

CHAPTER XIII.—LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

A.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. General.—The results of an investigation into wholesale prices in Melbourne from 1871 to the end of September, 1912, were given in some detail in Report No. 1 of the Labour and Industrial Branch, while summarized results for later years are included in subsequent Reports.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of eighty commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to ninety-two.* The methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price index-numbers are similar to those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurement for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity is used or consumed, are shown in a tabular statement in Labour Report No. 18 for 1927 (page 10).

2. Index-Numbers.—Index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups together. The index-numbers for the several groups, and for all groups together, are shown in the following table, and in each case were computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base. They show, for each of the years specified, the expenditure necessary—if distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities concerned—to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911. Thus, from the last column it will be seen that the cost of the relative quantities of the various commodities was 1,229 in 1871, and 974 in 1901, as compared with 1,000 in 1911, 1,903 in 1921, and 1,817 in 1927. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871, 1921, or 1927, and the purchasing power of money in 1911 was, accordingly, greater. Again, prices were lower in 1901 than in 1911, and the purchasing power of money in the former year was, therefore, greater.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, 1861 TO 1927.

(Base 1911 = 1,000).

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mate- rials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Com- modities together.
1861	1,438	1,881	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1902	1,007	756	1,193	1,215	945	1,447	837	881	1,051
1903	923	834	1,209	1,059	936	1,443	875	921	1,049
1904	821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875	890
1905	772	850	894	980	942	1,209	801	859	910
1906	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	1,021	989	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,055	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,085
1914	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922	1,942	1,681	1,928	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923	1,826	2,143	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

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

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

3. Fluctuations, July, 1914, to July, 1928.—Since the outbreak of war, prices of many commodities have increased considerably. This is shown in the following table in which the index-numbers are given for each group for the months of July, 1922, to July, 1928, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (= 1,000) for each group:—

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, JULY, 1914, TO JULY, 1928.

Particulars.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mate- rials.	VIII. Chemi- cals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1922 ..	1,794	1,555	1,532	1,564	1,810	1,185	1,681	1,991	1,569
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,376	1,691	1,668	1,698	2,229	1,780	1,923	1,799
" 1924 ..	1,666	2,119	1,525	1,431	1,677	1,281	1,666	1,743	1,626
" 1925 ..	1,663	1,744	1,643	1,404	1,667	1,492	1,605	1,716	1,618
" 1926 ..	1,741	1,456	1,860	1,514	1,686	1,248	1,557	1,798	1,615
" 1927 ..	1,789	1,503	1,674	1,606	1,677	1,390	1,518	1,826	1,607
" 1928 ..	1,738	1,656	1,618	1,477	1,654	1,217	1,593	1,862	1,573

§ 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

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

(ii) *Computation of Index-Numbers.* The method adopted for the computation of the index-numbers is what is termed the "aggregate expenditure" method. Thereunder the average price of each commodity included is ascertained, and numbers (called "mass-units") representing the relative extent to which each commodity was on the average used or consumed are also computed. The price in any year of each commodity multiplied by its corresponding "mass-unit" represents, therefore, the relative total expenditure on that commodity in that year on the basis of the adopted regimen. It follows, therefore, that by taking for any year the sum of the price of each commodity multiplied by its corresponding "mass-unit," a figure is obtained which represents the relative aggregate or total expenditure of the community in that year on all the commodities, etc., included. By computing these aggregate expenditures for a series of years and taking the expenditure in any selected year as "base," that is, making the expenditure in that year equal to 1,000 units, the relative expenditure in any other year, or what may be termed the "index-number," is readily ascertained. Numerical examples of the technique and methods adopted for the computation of index-numbers were given in Report No. 2 (pp. 44 and 45), and in Report No. 9 Appendixes I. to IV., pp. 174 to 229.

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

3. Variations in Index-Numbers for Retail Prices and House Rents, Capital Cities, 1907 to 1927.—(i) *General*. In Labour Reports and Bulletins, and in recent issues of the Quarterly Summaries of Statistics, index-numbers were given for each of the four groups and for all groups combined for each capital city since 1901, the expenditure in 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). In this sub-section summarized results only are given, firstly, for food and groceries; secondly, for house rent; and thirdly, for the groups combined—the weighted average expenditure for all capital cities in 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in each table are fully comparable with one another, since they show not only the variations from year to year in each capital, but also the relative cost as between the cities.

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

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES,
1907 TO 1927.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Sydney	936	989	1,156	1,898	1,820	1,732	1,785	1,867	1,846
Melbourne	925	935	1,091	1,901	1,802	1,684	1,748	1,774	1,732
Brisbane	947	1,018	1,078	1,812	1,693	1,690	1,734	1,788	1,680
Adelaide	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,823	1,791	1,840	1,869	1,841
Perth	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,828	1,891	1,938	1,866	1,796
Hobart	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,025	1,863	1,849	1,810	1,868	1,788
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,805	1,732	1,785	1,829	1,789

(a) For all capital cities.

The figures quoted are directly comparable in every respect; thus, the same quantity of food and groceries, which cost £1,000 in the capital cities considered as a whole in 1911, would have cost £1,156 in Sydney in 1914, £1,346 in Perth in 1911, or £1,732 in Melbourne in 1927.

In 1927 decreases were experienced in all the capitals from the previous year. Comparing the results for 1927 with those for 1911, the extent by which prices increased varied from 86.7 per cent. in Sydney to 33.4 per cent. in Perth. Prices, however, were abnormally high in Perth in 1911. The average retail prices in the six capitals considered as a whole in 1927, compared with prices in 1911, were 78.9 per cent. higher.

(iii) *Housing*. In previous issues of the Official Year Book the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under 4 rooms to 8 rooms and over. In the following tables that basis has been altered, to accord with a resolution adopted by the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand to the following effect: "that for purposes of computing price levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account." This alteration will account for the difference between index-numbers given in the following tables and those given for the same tables in issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 19 for the year 1926.

The following table gives index-numbers computed for the weighted average house rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses in each of the capital cities from 1907 to 1927, taking the average rent for the six capitals in 1911 as the base (=1,000). The average rent has been obtained for each city separately by multiplying the weighted average rent for each class of house (*i.e.*, wooden houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms and brick houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms) by a number ("weight") representing the relative number of houses of that class in the particular city. The sum of the products thus obtained divided by the sum of the weights, gives the weighted average for 4 and 5 roomed houses combined. The number of houses in each class for each city was obtained from the results of the 1921 census, and the index-numbers are based on the weighted average rents for 4 and 5 roomed houses combined, and do not refer to any particular class of house. The actual predominant rents for each class are given in appendixes to Labour Reports, and an examination of these figures shows that for some classes of houses the increase has been greater, and in some less, than the general increase indicated in the following table.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING, CAPITAL CITIES, 1907 TO 1927.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Sydney	969	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,739	1,831	1,870	1,826	1,814
Melbourne	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,534	1,574	1,604	1,695	1,710
Brisbane	463	610	762	1,030	1,151	1,157	1,185	1,333	1,361
Adelaide	835	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,450	1,540	1,576	1,516	1,540
Perth	749	857	963	1,209	1,294	1,311	1,340	1,469	1,507
Hobart	661	739	847	1,441	1,503	1,592	1,649	1,623	1,579
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,410	1,553	1,615	1,647	1,677	1,684

(a) For all capital cities.

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

(iv) *Food, Groceries, and Housing 4 and 5 roomed Houses combined.* The weighted averages for all groups are of importance, as indicating the general results of this investigation so far as the purchasing-power of money is concerned. The following table shows the index-numbers for groceries, food, and house rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) for each capital city, the weighted average cost for the six capitals in 1911 being taken as base (=1,000):—

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS (a)—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.—
CAPITAL CITIES, 1907 TO 1927.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Sydney	948	1,048	1,188	1,793	1,790	1,769	1,817	1,852	1,834
Melbourne	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,702	1,643	1,694	1,744	1,724
Brisbane	765	865	959	1,519	1,490	1,490	1,521	1,617	1,560
Adelaide	908	1,070	1,161	1,687	1,683	1,697	1,741	1,736	1,728
Perth	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,700	1,627	1,673	1,714	1,717	1,687
Hobart	879	938	1,075	1,806	1,728	1,753	1,750	1,778	1,710
Weighted Average (b) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,710	1,688	1,733	1,772	1,749

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

(b) For all capital cities.

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

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

4. *Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.*—The tables in sub-section 3 give the relative cost in the six capital cities of food, groceries, and housing from 1907 to 1927 in the form of index-numbers. The figures have been converted into a monetary basis in the next table, and show the sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities, and to pay such sums for housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in 1911.

RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1928 (2nd QUARTER) TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN 1911 IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
	<i>s. d.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1907	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1911	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0
1914	23 1	21 10	21 7	24 4	26 0	24 3	22 11
1920	43 0	41 1	41 1	42 8	41 0	43 3	42 0
1922	34 1	32 11	32 2	34 6	35 6	35 11	33 8
1923	36 5	36 1	33 10	36 6	36 7	37 3	36 1
1924	34 8	33 8	33 10	35 10	37 10	37 0	34 8
1925	35 8	35 0	34 8	36 10	38 9	36 2	35 8
1926	37 4	35 6	35 9	37 5	37 4	37 4	36 7
1927	36 11	34 8	33 7	36 10	35 11	35 9	35 9
1927 { 1st Quarter ..	36 11	34 0	34 5	36 7	36 3	36 3	35 8
2nd " ..	36 2	33 10	32 10	36 5	36 7	35 9	35 2
3rd " ..	36 4	35 7	33 4	37 6	35 6	35 11	35 11
4th " ..	38 2	35 3	33 10	36 9	35 5	35 2	36 5
1928 { 1st " ..	36 8	34 4	33 5	36 2	35 4	34 7	35 5
2nd " ..	36 11	34 2	33 5	36 7	38 1	34 9	35 8

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

1907	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 9	20 0
1914	24 10	20 6	15 3	21 5	19 3	16 11	20 8
1920	30 10	25 5	20 4	24 10	22 11	28 5	26 11
1922	33 7	28 10	22 7	27 6	25 1	27 2	28 9
1923	34 9	30 8	23 0	29 0	25 11	30 1	31 1
1924	36 7	31 6	28 2	30 10	26 3	31 10	32 4
1925	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1926	36 6	33 11	26 8	30 4	29 5	32 7	33 7
1927	36 3	34 2	27 3	30 10	30 2	31 7	33 8
1927 { 1st Quarter ..	36 3	34 0	26 8	30 5	29 8	32 0	33 6
2nd " ..	36 6	34 0	26 8	30 5	29 7	31 9	33 7
3rd " ..	36 2	34 4	27 9	31 3	30 7	31 6	33 10
4th " ..	36 3	34 6	27 9	31 2	30 9	31 1	33 11
1928 { 1st " ..	37 4	35 7	27 8	33 5	30 9	30 9	34 11
2nd " ..	37 4	35 7	27 7	33 7	30 10	30 9	34 11

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

1907	19 0	17 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0
1914	23 9	21 4	19 2	23 3	23 6	21 6	22 5
1920	38 5	35 3	33 3	35 11	34 2	37 8	36 4
1922	33 10	31 5	28 6	31 10	31 7	32 7	32 2
1923	35 10	34 0	29 10	33 8	32 6	34 7	34 2
1924	35 5	32 10	29 10	33 11	33 6	35 1	33 9
1925	36 4	33 11	30 5	34 10	34 3	35 0	34 8
1926	37 1	34 11	32 4	34 9	34 4	35 7	35 5
1927	36 8	34 6	31 2	34 7	33 9	34 2	35 0
1927 { 1st Quarter ..	36 8	34 0	31 6	34 3	33 9	34 8	34 10
2nd " ..	36 4	33 11	30 7	34 2	33 11	34 3	34 7
3rd " ..	36 4	35 1	31 3	35 1	33 8	34 3	35 1
4th " ..	37 5	34 11	31 7	34 8	33 8	33 8	35 6
1928 { 1st " ..	36 11	34 9	31 3	35 2	33 7	33 2	35 3
2nd " ..	37 1	34 9	31 2	35 5	35 4	33 3	35 5

5. Variations in Index-Numbers, Retail Prices and Housing, Thirty Australian Towns, 1925 to 1927.—The index-numbers given in the preceding sub-sections show changes in the cost of food, groceries, and housing separately for each capital city during the years 1907 to 1927. The figures given in the next table show the relative cost of food and groceries, and of housing for the years 1925 to 1927 in the thirty towns for which particulars are now collected. The weighted aggregate expenditure for the six capitals for the year 1911 has been taken as base and made equal to 1,000, hence the columns are comparable both horizontally and vertically. The index-numbers in the last column are the same as in previous tables where the period and town are comparable.

INDEX-NUMBERS, THIRTY TOWNS, SHOWING RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD AND GROCERIES AND ON HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS) SEPARATELY, AND ON THESE ITEMS COMBINED. BASIS OF TABLE = WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS) IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES IN 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1925.			1926.			1927.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,115	702	1,817	1,166	686	1,852	1,153	681	1,834
Newcastle	1,125	621	1,746	1,155	638	1,793	1,144	652	1,796
Broken Hill	1,315	376	1,691	1,322	413	1,735	1,345	425	1,770
Goulburn	1,115	634	1,749	1,156	654	1,810	1,150	698	1,848
Bathurst	1,074	516	1,590	1,119	547	1,666	1,112	532	1,644
Weighted Average ..	1,120	685	1,805	1,163	674	1,842	1,157	671	1,828
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	1,092	602	1,694	1,108	636	1,744	1,082	642	1,724
Ballarat	1,101	388	1,489	1,131	384	1,515	1,105	387	1,492
Bendigo	1,111	409	1,520	1,125	449	1,574	1,106	483	1,539
Geelong	1,081	496	1,577	1,100	589	1,689	1,078	612	1,690
Warrnambool	1,074	459	1,533	1,096	455	1,551	1,060	486	1,546
Weighted Average ..	1,092	581	1,673	1,109	616	1,725	1,083	623	1,706
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	1,083	438	1,521	1,116	501	1,617	1,049	511	1,560
Toowoomba	1,045	428	1,473	1,105	454	1,559	1,018	457	1,475
Rockhampton	1,092	386	1,478	1,170	407	1,577	1,122	428	1,550
Charter Towers .. .	1,171	346	1,517	1,268	349	1,617	1,271	346	1,617
Warwick	1,042	408	1,450	1,121	439	1,560	1,082	458	1,540
Weighted Average ..	1,083	428	1,511	1,126	482	1,608	1,062	492	1,554
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	1,149	592	1,741	1,167	569	1,736	1,150	578	1,728
Kadina, &c.	1,158	326	1,484	1,203	310	1,513	1,196	312	1,508
Port Pirie	1,208	394	1,602	1,246	426	1,672	1,196	431	1,627
Mount Gambier .. .	1,095	308	1,403	1,143	325	1,468	1,133	314	1,447
Peterborough .. .	1,211	477	1,688	1,238	457	1,695	1,231	491	1,722
Weighted Average ..	1,152	568	1,720	1,171	549	1,720	1,154	557	1,711
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth, &c.	1,210	504	1,714	1,165	552	1,717	1,122	565	1,687
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. .	1,339	337	1,676	1,327	337	1,664	1,282	332	1,614
Northam	1,257	528	1,785	1,260	527	1,787	1,226	549	1,775
Bunbury	1,255	438	1,693	1,253	434	1,687	1,238	487	1,675
Geraldton	1,284	525	1,809	1,255	529	1,784	1,229	534	1,763
Weighted Average ..	1,228	485	1,713	1,188	525	1,713	1,145	538	1,683
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,131	619	1,750	1,167	611	1,778	1,117	593	1,710
Launceston	1,121	495	1,616	1,151	489	1,640	1,102	483	1,585
Burnie	1,137	503	1,640	1,186	482	1,668	1,135	473	1,608
Devonport	1,155	468	1,623	1,177	466	1,643	1,123	457	1,580
Queenstown	1,278	304	1,582	1,301	244	1,545	1,234	261	1,495
Weighted Average ..	1,135	561	1,696	1,168	552	1,720	1,118	539	1,657
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	1,118	597	1,715	1,147	609	1,756	1,121	613	1,734
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	1,114	619	1,733	1,142	630	1,772	1,117	632	1,749

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

1. General.—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding paragraph, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, into retail price index-numbers in 70 additional towns. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number of additional towns was further increased to 170, and it is intended to institute inquiries in November in each year, thus making information available annually for 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26

to 33), where a description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the succeeding yearly investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. Detailed Results, 1925 to 1927.—The results of the investigation made in November, 1925 to 1927, are set out in the following tables. The aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4 rooms, and food, groceries, and rent of 5 rooms are shown for each year for each individual town. The index-number 1,703 represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,570 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1927. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,082 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1927. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for all 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1,703, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,728, while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,573.

