

CHAPTER XXIV.—LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

A.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

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

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

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE.

(Base 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Com- modities together.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1904 ..	821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875	890
1905 ..	772	850	894	980	942	1,209	801	859	910
1906 ..	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907 ..	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908 ..	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909 ..	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910 ..	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,086
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,303	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	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,596
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428
1932 ..	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411

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

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

3. Revision of the Index.—Changes that have taken place since 1912 have altered considerably the relative consumption of different commodities. New commodities which should be taken into account have come into use, and in a number of other respects, the index-number requires revision. It is, moreover, desirable to give index-numbers for different classes of commodities, for farm products and for manufactured goods, and again for imported commodities and for those produced in Australia. Revision on these lines is now proceeding, and results will be ready for publication in the course of the year 1934.

§ 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

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

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

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

Index-numbers are computed monthly for five representative towns in each State (the "30 towns"), for Canberra, and for a few other special towns (see para. 5). Index-numbers are computed annually in November for 200 towns, including those referred to above (see § 4, following).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	1,021	1,090	984	876	852
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,004	913	791	758
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	935	951	844	778	738
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	993	1,055	937	789	761
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	1,053	1,084	961	836	804
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	966	1,025	952	816	797
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	985	1,044	941	826	796

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii) *Housing*. In issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 19, the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under four rooms to seven rooms and over. Since 1920, houses of four and five rooms only have been taken into account in accordance with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians at Adelaide in 1924. The following table is on this basis, but the old index is still computed for the use of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court (see *Appendix*).

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Sydney	593	701	760	989	1,143	1,162	1,197	1,026	894
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	1,087	1,094	1,011	867	816
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	839	841	775	680	641
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	1,022	986	916	755	691
Perth	458	524	589	739	941	955	979	881	810
Hobart	405	452	518	881	939	932	914	901	868
Weighted Average (b) ..	497	612	662	862	1,066	1,073	1,047	901	817

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

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	1,064	1,115	1,059	929	867
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	993	1,036	948	818	778
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	901	912	819	743	704
Adelaide	524	618	671	925	1,003	1,030	929	777	736
Perth	594	672	679	982	1,013	1,030	968	852	805
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	956	992	939	846	822
Weighted Average (b) ..	520	578	648	992	1,014	1,054	978	852	803

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

4. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—The tables previously given are now converted into money units by substituting 20s. od. for the base of 1,000. The figures for the last six quarters are added to the yearly figures. The figures show the sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such quantities of the several commodities and such housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in the five-yearly base period—1923-1927.

RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1932 TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD HAVE COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN THE FIVE-YEARLY BASE PERIOD—1923-1927, IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.

Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	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	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1914	12 11	12 2	12 1	13 7	14 7	13 7	12 10
1921	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1928	20 5	18 10	18 8	19 10	21 1	19 4	19 8
1929	21 10	20 1	19 0	21 1	21 8	20 6	20 11
1930	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10
1931	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1932	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1932 { 1st Quarter..	17 5	15 9	15 3	15 9	16 6	16 3	16 5
2nd " ..	17 3	15 5	14 11	15 7	16 8	16 3	16 2
3rd " ..	17 0	15 1	14 7	15 1	15 11	15 9	15 10
4th " ..	16 7	14 5	14 4	14 5	15 2	15 6	15 4
1933 { 1st Quarter..	15 11	13 9	13 10	14 3	14 9	14 9	14 9
2nd " ..	16 0	14 1	13 11	14 7	15 6	15 0	15 0
HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (WEIGHTED AVERAGE—4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).							
	<i>s. d.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1907	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1914	15 2	12 7	9 4	13 1	11 9	10 4	13 3
1921	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1928	22 10	21 9	16 9	20 5	18 10	18 9	21 4
1929	23 3	21 11	16 10	19 9	19 1	18 8	21 6
1930	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1932	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1932 { 1st Quarter..	18 3	16 7	13 0	13 11	16 4	17 3	16 7
2nd " ..	18 1	16 5	12 11	13 11	16 3	17 7	16 5
3rd " ..	17 8	16 3	12 9	13 9	16 2	17 5	16 3
4th " ..	17 6	16 1	12 9	13 8	16 0	17 3	16 1
1933 { 1st Quarter..	17 6	16 1	13 2	13 10	15 11	17 1	16 1
2nd " ..	17 3	16 0	13 11	13 10	15 11	17 2	16 1
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY) COMBINED.							
	<i>s. d.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1907	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1914	13 9	12 4	11 1	13 5	13 7	12 5	13 0
1921	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1928	21 3	19 10	18 0	20 1	20 3	19 1	20 3
1929	22 4	20 9	18 3	20 7	20 9	19 10	21 1
1930	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1932	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1932 { 1st Quarter..	17 8	16 0	14 5	15 1	16 6	16 7	16 6
2nd " ..	17 6	15 9	14 2	15 1	16 6	16 8	16 3
3rd " ..	17 3	15 6	13 11	14 7	16 0	16 4	16 0
4th " ..	16 11	15 0	13 9	14 1	15 5	16 1	15 7
1933 { 1st Quarter..	16 5	14 7	13 7	14 1	15 1	15 6	15 2
2nd " ..	16 5	14 8	13 10	14 4	15 7	15 9	15 4

5. Food and Housing, Thirty Towns.—The following table shows the food and housing index-numbers for five representative towns (not necessarily the largest) in each State for the years 1930 to 1932. It shows also the amount of each index-number which is due to food and the amount due to housing.

INDEX-NUMBERS, 30 TOWNS, SHOWING RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD AND GROCERIES AND ON HOUSING (ALL HOUSES) SEPARATELY, AND ON THESE ITEMS COMBINED. BASIS OF TABLE—WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (ALL HOUSES) IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES IN 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1930.			1931.			1932.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing. (All Houses).	Food, Groceries and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing. (All Houses).	Food, Groceries and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing. (All Houses).	Food, Groceries and Housing.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,036	756	1,792	923	673	1,596	897	611	1,508
Newcastle	1,025	629	1,654	914	561	1,475	881	497	1,378
Broken Hill	1,245	416	1,661	1,064	401	1,465	1,003	366	1,369
Goulburn	1,029	729	1,758	888	618	1,506	872	570	1,442
Bathurst	1,015	538	1,553	902	513	1,415	861	456	1,317
Weighted Average ..	1,040	735	1,775	925	655	1,580	898	593	1,491
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	961	711	1,672	833	615	1,448	798	580	1,378
Ballarat	1,003	535	1,538	858	506	1,364	807	507	1,314
Bendigo	1,009	517	1,526	868	459	1,327	819	442	1,261
Geelong	957	628	1,585	823	598	1,421	819	505	1,384
Warrnambool	982	612	1,594	853	593	1,446	842	583	1,425
Weighted Average ..	965	693	1,658	835	604	1,439	799	572	1,371
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	888	553	1,441	820	495	1,315	776	482	1,258
Toowoomba	891	512	1,403	804	473	1,277	766	476	1,242
Rockhampton	961	507	1,468	888	457	1,345	851	428	1,279
Charters Towers	1,018	391	1,409	950	344	1,294	923	321	1,244
Warwick	924	458	1,382	841	441	1,282	811	422	1,233
Weighted Average ..	900	538	1,438	830	483	1,313	789	469	1,258
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	986	607	1,593	831	510	1,341	800	466	1,266
Kadina, &c.	1,091	269	1,360	915	253	1,168	892	251	1,143
Port Pirie	1,073	437	1,510	899	422	1,321	860	397	1,257
Mount Gambier	973	367	1,340	815	366	1,181	812	377	1,189
Peterborough	1,099	510	1,609	910	462	1,372	858	447	1,305
Weighted Average ..	994	583	1,577	837	494	1,331	807	453	1,260
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth, &c.	1,012	579	1,591	880	536	1,416	845	484	1,329
Kalgoorlie, &c.	1,198	302	1,500	1,047	342	1,389	1,025	421	1,446
Norham	1,097	456	1,553	930	425	1,355	898	415	1,313
Bunbury	1,126	385	1,511	933	385	1,318	874	378	1,252
Geraldton	1,110	478	1,588	967	495	1,462	906	474	1,380
Weighted Average ..	1,038	541	1,579	901	510	1,411	868	473	1,341
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,002	645	1,647	859	613	1,472	839	598	1,437
Launceston	987	574	1,561	855	561	1,416	819	544	1,363
Burnie	1,055	501	1,556	889	469	1,358	873	461	1,334
Devonport	988	521	1,509	870	504	1,374	865	495	1,360
Queenstown	1,124	325	1,449	984	345	1,329	952	373	1,325
Weighted Average ..	1,004	602	1,606	864	578	1,442	839	565	1,404
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	996	669	1,665	874	593	1,467	842	551	1,393
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities	990	693	1,683	870	609	1,479	838	565	1,403

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. **Variations in Cost in the Capital Cities.**—The following table gives the combined index (sometimes called the "all-items" index) for all household expenditure, for the capital cities of the States.

INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.

(NOTE.—Weighted average cost in the five-yearly period—1923–1927—for all items in the six capital cities taken as base = 1,000.)

Cities.	November.		Year.						1st Quarter 1933.
	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	
Sydney	712	1,046	1,029	1,042	1,073	1,026	922	867	833
Melbourne	671	1,003	990	992	1,017	956	846	813	780
Brisbane	611	923	922	917	923	859	793	764	747
Adelaide	699	989	1,018	1,027	1,037	952	837	802	781
Perth	707	1,008	984	1,012	1,026	977	885	840	805
Hobart	687	1,070	998	980	1,000	956	875	844	817
Weighted Average	687	1,013	1,002	1,009	1,033	975	873	830	800

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

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

2. **Detailed Results, 1930 to 1932.**—The base of the table is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911, and is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the element of rent in the base itself differs from that contained in this table, but the index-numbers are comparable throughout.

