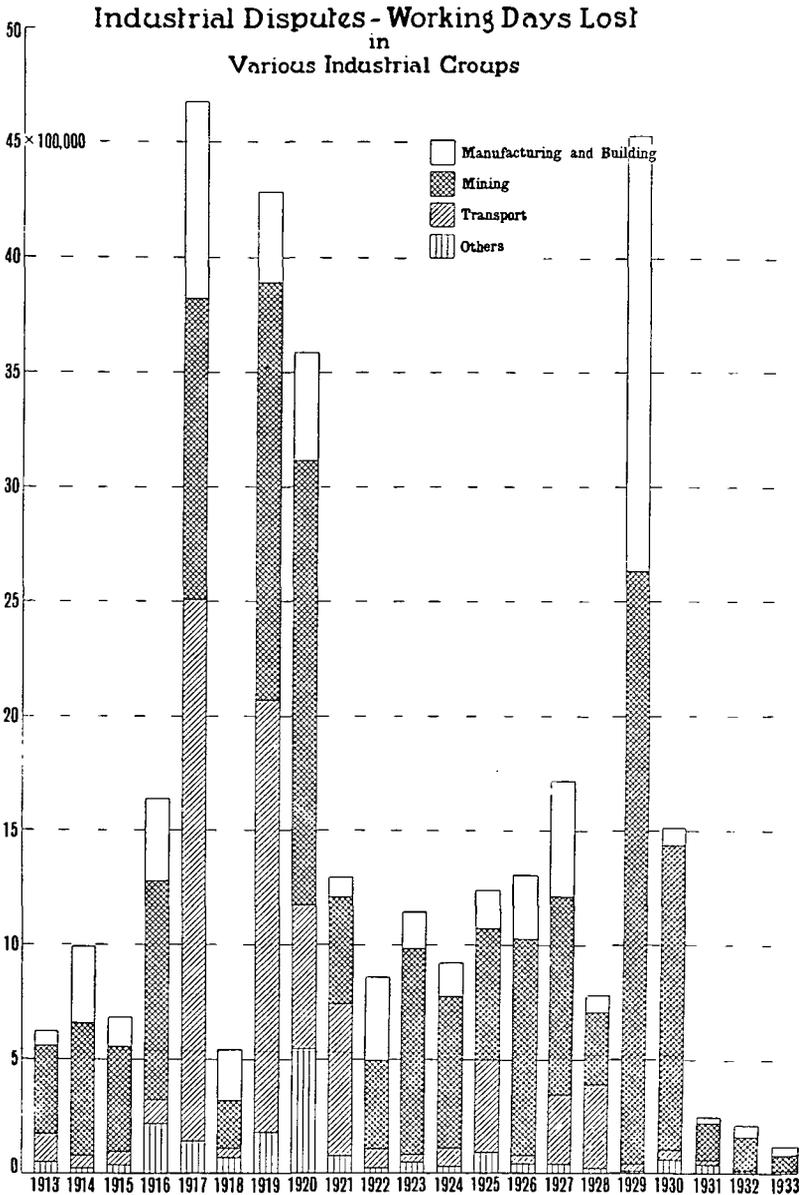
#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
<b>NUMBER.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase .. .. .	42	8	8	..	4	5	1
(b) Against decrease .. .. .	4	3	6	9	17	11	4
(c) Other wage questions	31	39	45	44	16	26	14
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction .. .. .	3	2	6	4	2	2	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	7	2	2	..	..	..	7
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .	8	6	3	..	1	2	1
(b) Other union questions	5	11	12	20	4	3	3
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. .	44	105	87	48	50	50	35
5. Working Conditions .. .. .	51	48	31	27	22	11	9
6. Sympathetic .. .. .	5	9	6	11	5	2	..
7. Other Causes .. .. .	8	54	53	20	13	15	16
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>90</b>

**RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1933.**



NOTE.—The figures on the right represent the scale for the percentage unemployed according to trade-union returns. The figures on the left represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent (all houses) for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price Index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter. Average nominal wage for adult males, and *real* wage (full work) and (allowing for unemployment) for adult males.