A change has been made in the basis on which the index-numbers in this table are computed. Previously, the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the basis taken is the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing accommodation in the six capital cities in 1911, is made equal to 1,000.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS IN 1925, 1926, AND 1927, 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.	1925.			1926.			1927.		
	November.			November.			November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,072	1,623	1,759	1,096	1,649	1,769	1,129	1,673	1,790
Newcastle	1,090	1,603	1,733	1,071	1,576	1,724	1,103	1,637	1,793
Broken Hill	1,244	1,570	1,648	1,196	1,563	1,651	1,300	1,663	1,775
Goulburn	1,086	1,607	1,695	1,072	1,636	1,713	1,111	1,650	1,827
Bathurst	1,043	1,418	1,488	1,038	1,423	1,506	1,057	1,440	1,516
Albury	1,082	1,812	1,954	1,083	1,817	1,962	1,087	1,804	1,975
Armidale	1,095	1,464	1,674	1,052	1,421	1,631	1,058	1,522	1,624
Ballina	1,175	1,644	1,742	1,191	1,639	1,685	1,118	1,604	1,699
Bega	1,114	1,432	1,561	1,089	1,331	1,449	1,122	1,461	1,536
Berry	1,151	1,464	1,595	1,133	1,445	1,577	1,182	1,537	1,656
Blackheath	1,203	1,677	1,779	1,235	1,676	1,771	1,232	1,657	1,795
Bourke	1,201	1,382	1,474	1,176	1,407	1,505	1,239	1,533	1,599
Bowral	1,118	1,684	1,790	1,182	1,741	1,820	1,119	1,765	1,831
Casino	1,157	1,617	1,708	1,163	1,681	1,772	1,106	1,550	1,759
Cessnock	1,094	1,664	1,774	1,108	1,651	1,749	1,109	1,652	1,718
Cobar	1,156	1,245	1,291	1,174	1,283	1,309	1,329	1,438	1,487
Cooma	1,131	1,474	1,615	1,118	1,422	1,611	1,233	1,542	1,741
Coonamble	1,143	1,459	1,569	1,105	1,447	1,572	1,214	1,558	1,682
Cootamundra	1,100	1,669	1,807	1,100	1,594	1,791	1,130	1,624	1,821
Corrimal	1,077	1,471	1,498	1,112	1,507	1,533	1,106	1,455	1,567
Cowra	1,102	1,536	1,668	1,159	1,559	1,631	1,106	1,633	1,657
Cronulla	1,099	1,740	1,878	1,105	1,672	1,832	1,144	1,675	1,844
Deniliquin	1,078	1,412	1,529	1,072	1,391	1,549	1,080	1,471	1,583
Dubbo	1,141	1,630	1,741	1,119	1,645	1,733	1,158	1,709	1,791
Forbes	1,098	1,609	1,756	1,133	1,609	1,727	1,123	1,684	1,822

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

State and Town.	1925. November.			1926. November.			1927. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed House.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed House.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed House.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed House.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed House.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed House.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i>									
Gilgandra	1,146	1,898	1,556	1,176	1,505	1,584	1,203	1,532	1,611
Glen Innes	1,000	1,837	1,505	1,005	1,344	1,532	1,029	1,431	1,569
Grafton	1,093	1,811	1,734	1,079	1,588	1,637	1,060	1,561	1,718
Grenfell	1,120	1,871	1,696	1,092	1,533	1,678	1,076	1,499	1,668
Griffith	1,186	1,877	2,188	1,151	1,973	2,203	1,254	2,175	2,406
Gulgong	1,093	1,297	1,350	1,084	1,341	1,440	1,162	1,512	1,527
Gunnedah	1,075	1,437	1,545	1,027	1,417	1,507	1,127	1,512	1,658
Hay	1,175	1,513	1,633	1,151	1,488	1,684	1,136	1,514	1,704
Inverell	1,103	1,513	1,607	1,111	1,590	1,696	1,122	1,561	1,639
Junee	1,068	1,699	1,788	1,077	1,756	1,800	1,123	1,781	1,787
Katoomba	1,147	1,663	1,779	1,136	1,719	1,840	1,159	1,797	1,938
Kempsey	1,046	1,472	1,547	1,086	1,527	1,607	1,106	1,599	1,691
Kiama	1,145	1,492	1,651	1,145	1,507	1,606	1,145	1,507	1,606
Kurri Kurri	1,148	1,576	1,658	1,156	1,545	1,605	1,150	1,619	1,673
Leeton	1,172	1,896	1,932	1,176	1,854	1,861	1,218	1,890	1,972
Lismore	1,088	1,490	1,630	1,167	1,696	1,879	1,101	1,561	1,703
Lithgow	1,087	1,489	1,581	1,116	1,535	1,626	1,093	1,543	1,627
Maitland	1,078	1,578	1,700	1,076	1,560	1,717	1,090	1,567	1,690
Moree	1,183	1,657	1,782	1,194	1,734	1,869	1,155	1,666	1,917
Moss Vale	1,121	1,648	1,779	1,075	1,562	1,680	1,126	1,701	1,797
Mudgee	1,086	1,503	1,601	1,084	1,486	1,611	1,143	1,582	1,680
Narrabri	1,096	1,403	1,518	1,066	1,434	1,579	1,163	1,557	1,712
Narrandera	1,164	1,592	1,727	1,189	1,682	1,880	1,123	1,627	1,855
Nowra	1,105	1,553	1,681	1,159	1,650	1,729	1,180	1,628	1,703
Orange	1,057	1,476	1,561	1,045	1,615	1,760	1,082	1,619	1,746
Parkes	1,110	1,586	1,693	1,096	1,570	1,732	1,132	1,685	1,855
Penrith	1,090	1,491	1,666	1,047	1,448	1,570	1,069	1,509	1,634
Port Kembla	1,120	1,442	1,537	1,109	1,484	1,548	1,166	1,655	1,764
Portland	1,122	1,583	1,623	1,122	1,510	1,635	1,151	1,602	1,714
Queanbeyan	1,136	1,682	1,815	1,135	1,747	1,879	1,169	1,827	1,956
Quirindi	1,134	1,446	1,647	1,092	1,401	1,593	1,103	1,458	1,649
Richmond	1,135	1,547	1,645	1,069	1,460	1,608	1,116	1,521	1,669
Scone	1,058	1,475	1,607	1,057	1,489	1,606	1,064	1,497	1,574
Singleton	1,080	1,445	1,534	1,098	1,460	1,592	1,177	1,539	1,621
Tamworth	1,047	1,519	1,610	1,012	1,427	1,596	1,053	1,464	1,633
Taree	1,076	1,586	1,750	1,059	1,562	1,706	1,134	1,610	1,827
Temora	1,160	1,703	1,861	1,128	1,622	1,737	1,136	1,712	1,843
Tenterfield	1,079	1,473	1,546	1,139	1,553	1,610	1,157	1,544	1,582
Tumut	1,158	1,619	1,783	1,048	1,498	1,607	1,133	1,626	1,725
Ullmarra	1,101	1,549	1,601	1,054	1,448	1,527	1,088	1,450	1,549
Wagga Wagga	1,068	1,776	1,939	1,065	1,707	1,822	1,066	1,770	1,800
Walcha	1,111	1,471	1,572	1,093	1,379	1,626	1,078	1,440	1,621
Wellington	1,109	1,404	1,486	1,101	1,373	1,512	1,111	1,492	1,645
Weston	1,155	1,519	1,583	1,134	1,476	1,562	1,196	1,603	1,656
Windsor	1,143	1,554	1,653	1,098	1,559	1,625	1,141	1,602	1,766
Wollongong	1,092	1,599	1,678	1,126	1,718	1,789	1,147	1,706	1,762
Wyalong	1,125	1,520	1,619	1,072	1,622	1,598	1,171	1,615	1,654
Yass	1,211	1,658	1,737	1,172	1,595	1,681	1,149	1,593	1,724
Young	1,085	1,671	1,727	1,052	1,585	1,676	1,057	1,582	1,648
Weighted Average for State	1,083	1,607	1,737	1,097	1,626	1,747	1,129	1,656	1,776
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	1,053	1,556	1,691	1,024	1,550	1,714	1,036	1,573	1,728
Ballarat	1,066	1,366	1,506	1,047	1,321	1,489	1,040	1,316	1,485
Bendigo	1,070	1,403	1,524	1,053	1,392	1,549	1,049	1,426	1,574
Geelong	1,049	1,475	1,590	1,013	1,521	1,612	1,027	1,560	1,655
Warrnambool	1,040	1,424	1,545	1,004	1,377	1,517	1,007	1,424	1,584
Ararat	1,174	1,818	1,613	1,143	1,646	1,608	1,175	1,543	1,674
Bacchus Marsh	1,050	1,498	1,642	1,032	1,493	1,611	1,013	1,467	1,573
Bairnsdale	1,151	1,545	1,677	1,149	1,561	1,681	1,091	1,486	1,651
Beechworth	1,116	1,373	1,440	1,111	1,407	1,473	1,102	1,407	1,447
Benalla	1,086	1,448	1,560	1,079	1,441	1,533	1,076	1,427	1,488
Camperdown	1,098	1,515	1,647	1,081	1,520	1,621	1,072	1,445	1,587
Casterton	1,111	1,424	1,517	1,097	1,426	1,557	1,064	1,453	1,565
Castlemaine	1,111	1,427	1,550	1,081	1,340	1,485	1,079	1,334	1,481
Colac	1,070	1,591	1,728	1,046	1,588	1,709	1,025	1,558	1,686
Greawford	1,072	1,230	1,289	1,048	1,180	1,200	1,055	1,186	1,249
Daylesford	1,064	1,327	1,426	998	1,310	1,369	1,040	1,369	1,435
Dunolly	1,056	1,214	1,267	1,060	1,218	1,271	1,055	1,206	1,272

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

State and Town.	1925.			1926.			1927.		
	November.			November.			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
VICTORIA—continued.									
Echuca	1,116	1,438	1,570	1,084	1,436	1,594	1,091	1,483	1,634
Euroa	1,143	1,479	1,604	1,071	1,404	1,542	1,103	1,422	1,586
Hamilton	1,141	1,623	1,744	1,090	1,586	1,706	1,082	1,523	1,630
Healesville	1,075	1,469	1,568	1,070	1,498	1,563	1,054	1,423	1,482
Horsham	1,117	1,732	1,907	1,096	1,644	1,908	1,139	1,687	1,846
Kerang	1,118	1,683	1,797	1,093	1,619	1,773	1,096	1,629	1,820
Koroit	1,075	1,345	1,404	1,040	1,323	1,382	1,038	1,321	1,377
Korumburra	1,084	1,545	1,660	1,029	1,473	1,605	1,118	1,579	1,677
Kyreneon	1,062	1,397	1,532	1,060	1,429	1,521	1,057	1,425	1,501
Lilydale	1,138	1,582	1,747	1,094	1,506	1,637	1,083	1,450	1,648
Maffra	1,023	1,615	1,747	1,042	1,700	1,798	1,031	1,632	1,722
Maldon	1,061	1,214	1,278	1,037	1,175	1,228	1,066	1,222	1,284
Maryborough	1,104	1,337	1,456	1,082	1,336	1,455	1,097	1,369	1,477
Mildura	1,152	1,784	1,926	1,131	1,774	1,873	1,136	1,757	1,906
Morwell	1,129	1,700	1,853	1,067	1,659	1,746	1,120	1,638	1,783
Nhill	1,174	1,700	1,832	1,110	1,636	1,733	1,116	1,589	1,688
Orbost	1,127	1,522	1,785	1,101	1,501	1,824	1,093	1,476	1,751
Portland	1,187	1,525	1,680	1,105	1,444	1,533	1,081	1,394	1,522
Port Fairy	1,096	1,391	1,458	1,072	1,362	1,486	1,062	1,391	1,470
St. Arnaud	1,193	1,632	1,752	1,141	1,602	1,759	1,188	1,586	1,813
Sale	1,074	1,537	1,677	1,045	1,515	1,677	1,021	1,409	1,588
Seymour	1,145	1,476	1,555	1,123	1,454	1,533	1,135	1,497	1,543
Shepparton	1,080	1,633	1,760	1,071	1,637	1,782	1,082	1,615	1,789
Stawell	1,179	1,500	1,595	1,185	1,505	1,615	1,169	1,485	1,632
Swan Hill	1,098	1,690	1,822	1,098	1,690	1,822	1,125	1,757	1,889
Terang	1,125	1,546	1,651	1,117	1,512	1,651	1,066	1,459	1,681
Traralgon	1,115	1,461	1,612	1,050	1,407	1,573	1,037	1,454	1,604
Wangaratta	1,149	1,590	1,720	1,137	1,579	1,698	1,120	1,585	1,699
Warracknabeal	1,131	1,657	1,745	1,139	1,639	1,742	1,076	1,636	1,697
Warragul	1,080	1,551	1,716	1,079	1,609	1,767	1,062	1,608	1,743
Wonthaggi	1,145	1,623	1,693	1,072	1,497	1,585	1,105	1,488	1,611
Weighted Average for State	1,062	1,539	1,671	1,033	1,531	1,686	1,043	1,550	1,700
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	1,068	1,405	1,523	1,041	1,411	1,569	1,004	1,389	1,553
Toowoomba	1,051	1,359	1,505	1,022	1,362	1,491	968	1,291	1,444
Rockhampton	1,075	1,372	1,474	1,094	1,399	1,521	1,052	1,362	1,482
Charters Towers	1,156	1,422	1,510	1,217	1,434	1,579	1,200	1,481	1,542
Warwick	1,039	1,377	1,450	1,076	1,405	1,536	1,026	1,370	1,509
Ayr	1,224	1,635	1,849	1,160	1,584	1,711	1,170	1,631	1,762
Barcaldine	1,184	1,579	1,727	1,232	1,587	1,646	1,249	1,545	1,663
Bowen	1,184	1,579	1,645	1,179	1,607	1,706	1,139	1,523	1,656
Bundaberg	1,044	1,364	1,439	1,040	1,371	1,496	1,032	1,363	1,416
Calross	1,238	1,786	1,913	1,205	1,797	1,907	1,174	1,731	1,876
Charleville	1,183	1,571	1,676	1,214	1,658	1,828	1,154	1,631	1,771
Chillagoe	1,277	1,513	1,540	1,281	1,550	1,610	1,225	1,489	1,541
Cloncurry	1,212	1,592	1,708	1,238	1,603	1,709	1,231	1,616	1,729
Cooktown	1,141	1,273	1,330	1,153	1,284	1,363	1,147	1,239	1,323
Cunnamulla	1,186	1,515	1,581	1,227	1,654	1,687	1,235	1,695	1,761
Dalby	1,051	1,412	1,495	1,063	1,431	1,524	1,011	1,350	1,449
Gayndah	1,093	1,383	1,455	1,114	1,411	1,476	1,059	1,323	1,454
Gladstone	1,109	1,385	1,437	1,097	1,352	1,492	1,040	1,303	1,435
Goondiwindi	1,139	1,554	1,643	1,113	1,519	1,607	1,092	1,473	1,566
Gympie	1,087	1,399	1,493	1,090	1,397	1,518	1,044	1,373	1,489
Hughenden	1,197	1,734	1,866	1,276	1,723	1,830	1,245	1,738	1,870
Innisfail	1,316	1,842	1,974	1,298	1,825	1,956	1,266	1,885	2,046
Ipewich	1,044	1,373	1,439	1,096	1,454	1,524	1,033	1,339	1,487
Longreach	1,177	1,561	1,646	1,260	1,654	1,760	1,252	1,613	1,772
Mackay	1,087	1,536	1,671	1,094	1,576	1,730	1,086	1,590	1,694
Maryborough	1,051	1,347	1,449	1,041	1,377	1,462	1,009	1,285	1,437
Mount Morgan	1,071	1,282	1,321	1,117	1,328	1,367	1,100	1,253	1,284
Nambour	1,085	1,458	1,541	1,103	1,520	1,623	1,080	1,441	1,586
Roma	1,109	1,468	1,545	1,135	1,534	1,644	1,053	1,416	1,571
Stanthorpe	1,153	1,548	1,614	1,155	1,484	1,537	1,015	1,337	1,528
Townsville	1,176	1,655	1,797	1,216	1,733	1,894	1,186	1,672	1,771
Winton	1,199	1,802	1,912	1,288	1,803	1,902	1,186	1,719	1,796
Weighted Average for State	1,085	1,430	1,540	1,080	1,448	1,586	1,042	1,412	1,555