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

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. 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.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Albury	930	1,536	1,653	873	1,343	1,461	811	1,290	1,340
Armidale	937	1,375	1,463	885	1,290	1,363	854	1,212	1,295
Ballina	1,000	1,395	1,527	880	1,226	1,364	870	1,227	1,339
Bathurst	930	1,339	1,446	879	1,213	1,300	826	1,174	1,234
Bega	957	1,313	1,431	954	1,322	1,427	890	1,241	1,311
Berry	973	1,302	1,394	899	1,215	1,288	893	1,209	1,282
Blackheath	1,036	1,463	1,582	943	1,321	1,425	869	1,238	1,340
Bourke	1,089	1,418	1,484	1,018	1,360	1,478	878	1,230	1,338
Bowral	991	1,478	1,636	938	1,320	1,431	872	1,247	1,333
Broken Hill	1,169	1,551	1,671	1,031	1,339	1,459	938	1,257	1,385
Casino	916	1,443	1,574	888	1,327	1,414	832	1,240	1,358
Cessnock	935	1,307	1,420	874	1,179	1,254	817	1,120	1,202
Cobar	1,119	1,332	1,386	1,008	1,224	1,293	944	1,160	1,249
Cooma	1,053	1,382	1,571	1,026	1,335	1,473	957	1,230	1,401
Coonamble	1,033	1,388	1,523	984	1,302	1,408	895	1,175	1,269
Cootamundra	942	1,446	1,615	900	1,383	1,510	846	1,289	1,369
Corrimal	974	1,459	1,510	929	1,350	1,447	863	1,262	1,324
Cowra	899	1,347	1,504	889	1,262	1,362	851	1,191	1,306
Cronulla	1,060	1,601	1,740	934	1,390	1,480	896	1,327	1,422
Deniliquin	1,053	1,516	1,667	893	1,274	1,380	846	1,181	1,278

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. November.		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<i>New South Wales—cont.—</i>									
Annand.									
Dubbo	913	1,604	1,673	868	1,441	1,549	755	1,258	1,380
Forbes	918	1,472	1,632	879	1,391	1,439	851	1,309	1,393
Glennbra	979	1,321	1,436	912	1,223	1,295	838	1,134	1,200
Glennbra	881	1,392	1,437	877	1,243	1,366	814	1,176	1,274
Goulburn	944	1,491	1,582	852	1,288	1,355	856	1,297	1,344
Grafton	876	1,404	1,574	873	1,394	1,461	806	1,234	1,378
Grafton	961	1,395	1,553	918	1,326	1,438	806	1,234	1,336
Griffith	1,083	2,021	2,251	1,011	1,867	1,998	896	1,692	1,883
Gulgong	982	1,691	1,778	893	1,169	1,241	836	1,134	1,225
Gunnedah	897	1,349	1,401	861	1,246	1,336	799	1,159	1,283
Hay	1,026	1,420	1,618	966	1,297	1,439	938	1,270	1,416
Inverell	930	1,522	1,532	943	1,351	1,463	871	1,309	1,410
Junee	963	1,587	1,687	943	1,495	1,584	832	1,316	1,441
Katoomba	1,048	1,691	1,778	984	1,537	1,641	873	1,429	1,512
Kempsey	837	1,226	1,403	866	1,227	1,361	829	1,182	1,306
Kiama	1,027	1,373	1,601	983	1,279	1,509	892	1,182	1,333
Kurri Kurri	978	1,372	1,442	884	1,176	1,273	811	1,102	1,177
Leeton	1,018	1,724	1,788	965	1,571	1,656	909	1,496	1,643
Lismore	959	1,485	1,691	877	1,282	1,433	831	1,247	1,393
Lithgow	981	1,412	1,506	898	1,247	1,289	858	1,186	1,225
Maitland	919	1,331	1,441	870	1,201	1,315	808	1,141	1,240
Moree	1,004	1,596	1,793	977	1,515	1,573	941	1,407	1,551
Moss Vale	959	1,446	1,584	894	1,250	1,399	844	1,187	1,339
Mudgee	898	1,434	1,490	888	1,305	1,415	803	1,197	1,303
Narrabri	1,009	1,486	1,607	920	1,369	1,395	868	1,238	1,334
Narranderra	1,053	1,580	1,744	1,010	1,486	1,598	916	1,376	1,486
Newcastle	956	1,453	1,602	889	1,277	1,388	852	1,230	1,348
Nowra	1,019	1,571	1,671	972	1,323	1,440	912	1,246	1,387
Orange	960	1,503	1,656	892	1,303	1,407	792	1,192	1,297
Parkes	916.	1,436	1,549	903	1,284	1,386	855	1,239	1,333
Pearlith	926	1,334	1,456	851	1,179	1,269	820	1,119	1,221
Port Kembla	1,023	1,549	1,688	952	1,335	1,478	850	1,207	1,340
Portland	1,024	1,418	1,484	941	1,204	1,270	830	1,114	1,179
Queanbeyan	986	1,432	1,525	950	1,303	1,476	883	1,135	1,242
Quirindi	1,046	1,352	1,590	984	1,258	1,450	883	1,157	1,283
Richmond	944	1,415	1,519	847	1,253	1,329	844	1,239	1,305
Seone	941	1,472	1,533	943	1,321	1,408	846	1,274	1,350
Singamon	976	1,419	1,508	913	1,282	1,370	846	1,250	1,322
Sydney	880	1,357	1,082	813	1,375	1,447	876	1,307	1,395
Tamworth	889	1,350	1,474	848	1,251	1,357	809	1,169	1,238
Taree	860	1,369	1,625	924	1,393	1,475	841	1,283	1,393
Temora	1,003	1,338	1,603	934	1,428	1,532	856	1,343	1,444
Teraterahid	934	1,405	1,494	828	1,420	1,572	825	1,166	1,244
Tumby	938	1,495	1,496	926	1,420	1,452	848	1,307	1,439
Uthmanya	973	1,447	1,565	939	1,378	1,465	894	1,355	1,481
Wagga Wagga	937	1,627	1,702	868	1,424	1,560	823	1,315	1,443
Walcatta	966	1,392	1,488	921	1,250	1,379	867	1,198	1,295
Wallington	945	1,274	1,379	900	1,220	1,308	815	1,114	1,203
Wentworth	957	1,337	1,425	868	1,159	1,257	811	1,103	1,185
Windsor	941	1,391	1,583	881	1,341	1,440	855	1,282	1,381
Woolongong	985	1,598	1,640	928	1,376	1,457	799	1,241	1,336
Wyralong	907	1,339	1,425	892	1,205	1,260	846	1,156	1,227
Yass	1,032	1,593	1,602	912	1,306	1,394	826	1,187	1,282
Young	1,008	1,556	1,666	908	1,350	1,457	852	1,313	1,376
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns)	978	1,513	1,652	912	1,334	1,453	861	1,286	1,370

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. 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—									
Ararat	969	1,360	1,535	871	1,216	1,378	813	1,142	1,302
Bacchus Marsh	980	1,421	1,559	887	1,316	1,423	773	1,108	1,260
Bairnsdale	984	1,350	1,544	912	1,209	1,401	860	1,135	1,289
Ballarat	923	1,213	1,407	834	1,095	1,279	769	1,064	1,213
Beechworth	990	1,287	1,352	923	1,219	1,285	867	1,163	1,229
Benalla	935	1,305	1,385	859	1,242	1,366	836	1,189	1,290
Bendigo	908	1,241	1,383	853	1,149	1,268	786	1,097	1,206
Camperdown	1,017	1,435	1,593	891	1,286	1,424	806	1,217	1,319
Casterton	936	1,265	1,462	880	1,235	1,340	847	1,209	1,288
Castlemaine	941	1,170	1,342	867	1,120	1,228	801	1,073	1,157
Colac	912	1,481	1,576	851	1,318	1,453	803	1,237	1,367
Creswick	930	1,128	1,141	842	974	1,000	827	958	985
Daylesford	938	1,218	1,279	831	1,087	1,175	811	1,021	1,119
Dunolly	920	1,081	1,150	854	1,002	1,058	812	973	1,013
Echuca	934	1,294	1,460	843	1,189	1,294	779	1,079	1,199
Euroa	1,023	1,354	1,508	850	1,416	1,238	828	1,161	1,237
Geelong	903	1,305	1,448	813	1,181	1,368	783	1,140	1,307
Hamilton	1,038	1,511	1,596	864	1,287	1,410	840	1,255	1,376
Healesville	942	1,245	1,327	822	1,105	1,194	799	1,089	1,141
Horsham	948	1,395	1,611	875	1,265	1,401	849	1,176	1,308
Kerang	969	1,495	1,627	842	1,306	1,434	807	1,201	1,267
Koroit	937	1,213	1,279	880	1,143	1,209	851	1,114	1,180
Korumburra	899	1,376	1,508	855	1,223	1,364	778	1,099	1,242
Kyneton	947	1,341	1,447	847	1,163	1,294	780	1,069	1,194
Lilydale	970	1,383	1,484	874	1,240	1,361	833	1,183	1,280
Maffra	959	1,520	1,670	851	1,240	1,323	812	1,185	1,259
Maldon	961	1,093	1,145	888	1,019	1,072	833	945	998
Maryborough	921	1,264	1,359	847	1,123	1,222	775	1,006	1,101
Melbourne	895	1,380	1,518	812	1,246	1,360	754	1,160	1,282
Mildura	1,000	1,584	1,804	915	1,458	1,652	879	1,398	1,526
Morwell	964	1,455	1,567	858	1,279	1,371	802	1,237	1,296
Nhill	971	1,366	1,557	884	1,213	1,345	866	1,166	1,307
Orbost	989	1,371	1,575	917	1,272	1,373	874	1,229	1,331
Portland	967	1,305	1,434	886	1,217	1,325	833	1,169	1,241
Port Fairy	948	1,211	1,333	895	1,154	1,270	849	1,108	1,224
St. Arnaud	1,038	1,357	1,538	896	1,225	1,357	869	1,212	1,290
Sale	960	1,260	1,507	867	1,217	1,355	802	1,121	1,256
Seymour	960	1,371	1,479	915	1,247	1,375	873	1,202	1,301
Shepparton	960	1,502	1,659	856	1,266	1,432	792	1,186	1,313
Stawell	993	1,305	1,414	900	1,199	1,314	865	1,142	1,244
Swan Hill	937	1,521	1,792	845	1,371	1,592	812	1,338	1,536
Terang	984	1,340	1,537	937	1,304	1,439	876	1,200	1,338
Traralgon	931	1,322	1,483	842	1,197	1,367	780	1,153	1,277
Wangaratta	967	1,461	1,592	854	1,316	1,418	814	1,268	1,380
Warracknabeal	947	1,332	1,495	875	1,220	1,362	827	1,130	1,251
Warragul	922	1,428	1,633	830	1,344	1,513	760	1,286	1,454
Warrnambool	928	1,363	1,526	850	1,259	1,429	812	1,207	1,369
Wonthaggi	922	1,323	1,442	842	1,232	1,359	773	1,155	1,227
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns)	905	1,366	1,507	822	1,235	1,356	765	1,156	1,279