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

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

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
<b>WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	8,633	2,775	1,414	..	2,053	1,295	29
(b) Against decrease ..	563	1,317	10,532	12,824	7,108	7,327	2,178
(c) Other wage questions	7,160	17,057	8,742	12,686	3,999	5,417	4,336
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	460	61	21,646	4,334	192	198	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	1,819	1,005	2,067	..	..	..	2,620
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	193	103	..	9	17	89
(b) Other union questions	1,418	2,311	4,367	4,160	2,240	501	705
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	11,370	35,379	22,933	7,751	12,023	12,556	11,803
5. Working Conditions ..	10,785	14,169	4,672	4,276	6,659	2,804	4,503
6. Sympathetic ..	947	6,123	11,604	4,010	1,053	316	..
7. Other Causes ..	1,758	16,032	16,524	4,181	2,331	2,486	3,850
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>50,283</b>	<b>96,422</b>	<b>104,604</b>	<b>54,222</b>	<b>37,667</b>	<b>32,917</b>	<b>30,113</b>

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	6,548	7,433	..	15,425	5,990	87
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	3,824	2,332,157	1,227,808	111,258	123,571	17,431
(c) Other wage questions	78,183	80,755	47,261	113,102	43,746	17,631	18,736
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	725	1,887,196	63,583	152	2,894	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	15,111	2,667	3,183	..	..	..	8,895
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	2,137	424	..	99	59	89
(b) Other union questions	32,388	8,900	49,924	50,225	11,752	6,261	1,421
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	191,723	423,555	78,492	24,683	38,567	36,054	31,799
5. Working Conditions ..	73,562	98,852	8,545	8,551	17,106	14,902	22,865
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	106,358	23,482	17,648	4,070	1,096	..
7. Other Causes ..	5,212	42,957	23,381	5,641	3,816	3,860	10,633
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>623,528</b>	<b>777,278</b>	<b>4,461,478</b>	<b>1,511,241</b>	<b>245,991</b>	<b>212,318</b>	<b>111,956</b>

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1913 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. During 1933 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" represented 21 per cent. of the total number for the year. The majority of the dislocations of work classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but decreased during 1928 to 1933. "Sympathetic" disputes have not been numerous during the past five years, none being recorded during 1933.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the six years 1928 to 1933, classified according to results:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number.				Workpeople Involved.				Working Days Lost.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1928 ..	39	228	14	1	7,362	85,306	2,814	178	55,757	674,076	16,309	178
1929 ..	70	135	44	5	11,200	69,859	7,150	15,304	38,943	4,315,760	43,174	26,302
1930 ..	36	117	24	1	4,133	45,204	3,343	520	13,497	1,358,044	25,177	13,000
1931 ..	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..
1932 ..	29	77	21	..	5,437	17,518	9,962	..	23,572	48,893	139,853	..
1933(a)	17	58	13	1	4,778	20,697	4,361	213	12,301	84,697	14,468	426

(a) The following are the particulars of a dispute which was incomplete at 31st December, 1933, which should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding tables, viz., :—

State.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople.	Working Days Lost.
New South Wales .. .. .	1	1	64	64
Total .. .. .	1	1	64	64

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

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1913 and 1928 to 1933, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933. (a)
NUMBER.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	138	130	134	88	87	64
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act .. .. .	17	8	8	3	3	4	1
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. .. .	19	10	3	6	11	5	3
By reference to Board or Court ..	22	8	1	2	1	2	3
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. .. .	4	6	6	..	4	3	2
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out .. .. .	13	10	7	9	2	7	2
By closing-down establishment permanently .. .. .	1	3	3	1	2	1	3
By other methods .. .. .	13	99	96	23	21	18	11
Total .. .. .	208	282	254	178	132	127	89(a)

(a) See footnote to preceding table.