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

State and Town.	1925. November.			1926. November.			1927. 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.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Adelaide	1,087	1,587	1,688	1,056	1,541	1,641	1,079	1,567	1,702
Kadina, Moonta, etc. ..	1,110	1,369	1,450	1,120	1,370	1,458	1,116	1,370	1,462
Port Pirie	1,154	1,500	1,596	1,137	1,515	1,615	1,109	1,490	1,594
Mount Gambler	1,040	1,266	1,362	1,062	1,322	1,369	1,063	1,310	1,413
Peterborough	1,116	1,520	1,596	1,149	1,566	1,647	1,158	1,568	1,655
Freeling	1,105	1,473	1,539	1,073	1,487	1,586	1,063	1,424	1,490
Gawler	1,105	1,386	1,453	1,065	1,425	1,504	1,052	1,395	1,480
Kapunda	1,073	1,284	1,349	1,030	1,208	1,327	1,062	1,266	1,326
Korlinga	1,101	1,228	1,386	1,074	1,272	1,360	1,090	1,419	1,485
Millicent	936	1,299	1,388	996	1,328	1,414	961	1,317	1,402
Murray Bridge	1,070	1,491	1,543	1,099	1,543	1,645	1,113	1,508	1,661
Port Augusta	1,209	1,565	1,648	1,186	1,560	1,625	1,210	1,588	1,642
Quorn	1,100	1,538	1,643	1,089	1,496	1,544	1,115	1,480	1,503
Renmark	1,231	1,708	1,840	1,206	1,654	1,763	1,191	1,651	1,743
Victor Harbour	1,102	1,635	1,777	1,085	1,592	1,750	1,078	1,604	1,802
Weighted Average for State	1,074	1,545	1,661	1,065	1,524	1,623	1,083	1,545	1,673
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,065	1,476	1,569	1,062	1,510	1,620	1,052	1,516	1,649
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,235	1,556	1,611	1,215	1,530	1,600	1,188	1,495	1,564
Northam	1,161	1,556	1,732	1,163	1,577	1,739	1,157	1,626	1,750
Bunbury	1,134	1,504	1,598	1,177	1,521	1,679	1,179	1,535	1,636
Geraldton	1,172	1,619	1,751	1,168	1,609	1,745	1,172	1,610	1,777
Albany	1,230	1,532	1,626	1,183	1,505	1,602	1,193	1,518	1,597
Beverley	1,119	1,384	1,472	1,137	1,435	1,519	1,174	1,453	1,536
Bridgetown	1,232	1,643	1,709	1,247	1,603	1,641	1,220	1,592	1,647
Broom	1,322	1,980	2,045	1,428	2,020	2,152	1,380	1,963	2,104
Carnarvon	1,329	1,823	1,921	1,301	1,795	1,926	1,327	1,821	1,985
Collie	1,236	1,598	1,664	1,205	1,596	1,639	1,237	1,723	1,764
Greenbushes	1,251	1,435	1,474	1,257	1,454	1,507	1,247	1,445	1,497
Katanning	1,089	1,473	1,553	1,114	1,466	1,574	1,088	1,444	1,548
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,354	1,512	1,551	1,379	1,560	1,643	1,336	1,546	1,577
Meeatharra	1,430	1,693	1,759	1,409	1,672	1,738	1,385	1,648	1,714
Narrogin	1,160	1,643	1,792	1,156	1,639	1,788	1,131	1,671	1,789
Wagin	1,144	1,467	1,575	1,133	1,479	1,528	1,093	1,428	1,537
York	1,213	1,558	1,637	1,127	1,479	1,527	1,061	1,427	1,529
Weighted Average for State	1,103	1,499	1,690	1,098	1,522	1,627	1,087	1,525	1,648
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,077	1,554	1,718	1,066	1,574	1,750	1,025	1,506	1,666
Launceston	1,064	1,459	1,619	1,045	1,427	1,605	1,011	1,417	1,574
Burnie	1,110	1,575	1,689	1,079	1,529	1,595	1,052	1,473	1,600
Devonport	1,098	1,501	1,651	1,083	1,512	1,592	1,015	1,455	1,527
Queenstown	1,225	1,488	1,567	1,193	1,403	1,443	1,150	1,430	1,440
Beaconsfield	1,069	1,174	1,201	1,060	1,139	1,165	1,009	1,114	1,140
Campbelltown	1,094	1,293	1,349	1,081	1,296	1,316	1,045	1,236	1,281
Deloraine	1,023	1,352	1,418	1,014	1,389	1,428	978	1,320	1,373
Franklin	1,063	1,300	1,326	1,072	1,309	1,335	1,021	1,231	1,284
New Norfolk	1,057	1,393	1,449	1,045	1,367	1,436	998	1,333	1,406
Scottsdale	1,060	1,367	1,429	1,059	1,367	1,432	986	1,284	1,359
Ulverstone	1,082	1,411	1,510	1,057	1,321	1,452	1,026	1,335	1,460
Zeehan	1,256	1,454	1,519	1,252	1,450	1,515	1,193	1,382	1,427
Weighted Average for State	1,083	1,506	1,652	1,069	1,502	1,654	1,028	1,455	1,594
Weighted Average for Australia (200 towns) ..	1,077	1,549	1,675	1,072	1,556	1,687	1,082	1,570	1,703

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus, for November, 1927, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1,036. Subtracting this from 1,573 (column B) gives a difference of 537, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,728 (column C) gives a difference of 692, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms.

Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns included.

A table showing the retail price index-numbers (food and groceries) for each of the thirty towns for various months since July, 1914, appeared in previous issues, but considerations of space preclude its repetition in the present issue. This table is however, given in Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

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

1. *General.*—The index-numbers in §3 show the variations in the cost of food, groceries and house rent. The expenditure on these items covers approximately 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of the ordinary household. The balance is expended on clothing, boots, fuel, light, and such miscellaneous items as renewals of furniture, furnishings, drapery, crockery, lodge dues, trade union dues, recreation, newspapers, etc. The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage 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.*—The Commission was concerned principally with the ascertainment of variations in the cost of the regimen described in the Indicator Lists published in its Report. It is clear, however, that restriction of the investigations of the Bureau of Census and Statistics in the way suggested by the Commission, would have limited their usefulness. It was decided, therefore, to apply to the extended investigation the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries, and rent. The index-numbers may be used to determine accurately from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family as outlined by the Commission, as well as for the determination of variations in any standard fixed by previous investigators, or which may be fixed in the future.

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. Forms were sent out to retailers on which the prices of the articles at November, 1920, were given. These prices, so far as the capital cities are concerned (being in general the prices quoted by the firms to whom the forms were sent), are the predominant prices, i.e., the price of the grade of the articles which is most in demand. The retailers were asked to quote for November, 1921, and for May, 1922, the prices of the same articles. In order to ascertain the change in expenditure, the quantities and life as given in the Indicator Lists of the Basic Wage Commission were used for "weighting" purposes to arrive at a weekly expenditure for clothing. This weekly expenditure is then multiplied by weights in the same manner as is the weekly expenditure on rent, thus giving an aggregate expenditure comparable with the aggregate expenditure on food and groceries and on rent.

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

The item Groceries (not Food) has been omitted from Miscellaneous Expenditure, as the index-numbers of this Bureau cover the items allowed for, such as soap, starch, blue, etc.

3. **Period Selected as Base.**—For the new series of index-numbers November, 1914, was adopted as base owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years.

4. **Variations in Cost in the Capital Cities.***—The index-numbers in the following table show the variations not only in each city from period to period, but also as between the various cities at any given period. Thus, the increase in cost in the six capital cities from November, 1914, was greatest in November, 1920, when it amounted to 69.7 per cent. The increase for the year 1927, compared with November, 1914, was 45.8 per cent. Further, in 1927 the cost of the commodities and services included was greatest in Sydney (1,498) and least in Brisbane (1,342).

INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.— 1914 TO 1927.

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

Cities.	November.			Year.				
	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Sydney ..	1,036	1,523	1,486	1,488	1,458	1,478	1,503	1,498
Melbourne ..	976	1,460	1,402	1,460	1,420	1,432	1,453	1,441
Brisbane ..	889	1,344	1,276	1,343	1,332	1,344	1,383	1,342
Adelaide ..	1,018	1,440	1,383	1,467	1,476	1,496	1,493	1,482
Perth ..	1,029	1,467	1,355	1,422	1,430	1,446	1,444	1,433
Hobart ..	999	1,556	1,450	1,517	1,529	1,496	1,506	1,453
Weighted Average	1,000	1,474	1,420	1,460	1,436	1,451	1,471	1,453

§ 5. Control of Trade, Prices, and House Rents.

In previous issues of the Year Book information was given as to the legislative measures enacted by Federal and State Parliaments for the control of trade, prices, and house rents.

In Queensland the Profiteering Prevention Act 1920, and the Fair Rents Act 1920, and in New South Wales the Fair Rents Act 1915, as subsequently amended, are still in force. Similar legislative measures enacted by the other States and by the Federal Parliament have been repealed or allowed to expire by effluxion of time.

B.—WAGES.

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

1. **General.**—Particulars of the operations of Wages Boards and Industrial and Arbitration Courts under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours, and conditions of labour were first compiled to the 31st December, 1913, and reviews to the end of approximately quarterly periods appear in Labour Reports and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1927.

* In Labour Report No. 18, index-numbers are given showing the relative cost from November 1922, to end of 1927, in 30 of the principal towns in Australia.

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each quarter for the years 1926 and 1927 :—

AWARDS, DETERMINATIONS, AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS, 1926 AND 1927.

State and Commonwealth.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Full Year.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.
1926.										
New South Wales	27	21	6	17	35	6	83	7	151	51
Victoria ..	13	..	19	..	38	..	36	..	106	..
Queensland ..	25	7	20	8	11	8	34	4	90	27
South Australia	1	3	1	2	7	..	5	2	14	7
Western Australia	1	10	..	7	1	6	8	14	10	37
Tasmania ..	2	..	..	..	2	2	3	..	7	2
C'with. Court ..	10	10	11	8	9	6	20	6	50	30
C'with. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	3	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	10	..
Total ..	82	51	59	42	106	28	191	33	438	154
1927.										
New South Wales	31	10	42	8	47	8	43	7	163	33
Victoria ..	16	..	18	..	17	..	23	..	74	..
Queensland ..	7	6	18	4	10	3	21	5	56	18
South Australia	2	2	7	..	1	1	5	1	15	4
Western Australia	..	8	2	6	3	7	1	36	6	57
Tasmania ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	4	..
C'with. Court ..	2	2	5	6	15	8	12	9	34	25
C'with. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total ..	59	28	93	24	94	27	107	58	353	137

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

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, ETC., AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA, 1913, 1926, AND 1927.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards Constituted.	Boards which had made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913	505	501	387(b)	401
30th June, 1926	588	554	524	656
31st December, 1926	599	565	538	681
30th June, 1927	607	569	539	690
31st December, 1927	613	547	534	744

(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 1927, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements* in force had

* 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.

increased by 783 and 343 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, 1926, AND 1927.

Particulars.	At 31st. Dec.	Commonwealth.							Total.	
		Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.		Tas.
<i>Boards Authorized, etc. (a)—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	(b) 216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	291	182	2	75	..	49	599
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	300	183	2	76	3	49	613
Boards constituted ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	(b) 223	132	74	51	..	21	501
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	291	180	2	49	..	43	565
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	298	176	2	25	3	43	547
Boards which have made Awards or Determina- tions ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	265	168	..	66	..	39	538
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	273	169	..	53	..	39	534
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Awards and Determina- tions in force ..	{ 1913	17	..	(c) 265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1926	199	34	346	179	237	109	107	51	1,262
	{ 1927	223	36	398	180	248	112	110	51	1,358
<i>State Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Applying to whole State	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	32	8	3	..	..	15	58
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	54	67	66	16	5	41	249
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	89	66	70	16	5	41	287
Applying to Metropolitan area ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	58	..	28	53	13	1	153
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	94	2	60	64	59	1	280
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	103	2	62	65	61	1	294
Applying to Metropolitan and Country areas ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	49	105	1	..	1	5	161
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	133	97	47	2	10	7	296
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	134	99	52	2	10	7	304
Applying to Country areas	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	126	14	41	1	4	..	186
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	65	13	64	27	33	2	204
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	72	13	64	29	34	2	214
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Awards in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	123	144	39	111	41	78	..
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	131	156	41	126	46	85	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Determinations in force in each State ..	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	32	29	27	27	27	26	..
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	34	29	27	27	27	26	..
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1926	252	..	167	..	95	48	115	4	681
	{ 1927	260	..	177	..	108	51	144	4	744
Commonwealth Agreements in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1926 .. .. .	..	..	90	105	28	25	19	25	..
	{ 1927 .. .. .	..	..	97	103	31	27	19	23	..

(a) The figures for New South Wales are exclusive of Demarcation Boards.

(b) Including boards which were subsequently dissolved, owing to alteration in the sectional arrangement of industries and callings.

(c) Omitting a number of awards which expired on the 31st December, 1913.

§ 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 Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics 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 total number of occupations for which particulars of wages are available back to 1901 is 652. Since 1913, when the

scope of the inquiry was extended to 930 specified industries and 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 male and 308 female), the number of occupations included in the comparative computations has been kept constant.

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

An extensive tabular presentation of the minimum rates of wage for adult male and female workers in the main occupations in the capital city of each State is given in the Appendix to Labour Report, No. 18.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1922 to 1927.—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to furnishes the basis for the computation of relative weighted wages in the different States and industrial groups.

(ii) *Adult Males—States.* The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the 31st December in the years 1922 to 1927 for a full week's work in each State and Australia, together with index-numbers computed with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (=1,000).

WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1922 TO 1927.

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

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

RATES OF WAGE.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		
31st December, 1922 ..	91	6	91	4	93	10	87	6	93	9	88	5	91	6
31st December, 1923 ..	94	6	95	7	94	2	90	9	94	2	92	4	94	4
31st December, 1924 ..	93	6	95	5	95	9	91	10	94	8	92	6	94	3
31st December, 1925 ..	96	0	97	2	99	11	94	4	97	0	93	5	96	9
31st December, 1926 ..	100	5	99	6	100	1	95	8	98	9	94	10	99	4
31st March, 1927 ..	100	9	100	2	100	1	95	5	98	8	94	6	99	7
30th June, 1927 ..	100	10	99	9	100	1	95	8	98	8	94	1	99	7
30th September, 1927 ..	101	2	99	8	100	1	95	6	98	8	93	9	99	7
31st December, 1927 ..	101	10	100	3	100	1	96	7	98	10	93	10	100	2

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1922 ..	1,785	1,783	1,830	1,708	1,829	1,726	1,785
31st December, 1923 ..	1,844	1,865	1,837	1,770	1,838	1,802	1,840
31st December, 1924 ..	1,824	1,862	1,868	1,791	1,847	1,805	1,839
31st December, 1925 ..	1,873	1,897	1,950	1,841	1,893	1,823	1,887
31st December, 1926 ..	1,959	1,941	1,952	1,867	1,927	1,851	1,938
31st March, 1927 ..	1,966	1,955	1,952	1,861	1,925	1,843	1,944
30th June, 1927 ..	1,967	1,947	1,953	1,867	1,924	1,836	1,942
30th September, 1927 ..	1,974	1,944	1,952	1,864	1,924	1,829	1,944
31st December, 1927 ..	1,988	1,957	1,953	1,885	1,928	1,832	1,955

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1927, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in New South Wales, followed in the order named by Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania. In 1923, the average wage increased in each State. During 1924, wages decreased in New South Wales and Victoria, but there was sufficient movement in the opposite direction in the remaining States to allow the weighted average for Australia as a whole to remain practically stationary. Nominal wages showed an upward trend in all States during 1925.

During 1926, the trend of nominal wages was progressively upward in all States, with the exception of the final quarter, when all States except New South Wales and Western Australia showed decreases. The steady rise however continued in the weighted average wage for Australia, mainly due to the substantial rise in New South Wales in the final quarter. The upward tendency was again manifest during 1927 in all States excepting Queensland and Tasmania. In the former State the weighted average nominal wage remained stationary throughout the year, whilst in the latter there was a gradual decline. The weighted average for Australia, however, rose during the 4th quarter. The largest percentage increase during the period under review was in New South Wales with 11.3 per cent.; followed by South Australia, 10.4 per cent.; Victoria, 9.8 per cent.; Queensland, 6.7 per cent.; Tasmania, 6.1 per cent.; and Western Australia, 5.4 per cent. The increase in the weighted average for Australia was 9.5 per cent.

(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows (a) the average weekly rate of wage in each of the fourteen industrial groups, (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, and (c) index-numbers based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (51s. 3d.), as base (=1,000):—

WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1923 TO 1927.

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

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—							
	31st Dec., 1923.	31st Dec., 1924.	31st Dec., 1925.	31st Dec., 1926.	31st March, 1927.	30th June, 1927.	30th Sept., 1927.	31st Dec., 1927.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage .. 99.2	99.7	101.2	104.5	104.4	104.0	104.1	104.6
	Index-No. 1,935	1,943	1,973	2,037	2,036	2,028	2,031	2,039
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage .. 97.4	97.5	100.4	102.0	101.10	101.8	101.8	102.10
	Index-No. 1,900	1,901	1,957	1,991	1,986	1,984	1,984	2,006
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage .. 94.2	94.0	96.6	98.9	98.8	98.7	98.10	99.8
	Index-No. 1,837	1,835	1,883	1,926	1,925	1,924	1,929	1,944
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage .. 93.11	93.0	93.2	96.6	97.8	97.7	97.3	98.3
	Index-No. 1,833	1,815	1,817	1,833	1,905	1,905	1,898	1,917
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage .. 104.5	108.3	109.6	111.5	112.1	113.9	113.5	113.7
	Index-No. 2,037	2,113	2,137	2,173	2,188	2,219	2,214	2,216
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage .. 98.2	95.6	98.2	100.6	100.6	100.1	100.2	100.4
	Index-No. 1,876	1,863	1,915	1,961	1,960	1,963	1,955	1,977
VII. Building	Wage .. 103.8	105.6	108.5	110.9	111.2	111.3	111.2	112.10
	Index-No. 2,023	2,058	2,115	2,160	2,170	2,171	2,169	2,202
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage .. 104.5	104.2	108.7	109.6	109.4	109.5	109.4	109.9
	Index-No. 2,037	2,033	2,119	2,137	2,134	2,135	2,133	2,142
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage .. 97.8	96.11	100.6	102.6	102.4	101.11	101.9	103.1
	Index-No. 1,906	1,892	1,962	2,001	1,996	1,989	1,985	2,012
X. Other Land Transport	Wage .. 92.6	89.4	93.3	95.6	95.2	95.5	95.5	97.4
	Index-No. 1,806	1,744	1,820	1,863	1,857	1,861	1,862	1,900
XI. Shipping, etc. (a)	Wage .. 102.4	97.10	104.8	103.7	103.0	102.5	102.2	103.7
	Index-No. 1,997	1,908	2,043	2,020	2,010	1,998	1,993	2,021
XII. Agricultural, etc. (b)	Wage .. 85.8	85.10	87.4	93.5	94.4	94.4	94.9	94.3
	Index-No. 1,671	1,675	1,704	1,823	1,841	1,841	1,848	1,839
XIII. Domestic, etc. (b)	Wage .. 84.6	86.0	89.1	90.10	90.10	91.0	91.8	93.3
	Index-No. 1,648	1,678	1,738	1,772	1,772	1,775	1,789	1,820
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage .. 92.3	92.2	93.11	95.6	95.10	95.8	95.8	96.0
	Index-No. 1,800	1,798	1,833	1,863	1,870	1,867	1,867	1,872
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage .. 94.4	94.3	96.9	99.4	99.7	99.7	99.7	100.2
	Index-No. 1,840	1,839	1,887	1,938	1,944	1,942	1,944	1,955

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

The foregoing table shows that the rate of increase in the weighted average weekly wage in occupations and callings classified in the fourteen industrial groups during the period 31st December, 1923 to 1927, was greatest in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 10.4 per cent.; followed in the order named by Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 10.1 per cent.; Groups VII. (Building) and V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 8.8 per cent.