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. 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
QUEENSLAND—									
Ayr	996	1,404	1,522	967	1,423	1,481	873	1,317	1,439
Barcardine	1,062	1,447	1,569	1,078	1,447	1,543	911	1,283	1,346
Bowen	1,002	1,355	1,490	982	1,344	1,432	932	1,283	1,384
Brisbane	818	1,164	1,281	815	1,125	1,235	748	1,050	1,151
Bundaberg	877	1,203	1,298	875	1,167	1,212	817	1,105	1,160
Cairns	947	1,483	1,698	937	1,421	1,574	888	1,360	1,575
Charleville	1,005	1,487	1,742	968	1,435	1,626	904	1,326	1,474
Charters Towers	945	1,311	1,360	937	1,222	1,286	900	1,137	1,232
Chillagoe	1,168	1,379	1,431	1,194	1,392	1,451	1,126	1,330	1,383
Cloncurry	1,141	1,540	1,658	1,059	1,469	1,591	1,045	1,462	1,624
Cooktown	1,169	1,367	1,452	1,050	1,247	1,313	972	1,170	1,236
Cunnamulla	1,054	1,501	1,580	982	1,399	1,464	911	1,306	1,393
Dalby	872	1,227	1,464	872	1,240	1,370	799	1,161	1,263
Gayndah	960	1,262	1,361	971	1,287	1,373	859	1,135	1,241
Gladstone	948	1,245	1,369	878	1,192	1,289	837	1,151	1,247
Goondwindi	990	1,385	1,425	938	1,333	1,373	863	1,258	1,324
Gympie	886	1,234	1,362	878	1,185	1,269	790	1,117	1,212
Hughenden	1,082	1,516	1,595	1,069	1,494	1,595	979	1,374	1,486
Innisfail	1,017	1,544	1,708	990	1,576	1,681	969	1,525	1,680
Ipswich	855	1,159	1,246	838	1,094	1,183	769	980	1,110
Longreach	1,066	1,371	1,607	1,092	1,408	1,566	962	1,282	1,405
Mackay	956	1,412	1,547	951	1,368	1,478	850	1,222	1,331
Maryborough	876	1,238	1,428	887	1,216	1,347	815	1,144	1,254
Mount Morgan	970	1,102	1,168	963	1,128	1,161	877	1,044	1,092
Nambour	923	1,289	1,406	911	1,240	1,319	794	1,092	1,200
Rockhampton	886	1,195	1,310	892	1,178	1,261	816	1,120	1,162
Roma	941	1,321	1,461	922	1,253	1,373	850	1,179	1,298
Stanthorpe	935	1,369	1,461	901	1,335	1,454	879	1,281	1,359
Toowoomba	835	1,112	1,297	791	1,102	1,173	734	1,103	1,133
Townsville	917	1,372	1,456	984	1,399	1,460	868	1,283	1,358
Warwick	856	1,185	1,262	827	1,156	1,222	788	1,095	1,153
Winton	1,064	1,380	1,498	1,063	1,374	1,503	1,010	1,306	1,438
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns)	863	1,211	1,330	859	1,178	1,276	790	1,102	1,196
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	894	1,323	1,443	793	1,152	1,274	754	1,079	1,227
Freeling	892	1,207	1,319	832	1,095	1,161	773	1,036	1,102
Gawler	882	1,177	1,264	831	1,114	1,182	782	1,053	1,134
Kadina, etc.	998	1,186	1,226	879	1,068	1,112	840	1,024	1,091
Kapunda	937	1,147	1,182	813	1,008	1,080	803	1,031	1,092
Kooringa	959	1,275	1,354	891	1,194	1,251	851	1,084	1,180
Millicent	875	1,279	1,358	842	1,207	1,280	801	1,087	1,200
Mount Gambier	902	1,160	1,281	802	1,047	1,192	783	1,045	1,174
Murray Bridge	899	1,250	1,340	791	1,054	1,153	723	976	1,055
Peterborough	977	1,389	1,461	872	1,188	1,329	808	1,155	1,256
Port Augusta	1,086	1,503	1,583	941	1,278	1,298	883	1,185	1,311
Port Pirie	986	1,361	1,490	862	1,207	1,310	802	1,122	1,231
Quorn	1,005	1,294	1,378	871	1,156	1,210	828	1,111	1,173
Renmark	1,116	1,577	1,752	951	1,345	1,477	946	1,341	1,472
Victor Harbour	925	1,479	1,626	869	1,329	1,467	825	1,273	1,418
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns)	907	1,317	1,431	805	1,150	1,266	765	1,081	1,219

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. 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
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Albany	983	1,337	1,409	961	1,289	1,349	858	1,179	1,213
Beverley	987	1,307	1,382	921	1,256	1,342	910	1,239	1,348
Bridgetown	1,072	1,427	1,516	1,042	1,359	1,437	905	1,234	1,332
Broome	1,325	1,801	1,983	1,276	1,752	1,934	1,243	1,704	1,901
Bunbury	995	1,416	1,502	881	1,300	1,341	852	1,267	1,330
Carnarvon	1,188	1,683	1,774	1,117	1,606	1,670	1,062	1,511	1,605
Collie	999	1,462	1,568	906	1,277	1,375	825	1,189	1,285
Geraldton	969	1,541	1,700	951	1,462	1,629	838	1,347	1,480
Greenbushes	1,046	1,250	1,342	1,020	1,197	1,243	958	1,123	1,156
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,080	1,398	1,493	1,038	1,475	1,509	997	1,453	1,554
Katanning	929	1,323	1,494	891	1,252	1,391	846	1,200	1,324
Leonora and Gwalia	1,247	1,444	1,510	1,135	1,398	1,464	1,079	1,343	1,395
Meekatharra	1,229	1,466	1,624	1,098	1,467	1,592	1,102	1,562	1,760
Narrogin	943	1,401	1,601	884	1,315	1,421	862	1,326	1,401
Northam	987	1,434	1,571	907	1,341	1,453	852	1,251	1,379
Perth and Fremantle	902	1,363	1,502	839	1,259	1,358	800	1,202	1,296
Wagin	1,007	1,434	1,464	970	1,282	1,367	914	1,169	1,243
York	940	1,275	1,377	864	1,193	1,272	817	1,146	1,225
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns)	937	1,378	1,508	875	1,292	1,384	832	1,235	1,330
TASMANIA—									
Beaconsfield	919	997	1,050	871	977	1,003	795	914	953
Burnie	994	1,355	1,489	881	1,267	1,348	843	1,212	1,299
Campbelltown	971	1,183	1,238	884	1,116	1,151	855	1,091	1,151
Deloraine	881	1,213	1,276	823	1,113	1,218	820	1,143	1,222
Devonport	935	1,379	1,402	844	1,265	1,329	833	1,251	1,307
Franklin	950	1,187	1,239	952	1,162	1,215	900	1,137	1,229
Hobart	932	1,390	1,557	834	1,281	1,419	809	1,251	1,379
Launceston	911	1,308	1,474	826	1,212	1,359	789	1,181	1,290
New Norfolk	923	1,292	1,318	832	1,148	1,214	856	1,171	1,224
Queenstown	1,068	1,387	1,444	961	1,288	1,369	942	1,304	1,393
Scottsdale	913	1,209	1,286	787	1,090	1,151	808	1,071	1,163
Ulverstone	883	1,217	1,348	841	1,150	1,269	866	1,142	1,228
Zeehan	1,103	1,301	1,334	1,002	1,200	1,233	994	1,192	1,225
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns)	935	1,349	1,492	843	1,246	1,371	817	1,220	1,330
TERRITORIES(a)—									
Canberra	1,057	2,037	2,163	963	1,528	1,638	899	1,459	1,573
Weighted Averages—									
Australia (200 Towns) ..	932	1,400	1,535	864	1,271	1,378	811	1,200	1,304
Thirty Towns	926	1,403	1,540	855	1,269	1,377	805	1,199	1,304
Six Capitals	922	1,414	1,551	851	1,276	1,383	800	1,202	1,307

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B or C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus for November, 1932, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 754. Subtracting this from 1,160 (column B) gives a difference of 406, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,282 (column C) gives a difference of 528, 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.

B.—WAGES.

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

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

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1928 to 1932 :—

AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

State.	1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.								
New South Wales	93	36	55	27	31	16	46	40	38	25
Victoria	73	..	46	..	83	..	204	..	103	..
Queensland	34	27	21	16	14	44	48	28	21	4
South Australia	14	4	13	9	17	1	64	15	18	8
Western Australia	19	28	15	29	8	38	7	10	5	4
Tasmania	10	3	4	..	20	1	31	3	11	3
Commonwealth Court	40	30	29	26	17	10	11	16	21	9
Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator	6	..	4	..	5	..	1	..	1	..
Total	289	128	187	109	185	110	412	112	218	53

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

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards which had made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913 ..	505	387(b)	575(c)	401
31st December, 1915 ..	573	498	663	546
31st December, 1920 ..	475	440	1,041	972
31st December, 1925 ..	575	524	1,181	607
31st December, 1930 ..	644	582	1,285	601
31st December, 1931 ..	651	583	1,317	614
31st December, 1932 ..	657	591	1,337	625

(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 1932, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements* in force had increased by 762 and 224 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

* 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.

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

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913, AND 1932.

Particulars.	At 31st Dec.	Commonwealth.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
		Court.	Pub-Ser. Arb.							
<i>Industrial and Wages—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1932 .. ..	..	..	(a) 319	187	2	76	19	54	657
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1932 .. ..	..	..	(b) 279	176	2	66	17	51	591
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913	17	..	265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1932	159	43	490	176	267	72	79	51	1,337
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1932	141	..	140	..	131	33	173	7	625
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1932 .. ..	..	..	96	110	31	82	31	65	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1932 .. ..	..	..	37	66	19	25	14	34	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	1932 .. ..	..	..	38	36	30	32	29	29	..

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act, (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and at the end of 1932, 263 Committees were in force.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

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

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

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

2. **Weekly Rates of Wage, 1928 to 1932.**—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to is taken for each industrial group. These averages are weighted in accordance with census results to give the average of all occupations for the States and for Australia.

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

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

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

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

RATES OF WAGE.

	<i>s. d.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1928 ..	102 7	99 8	101 2	96 2	99 6	93 3	100 5
31st December, 1929 ..	102 11	101 1	101 2	97 2	100 7	94 8	101 2
31st December, 1930 ..	99 1	96 11	92 5	92 8	99 7	92 1	96 9
31st December, 1931 ..	93 5	82 2	89 0	75 0	84 1	79 9	86 10
31st March, 1932 ..	92 9	81 2	88 11	74 1	83 4	79 0	86 1
30th June, 1932 ..	92 6	80 7	88 8	73 8	82 7	78 9	85 8
30th September, 1932 ..	85 4	78 8	88 8	73 6	82 7	78 7	82 5
31st December, 1932 ..	84 11	77 10	88 5	72 7	81 9	78 1	81 10

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1928 ..	2,001	1,944	1,974	1,877	1,941	1,820	1,959
31st December, 1929 ..	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974
31st December, 1930 ..	1,933	1,891	1,803	1,807	1,943	1,797	1,887
31st December, 1931 ..	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
31st March, 1932 ..	1,809	1,583	1,734	1,446	1,627	1,541	1,680
30th June, 1932 ..	1,804	1,573	1,731	1,438	1,612	1,536	1,672
30th September, 1932 ..	1,664	1,535	1,731	1,434	1,611	1,532	1,608
31st December, 1932 ..	1,657	1,518	1,726	1,416	1,595	1,523	1,597

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1932, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. The average rates of wage declined rapidly during 1931, the results at the end of each quarter in all States showing lower average rates than those for the previous quarter. The weighted average nominal rate of wage for Australia at the end of the year was 81s. 10d., as compared with 86s. 10d. at 31st December, 1931, a reduction of 5s. per week. The greatest fall occurred in New South Wales where the average wage declined 8s. 6d. per week. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the third quarter of 1929 when the average wage was 101s. 5d. per week.