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

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
<b>WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.</b>							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	37,708	32,393	40,804	22,292	22,595	19,703
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	1,242	19,161	196	1,885	1,800	1,100
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	6,505	2,009	487	3,476	3,871	1,640	1,290
By reference to Board or Court	12,774	2,975	56	184	42	416	1,390
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	659	1,497	511	..	1,083	1,839	1,096
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	658	11,047	5,411	2,940	222	460	986
By closing-down establishment permanently	170	266	144	40	52	11	1,271
By other methods	2,988	38,916	45,350	5,560	8,058	4,156	3,213
Total	50,283	95,660	103,513	53,200	37,505	32,917	430,049

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	273,254	2,417,171	1,289,487	109,601	87,650	54,774
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	36,937	1,279,258	2,893	2,625	79,872	6,600
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	187,871	38,878	5,261	56,648	25,257	7,423	3,510
By reference to Board or Court	221,769	29,533	56	1,272	252	3,408	6,330
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	2,105	3,962	1,882	..	30,317	18,596	15,437
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	14,139	266,369	610,686	34,612	27,042	6,874	10,543
By closing-down establishment permanently	20,400	750	9,861	80	5,355	44	8,627
By other methods	56,509	96,637	100,004	24,726	37,970	8,451	6,071
Total	623,528	746,320	4,424,179	1,409,718	238,419	212,318	411,892

(a) See footnote to preceding table.

The majority of the disputes were settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled ranging between 47 per cent. in 1924 and 76 per cent. in 1921. Of the 89 disputes settled during 1933, 64 or 72 per cent. were settled by this method. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration

Acts has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging from 2 per cent. in 1923 to 15 per cent. in 1920. The proportion in 1933 was 9 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

## § 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. *General.*—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 415,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received, the percentages of unemployment derived from Trade Union returns may be regarded as of value by virtue of the indication they give of the relative intensity of unemployment from time to time, and it is believed that they can be taken as a rough index of the percentage of workers unemployed at any time. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

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

### UNEMPLOYMENT.—1933.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. .. .	114	186,202	53,839	28.9
Victoria .. .. .	81	115,096	25,726	22.3
Queensland .. .. .	46	50,395	7,705	15.3
South Australia .. .. .	58	29,370	8,799	29.9
Western Australia .. .. .	61	25,278	6,257	24.8
Tasmania .. .. .	34	8,964	1,709	19.1
<b>Australia .. .. .</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>415,305</b>	<b>104,035</b>	<b>25.1</b>

(ii) *Summary for Australia.* The appended table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years and quarterly for years, 1930 to 1933 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

Period.				Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
						Number.	Percentage.
1929	..	..	..	382	424,093	47,359	11.1
1930	..	..	..	395	438,874	84,767	19.3
1931	..	..	..	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1932	..	..	..	395	415,434	120,454	29.0
1933	..	..	..	394	415,305	104,035	25.1
1930	1st Quarter	..	..	392	432,464	63,144	14.6
	2nd "	..	..	394	435,239	80,595	18.5
	3rd "	..	..	396	439,971	90,379	20.5
	4th "	..	..	399	447,822	104,951	23.4
1931	1st Quarter	..	..	397	440,234	113,614	25.8
	2nd "	..	..	397	429,687	118,424	27.6
	3rd "	..	..	396	426,603	120,694	28.3
	4th "	..	..	396	423,493	118,732	28.0
1932	1st Quarter	..	..	395	425,094	120,366	28.3
	2nd "	..	..	396	413,742	124,068	30.0
	3rd "	..	..	395	412,997	122,340	29.6
	4th "	..	..	392	409,902	115,042	28.1
1933	1st Quarter	..	..	394	412,674	109,182	26.5
	2nd "	..	..	394	415,559	106,652	25.7
	3rd "	..	..	394	416,426	104,560	25.1
	4th "	..	..	394	416,560	95,745	23.0

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

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (30.0) was reached in the second quarter of 1932.