The smallest increase occurred in Group XI. (Shipping, etc.), 1.2 per cent. In four of the groups the increase was more, and in ten groups less than the increase in the

weighted average for all groups. Compared with 1926, increases were recorded in all industrial groups with the exception of Group XI. (Shipping), which remained stationary. The increase was greatest in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 2.7 per cent.; followed by X. (Other Land Transport), 2.0 per cent.; VII. (Building), 1.9 per cent.; whilst the smallest increase occurred in Group I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), 0.1 per cent. The weighted average wage for all groups combined increased by 0.9 per cent.

(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. Index-numbers are given also for each State based on the average weekly wage at the end of each of the periods indicated, computed with the weighted average wage for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1922 TO 1927.

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.							
	<i>s. d.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1922 ..	47 8	48 0	48 2	44 0	56 4	47 7	47 11
31st December, 1923 ..	49 3	49 5	50 5	46 4	56 4	48 6	49 6
31st December, 1924 ..	49 1	49 7	50 10	46 6	56 11	50 3	49 7
31st December, 1925 ..	49 8	50 8	51 9	48 10	57 6	50 2	50 7
31st December, 1926 ..	50 8	51 11	52 10	50 0	58 6	51 8	51 8
31st March, 1927 ..	51 0	52 2	53 2	50 4	58 6	52 1	52 0
30th June, 1927 ..	51 1	52 2	53 10	50 4	58 6	52 0	52 1
30th September, 1927 ..	52 3	52 6	53 5	49 11	58 6	52 7	52 7
31st December, 1927 ..	53 0	52 7	53 5	49 11	58 8	52 7	52 10
INDEX-NUMBERS.							
31st December, 1922 ..	1,754	1,767	1,771	1,620	2,075	1,751	1,763
31st December, 1923 ..	1,812	1,819	1,855	1,704	2,075	1,785	1,821
31st December, 1924 ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826
31st December, 1925 ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
31st December, 1926 ..	1,865	1,911	1,944	1,839	2,152	1,902	1,902
31st March, 1927 ..	1,878	1,921	1,958	1,854	2,152	1,916	1,914
30th June, 1927 ..	1,880	1,921	1,980	1,853	2,152	1,915	1,917
30th September, 1927 ..	1,922	1,932	1,965	1,838	2,152	1,935	1,934
31st December, 1927 ..	1,950	1,934	1,966	1,838	2,160	1,935	1,945

(a) Weighted average.

As in the case of male occupations, female wages increased rapidly up to December, 1921, but in 1922 reductions were recorded. The decrease over the whole of Australia was relatively much less than in the case of males. There was an increase in each State during 1923, with the exception of Western Australia, where the wages remained stationary. The upward tendency was continued during 1924 with increases in all States with the exception of New South Wales. Further increases were recorded during 1925, with the exception of Tasmania, while all States showed a rise in 1926. This increase was maintained during 1927 in all States, with the exception of South Australia, where the weighted average wage declined from 50s. to 49s. 11d. The advance in the Australian average during the period under review was 10.3 per cent.

(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. Taking the average wage for all groups at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000), index-numbers are given computed on the average rate of wage ruling at the end of each period indicated.

WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1922 TO 1927.

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

Date.	Industrial Group.						All Groups. (b).					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V. and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. (a).	XIV. Miscel- laneous.							
RATES OF WAGE.												
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>				
31st December, 1922 ..	43	3	47	10	47	4	48	3	48	9	47	11
31st December, 1923 ..	44	1	50	1	48	10	49	5	49	6	49	6
31st December, 1924 ..	45	2	49	7	49	6	49	7	50	7	49	7
31st December, 1925 ..	45	8	50	1	51	2	51	0	52	0	50	7
31st December, 1926 ..	47	8	51	7	52	10	52	0	52	0	51	8
31st March, 1927 ..	47	8	52	2	52	8	52	0	52	3	52	0
30th June, 1927 ..	47	6	52	3	52	8	52	4	52	3	52	1
30th September, 1927 ..	48	2	52	5	53	0	53	5	52	8	52	7
31st December, 1927 ..	48	9	52	7	53	2	54	5	52	8	52	10
INDEX-NUMBERS.												
31st December, 1922 ..	1,593	1,762	1,741	1,777	1,794	1,763						
31st December, 1923 ..	1,622	1,842	1,799	1,819	1,821	1,821						
31st December, 1924 ..	1,661	1,826	1,821	1,824	1,862	1,826						
31st December, 1925 ..	1,682	1,844	1,884	1,877	1,914	1,861						
31st December, 1926 ..	1,754	1,900	1,943	1,912	1,914	1,902						
31st March, 1927 ..	1,754	1,921	1,938	1,912	1,922	1,914						
30th June, 1927 ..	1,747	1,922	1,938	1,927	1,922	1,917						
30th September, 1927 ..	1,773	1,930	1,950	1,966	1,937	1,934						
31st December, 1927 ..	1,793	1,936	1,958	2,001	1,937	1,945						

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

The greatest increase in the weekly rate of wage during the period under review occurred in Groups III. (Food, Drink, etc.) and XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 12.6 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups I., II., V., and VI. (All Other Manufacturing), 12.5 per cent.; Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 9.9 per cent.; and XIV. (Miscellaneous), 8.0 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for all groups was 10.3 per cent. higher at the end of 1927 than at the 31st December, 1922.

During the year 1927 wages in all groups maintained an upward trend as compared with 1926, the greatest increase occurring in Group XIII., 4.7 per cent., followed by Group III., 2.2 per cent.; Group IV., 1.9 per cent.; Group XIV., 1.2 per cent.; and Groups I., II., V., and VI., 0.7 per cent. The weighted average for all groups increased by 2.3 per cent.

3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1923 to 1927.—(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 1923 to 1927. 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 for the last five years for adult males and females are given in the table hereunder:—

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.—ADULT WORKERS, 1923 TO 1927.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 94 6	s. d. 95 7	s. d. 94 2	s. d. 90 9	s. d. 94 2	s. d. 92 4	s. d. 94 4
	Working Hours (b)	46.78	47.08	45.51	47.90	46.66	47.27	46.70
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/0½	2/1	2/1½	1/11½	2/0½	1/11½	2/0½
31st Dec., 1924	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 93 6	s. d. 95 5	s. d. 95 9	s. d. 91 10	s. d. 94 8	s. d. 92 6	s. d. 94 3
	Working Hours (b)	46.75	46.99	45.40	46.98	46.52	47.26	46.66
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/0½	2/1	2/1½	1/11½	2/0½	1/11½	2/0½
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 96 0	s. d. 97 2	s. d. 99 11	s. d. 94 4	s. d. 97 0	s. d. 93 5	s. d. 96 9
	Working Hours (b)	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/1½	2/1½	2/3½	2/0½	2/1½	2/-	2/1½
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 100 5	s. d. 99 6	s. d. 100 1	s. d. 95 8	s. d. 98 9	s. d. 94 10	s. d. 99 4
	Working Hours (b)	44.55	46.94	43.95	46.95	45.80	47.27	45.57
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/3½	2/2	2/4	2/0½	2/2½	2/0½	2/2½
31st Dec., 1927	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 101 10	s. d. 100 3	s. d. 100 1	s. d. 96 7	s. d. 98 10	s. d. 93 10	s. d. 100 2
	Working Hours (b)	44.44	46.82	43.96	46.78	45.75	47.16	45.46
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/3½	2/2½	2/4	2/1½	2/2½	2/0½	2/2½
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage	s. d. 49 3	s. d. 49 5	s. d. 50 5	s. d. 46 4	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 48 6	s. d. 49 6
	Working Hours	45.81	46.13	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.98
	Hourly Wage	1/1	1/0½	1/1½	1/0	1/2½	1/0½	1/1
31st Dec., 1924	Weekly Wage	s. d. 49 1	s. d. 49 7	s. d. 50 10	s. d. 46 6	s. d. 56 11	s. d. 50 3	s. d. 49 7
	Working Hours	45.98	46.08	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.02
	Hourly Wage	1/0½	1/1	1/1½	1/-	1/2½	1/0½	1/1
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage	s. d. 49 8	s. d. 50 8	s. d. 51 9	s. d. 43 10	s. d. 57 6	s. d. 50 2	s. d. 50 7
	Working Hours	46.17	45.83	44.00	46.10	45.57	47.86	45.78
	Hourly Wage	1/1	1/1½	1/2	1/0½	1/3½	1/0½	1/1½
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage	s. d. 50 8	s. d. 51 11	s. d. 52 10	s. d. 50 0	s. d. 58 6	s. d. 51 8	s. d. 51 8
	Working Hours	44.02	45.60	44.01	46.10	45.57	47.86	44.94
	Hourly Wage	1/1½	1/1½	1/2½	1/1	1/3½	1/1	1/1½
31st Dec., 1927	Weekly Wage	s. d. 53 0	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 49 11	s. d. 58 8	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 52 10
	Working Hours	44.02	45.58	44.01	46.10	45.57	47.86	44.94
	Hourly Wage	1/2½	1/1½	1/2½	1/1	1/3½	1/1½	1/2

(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.* There was a diminution in each of the States during the year 1921 in the number of working hours constituting a full week's work for male and female occupations, but during 1922 and 1923 certain increases in hours were recorded, principally in New South Wales. The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 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 hours of work per week for female employees remained practically unchanged during the year. 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. In each instance (male and female occupations separately) the basis taken is the weighted average for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (= 1,000).

**WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT WORKERS,
1923 TO 1927.**

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,714	1,734	1,703	1,646	1,709	1,675	1,711
	{ Hourly Wage(a) ..	1,775	1,790	1,808	1,676	1,754	1,696	1,771
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,696	1,731	1,737	1,665	1,717	1,679	1,710
	{ Hourly Wage(a) ..	1,761	1,790	1,938	1,709	1,771	1,706	1,774
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,741	1,763	1,813	1,712	1,760	1,695	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage(a) ..	1,808	1,823	1,988	1,761	1,827	1,723	1,829
31st Dec., 1926	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,821	1,805	1,815	1,735	1,791	1,721	1,802
	{ Hourly Wage(a) ..	1,944	1,894	1,997	1,776	1,878	1,746	1,900
31st Dec., 1927	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,848	1,819	1,816	1,753	1,792	1,703	1,817
	{ Hourly Wage(a) ..	1,980	1,880	1,998	1,800	1,882	1,731	1,920
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,812	1,819	1,855	1,704	2,075	1,785	1,821
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,943	1,937	1,997	1,815	2,215	1,831	1,944
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,929	1,943	2,017	1,821	2,236	1,898	1,949
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,944	2,000	2,125	1,913	2,280	1,893	1,995
31st Dec., 1926	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,865	1,911	1,944	1,839	2,152	1,902	1,902
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,080	2,059	2,169	1,959	2,319	1,952	2,078
31st Dec., 1927	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,950	1,934	1,966	1,838	2,160	1,935	1,945
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,175	2,084	2,193	1,958	2,327	1,985	2,125

(a) See footnote to following table.

4. **Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1923 to 1927. Index-numbers are given also for each State based on the weekly average hours at the end of each of the periods specified, computed with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

**HOURS OF LABOUR.—WEEKLY INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES,
1923 TO 1927.**

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., 1923	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.73	47.06	45.51	47.00	46.60	48.27	46.70
	{ Index-numbers ..	955	962	930	961	954	966	954
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.75	46.99	45.40	46.98	46.52	47.26	46.66
	{ Index-numbers ..	955	960	928	960	951	966	954
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	{ Index-numbers ..	956	960	897	960	945	966	949
31st Dec., 1926	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.65	46.94	43.95	46.95	45.80	47.27	45.57
	{ Index numbers ..	910	959	898	960	936	966	931
31st Dec., 1927	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.44	46.82	43.96	46.78	45.75	47.16	45.46
	{ Index numbers ..	908	957	898	956	935	964	929

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

Each State, excepting New South Wales, shows a decrease for both 1924 and 1925 while, for 1926, four of the States show decreases, the remaining two, Queensland and Tasmania, showing minor increases on account of further industries being brought under Commonwealth Arbitration Court awards, under which the prescribed hours are greater than in the corresponding State awards. The weighted average weekly hours index-number for Australia at the 31st December, 1927, was 929, as compared with 1,000 at 30th April, 1914, a reduction of 7.1 per cent. The lowest weighted average nominal weekly hours index-number at the 31st December, 1927, was that for Queensland (898), followed in the order named by New South Wales (908), Western Australia (935), South Australia (956), Victoria (957), and Tasmania (964).

5. Nominal and Effective Wages, 1901 to 1927.—(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 are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities.

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1927.
(WEIGHTED AVERAGE WAGE FOR AUSTRALIA IN 1911=1,000.)

States.	Number of Occupations Included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1927.												
New South Wales ..	158	874	858	1,003	1,096	1,498	1,835	1,869	1,785	1,844	1,824	1,873	1,959	1,988
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,065	1,404	1,679	1,826	1,783	1,865	1,862	1,897	1,941	1,957
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,042	1,534	1,785	1,886	1,830	1,837	1,868	1,950	1,952	1,953
South Australia ..	134	567	819	1,013	1,062	1,373	1,613	1,745	1,708	1,770	1,791	1,841	1,867	1,885
Western Australia ..	99	489	1,052	1,152	1,226	1,516	1,751	1,853	1,829	1,838	1,847	1,893	1,927	1,928
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,028	1,346	1,674	1,788	1,726	1,802	1,805	1,823	1,851	1,852
Australia (a) ..	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,085	1,462	1,752	1,844	1,785	1,840	1,839	1,887	1,938	1,955

(a) Weighted average.

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

During the period 1911 to the end of the year 1927 the average weekly rate of wage in New South Wales increased 98 per cent., in Victoria, 99 per cent., in Queensland, 96 per cent., in South Australia, 86 per cent., in Western Australia, 67 per cent., and in Tasmania, 129 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 96 per cent.

(ii) *Effective Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal only to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the effective wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1927.

In computing these effective wage index-numbers for years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers given in the preceding table have been divided by the price index-numbers in Section A, §2. The resulting index-numbers show for each State and for Australia for the years specified the variations in effective wages. The nominal wage index-numbers for these earlier years are based on rates of wage current at the end of December, the only data available. For the years 1914 onward, however, the nominal wage index-numbers used are based on the average wage for the four quarters in each year, and in this respect differ from those in the preceding sub-sections. However, so far as the years 1901 and 1911 are concerned, as the movement in wages during any one year prior to 1914 was very slight, it is possible that if the wage data were available in quarters, the index-numbers used would approximate very closely to those based on averages for the year.

EFFECTIVE WEEKLY WAGE INDEX NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1927.(a)

States.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
New South Wales ..	961	973	906	875	911	1,079	1,113	1,040	1,069	1,048	1,035	1,079
Victoria ..	915	1,037	961	904	875	1,038	1,102	1,036	1,097	1,073	1,069	1,095
Queensland ..	1,172	1,090	1,038	990	1,036	1,244	1,273	1,214	1,232	1,241	1,183	1,222
South Australia ..	948	957	929	901	853	1,027	1,090	1,036	1,051	1,053	1,076	1,073
Western Australia ..	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,008	1,012	1,139	1,226	1,192	1,161	1,162	1,165	1,199
Tasmania ..	827	838	942	840	830	977	1,053	1,000	1,017	1,044	1,037	1,072
Australia (b) ..	964	1,000	948	907	911	1,076	1,126	1,062	1,095	1,081	1,072	1,102

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

(b) Weighted average.

In the table above the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1927 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the effective wage in all States.

(iii) *Effective Wages and Standard of Comfort.* In the preceding table particulars are given as to variations in effective wages in each State, due allowance having been made for variations in retail prices of commodities, though not for unemployment.

For years prior to 1913 the data available as to unemployment are so meagre that comparative results allowing for variations both in prices of commodities and in unemployment cannot be accurately computed for the several States. In the next table, for these earlier years the percentage of unemployment in Australia and the nominal wage index-numbers relate to the end of the year. For 1914 and subsequent years the wages, index-numbers, percentages of unemployment, and retail prices index-numbers are the average for the year. Column I. shows the nominal wage index-numbers, and Column II. the relative percentages unemployed. Applying these percentages to the numbers shown in Column I., and deducting the results from each corresponding index-number to allow for relative loss of time, the figures in Column III. are obtained. These figures are then re-computed with the year 1911 as base, and are shown in Column IV. In Column V. the retail prices index-numbers are shown, and in Columns VI. and VII. the effective wage index-numbers are given, firstly, for full work, and secondly, allowing for lost time. These are obtained by dividing the figures in Columns I. and IV. respectively by the corresponding figure in Column V. The resulting index-numbers show for Australia for the years specified the variations in effective wages, or in what may be called the "standard of comfort."*

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

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

WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE, 1901 TO 1927.(a)

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

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

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

Compared with 1911 the effective wage in 1901 was 3.6 per cent. less for full work, and 5.5 per cent. less after allowance for unemployment. In connexion with the index-numbers in Column VII., unemployment was less in 1911—the base year—than in any other year. During the period 1912 to 1920, while wages increased steadily, prices increased at a greater rate, with the result that the purchasing power of wages was less in each of these years than in 1911, the lowest point reached being in 1915, when the full time index-number was 14.6 per cent. less, or, allowing for unemployment, 18.7 per cent. less than for the base year. The first occasion on which the effective wage was higher than in 1911 was in 1921, when wages increased considerably while prices declined, the increase in effective wages being 7.6 per cent., but only 0.2 per cent. allowing for unemployment. Unemployment reached its "peak" during 1921. Both wages and prices fell in 1922, but the former less than the latter, resulting in a further increase in the effective wage. As wages remained practically stationary while prices rose, the effective wage for 1923 showed a decline. A rise in wages coincided with a fall in prices during 1924 and the effective wage increased, but as the average unemployment was higher than in the preceding year the increase in the effective wage was greater for full work than allowing for unemployment. Wages and prices both rose during 1925 and 1926, the latter in 1926 reaching their highest point for the period under investigation. Unemployment remained stationary in 1925, but as prices rose more rapidly than the rise in nominal wages, effective wages decreased. In 1926, unemployment decreased, and, although prices again rose more rapidly than nominal wages, the effective wage allowing for unemployment increased. Effective wages

for full time work, however, again decreased. In 1926 the effective wage allowing for unemployment was 4.5 per cent., and working full time 7.2 per cent. higher than in 1911. During 1927 nominal wages rose, whilst prices fell, and as the percentage of unemployed showed a slight decline, the result was a rise in the effective wage index-number for full work and in the index-number allowing for unemployment. During the year the latter index-number reached its highest point, whilst the former has only been exceeded on one occasion, viz., in 1922. The effective wage for full time work was 10.2 per cent., and allowing for unemployment, 7.5 per cent., higher during 1927 than in 1911.