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

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

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

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—								
	31st Dec., 1928.	31st Dec., 1929.	31st Dec., 1930.	31st Dec., 1931.	31st March, 1932.	30th June, 1932.	30th Sept., 1932.	31st Dec., 1932.	
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 103/11	s. d. 104/10	s. d. 100/3	s. d. 85/7	s. d. 84/11	s. d. 84/7	s. d. 83/10	s. d. 83/4
	Index-No.	2,028	2,046	1,956	1,669	1,657	1,650	1,636	1,627
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage ..	102/1	103/6	99/1	86/3	85/11	85/11	82/7	81/6
	Index-No.	1,993	2,019	1,933	1,683	1,677	1,677	1,612	1,589
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage ..	99/9	100/10	97/1	88/6	88/0	87/11	84/7	84/2
	Index-No.	1,947	1,967	1,894	1,727	1,717	1,716	1,650	1,642
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage ..	99/4	99/6	99/5	83/11	81/6	81/5	77/4	77/3
	Index-No.	1,939	1,942	1,940	1,638	1,591	1,589	1,510	1,507
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage ..	117/10	119/1	116/5	102/0	99/10	99/10	98/4	98/3
	Index-No.	2,299	2,323	2,271	1,991	1,949	1,949	1,918	1,918
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage ..	100/8	102/2	97/10	85/4	84/5	84/1	81/2	80/7
	Index-No.	1,964	1,994	1,909	1,664	1,647	1,641	1,584	1,572
VII. Building ..	Wage ..	112/4	113/0	109/8	98/9	98/2	97/11	94/4	93/11
	Index-No.	2,191	2,205	2,139	1,926	1,916	1,911	1,841	1,833
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage ..	109/10	110/7	107/10	102/5	102/6	102/1	98/2	98/2
	Index-No.	2,143	2,157	2,104	1,999	2,000	1,992	1,916	1,925
IX. Railways, etc. . .	Wage ..	102/2	105/2	100/2	86/7	86/7	86/9	81/5	80/11
	Index-No.	1,994	2,052	1,955	1,690	1,689	1,693	1,589	1,579
X. Other Land Transport	Wage ..	96/3	96/9	92/10	83/11	84/3	83/11	78/7	78/3
	Index-No.	1,878	1,888	1,812	1,638	1,644	1,638	1,532	1,527
XI. Shipping, etc.(a)	Wage ..	103/3	107/0	99/6	81/10	80/7	81/6	81/0	79/6
	Index-No.	2,014	2,087	1,941	1,596	1,572	1,590	1,580	1,552
XII. Agricultural, etc.(b)	Wage ..	95/9	95/5	87/5	80/3	78/9	77/2	75/6	74/9
	Index-No.	1,869	1,863	1,706	1,566	1,536	1,506	1,474	1,458
XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	Wage ..	93/3	92/5	91/3	85/3	85/0	85/0	77/4	76/5
	Index-No.	1,820	1,804	1,780	1,663	1,659	1,659	1,510	1,492
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	Wage ..	96/1	96/8	93/7	83/11	83/5	83/4	79/4	78/11
	Index-No.	1,874	1,886	1,826	1,637	1,627	1,627	1,548	1,540
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage ..	100/5	101/2	96/9	86/10	86/1	85/8	82/5	81/10
	Index-No.	1,959	1,974	1,887	1,694	1,680	1,672	1,608	1,597

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

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1932, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 98s. 3d. per week, followed by Groups VIII. (Mining), 98s. 2d. per week, VII. (Building), 93s. 11d. per week, III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 84s. 2d. per week, I. (Wood Furniture, etc.), 83s. 4d. per week, and II. (Engineering), 81s. 6d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 74s. 9d. per week. During the year, rates of wage declined in all groups, the greatest decreases occurring in the following groups:—Domestic, etc., by 8s. 10d. per week; Clothing, Boots, etc., by 6s. 8d. per week; Railways, etc., by 5s. 8d. per week; Other Land Transport, by 5s. 8d. per week; Agricultural, etc., by 5s. 6d. per week; and Miscellaneous, by 5s. per week. The decrease during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 5s. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1929, the highest point recorded for that date in any year, wages at the end of the year 1932 showed a decrease of 19s. 4d. per week.

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

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

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

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

RATES OF WAGE.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>												
31st December, 1928 ..	53	7	53	9	54	10	50	11	58	10	53	4	53	10
31st December, 1929 ..	53	11	54	1	54	10	51	4	58	10	53	9	54	1
31st December, 1930 ..	53	8	53	6	52	11	51	2	60	1	53	8	53	7
31st December, 1931 ..	49	8	45	10	47	11	43	11	51	7	45	8	47	5
31st March, 1932 ..	49	0	45	0	47	1	41	11	51	4	44	10	46	8
30th June, 1932 ..	49	0	44	7	47	1	41	10	50	0	44	4	46	5
30th September, 1932 ..	44	10	43	7	46	9	40	11	50	0	43	5	44	5
31st December, 1932 ..	44	8	43	0	46	9	40	11	49	7	43	4	44	2

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1928 ..	1,973	1,979	2,017	1,875	2,164	1,964	1,980
31st December, 1929 ..	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
31st December, 1930 ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
31st December, 1931 ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
31st March, 1932 ..	1,803	1,656	1,733	1,543	1,888	1,650	1,716
30th June, 1932 ..	1,803	1,640	1,733	1,540	1,839	1,632	1,707
30th September, 1932 ..	1,649	1,603	1,720	1,505	1,839	1,597	1,635
31st December, 1932 ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624

(a) Weighted average.

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

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

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

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

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

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1928	49 3	54 2	53 1	55 1	52 10	53 10
31st December, 1929	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
31st December, 1930	48 4	54 2	52 7	54 2	52 10	53 7
31st December, 1931	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
31st March, 1932 ..	43 11	44 0	45 11	50 8	49 10	46 8
30th June, 1932 ..	43 3	43 11	45 10	50 4	49 3	46 5
30th September, 1932	41 2	42 5	44 3	47 4	47 0	44 5
31st December, 1932	41 0	42 4	44 2	46 2	47 0	44 2

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1928	1,813	1,993	1,954	2,029	1,946	1,980
31st December, 1929	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990
31st December, 1930	1,777	1,994	1,934	1,994	1,945	1,971
31st December, 1931	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
31st March, 1932 ..	1,617	1,620	1,691	1,865	1,834	1,716
30th June, 1932 ..	1,591	1,617	1,686	1,853	1,817	1,707
30th September, 1932	1,515	1,562	1,629	1,742	1,730	1,635
31st December, 1932	1,508	1,559	1,625	1,700	1,730	1,624

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

During the year 1932 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups showed a decline as compared with those for the previous year. The decrease in the rates in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), was 4s. 7d. followed by Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.) 3s. 4d. and Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.) 3s. 1d. per week. The smallest decrease was in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), 2s. 10d. per week. The weighted average for all groups decreased by 3s. 3d. per week.

3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1928 to 1932.—(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 1928 to 1932. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage, (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work, and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes the value of

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

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

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

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1928	Weekly Wage (a) ..	102/7	99/8	101/2	96/2	99/6	93/3	100/5
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.17	46.70	43.96	46.67	45.30	46.85	45.27
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/4	2/2	2/4	2/1	2/2½	2/0	2/3
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage (a) ..	102/11	101/7	101/2	97/2	100/7	94/8	101/2
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/4	2/2½	2/4	2/1½	2/2½	2/0½	2/3
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage (a) ..	99/1	96/11	92/5	92/8	99/7	92/1	96/9
	Working Hours (b) ..	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2½	2/1½	2/1½	2/0	2/2½	1/11½	2/1½
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage (a) ..	93/5	82/2	89/0	75/0	84/1	79/9	86/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2½	1/9½	2/0½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/11½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage (a) ..	84/11	77/10	88/5	72/7	81/9	78/1	81/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11½	1/8½	2/0½	1/7	1/10	1/8½	1/10
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1928	Weekly Wage ..	53/7	53/9	54/10	50/11	58/10	53/4	53/10
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2½	1/2½	1/3	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage ..	53/11	54/1	54/10	51/4	58/10	53/9	54/1
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2½	1/2½	1/3	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage ..	53/8	53/6	52/11	51/2	60/1	53/8	53/7
	Working Hours ..	45.85	45.44	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	45.48
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2	1/2	1/2½	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage ..	49/8	45/10	47/11	43/11	51/7	45/8	47/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1½	1/0	1/1	0/11½	1/1½	1/0	1/0½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage ..	44/8	43/0	46/9	40/11	49/7	43/4	44/2
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/1	0/11½	0/11½

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

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

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

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

(Weekly Rates—M = 55/1; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2; F = 0/6½.)

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1928	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,860	1,808	1,835	1,745	1,805	1,692	1,821
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	2,004	1,867	2,001	1,788	1,916	1,728	1,928
31st Dec., 1929	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,866	1,834	1,836	1,763	1,825	1,718	1,835
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	2,011	1,895	2,001	1,808	1,923	1,751	1,940
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,797	1,758	1,677	1,681	1,807	1,671	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,912	1,813	1,846	1,724	1,922	1,708	1,851
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,695	1,490	1,615	1,360	1,526	1,447	1,575
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,657	1,518	1,726	1,416	1,595	1,523	1,597
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,701	1,451	1,748	1,355	1,584	1,464	1,584
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1928	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,973	1,979	2,017	1,875	2,164	1,964	1,980
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,205	2,140	2,250	2,003	2,333	2,092	2,172
31st Dec., 1929	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,218	2,154	2,252	2,015	2,333	2,108	2,182
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,113	2,127	2,172	2,011	2,383	2,105	2,128
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,837	1,711	1,863	1,605	1,967	1,700	1,777

(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, 1928 to 1932.

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

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
31st Dec. 1928	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.17	46.70	43.96	46.67	45.30	46.85	45.27
	Index-numbers ..	903	954	898	954	926	957	925
31st Dec., 1929	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
	Index-numbers ..	902	957	898	957	932	962	927
31st Dec., 1930	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Index-numbers ..	933	958	908	957	931	962	940
31st Dec., 1931	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Index-numbers ..	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
31st Dec., 1932	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Index-numbers ..	903	958	919	957	930	955	930

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

During the five years, 1928 to 1932, the average number of hours of labour per week showed little variation, the figure at the end of the year 1928 being 45.27 as compared with 45.49 at 31st December, 1932. In 1930, increases were recorded in New South Wales and Queensland, but in the other States the hours remained practically constant, the result of the changes being that the weighted average hours of labour for all States increased to 45.98 per week. At the end of 1931 the weighted average for Australia had declined to 45.51 per week, due to the reduction in hours in New South Wales caused by the restoration of the 44 hours of work per week. In Queensland, average hours increased slightly owing to revision by the Industrial Court of the standard hours in some industries and callings. The position at the end of 1932 with the average at 45.49, was practically unaltered.

5. Nominal and Real Wages, 1901 to 1932.—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates necessarily are taken for places other than the capital cities. For the year 1914 and subsequent years the index-numbers in the following table are based on the average wage for the four quarters of each year.

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

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1930.												
New South Wales	158	874	858	1,003	1,093	1,862	1,846	1,909	1,974	2,003	2,012	1,983	1,851	1,734
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,062	1,803	1,873	1,926	1,951	1,956	1,964	1,937	1,683	1,552
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,035	1,879	1,905	1,955	1,953	1,971	1,976	1,898	1,769	1,731
South Australia	134	567	819	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,819	1,871	1,869	1,884	1,891	1,857	1,580	1,434
Western Australia	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,878	1,910	1,925	1,938	1,960	1,955	1,745	1,611
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,027	1,745	1,815	1,844	1,835	1,825	1,840	1,829	1,625	1,533
Australia (a)	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,081	1,827	1,861	1,914	1,946	1,963	1,972	1,939	1,752	1,639

(a) Weighted average.

During the period 1911 to the end of the year 1929 the average weekly rate of wage increased in New South Wales and Victoria, 100 per cent. ; in Queensland, 98 per cent. ; in South Australia, 87 per cent. ; in Western Australia, 70 per cent. ; and in Tasmania, 130 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 97 per cent. Comparing the yearly average rates for 1929 and 1932 nominal wages declined in all States during the period, South Australia showing the greatest fall with 24.2 per cent., followed by Victoria, 21.0 per cent., and Western Australia, 17.8 per cent. The smallest decline was recorded in Queensland, i.e. 12.4 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for Australia declined 6.5 per cent. Compared with 1911 the average weekly nominal wage for Australia was 63.9 per cent. higher in 1932.