(iii) The following table gives the percentages in each State from 1929 to 1933 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—PERCENTAGES.

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1929 Year	11.5	11.1	7.1	15.7	9.9	13.4	11.1
1930 "	21.7	18.3	10.7	23.3	19.2	19.1	19.3
1931 "	30.8	25.8	16.2	32.5	27.3	27.4	27.4
1932 "	32.5	26.5	18.8	34.0	29.5	26.4	29.0
1933 "	28.9	22.3	15.3	29.9	24.8	19.1	25.1
1931 1st Quarter	29.2	24.4	14.1	30.6	26.1	26.6	25.8
2nd "	30.7	26.5	16.1	32.4	27.1	27.3	27.6
3rd "	31.6	26.8	16.9	33.3	27.9	27.3	28.3
4th "	31.5	25.6	17.5	33.7	28.1	28.4	28.0
1932 1st Quarter	31.8	26.0	18.2	33.1	28.6	27.3	28.3
2nd "	33.2	27.7	19.9	35.2	30.3	27.4	30.0
3rd "	33.0	27.0	19.3	35.4	30.1	26.9	29.6
4th "	31.9	25.2	17.9	32.2	28.9	23.8	28.1
1933 1st Quarter	30.2	23.9	16.7	30.5	27.1	19.8	26.5
2nd "	29.6	23.0	15.6	30.0	26.0	19.0	25.7
3rd "	28.8	22.5	15.1	30.3	25.6	19.2	25.1
4th "	27.0	19.9	13.8	28.9	20.5	18.2	23.0

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1933.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
<b>Manufacturing:—</b>				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	16	18,580	6,466	34.8
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	71,640	20,517	28.6
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	51	35,777	6,076	17.0
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	22	32,957	5,743	17.4
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	18,582	2,798	15.1
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	65	38,038	13,039	34.3
VII. Building .. ..	47	48,879	17,412	35.7
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	25,901	7,459	28.8
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services ..	12	17,738	4,446	25.1
IX., XL., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	84	107,213	20,079	18.7
<b>All Groups .. ..</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>415,305</b>	<b>104,035</b>	<b>25.1</b>

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

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

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

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Reports, Nos. 22 to 24.

### § 3. Apprenticeship.

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

## D.—ASSOCIATIONS.

### § 1. Labour Organizations.

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

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 168 industrial unions of employers and 157 industrial unions of employees, the membership of the latter being 281,390; Queensland, 10 industrial unions of employers with 10,489 members, and 77 industrial unions of employees with approximately 118,305 members; South Australia, 24 organizations of employees with 18,297 members; Western Australia, 43 organizations of employers with 871 members, and 111 organizations of employees with 35,849 members. There is no provision in the South Australian Industrial Acts for the registration of organizations of employers, and in Victoria and Tasmania, where Wages Board systems of wage fixation are in operation, organizations of employers and employees are not required to register. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. In December, 1932, there were on the register 27 organizations of employers with approximately 20,000 persons, firms or corporations affiliated, and 137 organizations of employees with approximately 630,000 members. On the 31st December, 1933, the registered organizations numbered 136 with a total estimated membership of 630,000.

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

(ii) *Number and Membership.* As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912, the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established, and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations, comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1933 :—

## TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1933.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales .. .. .	198(c)	580	303,046(c)
Victoria .. .. .	149	406	195,089
Queensland .. .. .	107	320	121,331
South Australia .. .. .	109	177	54,197
Western Australia .. .. .	128	188	51,399
Tasmania .. .. .	80	78	13,630
Northern Territory .. .. .	4	..	706
Total .. .. .	775	1,749	739,398
Australia (a) .. .. .	356(a)	2,168(b)	739,398

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. The figures represent the number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations, which are practically independent and self-governing. (b) See remarks below. (c) Includes 15 unions with a membership of 1,022 in the Federal Capital Territory.