§ 3. International Comparison of Real Wages.

1. **General.**—In July, 1923, the British Ministry of Labour published index-numbers of real wages in London and in the capital cities of certain other countries. The method of computation adopted is described in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, and may be briefly stated as “the ascertaining of the quantities of each kind of food of working class consumption that could be purchased in each city at the retail prices there current with the wages payable for a given amount of labour measured in hours.”

In consequence of a resolution passed at the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in November, 1923, these comparisons, with certain modifications, are being continued by the International Labour Office.

2. **Real or Effective Wages in Various Capital Cities.**—The following table taken from the *International Labour Review* has been varied by the addition of index-numbers for Melbourne, and index-numbers based on quantities of food consumption in Australia. In the column added, index-numbers have been computed for London, Melbourne, Ottawa, Philadelphia, and Sydney only, and not for the other cities included in the table. The work of computing such index-numbers is considerable, and the effect of using the Australian regimen may be gauged from the results shown for the cities referred to. The method of computation may be briefly explained as follows.

A regimen consisting of a certain number of food items commonly in use in all the countries has been selected, and the prices of these commodities have been multiplied by a quantity representing the weekly consumption of such commodities in the various countries. The result gives what may be described as the cost of a weekly family basket of commodities in the various cities specified, according to usage in that city and according to usage in other countries. A common working week of 48 hours is then assumed for all the cities included in the tabulation, and a weekly wage determined by taking the average hourly earnings of a number of occupations. The cost of the regimen is then divided into the wage thus ascertained, and index-numbers are computed on the basis of the numbers of times the food regimen can be purchased by the average wage in each city. The result in the case of London is taken as base and made equal to 100, the index-numbers for the other cities being then ascertained by proportion. The resultant index-numbers represent approximately the relative effectiveness of wages in the various cities.

Attention is drawn in the *International Labour Review*, however, to the unsatisfactory nature of the wage statistics in some cities, and the results, therefore, must be taken as an approximation only of the relation between the cities specified.

Particular note should also be made of the fact that, although for the purpose of making the computation a working week of 48 hours is assumed, the result is really a comparison on the basis of hourly rates, the actual weekly earnings depending of course on the number of hours worked per week in the different industries in the cities mentioned.

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN VARIOUS CITIES—
JULY, 1927.

(Base: London = 100.)

City.	Index-numbers based on quantities of Food Consumption in—							General Average Index-Numbers (based on food only).
	Belgium and France.	Central European Countries.	Great Britain.	Southern European Countries.	Scandinavian Countries.	Oversea Countries.	Australia.	
Amsterdam	89	85	82	87	95	88	..	87
Berlin ..	61	70	64	65	76	70	..	67
Brussels ..	49	44	46	47	53	48	..	48
Copenhagen	95	103	103	102	126	110	..	106
Dublin ..	98	102	105	99	103	103	..	102
Lisbon ..	32	32	30	30	29	31	..	31
Lodz ..	37	44	37	39	51	44	..	42
London ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Madrid ..	55	55	51	54	54	54	..	54
Melbourne	143	152	146	139	120	144	152	142
Milan ..	49	62	48	52	54	43	..	52
Ottawa ..	147	156	157	148	170	163	159	157
Paris ..	55	53	49	52	60	52	..	53
Philadelphia	169	166	181	175	197	188	177	179
Prague ..	45	44	44	47	48	47	..	46
Riga ..	43	54	45	45	53	50	..	48
Rome ..	44	45	38	44	48	43	..	43
Stockholm	87	86	91	88	106	101	..	92
Sydney ..	142	143	150	143	126	150	155	144
Tallinn (Es- tonia) ..	41	51	39	42	54	48	..	46
Vienna ..	35	42	38	38	48	43	..	41
Warsaw ..	34	40	32	35	43	39	..	37

The results appear to show that the general relationship is practically the same whichever regimen is taken.

The cities which have the highest index-numbers are, in the order named, Philadelphia, Ottawa, Sydney, Melbourne, Copenhagen and Dublin.

Taking the last column, which gives the average of the seven preceding columns, the effective wage in Philadelphia is 79 per cent., in Ottawa 57 per cent., in Sydney 44 per cent., in Melbourne 42 per cent., and in Copenhagen 6 per cent. above the effective wage in London, while the effective wage in Amsterdam is 13 per cent., in Brussels 52 per cent., and in Berlin 33 per cent. below the effective wage in London.

§ 4. 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.”†

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

† *Ibid.*

(ii) *History in Australia.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, when he incorporated in a Parliamentary Bill a clause to the following effect, viz. :—

“The natural and proper measure of wages is such a sum as is a fair immediate recompense for the labour for which they are paid, having regard to its character and duration; but it can never be taken at a less sum than such as is sufficient to maintain the labourer and his family in a state of health and reasonable comfort.

It is the duty of the State to make provision by positive law for securing the proper distribution of the net products of labour in accordance with the principles hereby declared.”

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

The above rate has been varied from time to time in accordance with the Retail Price Index Numbers prepared by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for the city or town in which the persons affected are employed. The present weekly wage rates (at 1st May, 1928) for the various capital cities as so varied are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Sydney	4	11	6
Melbourne	4	8	0
Brisbane (a)	3	19	6
Adelaide	4	7	6
Perth (a)	4	0	0
Hobart	4	2	6
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	4	8	0

(a) These rates are not prevalent in these cities, because the basic rates fixed by State tribunals are higher.

The above amounts include the sum of 3s. per week which was added in 1921 for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the “Harvester” standard.

The adequacy or otherwise of the amount allotted under the “Harvester” judgment has been the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several subsequent occasions the need for its review. The upset from the war, however, placed such an inquiry out of the question. Whatever its limitations, the Harvester judgment proved a great boon during the war years by providing a basis for variation according to changes in cost of living and a foundation upon which “margins for skill” could be imposed.

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

The awards of various State tribunals in operation at the present moment are shown in the following statement. The industrial tribunals in Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia made no alteration during 1927 in the basic rates of wage previously declared.

State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales ..	(a) 4 5 0	2 6 0	1.7.27	Man and wife
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	4 5 0	2 3 0	28.9.25	Man, wife, and three children
South Australia ..	4 5 6	1 19 6	1.7.25	(c)
Western Australia ..	4 5 0	2 5 11	1.7.26	(c)
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

(a) Plus child allowances referred to hereafter. The basic rate for rural workers is £4 4s. per week.

(b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to large extent.

(c) Although the family unit is not specifically defined in the legislation of these States, the tribunals appointed to determine the basic wage have adopted the unit of man, wife and two children.

(iv) *Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.*—The Federal basic wage referred to in paragraph 2 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 their report, issued in 1920, recommended the following amounts for the various capital cities, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sydney	5	17	1	(5	2	8) (a)
Melbourne	5	16	6	(4	19	4)
Brisbane	5	6	2	(4	13	2)
Adelaide	5	16	1	(5	1	9)
Perth	5	13	11	(5	1	1)
Hobart	5	16	11	(4	14	10)
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	5	15	8	(5	0	4)

(a) The figures in brackets represent the equivalent amounts at the 1st February, 1928, according to the variation in the appropriate Retail Price Index-Numbers.

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

2. *Child Endowment.*—(i) *General.* The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age has become very prominent in Australia in recent years, and is actually in operation in certain instances. The system has been in force in various forms in England and on the Continent as far back as 1796, the first instance occurring in England in that year.†

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

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

(ii) *The New South Wales Scheme.* The earliest attempt made in Australia to institute the system was in New South Wales in 1919, when a Bill was introduced into the State Parliament to provide a flat basic wage for a man and wife, and an allowance of 5s. per week for each child, the latter rate to be reduced on a sliding scale and to cease automatically when the income reached an amount of £3 per week above the basic wage. The Bill was rejected, and the matter dropped until the Session of 1926-27, when measures providing for the payment of child allowances became law.* These measures provide 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 only be paid 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. 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. The fund from which these payments are made was created by a levy of 3 per cent. on the wages bill of employers, with a rebate of 10 per cent. in respect of workers employed under Federal awards.

(iii) *Commonwealth Public Service.*—The first payment of child endowment allowances in Australia‡ was in connexion with the Commonwealth Public Service. Following upon the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage in 1920 (referred to above) the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes, P.C.) asked the Chairman (A. B. Piddington, K.C.) to submit a scheme to give effect to the recommendations, and Mr. Piddington suggested splitting up the amount recommended into a flat rate of £4 per week for a man and wife, and 12s. per week for each child, with an appropriate levy (about 10s. 9d. per worker per week) on all employers to finance the scheme. The Commonwealth Government decided to apply this scheme to the Commonwealth Public Service, and from 1st November, 1920, a flat rate basic wage of £4 per week and 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 £400 per annum by way of salary plus allowance. This system of payment remained in force until 1923, when, owing to no adjustments of the basic wage according to Retail Price Index-Numbers having taken place in the interim, the Government was sometimes paying over, and sometimes under, the true "Harvester" equivalent of wages, notwithstanding child allowance, which averaged £10 per annum per adult employee. At the time of its grant by the Commonwealth Government the Prime Minister stated that it was not suggested that the amount of 5s. per week was sufficient, but any adjustment was a matter for the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator.

The question was not considered by the Arbitrator until 1923, when the problem of amalgamating war-time cost of living allowances, married men's allowances, &c., was before him. The Arbitrator granted to the Service the full equivalent of the "Harvester" wage as a flat basic wage for single and married adults, based upon the Retail Price Index-Number for the six capital cities for the year ended 31st March, 1923; deducting therefrom the averaged value per adult employee of child endowment (£10). By this process the net basic wage for the Service was £195 per annum with an allowance of £13 per annum in respect of each dependent child under fourteen years of age. It will be realized from the foregoing that the Arbitrator by his method altered the principle of paying these allowances as an addition to the basic wage to one whereby the officers, by suffering an all-round deduction of £10§ per annum, mutually created a fund from which the allowance was paid. Thus, for the first time in history, the basic wage was split up and distributed according to the family or economic needs of the employee.

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

† 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.

‡ The payment of a single maternity bonus of £5 to the mother of any viable child or children delivered at a birth was instituted by the Commonwealth Government on 10th October, 1912, and up to 30th June, 1927, 1,952,640 claims have been paid in this respect, representing a total expenditure of £9,763,200.

§ By subsequent increase of the average number of children per adult employee, the deduction is now £12 per annum.

The payment of the allowance in the Service is now limited to a sum derived from salary and allowance of £500 per annum. The system propounded by Mr. Piddington, and put into effect in a somewhat different form by the Public Service Arbitrator, was not approved by industrial workers, whose objective was the highest flat basic wage obtainable for the "average" employee, although compared with the rates being paid at the time it was estimated that the acceptance of Mr. Piddington's system would have meant a considerable gain to the workers in child allowances, with practically no change in the basic wage rate on the basis of £4 per week for a single or married adult employee and 12s. per week for each dependent child under fourteen.

(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 stand-point. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. per week, ranging from £24,437,000 for all such, to £7,578,000 per annum for only those in excess of two in family—as an addition on the basic wage—with modifications of those estimates if salary limits were imposed. It was estimated that if income were limited to £500 the above amounts would be reduced by 2 per cent.; with a limit of income of £400 the reduction would be 5 per cent.; and with a limit of £300 the reduction would equal 8 per cent. If, on the other hand, the scheme took the form of that in operation in the Federal Public Service, i.e., by an all-round deduction from the "Harvester" basic wage to provide the fund from which to pay the allowances plus administrative expenses, then the amount of such deduction would be per adult male approximately 5s. 4d. per week. After discussion it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

This Commission commenced its sittings in Brisbane on 31st October, 1927, and will take evidence in each State. The terms of reference to the Commission are as follows, viz. :—

The Commission will inquire and report on the following questions :—

1. The general question of the institution of a system of child endowment or family allowances in Australia, with particular reference to its social and economic effects, and, if the institution of such a system is recommended.
2. The methods by which such a system should be established.
3. The relation of such a system to wage fixation, having regard to the interest of the wage earner, of industry generally, and of the community.
4. The application of a system of child endowment or family allowances to persons whose wages are not regulated by law, or who are not engaged in industry as wage earners.
5. The limit of income, if any, subject to which payment by way of child endowment or family allowances should be made.
6. The methods of financing or giving effect to a system of child endowment or family allowances, with particular reference to the practicability and desirability of providing the necessary funds from public revenue, from industry, or from both sources, and in what proportion and upon what principle.
7. The methods of administering such a system.
8. The cost of such a system, including administrative expenses and reserves, if thought necessary.
9. The legal methods of giving effect to any system recommended, with particular reference to the existing distribution of Commonwealth and State powers.
10. Any matters of public interest which may arise as the result of the institution of a system of child endowment or family allowances.

The following comprised the personnel of the Commission, viz. :—T. O'Halloran, Esq., K.C. (Chairman); J. A. Curtin, Esq.; Ivor Evans, Esq.; Mrs. M. Muscio; and Stephen Mills, Esq., C.M.G.

§ 5. Changes in Rates of Wage.

1. *General.*—A change in rate of wages is defined as a change in the weekly rates of remuneration of a certain class of employees, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed and apart from any revision of rates due to increased length of service or experience. It is obvious that under this definition certain classes of changes are excluded, such, for example, as (a) changes in rates of pay due to promotion, progressive increments, or, on the other hand, to reduction in pay or grade to inefficient workers, and (b) changes in average earnings in an occupation due to a change in the proportions which more highly-paid classes of workers bear to those paid at lower rates. Bonuses to employees have not been taken into account in the tabulations. Each single change recorded relates to a change in the rates of wage effected in a specific industry or calling, and includes any and all changes to workers in that industry, irrespective of the different number of separate occupations or trades affected. Moreover, in some instances a change may relate to the employees of a single employer or to those of a number of employers, according to the instrument or method operating to bring about the change.

There is a certain amount of overstatement as regards "persons affected," since in the quarterly adjustments of wages the same persons may figure on four occasions. The difficulty of eliminating this factor has, however, been found too great to justify the labour involved. A further complication also arises from the overlapping of Commonwealth and State awards.

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

The figures given in regard to the amount of increase per week do not relate to the increase each week, but only to the increase in a single week on the assumption that the full number of persons ordinarily engaged in the particular trade or occupation affected by the change were employed during that week. It is obvious, therefore, that the aggregate effect per annum cannot be obtained without making due allowance for unemployment and for occupations in which unemployment is seasonal or intermittent. It is also clear that since unemployment and activity in all branches of industry may vary from year to year, and in many branches from season to season also, no accurate estimate of the actual effect of the changes in the total amount of wages received or paid per annum can be made until the determining factors have been investigated. These factors are (a) the amount of unemployment, and (b) the period of employment in seasonal industries.

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

(ii) *Summary—States, 1927.* The following table gives particulars of the changes in rates of wage in each State during the year 1927.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN EACH STATE, 1927.

State.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Week.
New South Wales ..	486,226	£ 47,164	156,121	£ 8,553	642,347	£ 38,611	s. d. 1 3
Victoria ..	172,723	21,090	230,431	12,149	403,154	8,941	0 5
Queensland ..	7,864	1,162	1,388	92	9,252	1,070	2 4
South Australia ..	72,023	6,312	37,749	2,054	109,772	4,258	0 9
Western Australia ..	13,511	1,525	5,167	337	18,678	1,188	1 3
Tasmania ..	4,844	416	22,515	1,442	27,359	(b) 1,026	(b) 0 9
Northern Territory ..	413	113	35	6	448	107	4 9
Federal Capital Territory	261	41	..	..	261	41	3 2
Common to all States (a)	14,074	898	38,647	1,090	52,721	(b) 192	(b) 0 1
Total ..	771,939	78,721	492,053	25,723	1,263,992	52,998	0 10

(a) See footnote (a) at bottom of page.

(b) Decrease.

The preceding figures for changes in wages include all those which have occurred either through the operations of wage tribunals or as the result of direct negotiations between employers and employees. Many workers in all States come under the jurisdiction of awards made by the Federal Arbitration Court. The principle of quarterly adjustments adopted by that Court caused a large number of variations in rates of wage in all States during the year.