(ii) *Real Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus, 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal only to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the "real" wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1932.

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

REAL WEEKLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES.

States,	1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
New South Wales	961	973	906	1,079	1,048	1,035	1,079	1,089	1,050	1,107	1,160	1,150
Victoria	915	1,037	961	1,038	1,073	1,069	1,095	1,120	1,084	1,158	1,162	1,126
Queensland	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,244	1,241	1,183	1,222	1,236	1,220	1,317	1,345	1,376
South Australia	948	957	929	1,027	1,053	1,076	1,073	1,089	1,067	1,166	1,178	1,133
Western Australia	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,139	1,162	1,165	1,199	1,156	1,143	1,229	1,232	1,212
Tasmania	827	838	942	977	1,044	1,037	1,072	1,099	1,064	1,111	1,104	1,067
Australia (a)	964	1,000	948	1,076	1,081	1,072	1,102	1,115	1,082	1,152	1,185	1,168

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the real wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the real wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1932 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the real wage in all States.

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

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

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

NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

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

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

Nominal wages and retail prices fell less rapidly during 1932 than in 1931, but as wages declined to the greater extent, the real wage index for full work declined to 1168 from 1185, the highest point recorded in the investigation. Unemployment was worse in 1932 than during the previous year, reaching the highest point (29.0) yet recorded for Australia for a whole year, with the result that the index allowing for unemployment declined from 903 to 870, the lowest point recorded since 1921. Comparison with 1911 shows that the real wage for full time work was 16.8 per cent. higher, but allowing for unemployment was 13.0 per cent. lower during 1932.

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

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

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the "basic" wage is to be considered by a Court constituted by the Chief Judge and not less than two other Judges, and must be approved by a majority of the members of the Court. The amended Act of 1930 provides that any alteration of the "basic" wage or the principles on which it is computed, or any variation or interpretation of any award where the variation or interpretation would result in any such alteration, shall have no force or effect unless it is considered by the Court constituted as above-mentioned.

By a judgment of the High Court on the 21st April, 1933, however, the "basic" wage is taken to mean, for the foregoing purpose, not only the "harvester" wage (see below), but also any "loading"‡ forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer, the wage payable for skilled labour being assessed on the basis of that primary wage.

(ii) *History in Australia.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, and the same principle was enunciated in the New South Wales Arbitration Court in somewhat similar terms by Mr. Justice Heydon in 1905. In spite, however, of these pronouncements and the fact that wage-fixing tribunals had been in operation as early as 1896 (in the State of Victoria) it was not until the year 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This declaration was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and is popularly known as the "Harvester Judgment" on account of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per diem or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five." The constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The above rate has been varied from time to time in accordance with the retail price index-numbers (food, groceries and rent (all houses)) prepared by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for the city or town in which the persons affected are employed, and the rate so obtained has been taken by the Commonwealth Court of

* Mr. Justice Higgins—*A New Province of Law and Order.* † *Ibid.* ‡ A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill."

Conciliation and Arbitration as the minimum rate of wage for an unskilled male worker. The weekly wage rates (at 1st November, 1933) for the various capital cities as so varied under the two series of index-numbers in operation are as follows:—

	" A " Series.				" D " Series.*			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Sydney	3	12	6	..	3	14	4	
Melbourne	3	7	0	..	3	9	10	
Brisbane	3	1	6	..	3	5	11	
Adelaide	3	3	0	..	3	6	3	
Perth	3	4	0	..	3	6	11	
Hobart	3	10	6	..	3	11	0	
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	3	8	0	..	3	10	4	

The above amounts include the sum of 3s. per week known as the " Powers' three shillings", which was added in 1921 for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the " Harvester " standard. The weekly rates given in the above table are the " Harvester " equivalents plus the " Powers' 3s." per week, but in accordance with the judgment of the Full Arbitration Court on 22nd January, 1931, such rates are subject to the ten per cent. reduction referred to in the following paragraphs.

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. Frequent references as to the desirability of an investigation have been made by Judges of the Court, but it was not decided to hold an inquiry into the method of determining the basic wage until the latter portion of the year 1930.

A full description of the considerations which led to the reduction by 10 per cent. as from 1st February, 1931, of all wages controlled by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and the refusal of the Court in June, 1932, to restore the " cut," appears in the preceding issue of the Official Year Book (*vide* p. 788).

The question of the restoration of the 10 per cent. " cut," was again brought before the Court by the Unions in 1933, the case being heard by the Full Court from 3rd April to 13th April, 1933. The main reasons stated on the affidavits filed in support of the applications were expressed thus—" The wages now payable to adult workers under the awards of the Court are insufficient, having regard to their commitments to provide a reasonable living according to Australian standards." " It is impossible to restore industries in Australia to a state of prosperity or to absorb thousands now unemployed unless and until the purchasing power of the community is increased so as to create a more even balance between production and consumption."

Argument by the representatives of the Unions was directed to proving—(a) that industry had recovered sufficiently to justify the restoration; (b) that the " All Houses " series of index-numbers, covering only 60 per cent. of household expenditure was not a satisfactory measure of total expenditure. The representatives of the employers opposed the restoration of any portion of the " cut." Very few witnesses were called by either side. The Court in a majority judgment (by their Honors Justices Dethridge, C.J., and Drake-Brockman, J.) delivered on the 5th May, 1933, refused to restore any portion of the 10 per cent. " cut," as it was not considered that the applicants had proved that industry generally had recovered to that extent. It was possible, however, that individual industries could stand the restoration, and the Court was prepared to hear claims in such instances as had already been done in the past. The Court stated, however, that it felt that the workers had lost more in " real " wages than the 10 per cent. " cut " owing to the method of adjusting wages according to the cost of living variations disclosed by the " All Houses " series of index-numbers (food and rent of all houses) especially since 1930, when the fall in prices first showed itself. It had decided, therefore, to adopt a new method of adjustment which would result in a

* For explanation of this " series " see next page.

repayment from 1st May, 1933, of various small sums which the workers had lost in this way. The method adopted was as follows:—The "Harvester" (all houses) index-number for each town or combination of towns for the fourth quarter of 1929 was taken as the base; to this was equated the corresponding "All Items" (food, rent of four and five-rooms, clothing and miscellaneous expenditure) index-number for the whole year 1929, and the first-mentioned "All Houses" index varied according to the ratio of change shown between such "All Items" index and the corresponding "All Items" index for the fourth quarter, 1932, and similarly for all succeeding quarters. The index-number so derived is a "Harvester" index, and has been designated the "Harvester-All Items" index ("D" Series). Its value for wage fixation and variation is ascertainable in the ordinary way, that is from the "Table of Daily and Weekly Wages on Commonwealth Statistician's Index Numbers" where that table can be applied, or from the "Points" tables of the awards affected. The award was made applicable only to workers who had suffered the full 10 per cent. "cut."

The Court deplored the anomalies created by the varying basic wages throughout the States, and the fact that State tribunals had not followed the lead taken by the Commonwealth Court to reduce wages in conformity with the lowered capacity of industry to pay.

In a later declaration (Commonwealth Railways) the Court stated that when industrial affairs emerged from their present precarious condition into apparent stability so that a basic real wage may be reassessed with some assurance that as so reassessed it can be maintained, a simple system of adjusting that wage to changes in the cost of living would have to be adopted by the Court.

In a minority judgment, Mr. Justice Beeby stated that adjustments based upon any index-numbers were unsatisfactory and recommended (a) that rates (which closely approximated those of the majority judgment) should be granted to operate for a period of six months, or until further order; (b) that during such period the method of future fixation should be investigated; (c) that in view of the wide disparities in the basic wages of the various States the Court, by means of conference with State tribunals, should endeavour to arrive at some common formula for basic wage fixation; and (d) that the wages now paid in the pastoral industry should not be disturbed without further investigation.

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

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

The declarations and reasons for the judgments of the Industrial Court in Western Australia are published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*. A revision of the basic wage in this State was made in June, 1930, when the rate for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £4 6s., and for adult female employees at £2 6s. 5d. per week. These rates were reduced in March, 1931, to £3 18s. and £2 2s. 2d. respectively. On 5th November, 1931, the rates for the metropolitan area were declared at £3 13s. 6d. for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. 8d. for adult female employees. These rates remained in force until 1st March, 1932, when the basic rates for the metropolitan area

were declared at £3 12s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 18s. 11d. per week for adult female employees. On the 2nd November, 1932, the rates were reduced to £3 10s. 6d. and £1 18s. 1d., and on the 28th February, 1933, to £3 9s. and £1 17s. 3d. per week. They were further reduced to £3 8s. and £1 16s. 9d. on the 30th June, 1933, and increased to £3 9s. 3d. and £1 17s. 5d. on the 3rd August, 1933, the latter being the first increase in the basic wage since the 1st July, 1929. The Court of Arbitration declares also basic rates of wage for areas outside the metropolitan area. The rates declared for these areas on 3rd August, 1933 were—Agricultural areas, etc. adult male employees, £3 9s. 6d. per week; adult female employees, £1 17s. 6d. per week; Gold-fields area, etc., adult male employees, £3 17s. 6d. per week; adult female employees, £2 1s. 10d. per week.

The Industrial Court in Queensland reviewed the basic rates of wage for that State during 1930, and reduced the rate for adult male employees from £4 5s. to £4 per week as from 1st August, 1930. A further revision during the year reduced the rate for adult males to £3 17s. per week as from 1st December, 1930. The Industrial Court fixed the basic rates as from 1st July, 1931, at £3 14s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation at the end of June, 1933. The declarations of the Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette*.

In 1925 the Board of Industry in South Australia determined the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area at £4 5s. 6d. per week; and at £1 19s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation for more than five years. On 11th October, 1930, after a public inquiry, the Board of Industry determined the living wage to be paid to adult male employees in the metropolitan area at 12s. 6d. per day or £3 15s. per week; and on 22nd December, 1930, the living wage for adult female employees in the metropolitan area was declared at £1 15s. per week. These rates were reduced by the Board of Industry on 17th August, 1931, after a public inquiry, to 10s. 6d. per day or £3 3s. per week for adult male employees; and on 4th December, 1931, to £1 11s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were still operative on the 30th June, 1933, notwithstanding an exhaustive review by the Board of Industry in 1933. These declarations are published in Bulletin No. 9 of Reports of the Board of Industry, South Australia.

A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review, but in the majority of cases the practice of the Federal Arbitration Court of adjusting wages in accordance with the variations in the "Cost of Living" index-numbers is followed by these bodies.

BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES FIXED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS.