In the preceding table, the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line, allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are, therefore, 356 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,168 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 739,398 members.

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

## TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Groups.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
Manufacturing :—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	18 (a)				
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	61 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	65 (33)	65 (32)	63 (34)	63 (34)	62 (34)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	25 (12)	24 (12)	24 (12)	24 (12)	24 (11)
V. Books, Printing, etc.	14 (8)	15 (9)	15 (10)	15 (10)	15 (10)
VI. Other Manufacturing	79 (42)	79 (41)	76 (38)	77 (37)	77 (37)
VII. Building	50 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	18 (14)	18 (14)	16 (13)	16 (13)	16 (13)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	52 (31)	52 (30)	51 (29)	51 (29)	51 (29)
X. Other Land Transport	11 (5)	12 (5)	11 (4)	11 (4)	11 (4)
XI. Shipping, etc.	59 (28)	59 (26)	57 (24)	57 (24)	55 (22)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	8 (3)	8 (3)	9 (4)	9 (4)	9 (4)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	24 (19)	20 (15)	20 (15)	20 (16)	20 (16)
XIV. Miscellaneous :—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	30 (20)	30 (20)	31 (19)	31 (19)	30 (19)
(ii) Public Service	143 (50)	143 (45)	145 (46)	145 (45)	145 (45)
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	9 (7)	9 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	13 (12)
(v) Other Miscellaneous	91 (35)	100 (36)	108 (40)	108 (40)	107 (39)
Total .. .. .	771 (374) <sup>a</sup>	780 (362) <sup>a</sup>	781 (362) <sup>a</sup>	781 (361) <sup>a</sup>	775 (356) <sup>a</sup>

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Manufacturing :—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	35,898	39,944	26,700	27,054	27,164
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	85,425	79,081	74,316	72,883	69,244
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	71,948	71,437	63,582	61,183	62,103
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	56,300	50,625	47,707	51,154	50,173
V. Books, Printing, etc.	19,817	19,822	18,703	18,128	18,113
VI. Other Manufacturing	44,693	44,742	42,553	40,578	42,577
VII. Building	61,191	59,629	52,041	52,582	52,936
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	43,098	42,405	36,037	32,846	30,166
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	13,281	106,968	92,292	91,889	90,521
X. Other Land Transport	18,817	18,211	17,595	17,158	16,408
XI. Shipping, etc.	38,308	38,050	36,039	32,994	32,691
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	50,266	43,639	28,668	21,237	20,997
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	29,767	25,504	23,611	20,993	20,849
XIV. Miscellaneous :—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	30,440	31,140	30,222	28,420	27,884
(ii) Public Service	79,773	81,275	81,395	80,889	79,809
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	31,887	28,859	26,630	24,983	26,426
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	46,577	41,027	32,541	30,639	30,261
(v) Other Miscellaneous	43,682	42,399	38,374	35,221	41,076
Total .. .. .	901,168	855,757	769,006	740,831	739,398

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

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

The following table shows separately for males and females (a) the number of members of trade unions; (b) the estimated number of employees of each sex 20 years of age and over in all professions, trades, and occupations; and (c) the percentage of the former (a) on the latter (b) at the end of each year, 1929 to 1933. The estimated number of employees includes all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a large number of adults who are not eligible for membership of any trade union, such as certain persons employed

in professional occupations, as well as others who, while eligible for membership so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. Moreover the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and age 20 years is taken as approximating to the age of admission to membership. A line has also been added showing the estimated numbers of "junior" workers under 20 years of age :—