(iii) *Australia, 1923 to 1927.* The following table gives separate particulars of the effect of increases and decreases in rates of wage in Australia during the years 1923 to 1927 :—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN AUSTRALIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Head per Week.
1923 ..	820,856	£ 125,379	169,996	£ 21,361	990,852	£ 104,018	s. d. 3 0
1924 ..	337,823	85,616	509,832	44,250	847,655	41,366	1 0
1925 ..	1,124,095	130,220	138,114	10,793	1,262,209	119,427	1 11
1926 ..	951,490	117,814	270,270	30,194	1,221,760	87,620	1 4
1927 ..	771,939	78,721	492,053	25,723	1,263,992	52,998	0 10

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT, STATES, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T.	(a) All States.	Aust.
	No. of Persons Affected	1923 519,440 1924 196,066 1925 514,123 1926 525,801 1927 642,347	276,094 338,781 343,123 429,605 403,154	30,051 52,975 184,595 32,953 9,252	63,209 111,261 113,721 103,291 109,772	32,057 40,598 40,152 38,271 18,678	25,918 26,144 18,566 25,373 27,359	71 35 26 53 448	1,002 30 243 63 261	43,010 81,785 47,660 66,345 52,721	990,852 847,655 1,262,209 1,221,760 1,263,992
Total Net Amount of Increase per Week	1923 £ 53,868 1924 7,860 1925 40,789 1926 43,471 1927 38,611	£ 36,934 7,312 10,968 27,920 8,941	£ 62,177 13,993 43,975 5,081 1,070	£ 9,784 7,835 9,693 4,597 4,258	£ 669 1,879 3,199 4,164 1,188	£ 1,755 1,335 293 748 61,026	£ 620 15 69 11 107	£ 298 1 133 11 41	£ 3,645 1,136 1,395 1,608 6192	£ 104,018 41,366 119,427 87,620 52,998
Average Increase per Head per Week	1923 s. d. 2 9 1924 0 10 1925 1 7 1926 1 8 1927 1 3	s. d. 2 8 0 5 1 2 1 4 0 5	s. d. 61 5 5 3 4 9 3 1 2 4	s. d. 3 11 1 5 1 8 0 11 0 9	s. d. 3 11 0 11 1 7 2 2 1 3	s. d. 1 4 1 0 0 4 0 7 60 9	s. d. 6 5 8 7 10 11 7 7 4 9	s. d. 5 11 0 8 10 11 3 6 3 2	s. d. 5 11 0 8 10 11 6 0 60 1	s. d. 1 9 3 0 0 7 1 4 0 10

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

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

(iv) *Industrial Groups—Australia. Workpeople affected by Changes.* In the following table particulars are given of the number of changes, the number of persons (males and females) affected, and the total amount of increase per week, classified according to Industrial Groups throughout Australia during the years 1923 to 1927:—

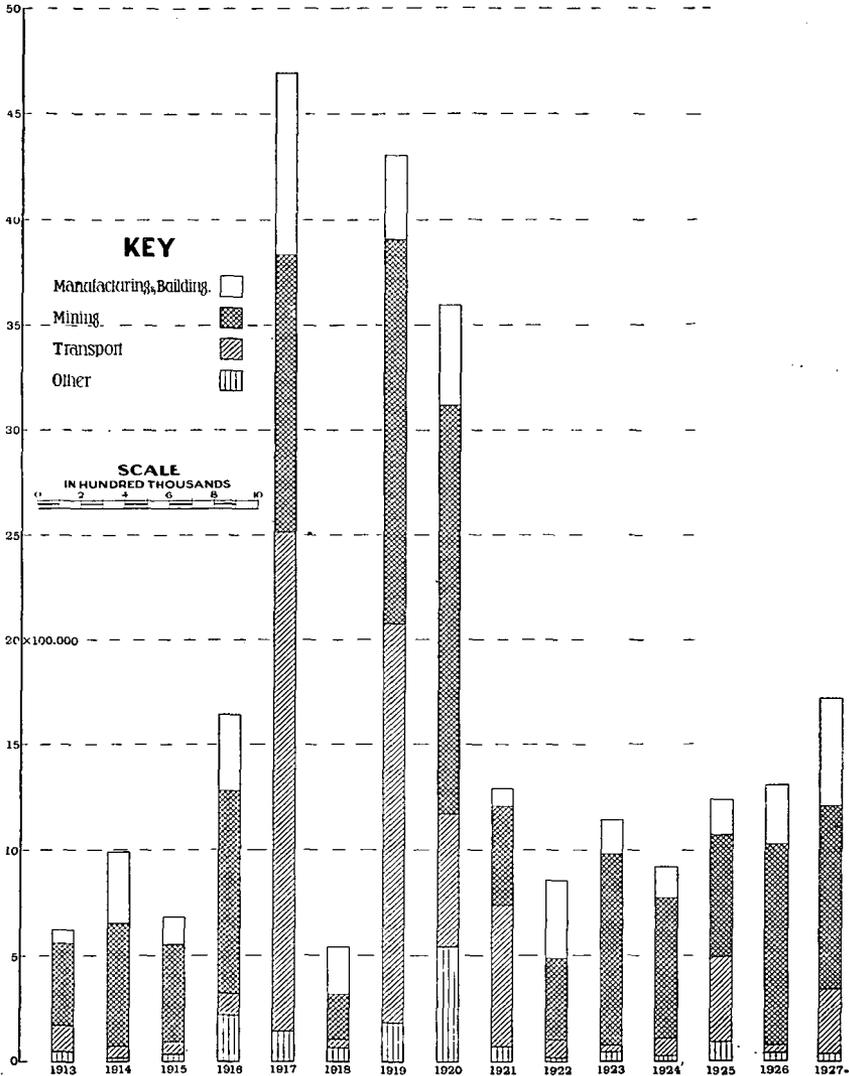
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA,
1923 TO 1927.

Particulars	Industrial Groups.							
	I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.	II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manufacturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.
1923.								
Number of Persons affected	60,724	102,475	72,851	19,593	10,445	82,785	79,685	18,223
Amount of Increase per week	£ 6,209	£ 12,258	£ 3,694	£ 4333	£ 1,021	£ 9,144	£ 13,034	£ 823
1924.								
Number of Persons affected	62,728	79,087	43,685	55,155	8,803	78,843	66,596	12,100
Amount of Increase per week	£ 2,506	£ 2,270	£ 2,713	£ 4,103	£ 4,246	£ 21,881	£ 7,800	£ 580
1925.								
Number of Persons affected	95,720	123,669	68,596	40,202	16,224	115,092	121,549	31,373
Amount of Increase per week	£ 7,905	£ 9,500	£ 7,609	£ 1,444	£ 1,128	£ 8,407	£ 10,149	£ 4,108
1926.								
Number of Persons affected	60,422	96,677	43,416	98,659	21,157	92,324	132,012	57,650
Amount of Increase per week	£ 1,669	£ 850	£ 4,180	£ 5,334	£ 2,513	£ 4,231	£ 14,348	£ 8,123
1927.								
Number of Persons affected	30,217	142,440	50,680	164,207	18,800	109,938	98,307	30,440
Amount of Increase per week	£ 657	£ 5,451	£ 3,835	£ 4,468	£ 1,070	£ 3,626	£ 3,194	£ 1,348

Particulars.	Industrial Groups—continued.						
	IX. Rail and Tram Services.	X. Other Land Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous.	ALL GROUPS.
1923.							
Number of Persons affected	155,830	23,510	79,466	24,720	21,724	238,821	990,852
Amount of Increase per week	£ 11,990	£ 237	£ 6,873	£ 9,647	£ 3,117	£ 26,399	£ 104,018
1924.							
Number of Persons affected	86,961	43,343	94,110	13,989	7,607	194,668	847,655
Amount of Increase per week	£ 6,544	£ 1,555	£ 25,350	£ 4,749	£ 1,834	£ 19,243	£ 41,366
1925.							
Number of Persons affected	188,752	27,249	77,285	55,495	37,472	262,931	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week	£ 18,196	£ 3,435	£ 5,656	£ 10,577	£ 4,239	£ 27,074	£ 119,427
1926.							
Number of Persons affected	233,101	27,019	90,685	13,160	1,066	204,412	1,221,760
Amount of Increase per week	£ 20,227	£ 2,404	£ 2,416	£ 552	£ 369	£ 19,904	£ 87,620
1927.							
Number of Persons affected	242,994	28,945	72,802	45,985	20,101	208,136	1,263,992
Amount of Increase per week	£ 4,821	£ 2,346	£ 218	£ 5,315	£ 3,083	£ 14,002	£ 52,998

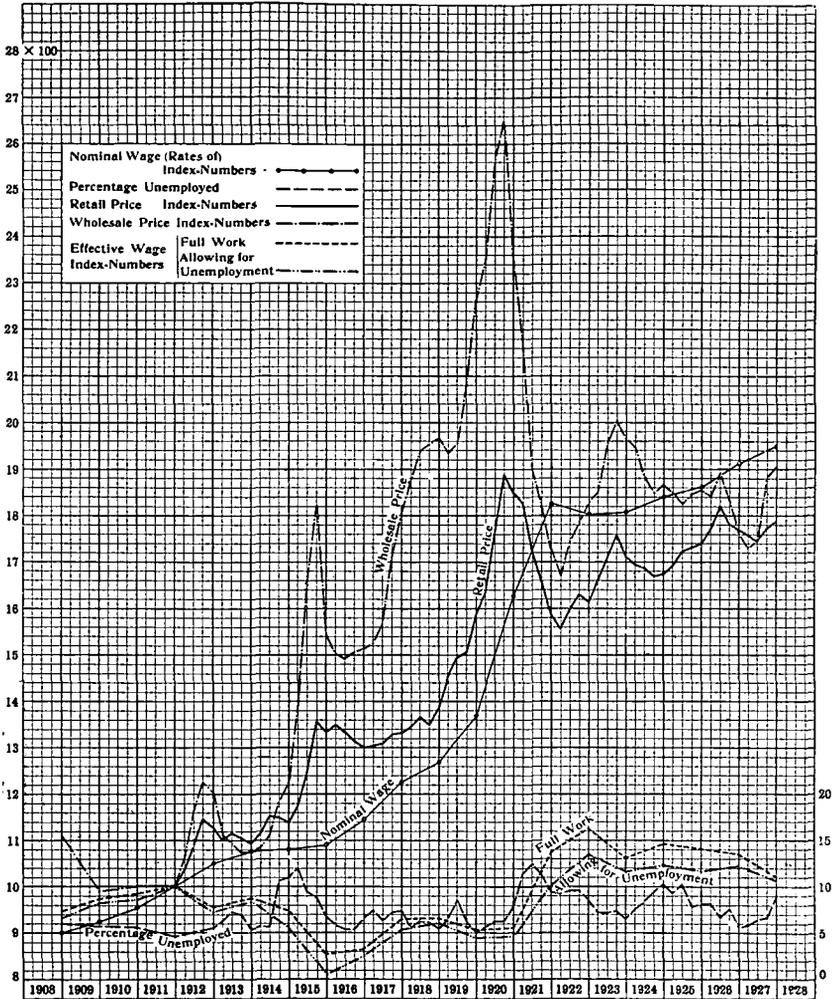
(a) Decrease.

Industrial Disputes - Working Days Lost in Various Industrial Groups



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

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1908 TO 1927.



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 (= 100). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter.

(v) *Male and Female Occupations.* Included in the changes in rates of wage recorded in the previous tables are those which in the whole or part thereof affected female occupations. Particulars in respect of these changes in so far as they relate to the numbers of male and female workers affected, etc., are set out hereunder :—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN MALE AND FEMALE OCCUPATIONS, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	All States. (a)	Australia.
NUMBER OF MALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.										
1923	465,446	250,666	27,421	60,967	31,507	24,931	71	1,002	42,830	910,841
1924	181,779	295,591	38,271	95,743	37,185	24,100	35	30	76,994	749,728
1925	429,300	322,075	162,971	93,337	36,651	17,848	26	243	40,854	1,108,305
1926	478,633	369,093	26,430	91,190	33,401	23,539	53	63	57,767	1,080,169
1927	520,752	333,820	7,416	95,663	15,408	24,726	448	206	46,331	1,044,770

Year.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.										
1923	50,954	33,902	(b) 2,290	9,270	(b) 123	1,893	(b) 20	£ 293	£ 3,654	£ 97,538
1924	6,947	2,600	11,869	7,010	1,457	1,086	15	1	356	31,341
1925	37,480	18,448	41,893	8,748	2,767	293	(b) 9	133	1,213	110,966
1926	40,658	24,641	4,781	4,019	3,562	673	20	11	1,411	79,776
1927	25,815	8,048	849	4,102	1,080	(b) 999	107	35	(b) 137	33,900

Year.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.										
1923	2 2	2 8	(b) 1 8	3 1	(b) 0 1	1 6	(b) 5 8	5 11	1 9	2 2
1924	0 9	0 2	6 2	1 6	0 9	0 11	8 7	0 8	0 1	0 10
1925	1 9	1 2	5 2	1 10	1 6	0 4	(b) 6 11	10 11	0 7	2 0
1926	1 8	1 4	3 7	0 11	2 2	0 7	7 7	3 6	0 6	1 6
1927	1 0	0 6	2 3	0 10	1 5	(b) 0 10	4 10	3 5	(b) 0 1	0 9

Year.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
NUMBER OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.										
1923	53,994	19,428	2,630	2,242	550	987	..	..	180	80,011
1924	14,287	43,170	14,704	15,518	3,413	2,044	..	..	4,791	97,927
1925	84,823	21,048	21,624	15,384	3,501	718	6,806	..	..	153,904
1926	47,168	60,512	6,523	12,101	4,870	1,839	..	..	8,578	141,591
1927	121,595	69,334	1,336	14,109	3,270	2,633	..	55	6,390	219,222

Year.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.										
1923	2,014	3,032	£ 113	£ 514	£ 54	(b) 138	..	..	(b) £ 9	£ 6,480
1924	913	4,712	2,124	825	422	249	..	..	780	10,025
1925	3,300	1,520	2,082	945	432	..	182	..	..	8,461
1926	2,813	3,379	300	578	602	75	..	..	197	7,944
1927	12,796	893	221	156	108	(b) 27	..	6	(b) 55	14,398

Year.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.										
1923	1 1	3 2	0 10	4 7	2 0	(b) 0 3	..	..	(b) 1 0	1 8
1924	1 3	2 2	2 11	1 1	2 6	2 5	..	..	3 3	2 1
1925	0 9	1 5	1 11	1 3	2 6	..	0 6	..	..	1 1
1926	0 1	1 1	0 11	0 11	2 6	0 10	..	..	0 6	1 1
1927	2 1	0 3	2 4	0 2	0 8	(b) 0 2	..	2 2	(b) 0 2	1 3

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

3. Methods by which Changes were Effected, and Results.—(i) *Summary, Australia, 1927.* The following table gives for Australia the number of workpeople affected, and the total net amount of increase in the weekly wage distribution brought about either without, or after, stoppage of work during the year 1927, as a result of the application of one or other of the methods set out in the tables :—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA, 1927.

Methods by which Changes were Effected.	Without Stoppage of Work.		After Stoppage of Work.		All Changes.	
	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.
By direct negotiations	15,200	£ 169	72	£ 35	15,272	£ 204
By negotiation, intervention or assistance of third party	12,256	1,467	..	..	12,256	1,467
By award of Court under Commonwealth Act	803,446	12,447	..	..	803,446	12,447
By agreement registered under Commonwealth Act	53,289	816	..	..	53,289	816
By award or determination under State Act	369,827	35,502	..	..	369,827	35,502
By agreement registered under State Act	9,902	2,562	..	..	9,902	2,562
TOTAL	1,263,920	52,963	72	35	1,263,992	52,998

(ii) *Summary, Australia, 1923 to 1927.* So far as possible, the effect of awards or agreements is recorded in the figures for the year in which such awards or agreements are made and filed. In certain cases, however, the awards or agreements are made retrospective as to the date on which the altered rate of wage has to be paid, and in others the particulars as to the number of workpeople affected and the effect of the change are not ascertainable in time for inclusion in the tabulations for the year in which the change occurred.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	By Direct Negotiations.	By Negotiation, Intervention or Assistance of Third Party.	By Award of Court under Commonwealth Act.	By Agreement Registered under Commonwealth Act.	By Award or Determination under State Act.	By Agreement Registered under State Act.	By other Means.	TOTAL.
1923.								
Number of Workpeople affected	18,605	52,298	334,180	46,974	508,722	35,073	..	990,852
Amount of Increase per week £	2,488	1,124	46,438	6,633	42,614	4,721	..	104,018
1924.								
Number of Workpeople affected	1,939	65,653	521,469	34,401	205,615	18,578	..	847,655
Amount of Increase per week £	654	14,627	14,636	51	31,668	9,104	..	41,366
1925.								
Number of Workpeople affected	15,110	23,317	581,306	64,849	547,986	29,641	..	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week £	1,880	1,959	29,996	4,524	80,322	746	..	119,427
1926.								
Number of Workpeople affected	44,289	40,136	893,344	69,555	140,468	16,000	17,968	1,221,760
Amount of Increase per week £	3,400	5,084	41,698	5,785	27,976	2,521	1,196	87,620
1927.								
Number of Workpeople affected	15,272	12,256	803,446	53,289	369,827	9,902	..	1,263,992
Amount of Increase per week £	204	1,467	12,447	816	35,502	2,562	..	52,998

(a) Decrease.

C.—EMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Industrial Disputes.

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

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

2. Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1927.—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1927, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the years 1913 to 1926 was published in Labour Reports Nos. 5 to 17.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1927.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Estab. Involved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								£
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	22	22	5,935	949	6,884	123,741	101,716
VI.	Other manufacturing	4	4	417	60	477	3,689	3,214
VII.	Building	8	62	696	2,670	3,366	113,907	98,759
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. .. .	270	342	92,488	36,492	128,980	833,651	983,839
IX.	Railway and tramway services	3	3	1,005	65	1,070	4,528	3,713
X.	Other land transport .. .	1	1	140	..	140	840	925
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	9	14	5,376	55	5,431	33,606	26,098
XIV.	Miscellaneous	22	22	2,059	134	2,193	15,001	11,796
	Total	(a) 339	470	108,116	40,425	148,541	1,133,963	1,230,060
VICTORIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	6	12	611	170	781	11,718	10,535
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. .	1	1	11	94	105	158	110
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. ..	4	4	893	..	893	2,190	920
VI.	Other manufacturing .. .	1	1	17	..	17	17	17
VII.	Building	6	7	500	20	520	4,117	3,825
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. .. .	3	3	2,071	..	2,071	5,952	5,440
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	3	8	4,834	..	4,834	30,215	23,623
	Total	(a) 24	36	8,937	284	9,221	54,367	44,470

(a) One dispute in New South Wales (involving 1 establishment and 360 workers); two in Victoria (2 establishments and 16 workers); and one in Queensland (1 establishment and 69 workers) commenced in 1926.