State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales ..	(a) 3 6 6	1 16 0	1.11.33	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	1.7.31	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	(d) 3 3 0	(e) 1 11 6	..	" "
Western Australia ..	(f) 3 9 3	1 17 5	3.8.33(g)	(c) "
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

(a) Plus child allowances. (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to a large extent. (c) Although the family unit is not specifically defined in the legislation of this State, the tribunal appointed to determine the basic wage has adopted the unit of man, wife, and two children. (d) Judgment dated 17th August, 1931. (e) Judgment dated 4th December, 1931. (f) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Goldfields Areas and other portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males, £3 17s. 6d.; females, £2 1s. 10d.; Agricultural Areas and S.W. Land Division—males, £3 9s. 6d.; females, £1 17s. 6d. Under the provisions of the "Financial Emergency Act," the Court of Arbitration made orders, on the application of employers in a number of industries and callings, reducing the basic wage rate by 18, 20, or 22½ per cent. of 87s. per week, the basic wage rate on 30th June 1930, according to total salary received. (g) Date declared.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iii) *Commonwealth Public Service.* The first payment of child endowment allowances in Australia was in connexion with the Commonwealth Public Service. From 1st November, 1920, child endowment at the rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child under fourteen years of age was paid to officers, with a limitation of salary plus allowance of £500 per annum. Details regarding the introduction and method of calculating the payments under this scheme have been published in previous issues of the Official Year Book and will be found also in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

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

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

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

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

§ 4. Changes in Rates of Wage.

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

C.—EMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Industrial Disputes.

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

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

2. Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1932.*—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1932, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the previous years was published in preceding issues of the Year Book and Labour Report.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1932.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
								£
	NEW SOUTH WALES.							
III.	Food, drink, etc.	7	14	588	100	688	2,112	1,860
VI.	Other manufacturing	2	2	565	160	725	4,060	2,080
VII.	Building	3	3	60	..	60	121	138
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	71	71	15,510	1,870	17,380	54,143	57,734
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	2	2	631	17	648	1,968	1,792
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	14	..	14	14	19
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	2	54	..	54	54	37
XIV.	Miscellaneous	4	4	391	9	400	953	760
	Total	92	99	17,813	2,156	19,969	63,425	64,420
	VICTORIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	80	..	80	120	44
III.	Food, drink, etc.	4	17	741	50	791	4,763	3,371
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc.	3	15	4,411	..	4,411	21,527	8,639
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	8	..	8	88	70
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	2	2	1,175	..	1,175	73,020	53,405
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	1	1	60	60	120	120	70
	Total	12	37	6,475	110	6,585	99,638	65,599
	QUEENSLAND.							
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	201	130	300	430	2,580	1,550
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	2	2	48	4	52	1,192	1,228
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	3	3	582	852	1,434	15,980	14,968
XIV.	Miscellaneous	4	4	301	..	301	1,414	795
	Total	10	210	1,061	1,156	2,217	21,166	18,541
	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
X.	Other land transport	1	1	78	4	82	164	100
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	2	31	..	31	806	564
	Total	2	3	109	4	113	970	664

* Two disputes in Australia (involving 7 establishments and 162 workers) commenced in 1931 and were uncompleted at the end of that year, and in respect of number of disputes, number of establishments and workpeople involved, are duplicated in the figures for 1932.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL
GROUPS, 1932—*continued.*

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Estab- lish- ments In- volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- directly.	Total.		
								£
	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.							
VII.	Building	1	6	60	..	60	1,440	1,296
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	2	2	933	..	933	2,799	3,040
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	2	2	298	162	460	3,334	2,852
XIV.	Miscellaneous	3	6	1,240	..	1,240	3,630	2,350
	Total	8	16	2,531	162	2,693	11,203	9,538
	TASMANIA.							
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. .. .	1	3	1,103	..	1,103	15,442	6,437
VIII.	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	60	..	60	120	79
	Total	2	4	1,163	..	1,163	15,562	6,516
	NORTHERN TERRITORY.							
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	3	177	..	177	354	304
	AUSTRALIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	80	..	80	120	44
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution	12	232	1,459	450	1,909	9,455	6,781
IV.	Clothing hats, boots, etc. .. .	4	18	5,514	..	5,514	36,909	15,076
VI.	Other manufacturing	3	3	573	160	733	4,148	2,150
VII.	Building	4	9	120	..	120	1,561	1,434
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	77	77	17,666	1,874	19,540	131,154	115,407
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	8	8	1,571	1,031	2,602	21,402	19,691
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	14	..	14	14	19
X.	Other land transport	1	1	78	4	82	164	100
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. .. .	3	4	85	..	85	860	601
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. .. .	1	1	60	60	120	120	70
XIV.	Miscellaneous	12	17	2,109	9	2,118	6,351	4,209
	Total—Australia*	127	372	29,329	3,588	32,917	212,318	165,582

* See footnote on page 731.

3. *Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1928 to 1932.*—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 1928 to 1932, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.). For the year 1913 the proportion of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high, ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to as much as 81 per cent. in 1921 and 1924. During the year 1932 disputes in the coal-mining industry represented 61 per cent. of the total, as compared with 59 per cent. during 1931. During the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work-people engaged in coal-mining amounted to 4,394,534, representing 61 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining (Group VIII.).		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal Mining.	Other Mining, etc.			
1928 ..	28	6	190	4	42	17	287
1929 ..	29	8	193	11	9	9	259
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1932 ..	20	4	77	8	5	13	127
1928 to 1932 ..	119	22	665	35	71	78	990

NUMBER.

1928 ..	28	6	190	4	42	17	287
1929 ..	29	8	193	11	9	9	259
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1932 ..	20	4	77	8	5	13	127
1928 to 1932 ..	119	22	665	35	71	78	990

WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1928 ..	3,304	290	72,267	237	17,992	2,332	96,422
1929 ..	25,364	732	68,751	8,015	1,286	456	104,604
1930 ..	6,034	..	40,336	851	2,610	4,391	54,222
1931 ..	5,005	159	23,351	2,015	2,515	4,622	37,667
1932 ..	8,236	120	19,540	2,602	181	2,238	32,917
1928 to 1932 ..	47,943	1,301	224,245	13,720	24,584	14,039	325,832

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1928 ..	71,803	3,419	315,121	1,124	367,271	18,540	777,278
1929 ..	1,896,091	4,456	2,496,028	31,748	30,237	2,918	4,461,478
1930 ..	77,232	..	1,328,142	3,798	46,427	55,642	1,511,241
1931 ..	29,032	1,006	124,089	36,012	19,861	35,991	245,991
1932 ..	50,692	1,561	131,154	21,402	1,038	6,471	212,318
1928 to 1932 ..	2,124,850	10,442	4,394,534	94,084	464,834	119,562	7,208,306

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

1928 ..	£ 61,160	£ 3,225	£ 377,586	£ 1,069	£ 317,337	£ 14,982	£ 775,359
1929 ..	1,680,629	5,060	2,810,623	36,468	33,971	2,554	4,569,305
1930 ..	73,126	..	1,398,706	5,111	48,304	67,095	1,592,342
1931 ..	28,694	901	126,535	29,249	13,553	28,799	227,731
1932 ..	24,051	1,434	115,407	19,691	720	4,279	165,582
1928 to 1932 ..	1,867,660	10,620	4,828,857	91,588	413,885	117,709	7,330,319

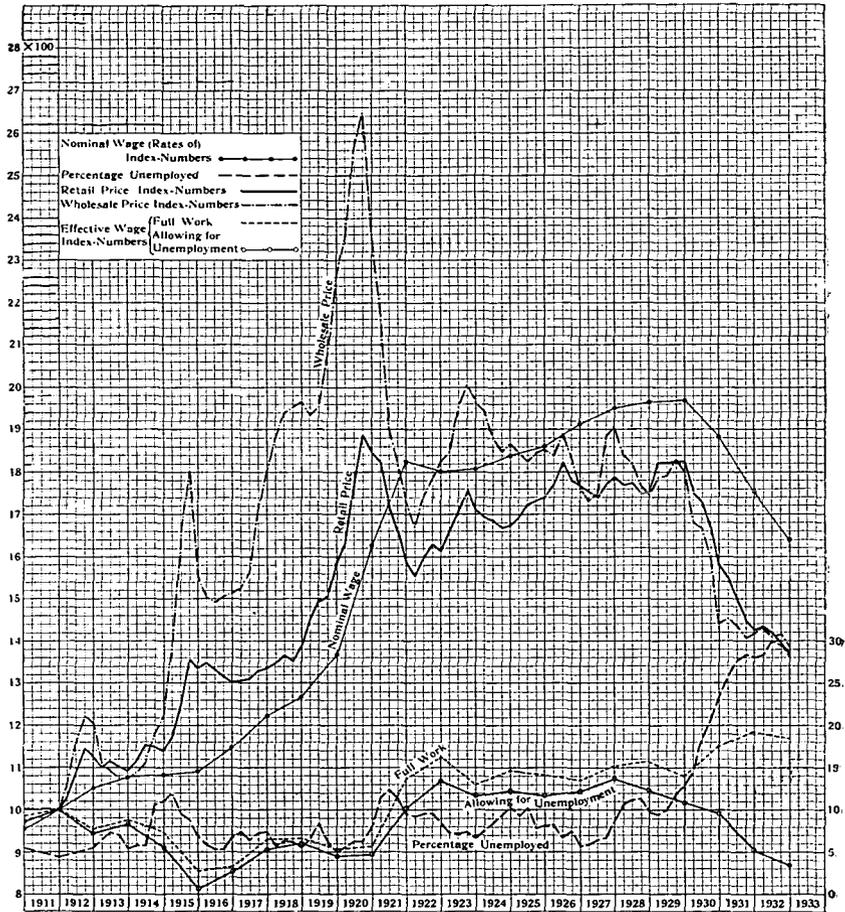
4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1928 to 1932.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1928 to 1932, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
New South Wales ..	1928	230	313	70,303	10,119	80,422	480,394	£ 521,768
	1929	231	513	75,197	4,152	79,349	3,146,038	3,421,412
	1930	156	384	46,418	2,151	48,569	1,443,366	1,516,296
	1931	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,037	133,068
	1932	92	99	17,813	2,156	19,969	63,425	64,420
Victoria ..	1928	21	51	4,309	1,567	5,876	110,659	96,454
	1929	11	320	8,893	12,719	21,612	1,296,676	1,130,565
	1930	5	5	385	23	408	7,744	7,228
	1931	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
	1932	12	37	6,475	110	6,585	99,638	65,599
Queensland ..	1928	12	329	2,958	670	3,628	70,764	62,008
	1929	4	23	1,691	8	1,699	3,443	3,379
	1930	10	31	1,561	70	1,631	9,881	11,059
	1931	15	358	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
	1932	10	210	1,061	1,156	2,217	21,166	18,541
South Australia ..	1928	8	40	2,257	1,211	3,468	54,835	45,999
	1929	2	21	532	40	572	9,040	7,910
	1930	7	246	2,870	6	2,876	22,778	22,987
	1931	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
	1932	2	3	109	4	113	970	664
Western Australia ..	1928	11	62	2,106	422	2,528	54,896	43,472
	1929	4	8	827	50	877	2,672	2,771
	1930	2	26	468	..	468	27,072	34,378
	1931	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
	1932	8	16	2,531	162	2,693	11,203	9,538
Tasmania ..	1928	4	8	371	84	455	5,595	5,508
	1929	6	40	333	142	475	3,409	3,068
	1930	3	3	270	..	270	400	394
	1931	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
	1932	2	4	1,163	..	1,163	15,562	6,516
Northern Territory ..	1928	1	1	45	..	45	135	150
	1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
	1932	1	3	177	..	177	354	304
Fed. Cap. Territory ..	1928	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1929	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia ..	1928	287	804	82,349	14,073	96,422	777,278	775,359
	1929	259	926	87,493	17,111	104,604	4,461,478	4,569,305
	1930	183	695	51,972	2,250	54,222	1,511,241	1,592,344
	1931	134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731
	1932	(a) 127	372	29,329	3,588	32,917	212,318	165,582