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

Particulars.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
<b>MALES.</b>					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	1,302,400	1,313,000	1,321,000	1,330,000	1,344,290
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	774,031	735,767	656,105	630,688	626,266
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	59.4	56.0	49.7	47.4	46.6
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	241,000	243,400	244,850	246,500	249,010
<b>FEMALES.</b>					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	308,200	311,600	314,600	317,250	321,500
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	127,137	119,990	112,901	110,143	113,132
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	41.3	38.5	35.9	34.7	35.2
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	136,000	137,500	138,870	139,980	141,960
<b>TOTAL.</b>					
Estimated Number of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	1,610,600	1,624,600	1,635,600	1,647,250	1,665,790
Number of Members of Unions .. .. .	901,168	855,757	769,006	740,831	739,398
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	56.0	52.7	47.0	45.0	44.4
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	377,000	380,900	383,720	386,480	390,970

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1933 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1933.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions .. .. .	20	12	19	21	43	115
Number of Members .. .. .	31,792	33,609	99,293	183,227	264,319	612,240

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

It appears, therefore, that 115 out of the 356 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 115 unions reaches 612,240 or 83 per cent. of the membership (739,398) of all unions.

3. *Central Labour Organizations.*—In each of the capital cities and in a number of industrial centres elsewhere, delegate organizations consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a

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

A new Central Labour Organization, called the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the Trade Unions of 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, viz., the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

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

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto in each State at the end of the year 1933:—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1933.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	F.C.Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	6	2	9	3	1	29
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	94	168	77	54	214	60	11	678

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

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

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

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

## § 2. Employers' Associations.

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

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

2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1929 to 1933:—

### EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1929	146	154	80	56	62	29	527
1930	146	152	83	58	66	29	534
1931	148	157	85	60	67	30	547
1932	148	158	85	60	68	30	549
1933	140	153	80	58	62	28	521
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
1929	921	526	191	12	301	6	1,957
1930	930	495	197	12	297	7	1,938
1931	906	465	197	18	306	7	1,899
1932	907	461	185	18	297	10	1,878
1933	897	508	189	15	288	8	1,905
MEMBERSHIP.							
1929	57,839	36,357	20,113	6,871	11,410	2,752	135,342
1930	56,430	37,790	18,791	7,218	11,723	2,717	134,669
1931	55,417	37,389	18,807	7,311	10,969	2,535	132,428
1932	54,005	37,342	18,929	6,656	10,189	2,504	129,625
1933	56,384	37,929	18,721	6,452	10,311	2,391	132,188

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

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1932 and 1933 :—

**EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.**

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1932.	1933.	1932.	1933.	1932.	1933.
<b>Manufacturing :—</b>						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	20	20	7	4	1,297	1,272
II. Engineering, etc. ..	16	14	12	12	3,000	3,439
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	118	108	81	87	19,697	18,982
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	21	20	2	2	1,890	1,739
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	45	40	2	3	2,873	2,805
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	51	51	2	2	3,537	3,720
VII. Building .. ..	30	30	13	12	2,591	2,637
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	12	11	..	..	228	276
X. Other Land Transport ..	19	16	21	21	2,365	2,178
XI. Shipping, etc. .. ..	16	16	7	3	263	254
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	47	48	1,700	1,727	74,008	77,675
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	17	15	..	..	1,413	1,722
XIV. Miscellaneous .. ..	137	132	31	32	16,553	15,489
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>129,625</b>	<b>132,188</b>

The female membership of these associations was 5,589 for 1932, and 4,927 for 1933.

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

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

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

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of interstate or federated associations having branches in two or more States from 1929 to 1933:—

**INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**

Year.	Associations Operating In—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
<b>NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.</b>						
1929	3	4	4	10	16	37
1930	4	3	4	12	16	39
1931	5	4	4	13	19	45
1932	5	4	4	13	19	45
1933	6	4	5	14	16	45
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS.</b>						
1929	201	1,066	594	60,729	43,166	105,756
1930	1,169	339	975	61,327	43,303	107,113
1931	1,190	359	741	61,813	42,871	106,974
1932	1,132	323	842	59,993	40,872	103,162
1933	1,354	290	1,118	66,144	35,299	104,205

The above table shows that associations having 79 per cent. of the total membership (132,188) of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.