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

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS,
1927—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Estab. In-volved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
QUEENSLAND.								£
III.	Food, drink, etc.	6	6	648	541	1,189	16,683	13,612
VII.	Building	2	61	5,013	..	5,013	220,183	186,813
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	4	6	502	5	507	7,583	9,022
IX.	Railway and tramway services	2	2	17,877	..	17,877	151,949	90,577
X.	Other land transport	1	1	89	25	114	228	200
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	8	13	4,067	19	4,086	27,520	21,751
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	3	283	1,218	50	1,268	2,470	2,686
XIV.	Miscellaneous	4	4	180	..	180	1,502	1,223
	Total	(a) 30	376	29,594	640	30,234	428,133	325,884
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	3	3	155	4	159	885	710
VII.	Building	1	1	350	..	350	1,750	1,400
IX.	Railway and tramway services	4	4	2,187	1,285	3,472	19,697	15,117
X.	Other land transport	1	1	107	..	107	1,391	1,221
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	6	11	3,395	33	3,428	22,790	17,686
XIV.	Miscellaneous	4	4	323	37	360	4,771	4,132
	Total	19	24	6,517	1,359	7,876	51,284	40,266
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc.	5	5	560	..	560	7,718	5,716
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	20	..	20	20	24
V.	Books, printing, binding, etc.	4	4	190	9	199	1,001	1,365
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	47	..	47	282	220
VII.	Building	1	1	23	38	61	793	858
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	4	4	497	..	497	1,825	2,190
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	7	1,894	..	1,894	11,748	9,259
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	2	114	..	114	432	312
	Total	20	25	3,345	47	3,392	23,819	19,944
TASMANIA.								
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc.	1	1	30	..	30	120	49
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	4	4	290	421	711	14,762	9,089
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	1	34	..	34	68	44
	Total	6	6	354	421	775	14,950	9,182
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	7	..	7	210	210
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	331	..	331	4,953	4,543
	Total	2	2	338	..	338	5,163	4,753
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.								
VII.	Building	1	5	380	..	380	1,900	2,137
	Total	1	5	380	..	380	1,900	2,137
ALL STATES.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc.	5	5	560	..	560	7,718	5,716
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	33	39	6,728	1,123	7,851	136,574	113,195
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution	7	7	659	635	1,294	16,841	13,722
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc.	5	5	923	..	923	2,310	969
V.	Books, printing, binding, etc.	4	4	190	9	199	1,001	1,365
VI.	Other manufacturing	6	6	481	60	541	3,988	3,451
VII.	Building	19	137	6,962	2,728	9,690	342,649	293,792
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	285	359	95,848	36,918	132,766	868,779	1,009,580
IX.	Railway and tramway services	9	9	21,069	1,350	22,419	176,174	109,407
X.	Other land transport	3	3	338	25	361	2,459	2,346
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	29	54	19,600	107	19,707	125,953	98,461
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	3	283	1,218	50	1,268	2,476	2,686
XIV.	Miscellaneous	33	33	3,007	171	3,178	26,659	22,006
	Total Australia (a)	441	944	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,713,581	1,676,636

(a) See note (a) to table on page 563.

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1923 to 1927.—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 1923 to 1927, classified according to industrial groups :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)	Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
1923 ..	44	8	171	28	23	274
1924 ..	31	15	410	23	25	504
1925 ..	39	15	391	30	24	499
1926 ..	60	17	227	29	27	360
1927 ..	60	19	285	41	36	(a) 441
1923 to 1927 ..	234	74	1,484	151	135	2,078

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.						
1923 ..	9,884	577	58,043	2,257	5,560	76,321
1924 ..	6,899	2,753	133,876	5,631	3,287	152,440
1925 ..	8,420	1,832	135,409	25,084	5,951	176,746
1926 ..	12,408	924	93,107	2,901	3,994	113,034
1927 ..	11,363	9,690	132,766	42,487	4,446	200,757
1923 to 1927 ..	48,979	15,826	553,201	78,360	22,938	719,304

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.						
1923 ..	153,053	6,886	907,767	32,609	45,662	1,145,977
1924 ..	116,427	22,204	662,257	35,479	26,279	918,646
1925 ..	129,808	37,615	577,132	291,415	92,600	1,128,570
1926 ..	271,049	10,015	950,770	36,693	41,734	1,310,261
1927 ..	163,432	342,649	868,779	304,586	29,135	1,713,581
1923 to 1927 ..	838,769	425,369	3,966,705	750,782	235,410	6,217,035

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.						
1923 ..	£ 120,127	£ 6,284	£ 1,086,904	£ 29,580	£ 32,611	£ 1,275,506
1924 ..	80,746	21,559	735,572	61,823	18,199	917,699
1925 ..	124,604	35,674	688,755	209,521	48,700	1,107,644
1926 ..	249,712	7,721	1,098,111	27,306	32,963	1,415,813
1927 ..	138,418	293,792	1,009,580	210,214	24,692	1,676,696
1923 to 1927 ..	713,897	364,830	4,618,922	538,444	157,165	6,393,258

(a) See note (a) to table on page 563.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1923 to 1927.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in various years from 1923 to 1927, together with the number of workpeople involved, the number of working days lost, and the total estimated loss in wages.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY, 1923 TO 1927.

State or Territory.	Year.	No. of Disputes.	Establishments Involved in Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
New South Wales ..	1923	200	601	54,809	5,390	60,199	892,306	£ 1,038,519
	1924	416	584	116,087	17,648	133,735	706,796	755,142
	1925	430	458	123,292	16,937	140,229	649,840	736,601
	1926	256	631	68,281	28,359	96,640	1,111,230	1,229,410
	1927	(a) 339	470	108,116	40,425	148,541	1,133,963	1,230,060
Victoria ..	1923	29	133	6,279	771	7,050	98,880	108,512
	1924	30	36	9,621	416	10,037	66,567	50,735
	1925	19	158	5,428	3,172	8,600	131,737	130,817
	1926	33	89	6,320	2,245	8,565	100,735	106,423
	1927	(a) 24	36	8,937	284	9,221	54,367	44,470
Queensland ..	1923	25	36	2,724	340	3,064	55,131	53,031
	1924	25	30	2,889	246	3,135	47,214	42,018
	1925	22	64	20,432	840	21,272	219,826	164,480
	1926	29	37	2,054	391	2,445	30,118	27,412
	1927	(a) 30	376	29,594	640	30,234	428,185	325,884
South Australia ..	1923	10	23	806	975	1,781	25,971	20,440
	1924	14	52	1,546	147	1,693	19,459	14,851
	1925	11	24	1,118	281	1,399	19,403	12,240
	1926	17	60	2,008	740	2,748	22,836	17,132
	1927	19	24	6,517	1,359	7,876	51,284	40,206
Western Australia ..	1923	6	88	1,255	2,752	4,007	72,274	53,408
	1924	13	233	2,131	1,366	3,497	66,734	42,329
	1925	10	180	3,321	814	4,135	98,941	56,358
	1926	9	28	523	78	601	9,081	5,998
	1927	20	25	3,345	47	3,392	23,819	19,944
Tasmania ..	1923	3	3	197	..	197	1,093	1,296
	1924	5	5	268	54	322	11,606	12,268
	1925	3	16	169	70	239	2,989	2,300
	1926	10	12	660	231	891	5,080	4,363
	1927	6	6	354	421	775	14,950	9,182
Fed. Cap. Territory	1923	1	1	23	..	23	322	250
	1925	3	5	823	33	856	5,735	4,709
	1926	4	4	829	110	939	30,185	24,204
	1927	2	2	338	..	338	5,163	4,753
Northern Territory	1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1924	1	1	27	..	27	270	356
	1925	1	1	16	..	16	39	39
	1926	2	2	93	112	205	996	870
	1927	1	5	380	..	380	1,900	2,137
Australia ..	1923	274	885	66,093	10,228	76,321	1,145,977	1,275,506
	1924	504	941	132,569	19,877	152,446	918,646	617,899
	1925	499	906	154,599	22,147	176,746	1,128,570	1,107,544
	1926	360	813	80,768	32,266	113,034	1,310,261	1,415,813
	1927	(a) 441	944	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,719,581	1,676,696

(a) See footnote (a), page 563.

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

The figures given in the tables show that of the total number of disputes (441) which occurred in 1927 no less than 285 occurred in connexion with the mining industry, and of these 270 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £1,676,696. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £983,839, or 59 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia.

5. *Principal Disputes, 1927.*—Particulars relating to the principal disputes which occurred during 1927 are given hereunder :—

(i) *New South Wales.* The most extensive dispute was that which involved the Northern Collieries, the question at issue being the interpretation of General Rule 4 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act in regard to inspections by deputies. There were twenty mines involved, employing over 9,000 workers. The dispute lasted 24 days, and resulted in a loss of 216,528 working days and £264,735 in wages. The matter was settled at a conference at which the Minister for Mines was Chairman, by the issue of a special regulation under which the deputies could carry out their duties to the satisfaction of the men. Another dispute of importance arose in connexion with the Iron and Steel Works of the Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. at Newcastle. The trouble started in May, 1926, and was not regarded as closed until July, 1927. The men demanded a working week of 44 hours in place of 48, but ultimately declared the strike off, and accepted the general conditions specified by the Federal Court. The total loss amounted to 122,040 working days and £97,632 in wages. Further extensive trouble occurred in the Northern Collieries in February, and involved 49 mines and 13,551 workers. The dispute was the result of a decision of the Miners' Delegate Board not to work until aggregate meetings were held to discuss whether a general strike should take place. These meetings were held, but the recommendations of the leaders were rejected. Work was resumed on antecedent conditions after a duration of eight days, which involved a loss of 108,408 working days and £130,090 in wages. The coal trimmers at seven mines at Newcastle ceased work during May and June over the questions of : (a) extra payment for working on a steamer carrying inflammable cargo ; (b) preferential work for men engaged in dispute ; and (c) "waste meals." After a stoppage of thirteen days, work was resumed on the advice of the chairman of a compulsory conference under the Commonwealth Industrial Peace Act. The result was in favour of the men, who lost 100,572 working days and £119,466 in wages. Altogether 11,805 men were involved. An extensive dispute occurred in March at the Power House, Cockle Creek, in which members of the Engine-drivers and Firemen's Association were involved concerning employment at the new power house. The men finally agreed to the company having perfect freedom in selecting men irrespective of the union to which they belonged. The dispute lasted seventeen days, and represented a loss of 77,290 working days and £68,748 in wages.

During August a dispute lasting twenty days developed at the Hoskins Iron and Steel Co., Lithgow, and involved 1,600 men. A demand for higher wages was the cause of the trouble, which was settled by the promise of a conference of the parties after resumption of work. The losses incurred were 32,000 working days and £26,500 in wages. Other serious disputes in the mining industry occurred at the following collieries :—Excelsior Colliery, Thirroul, lasting 155 days, and resulting in a loss of 31,620 working days and £37,944 in wages, due to objection by the workers to an official testing a place for deficiency. This dispute ended in favour of the men. At Richmond Main Colliery a dispute arose over various grievances followed by inter-union troubles. The dispute lasted 29 days, and resulted in a loss of 31,610 working days and £37,932 in wages ; the men returning to work on the conditions prevailing before the stoppage. Employees at the Redhead Colliery ceased work over the question of wet places and measurement of under-height, losing 24,376 working days and £29,251 in wages. Wallarah Colliery was idle for six weeks owing to a dispute concerning working four men in a bord and overtime rates. Work was resumed on antecedent conditions, the men losing 12,960 working days and £15,552 in wages. The Killingworth Colliery at West Wallsend stopped for 30 days as a result of alleged bad ventilation and presence of gas in mine, but the decision was unfavourable to the men, who lost 12,090 working days and £14,508 in wages. The only other mining dispute of note was that which occurred at the Invincible Colliery, Cullen Bullen, owing to refusal of the employees to cavil Nos. 1 and 2 tunnels together, and their demand for higher rates for No. 2 tunnel. The dispute lasted 46 days, and ended in favour of the men, who lost 10,026 working days and £12,032 in wages.

The waterside workers were concerned in a dispute which affected all States except Tasmania. Although the trouble started as a result of the refusal of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court to hear a plaint owing to repeated breaches of the existing award by

the members of the Federation, it developed finally into a demand for a single daily "pick-up" of men for work on the wharves instead of the double "pick-up" provided by the award. The early stages of the trouble took the form of an overtime strike against all vessels in Australian ports, and started on 21st November, 1927. The ship-owners demanded the complete observance of awards and threatened that if workers would not engage on that basis all ships in Australian waters would be tied up. As the federation persisted in its attitude, the owners carried out their threat, and vessels to the number of 150 were accordingly tied up on the night of 1st December, 1927. Unemployment on a very large scale was threatened. The action of the waterside workers was not, however, approved by organized labour, and the emergency Committee of the Australian Council of Trade Unions took steps on the 5th December to move the Commonwealth Arbitration Court to intervene in the dispute, with the result that, in view of the gravity of the situation, Judge Beeby of that jurisdiction heard the matter on 7th December, and, after receiving suitable guarantees from the representatives of the men that the award would be observed pending the hearing of the plaint, the Judge issued an interim award covering the question of the "pick-up," whereby the practice obtaining at the several ports on 10th January, 1927 (the day on which the Court commenced the hearing of the union's claims), was confirmed. The strike was declared off immediately and work resumed at all ports on the 8th December. The estimated loss by the waterside workers for the seven days during which the dispute lasted (i.e., while the ships were tied up) was 115,000 working days and £90,000 in wages.

(ii) *Victoria.* With the exception of the waterside workers' dispute, referred to in the preceding paragraph, the disputes in this State during 1927 were not of an extensive nature. During July and August engineers and others employed at the Sunshine Harvester Co. were out for 35 days through a demand for a 44-hour week instead of a week of 48 hours. Work was resumed on condition that the case be reheard by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, which decided against the workers. The losses incurred by the employees involved in the dispute were 3,675 working days and £4,500 in wages. The next dispute in point of magnitude was that in which iron pipe moulders were involved, seven firms being affected. The trouble arose from a demand by the employers for the same output for a week of 44 hours as for one of 48 hours, the matter being settled by compromise. The dispute lasted 22 days and involved a loss to the employees of 5,500 working days and £4,160 in wages. A dispute which occurred at the State Electricity Commission's Coal Mine at Yallourn, which threatened to be of an extensive nature, ended in five days, with the loss of 3,750 working days and £2,800 in wages to the 750 men concerned. The trouble arose from a demand by the men for the removal to another position of a foreman, which demand was partly conceded by the management. The men at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, were involved in a dispute which lasted for three days, owing to action taken by the management concerning the neglect of two men to return their time tokens at the completion of their shift. The men accepted the direction of the management, after a stoppage causing a loss of 1,992 working days and £2,390 in wages. The State Electricity Commission was involved in another dispute at Rubicon, through reduction of award rates and non-payment of country allowance. The Commission conceded the claim, but the men lost 2,160 working days and £2,000 in wages during the eighteen days for which the dispute continued.

(iii) *Queensland.* The demand for a working week of 40 hours to be worked in five days was the cause of an extensive dispute in the building trades of Queensland. Sixty firms were directly involved, and approximately 5,000 men. The dispute, which commenced in January, lasted 44 days, and resulted in a loss to employees of 220,000 working days and £186,525 in wages. Work was resumed on antecedent conditions, the men declaring the strike off after an abortive conference. This dispute may be considered one of the most extensive occurring in Australia during the year. The Queensland Railways were concerned in a dispute during September, which involved 17,866 employees of that Department, and lasted for eight and a half days. The trouble was the outcome of a dispute which occurred at the South Johnstone Sugar Mill concerning employment. Certain railway employees were dismissed for refusing to handle sugar declared "black" in connexion with the last mentioned strike, and the railway men stopped work as the

result of the refusal by the Railways Commissioner to reinstate the men involved. Work was resumed on the basis of "no victimization" nor loss of status by the employees who, however, suffered a loss of 151,861 working days and £90,501 in wages. The only dispute of note in the mining industry was at the Redbank Colliery, Ipswich. This dispute involved only 69 men, but lasted 135 days, and resulted in a loss of 9,315 working days and £11,178 in wages. The trouble arose: (a) on account of the refusal by the management of a demand by the men that miners who had been "cavilled" out should be reinstated; and (b) concerning a miner declared by the manager to be incompetent. Work was resumed on antecedent conditions. The dispute at the Sugar Mill, South Johnstone, referred to previously, although of itself not extensive, nevertheless had unfortunate after-effects. The men struck work for preference of employment in the 1927-28 season to those employees who had finished the 1926-27 season, but the demand was not conceded. Work was carried on during the dispute by non-unionists, assisted by the farmers, and conflicts between the pickets and non-unionists occurred. Special precautions had to be taken to protect the men who engaged for employment during the trouble. On account of the serious state of affairs the Government issued a proclamation commandeering all arms and ammunition in the affected area. The matter of the dispute was referred to the judicial jurisdiction of the Board of Trade and Arbitration.

The dispute involved 490 men directly and indirectly connected with the sugar industry, and resulted in a loss of 9,310 working days and £6,827 in wages.

(iv) *South Australia.* The most extensive dispute for the year in this State was that in connexion with the waterside workers, which has been previously mentioned. The employees at the Railway Workshops, Islington, stopped work for fifteen days through the refusal of the management to allow a shop steward to accompany men called up before the manager. The men ultimately resumed work without gaining their point after a loss of 15,828 working days and £11,870 in wages. Other disputes worthy of mention were those in connexion with Commonwealth railway construction work at Oodnadatta (demand for dismissal), which was settled by compromise; and a further trouble at the Islington Railway Workshops (demand for withdrawal of detectives as watchmen), which ended practically in favour of the employees, as the management promised that the workshops would not be patrolled during working hours.

(v) *Western Australia.* There were two disputes only of any magnitude in this State, viz., the waterside workers, referred to previously, and one in connexion with the State Saw-mill, Pemberton, over the dismissal of two employees. The men dismissed were not reinstated, but the dispute lasted sixteen days, causing a loss of 3,504 working days and £2,528 in wages.