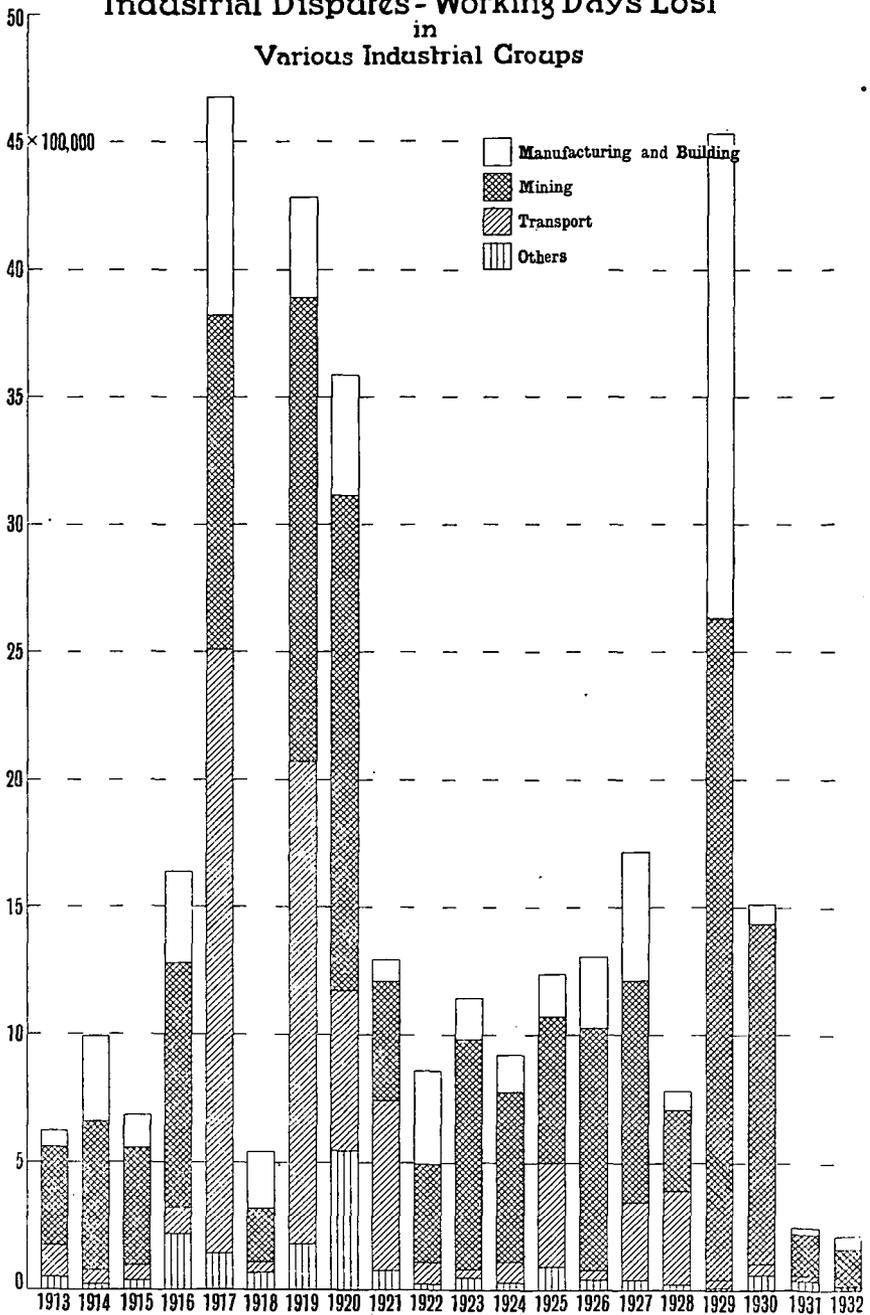
(a) See footnote on page 731.

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA 1911 TO 1932.



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 1917 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1917, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent (all houses) for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price Index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter. Average nominal wage for adult males, and real wage (full work) and (allowing for unemployment) for adult males.

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.

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

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1932 was 127, as compared with 134 during the previous year. In New South Wales 92 disputes occurred. Of this number 71 involved workpeople engaged in mining and quarrying. Working days lost during 1932 totalled 212,318 for all disputes in Australia, as compared with 245,991 working days lost during 1931. The estimated loss of wages was £165,582 in 1932 as compared with £227,731 for the year 1931.

5. Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1932.—(i) *General.* The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1932 classified according to Industrial Groups. The figures show large decreases compared with those of the previous year as regards number of working days and amount of wages lost. The number of disputes is the lowest recorded for any year during the period covered by the investigations. The tables show that of the total number of disputes (127) which occurred in 1932 no less than 77 were in connexion with the coal-mining industry, and of these 71 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £165,582 the lowest annual loss yet recorded. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £57,734 or 35 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia.

(ii) *Details regarding Principal Disputes.*—(a) *New South Wales.* A dispute occurred at Newcastle Victoria Tunnel Colliery in February, 1932, arising from an objection by the employees to the working of an afternoon shift. The dispute remained unsettled at the close of the year, and the mine was sub-leased to a party not connected with the old employees.

At Richmond Main Colliery there was a stoppage of work in February, 1932, owing to notice of dismissal having been given to four clippers who had reached the age of 21 years. A section of the clippers refused to work, and a little later all hands ceased duty. Negotiations between the parties concerned resulted in a compromise whereby two notices of dismissal were withdrawn. The mine was idle for about two weeks.

Refusal by the management to pay "water money" was the cause of a stoppage of work at Wallsend Colliery in July, 1932. A conference between the parties failed to effect a settlement, but a further conference resulted in the management agreeing to pay the amount in dispute, and work was resumed after a stoppage of more than a month.

An inter-union dispute in November, 1932, caused a stoppage of work for two weeks at the Wallarah Colliery. The question arose as to which union a certain man should belong. In an endeavour to settle the dispute, negotiations were entered into between representatives of the unions concerned, but no amicable agreement was reached. An arrangement was ultimately made that the man would join the Miners' Federation, and work was resumed.

(b) *Victoria.*—Several firms engaged in the manufacture of casings (sausage, etc.), were involved in a dispute which occurred in January, 1932. An agreement under which the employees had been working expired at the end of December, 1931, and the employers asked the employees to consider a new agreement with reduced rates of pay.

The new agreement was not acceptable to the employees who decided to cease work. After negotiation, a compromise was effected, the employees agreeing to accept a reduction of approximately 11 per cent. instead of the 15 per cent. suggested by the employers.

A number of textile manufacturing firms were idle for several days in August, 1932, owing to the refusal of the employees to accept an automatic reduction of approximately 15 per cent. in wages on the "cost of living" figures. An offer by the employers to impose a reduction of only $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was at first rejected by a section of the employees, though a few mills resumed on those conditions. The dispute having extended to Tasmania, a compulsory conference under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act was called, but no agreement was reached. Judge Beeby then referred the matter into Court for hearing, contingent upon a resumption of work by all employees on the basis of the employers' offer of a $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. reduction, and re-arrangement of all employees. On the 31st August, the employers issued a notice that the concession of a $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. reduction would be withdrawn unless work was resumed on the 2nd September. A meeting of employees took place on the 1st September and it was decided to return to work.

A dispute at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, in September, 1932, caused a stoppage of work for more than two months. Owing to lack of trade the management decided to reduce the staff, and in doing so, consideration was given to efficiency, domestic responsibilities, etc. The miners' federation claimed that dismissals should be made according to seniority, and also objected to a proposed 20 per cent. reduction in contract and day wage rates under an award of the State Coal Mine Industrial Tribunal. It appeared probable that this dispute would develop into a serious inter-State coal mining dislocation, especially as the central executive of the miners' federation, at a meeting in Sydney, decided to recommend a general strike throughout the coal-mining industry. A deadlock was reached in the negotiations for settlement, the main difficulty being the 20 per cent. wage reduction. A conference held at the end of October, between the Minister for Railways and representatives of the miners, paved the way to a settlement of the dispute, one result of this conference being the decision of the miners to ask the Chairman of the State Coal Tribunal to review the situation. New strike-settlement terms were fixed by Judge Winneke, providing for a 14 per cent. reduction instead of 20 per cent., and at a meeting of the miners these terms were accepted by a small majority, work being resumed on the 24th November.

(c) *Queensland.*—A dispute involving employees in the metalliferous mining industry, which occurred at Mount Oxide during the latter part of 1931, extended into 1932. About 100 employees of three mines were affected, the cause of the dispute being a reduction of wages. After a stoppage lasting about six months, negotiations between representatives of the parties concerned brought about a settlement, the management agreeing to pay rates slightly higher than those objected to by the employees.

A stoppage of work by about 200 employees at Mount Coolon gold mine, which occurred in May, 1932, through the proposal of the management to work one man to a machine instead of two as previously, was settled by direct negotiations between the parties. Work was resumed under original conditions except as regarding the machine in dispute, use of which was suspended pending the decision of an arbitrator, both parties agreeing to abide by his decision.

(d) *Tasmania.*—A dispute involving textile manufacturing firms occurred in Tasmania in August, 1932, approximately 1,100 employees ceasing work as a protest against an automatic reduction of wages under a Commonwealth Arbitration Court Award. As this was an extension of the same dispute in Victoria, it became interstate in character, a compulsory conference under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act was called, and a settlement was arrived at on the following terms:—A resumption of work on the basis of a wage reduction less by half than that permissible under the award; previous employees to be re-engaged; the settlement to be without prejudice to the rights of either party in any proceedings before the Court for a new award.

6. *Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1932.*—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated loss in wages, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1932, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1932.(a)

Limits of Duration.	Number.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less	48	11,516	708	12,224	12,149	£ 13,643
2 days and more than 1 day	22	4,185	392	4,577	9,114	8,166
3 days and more than 2 days	9	2,431	491	2,922	8,681	7,397
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days)	18	2,884	1,079	3,963	16,298	15,547
1 week and less than 2 weeks	11	4,599	500	5,099	33,342	19,524
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	11	2,124	330	2,454	36,063	25,747
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	5	391	41	432	11,199	10,211
8 weeks and over	3	1,199	47	1,246	85,472	65,347
Total	127	29,329	3,588	32,917	212,318	165,582

(a) See footnote on page 731.