(vi) *Tasmania.* Only six disputes occurred in this State during the year. The dispute at the works of the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Queenstown, represented 85 per cent. of the total loss involved. The cause of the trouble was the demand for a 44-hour week instead of one of 48 hours. The men were out for 25 days, but failed to gain the concession, after losing 13,050 working days and £7,800 in wages.

(vii) *Northern Territory.* The men employed on railway construction, Katherine, ceased work owing to the refusal of the engineer to reinstate a dismissed employee. The trouble was settled after 32 days by employing the man in another gang. The loss amounted to 4,952 working days and £4,543 in wages.

(viii) *Federal Capital Territory.* Only one dispute occurred in the Territory during the year, five building firms being concerned therein. The men demanded an agreement for wet and holiday pay, but resumed after a compromise by which some of the men received slight increases, the claim for wet and holiday pay being waived. The losses incurred by the employees were 1,900 working days and £2,137 in wages.

It is, of course, obvious that the mere number of disputes cannot by itself be accepted as a proper basis of comparison, nor does the number of workpeople afford a satisfactory basis. A better idea as to the significance and effect of industrial disputes may be obtained from the number of working days lost and the estimated loss in wages.

The position which New South Wales occupies in comparison with the other States is almost entirely due to the prevalence of disputes in connexion with coal-mining, and attention has frequently been drawn to the preponderating influence exercised by these disputes on the total number of industrial disputes. In making any comparison as to the number of disputes in this industrial class in each State, it should be observed that the number of workers engaged in the coal mining industry is very much larger in New South Wales than in any of the other States.

Apart from these stoppages, the number of disputes in all other industries, whilst still in excess of that for each of the other States, does not compare unfavourably if the number of workpeople in each State is taken into consideration.

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

6. Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1927.—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated amount of loss in wages respectively, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1927, classified under the adopted limits of duration:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1927.(a)

Limits of Duration.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			Number of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less	162	48,827	5,826	54,653	54,613	£ 64,895
2 days and more than 1 day	54	14,820	1,060	15,880	30,153	33,859
3 days and more than 2 days	42	12,718	2,236	14,954	41,903	44,822
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days)	41	10,370	1,175	11,545	52,708	57,751
1 week and less than 2 weeks	60	54,722	3,676	58,398	444,500	380,956
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	49	6,162	17,209	23,371	305,469	304,653
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	25	9,018	11,870	20,888	658,908	664,597
8 weeks and over	8	944	124	1,068	125,327	125,163
Total	441	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,713,581	1,676,696

(a) See footnote (a) on page 563.

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1926 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports of this Bureau.

7. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1914 to 1927.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the total number of working days lost in disputes during the years 1914 and 1922 to 1927, classified according to principal cause:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1927.

Causes of Dispute.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	50	15	35	44	33	23	24
(b) Against decrease ..	3	18	4	7	5	5	4
(c) Other wage questions ..	67	83	37	95	99	67	66
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	1	12	10	2	4	13	14
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	13	2	2	4	6	2	4
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	13	6	4	6	8	5	12
(b) Other union questions ..	11	15	11	31	27	22	24
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	83	155	68	137	118	108	152
5. Working Conditions ..	72	89	57	111	106	46	72
6. Sympathetic ..	3	8	9	8	16	8	5
7. Other Causes ..	21	42	37	59	77	61	64
Total ..	337	445	274	504	499	360	(a) 441

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	7,362	843	9,816	8,312	23,443	17,046	7,316
(b) Against decrease ..	534	4,432	174	1,113	1,123	1,275	300
(c) Other wage questions ..	15,243	24,459	8,696	30,585	31,387	18,883	20,297
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	220	5,935	6,488	1,328	462	9,730	7,813
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	3,237	124	485	1,172	2,668	290	288
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,807	1,072	473	1,005	1,592	125	4,432
(b) Other union questions ..	1,593	4,264	2,310	12,078	10,957	3,790	25,848
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	14,863	36,194	11,269	39,839	36,075	25,165	55,174
5. Working Conditions ..	17,053	27,334	15,605	36,630	35,034	12,889	29,766
6. Sympathetic ..	875	1,119	875	436	5,323	3,499	1,484
7. Other Causes ..	4,462	10,556	20,130	19,048	28,677	20,342	48,039
Total ..	71,049	116,332	76,321	152,446	176,746	113,634	200,757

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	90,451	8,694	64,493	120,317	209,356	580,183	150,691
(b) Against decrease ..	32,965	154,791	1,012	13,553	24,352	2,573	2,578
(c) Other wage questions ..	169,847	149,129	81,749	111,613	154,169	82,898	83,831
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	9,240	164,794	101,807	130,440	12,816	280,152	305,782
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	16,855	1,701	36,092	42,441	16,173	290	4,487
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	92,720	5,485	784	2,555	14,784	1,623	82,156
(b) Other union questions ..	6,968	18,976	17,743	40,046	105,195	15,607	204,802
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	64,367	198,256	63,094	253,779	214,738	114,017	310,425
5. Working Conditions ..	584,289	123,665	134,830	124,041	150,325	123,390	303,788
6. Sympathetic ..	2,125	9,438	6,357	926	41,046	38,381	3,573
7. Other Causes ..	11,568	23,756	638,016	78,935	185,616	70,247	261,468
Total ..	1,090,895	858,685	1,145,977	918,646	1,128,570	1,310,261	1,713,581

(a) See footnote (a), page 563.

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1914 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 1927 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" have increased during the last two years. "Sympthetic" disputes were not numerous during 1926 and 1927.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the number of working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the five years 1923 to 1927, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA,
1923 TO 1927.(a)

Year.	No. of Disputes.				Number of Workpeople Involved in Disputes.				Total Number of Working Days Lost by Disputes.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1923 ..	77	156	24	8	12,951	54,926	5,787	1,784	65,625	917,162	132,135	2,392
1924 ..	146	261	48	45	32,762	89,709	13,843	15,432	153,533	416,174	291,039	29,445
1925 ..	130	335	20	6	50,983	116,658	4,844	2,829	448,136	549,796	52,321	12,923
1926 ..	72	243	30	11	11,631	85,115	14,220	1,623	73,313	891,093	257,004	21,486
1927 a b	88	307	35	5	28,005	152,429	18,571	995	207,009	1,198,163	294,102	10,285

(a) See footnote (a), page 563.

(b) The following particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1927, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding table :—

State.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Establishments.	Workpeople Involved.	Working Days Lost.	Wages Lost.
New South Wales	4	4	576	2,970	£ 3,380
Queensland	1	1	21	252	250
Western Australia	1	1	160	800	960
Total	6	6	757	4,022	4,590

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and number of working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1914 and 1922 to 1927, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1927.(a)

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	247	249	140	264	209	166	229
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	11	52	25	20	24	18	18
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	7	7	4	11	12	8	13
By reference to Board or Court	17	7	2	7	2	10	19
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	5	5	2	12	13	13	19
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	16	11	5	5	4	8	5
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	4	6	1	2	1		10
By Other Methods	30	96	86	179	220	135	122
Total	337	433	265	500	491	356	(b)435

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	48,204	62,000	30,213	70,895	75,961	44,995	94,070
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	8,054	15,554	10,277	4,448	12,767	17,072	5,839
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	770	1,222	615	2,519	1,781	936	3,763
By reference to Board or Court	7,308	1,123	544	2,952	208	684	4,314
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	205	446	58	4,262	3,231	4,332	33,517
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	629	790	315	130	160	245	533
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	86	171	18	170	23		1,104
By Other Methods	5,793	30,971	33,403	66,370	81,153	44,325	56,860
Total	71,049	112,282	75,448	151,746	175,314	112,589	200,000

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	803,799	353,336	229,503	373,155	470,119	417,158	700,968
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	123,231	187,164	582,929	103,005	320,049	549,427	100,143
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4,256	16,016	25,531	41,900	17,659	11,281	80,815
By reference to Board or Court	120,685	13,767	8,484	142,939	4,338	8,744	60,236
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,421	8,081	473	74,376	67,272	134,341	305,303
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	4,402	11,759	2,517	3,040	1,163	2,865	9,706
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	3,646	603	18	1,250	1,932		30,289
By Other Methods	23,955	101,348	267,859	150,526	180,665	118,530	422,094
Total	1,090,395	692,074	1,117,314	890,191	1,063,176	1,242,896	1,709,559

(a) See footnote on page 563.

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

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA,
1914 TO 1927 (a)—continued.**

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	402,729	283,515	252,059	398,628	505,565	425,527	700,332
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	66,225	200,835	676,288	114,830	230,771	658,498	102,699
Under State Industrial Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,841	14,663	24,158	34,151	15,395	6,819	77,162
By reference to Board or Court	64,208	10,541	7,536	110,559	3,499	7,771	42,978
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	712	5,701	350	56,766	68,880	124,511	284,282
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	2,076	8,670	1,737	2,111	1,225	2,548	7,245
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	1,651	635	13	970	2,318	..	34,580
By Other Methods	11,786	92,308	279,104	167,149	206,775	134,805	422,828
Total	551,228	616,868	1,241,245	885,164	1,034,428	1,360,479	1,672,106

(a) See footnotes on previous page.

The majority of the disputes were settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled ranging between 47 per cent. in 1924 and 76 per cent. in 1921. Of the 435 disputes during 1927, 229 or 53 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 1927 was 12 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause for such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

§ 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. General.—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 400,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received,

percentage unemployment results based on the information supplied may be taken to show the general trend of unemployment. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT.—STATES, 1927.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales	103	190,195	13,356	7.0
Victoria	83	127,403	9,387	7.4
Queensland	43	48,491	2,877	5.9
South Australia	59	45,678	3,320	7.2
Western Australia	56	27,516	1,491	5.4
Tasmania	31	6,702	601	11.1
Australia	375	445,985	31,032	7.0

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

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1923	436	376,557	26,672	7.1
1924	413	397,613	35,507	8.9
1925	380	391,380	34,620	8.8
1926	374	415,397	29,326	7.1
1927	375	445,985	31,032	7.0
1927 1st Quarter	373	445,739	26,280	5.9
2nd "	387	455,133	29,217	6.4
3rd "	374	447,935	29,991	6.7
4th "	367	435,133	38,641	8.9

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

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (12.5) was reached in the second quarter of 1921.

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

therefore, shown separately for these groups, such returns as are available being included in the last group, "Other and Miscellaneous."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1927.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.]
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	18	31,471	1,337	4.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	59	76,248	4,331	5.7
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	47	31,973	2,746	8.6
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	21	40,619	1,715	4.3
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	12	18,589	335	1.8
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	64	39,662	4,567	11.3
VII. Building ..	41	49,708	3,730	7.4
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	33,179	4,034	12.1
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services ..	9	15,677	787	5.0
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous ..	83	108,859	7,450	6.8
All Groups ..	375	445,985	31,032	7.0

§ 3. Apprenticeship.

In Year Book No. 16, pp. 602-3, information was given with regard to legislation relating to the question of apprenticeship. Tables were included showing the periods of apprenticeship fixed in the awards of the various industrial tribunals of the States and Commonwealth, also the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and journeywomen. This information has been omitted from the present issue, but further investigations are being made, and additional and more comprehensive information will be incorporated in a later issue.

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 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, 150 industrial unions of employers and 152 industrial unions of employees, the membership of the latter being 325,505; Queensland, 5 industrial unions of employers with 8,665 members and 86 industrial unions of employees with approximately 154,606 members; South Australia, 20 organizations of employees with 32,073 members; Western Australia, 37 organizations

of employers with 1,069 members, and 127 organizations of employees with 45,593 members. 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 May, 1928, there were on the register 27 organizations of employers with 16,312 persons, firms or corporations affiliated; and 137 organizations of employees with 770,000 members.

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

(ii) *Number and Membership.* As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912, the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established, and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations, comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1927 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1927.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales	186	593	355,127
Victoria	149	408	247,618
Queensland	104	307	150,651
South Australia	106	104	79,771
Western Australia	130	168	60,586
Tasmania	81	61	16,734
Northern Territory	3	..	1,165
Total	759	1,641	911,652
Australia (a)	369 (a)	2,031 (b)	911,652

(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.

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 369 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,031 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 911,652 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, 1923 TO 1927.

Industrial Groups.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	18	18	18 (a)	18 (a)	18 (a)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	70	69	68 (21)	68 (22)	61 (23)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	64	65	65 (39)	65 (35)	63 (32)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	24	24	22 (10)	22 (9)	24 (11)
V. Books, Printing, etc.	14	14	14 (10)	14 (9)	13 (8)
VI. Other Manufacturing	79	78	78 (36)	77 (37)	80 (41)
VII. Building	52	51	51 (31)	51 (31)	49 (28)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	16	16	15 (12)	15 (12)	15 (12)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	51	51	50 (33)	51 (33)	51 (28)
X. Other Land Transport	14	13	13 (8)	13 (8)	13 (8)
XI. Shipping, etc.	94	91	56 (31)	54 (26)	54 (24)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	8	8	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	26	23	22 (16)	23 (16)	23 (19)
XIV. Miscellaneous	267	270	263 (128)	289 (127)	287 (128)
Total	797	791	743 382(a)	768 (372)a	759 (369)a
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	24,465	23,859	32,279	35,315	37,110
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	59,032	63,243	72,750	79,201	82,720
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	58,663	55,402	55,328	67,255	70,012
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	45,842	46,521	44,632	47,932	53,641
V. Books, Printing, etc.	16,249	15,856	16,532	18,592	19,214
VI. Other Manufacturing	38,554	40,376	41,689	44,605	47,671
VII. Building	46,231	51,819	55,314	53,881	57,234
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	37,063	40,996	44,403	46,014	49,179
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	89,405	90,365	108,037	114,899	121,300
X. Other Land Transport	16,386	17,785	18,219	20,844	22,137
XI. Shipping, etc.	38,006	37,823	39,309	40,594	42,702
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	36,584	46,081	48,157	54,173	60,394
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	20,713	22,861	24,251	25,760	28,313
XIV. Miscellaneous	172,550	171,168	191,824	202,413	220,025
Total	699,743	729,155	795,722	851,478	911,652

(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, 1923 to 1927. 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 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
MALES.					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over	1,149,530	1,175,749	1,200,592	1,240,914	1,267,636
No. of Members of Unions	608,820	640,774	699,399	745,681	798,131
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total	53.0	54.5	58.3	60.1	62.6
Number of Employees	213,065	217,925	222,530	230,003	234,044
Junior Workers (under 20)					
FEMALES.					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over	275,081	280,664	286,053	293,594	299,205
No. of Members of Unions	90,923	88,381	96,323	105,797	118,521
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total	33.1	31.5	33.7	36.0	39.6
Number of Employees	121,371	123,835	126,212	129,540	132,015
Junior Workers (under 20)					

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1927:—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1927.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions	16	13	14	20	44	107
Number of Members	21,828	42,912	104,965	193,221	377,433	740,359

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

It appears, therefore, that 107 out of the 369 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 107 unions totals 740,359, or 81 per cent. of the membership (911,652) 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 of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies.

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

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

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto in each State at the end of the year 1927:—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	4	2	8	2	1	25
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	98	192	81	65	223	47	3	709

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

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

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

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

§ 2. Employers' Associations.

1. **General.**—Recent investigations show that the spirit of 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.

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 1923 to 1927:—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—STATES, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1923	137	132	85	48	54	24	480
1924	127	135	80	49	53	25	469
1925	133	141	78	52	51	25	480
1926	136	143	72	52	50	25	478
1927	141	136	77	52	52	27	485
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
1923	102	49	54	..	12	8	225
1924	79	41	70	..	12	8	210
1925	480	621	194	1	17	2	1,315
1926	464	617	183	..	16	..	1,280
1927	825	483	109	..	281	1	1,699
MEMBERSHIP.							
1923	27,027	19,813	12,918	5,101	2,477	2,751	70,087
1924	28,667	21,095	17,060	5,746	2,646	2,716	77,930
1925	38,931	34,274	17,831	6,346	3,369	2,599	103,350
1926	42,666	32,386	21,113	6,572	8,356	2,481	113,574
1927	53,715	31,629	18,381	6,361	10,190	2,464	122,740

The decrease in 1924 in the number of associations is partly explained by the exclusion of certain associations which had been found to be not strictly employers' associations, while, in some cases, associations had become either inactive or defunct. On the other hand, the inclusion of additional associations accounted for the increased membership.

The large increase shown for "Number of Branches" for the years 1925 and 1927 is wholly 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.

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.

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1926 and 1927.

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS—AUSTRALIA, 1926 AND 1927.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	18	18½	3	3	1,469	1,608
II. Engineering, etc. ..	14	15½	..	1	3,485	3,425
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	93	101½	53	64	16,449	18,396
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	19	19½	3	2	2,003	2,386
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	34	35	..	2	3,285	3,266
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	51	51	5	1	3,013	3,031
VII. Building ..	26	27	14	19	3,068	3,538
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	13	13	..	..	304	260
X. Other Land Transport ..	18	18	1	24	3,459	2,804
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	17	14	2	2	240	205
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	39	37	1,195	1,575	57,982	65,055
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	17	18	..	..	1,695	1,562
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	119	119	4	6	17,122	17,206
Total ..	478	485	1,280	1,699	113,574	122,740

The female membership of these associations was 3,758 for 1926, and 2,186 for 1927.

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 in 1923 to 1927 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
NO. OF ASSOCIATIONS.						
1923	4	4	4	5	12	29
1924	2	6	6	11	9	34
1925	3	5	4	10	8	30
1926	4	3	5	8	8	28
1927	4	1	4	9	14	32
NO. OF MEMBERS.						
1923	679	2,028	465	16,521	26,832	46,525
1924	427	595	829	29,612	26,523	57,986
1925	3,899	535	634	20,549	25,778	51,395
1926	534	432	1,861	24,118	25,950	52,895
1927	352	315	1,655	40,548	37,654	80,524

The above table shows that associations having 66 per cent. of the total membership (122,740) of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.