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1931 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

7. *Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1932.*—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes during the years 1913 and 1927 to 1932, classified according to principal cause :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
NUMBER.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase	42	24	8	8	..	4	5
(b) Against decrease	4	4	3	6	9	17	11
(c) Other wage questions	31	66	39	45	44	16	26
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction	3	14	2	6	4	2	2
(b) Other disputes re hours	7	4	2	2	..	..	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists	8	12	6	3	..	1	2
(b) Other union questions	5	24	11	12	20	4	3
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons	44	152	105	87	48	50	50
5. Working Conditions	51	72	48	31	27	22	11
6. Sympathetic	5	5	9	6	11	5	2
7. Other Causes	8	64	54	53	20	13	15
Total	208	441	287	259	183	134	127

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

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	8,633	7,316	2,775	1,414	..	2,053	1,295
(b) Against decrease ..	563	300	1,317	10,532	12,824	7,108	7,327
(c) Other wage questions	7,160	20,297	17,057	8,742	12,686	3,999	5,417
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	460	7,813	61	21,646	4,334	192	198
(b) Other disputes re hours	1,819	288	1,005	2,067	..	..	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	4,432	193	103	..	9	17
(b) Other union questions	1,418	25,848	2,311	4,367	4,160	2,240	501
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	11,370	55,174	35,379	22,933	7,751	12,023	12,556
5. Working Conditions ..	10,785	29,766	14,169	4,672	4,276	6,659	2,804
6. Sympathetic ..	947	1,484	6,123	11,604	4,010	1,953	316
7. Other Causes ..	1,758	48,039	16,032	16,524	4,181	2,331	2,486
Total ..	50,283	200,757	96,422	104,604	54,222	37,667	32,917

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	150,691	6,548	7,433	..	15,425	5,990
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	2,578	3,824	2,332,157	1,227,808	111,258	123,571
(c) Other wage questions	78,183	83,831	80,755	47,261	113,102	43,746	17,631
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	305,782	725	1,887,196	63,583	152	2,894
(b) Other disputes re hours	15,111	4,487	2,667	3,183	..	..	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	82,156	2,137	424	..	99	59
(b) Other union questions	32,388	204,802	8,900	49,924	50,225	11,752	6,261
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	191,723	310,425	423,555	78,492	24,683	38,567	36,054
5. Working Conditions ..	73,562	303,788	98,852	8,545	8,551	17,106	14,902
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	3,573	106,358	23,482	17,648	4,070	1,096
7. Other Causes ..	5,212	261,468	42,957	23,381	5,641	3,816	3,860
Total ..	623,528	1,713,581	777,278	4,461,478	1,511,241	245,991	212,318

(d) See footnote, page 731.

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1913 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. During 1932 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" represented 33 per cent. of the total number for the year. The majority of the dislocations of work classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but decreased during 1928 to 1932. "Sympathetic" disputes have not been numerous during the past five years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the five years 1928 to 1932, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.

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

(a) See footnote, page 731.

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

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1913 and 1927 to 1932, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	(a) 1932.
NUMBER.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	229	138	130	134	88	87
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	17	18	8	8	3	3	4
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	19	13	10	3	6	11	5
By reference to Board or Court	22	19	8	1	2	1	2
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4	19	6	6	..	4	3
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out	13	5	10	7	9	2	7
By Closing-down Establishment permanently	1	10	3	3	1	2	1
By Other Methods	13	122	99	96	23	21	18
Total	208	435	282	254	178	132	127

(a) See footnote on page 731.

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

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	(a) 1932.
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	94,070	37,708	32,393	40,804	22,292	22,595
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	5,839	1,242	19,161	196	1,885	1,800
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	6,505	3,763	2,009	487	3,476	3,871	1,640
By reference to Board or Court ..	12,274	4,314	2,975	56	184	42	416
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	659	33,517	1,497	511	..	1,083	1,839
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	658	533	11,047	5,411	2,940	222	460
By closing-down establishment permanently	170	1,104	266	144	40	52	11
By other methods	2,988	56,860	38,916	45,350	5,560	8,058	4,156
Total	50,283	200,000	95,660	103,513	53,200	37,505	32,917

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	700,968	273,254	2,417,171	1,289,487	109,601	87,650
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	100,148	36,937	1,279,258	2,893	2,625	79,872
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	187,871	80,815	38,878	5,261	56,648	25,257	7,423
By reference to Board or Court ..	221,769	60,236	29,533	56	1,272	252	3,408
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	2,105	305,303	3,962	1,882	..	30,317	18,596
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	14,139	9,706	266,369	610,686	34,612	27,042	6,874
By closing-down establishment permanently	20,400	30,289	750	9,861	80	5,355	44
By other methods	56,509	422,094	96,637	100,004	24,726	37,970	8,451
Total	623,528	1,709,559	746,320	4,424,179	1,409,718	238,419	212,318

(a) See footnote on page 731.

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 127 disputes during 1932, 87 or 69 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 1932 was 8 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

§ 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. **General.**—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 415,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received, 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, 1932.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales	113	186,072	60,421	32.5
Victoria	81	117,164	30,978	26.5
Queensland	46	47,578	8,949	18.8
South Australia	59	30,140	10,241	34.0
Western Australia	62	25,286	7,442	29.5
Tasmania	34	9,194	2,423	26.4
Australia	395	415,434	120,454	29.0

(ii) The following table gives the percentages in each State from the end of 1929 to 1932 with particulars at the end of 1912.

PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS RETURNED AS UNEMPLOYED IN EACH STATE.

State.	1912, end of Year.	1929.				1931.				1932.			
		4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
New South Wales	5.0	13.8	29.2	30.7	31.6	31.5	31.8	33.2	33.0	31.9	31.9	31.9	31.9
Victoria	6.7	13.5	24.4	26.5	26.8	25.6	26.0	27.7	27.0	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2
Queensland	4.6	7.4	14.1	16.1	16.9	17.5	18.2	19.9	19.3	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9
South Australia	5.1	17.8	30.6	32.4	33.3	33.7	33.1	35.2	35.4	32.2	32.2	32.2	32.2
Western Australia	5.8	11.8	26.1	27.1	27.9	28.1	28.6	30.3	30.1	28.9	28.9	28.9	28.9
Tasmania	3.4	15.1	26.6	27.3	27.3	28.4	27.3	27.4	26.9	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8
Total	5.6	13.1	25.8	27.6	28.3	28.0	28.3	30.0	29.6	28.1	28.1	28.1	28.1

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

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1928	375	423,422	45,669	10.8
1929	382	424,093	47,359	11.1
1930	395	438,874	84,767	19.3
1931	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1932	395	415,434	120,454	29.0
1930 1st Quarter	392	432,464	63,144	14.6
2nd "	394	435,239	80,595	18.5
3rd "	396	439,971	90,379	20.5
4th "	399	447,822	104,951	23.4
1931 1st Quarter	397	440,234	113,614	25.8
2nd "	397	429,687	118,424	27.6
3rd "	396	426,603	120,694	28.3
4th "	396	423,493	118,732	28.0
1932 1st Quarter	395	425,094	120,366	28.3
2nd "	396	413,742	124,068	30.0
3rd "	395	412,997	122,340	29.6
4th "	392	409,902	115,042	28.1

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

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

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1932.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
Manufacturing:—				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	16	18,648	7,172	38.5
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	72,636	23,508	32.4
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	51	35,549	6,714	18.9
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	22	33,342	7,060	21.1
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	18,740	3,018	16.1
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	66	38,840	16,176	41.7
VII. Building	47	50,037	20,225	40.5
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	26,750	9,162	34.3
X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway Services ..	12	17,575	5,039	26.2
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	84	103,317	22,380	21.7
All Groups	395	415,434	120,454	29.0

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

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

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

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Reports, Nos. 22 and 23.

§ 3. Apprenticeship.

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

D.—ASSOCIATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations.

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

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 168 industrial unions of employers and 152 industrial unions of employees, the membership of the latter being 277,485;

Queensland, 10 industrial unions of employers with 10,606 members, and 77 industrial unions of employees with approximately 108,285 members; South Australia, 25 organizations of employees with 18,562 members; Western Australia, 33 organizations of employers with 768 members, and 123 organizations of employees with 34,596 members. There is no provision in the South Australian Industrial Acts for the registration of organizations of employers, and in Victoria and Tasmania, where Wages Board systems of wage fixation are in operation, organizations of employers and employees are not required to register. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. In December, 1931, there were on the register 28 organizations of employers with 20,000 persons, firms or corporations affiliated, and 133 organizations of employees with approximately 670,000 members. On the 31st December, 1932, the registered organizations numbered 133 with a total estimated membership of 630,000.

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

(ii) *Number and Membership*. As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912, the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established, and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations, comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1932 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1932.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales	202(c)	583	314,050(c)
Victoria	151	406	196,989
Queensland	107	319	110,055
South Australia	110	171	54,109
Western Australia	129	185	50,160
Tasmania	78	71	14,699
Northern Territory	4	..	769
Total	781	1,735	740,831
Australia (a)	361(a).	2,155(b)	740,831

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. The figures represent the number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations, which are practically independent and self-governing. (b) See remarks below. (c) Includes 13 unions with a membership of 890 in the Federal Capital Territory.

In the preceding table, the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of inter-state 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, 361 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,155 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 740,831 members.

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

TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Groups.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
Manufacturing :—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	18 (a)	18 (a)	18 (a)	18 (a)	18 (a)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	60 (23)	61 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	65 (33)	65 (33)	65 (32)	63 (34)	63 (34)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots., etc.	25 (12)	25 (12)	24 (12)	24 (12)	24 (12)
V. Books, Printing, etc.	14 (8)	14 (8)	15 (9)	15 (10)	15 (10)
VI. Other Manufacturing	78 (40)	79 (42)	79 (41)	76 (38)	77 (37)
VII. Building	51 (28)	50 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	17 (14)	18 (14)	18 (14)	16 (13)	16 (13)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	51 (30)	52 (31)	52 (30)	51 (29)	51 (29)
X. Other Land Transport	12 (5)	11 (5)	12 (5)	11 (4)	11 (4)
XI. Shipping, etc.	58 (29)	59 (28)	59 (26)	57 (24)	57 (24)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	9 (4)	9 (4)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	24 (20)	24 (19)	20 (15)	20 (15)	20 (16)
XIV. Miscellaneous :—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	29 (19)	30 (20)	30 (20)	31 (19)	30 (19)
(ii) Public Service	144 (54)	143 (50)	143 (45)	143 (46)	145 (45)
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	9 (7)	9 (7)	9 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)
(v) Other Miscellaneous	91 (37)	91 (35)	100 (36)	108 (40)	108 (40)
Total	768 (379)^a	771 (374)^a	780 (362)^a	780 (362)^a	780 (361)^a

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Manufacturing :—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	35,740	35,898	30,944	26,700	27,054
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	87,417	85,425	79,081	74,316	72,883
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	71,994	71,948	71,437	63,582	61,183
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots., etc.	56,874	56,300	50,625	47,707	51,154
V. Books, Printing, etc.	19,771	19,817	19,822	18,703	18,128
VI. Other Manufacturing	46,779	44,693	44,742	42,553	40,578
VII. Building	60,416	61,191	59,629	52,041	52,582
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	43,044	43,098	42,405	36,037	32,846
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	116,061	113,281	106,968	92,202	97,889
X. Other Land Transport	20,632	18,817	18,211	17,595	17,158
XI. Shipping, etc.	38,361	38,308	38,050	36,039	32,994
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	55,547	50,266	43,639	28,668	21,237
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	30,488	29,767	25,504	23,611	20,993
XIV. Miscellaneous :—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	28,371	30,440	31,140	30,222	28,420
(ii) Public Service	79,175	79,773	81,275	81,395	80,889
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	31,034	31,887	28,859	26,630	24,983
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	48,691	46,577	41,027	32,541	30,639
(v) Other Miscellaneous	41,146	43,682	42,399	38,374	35,221
Total	911,541	901,168	855,757	769,006	740,831

(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, 1928 to 1932. The estimated number of employees includes all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a large number of adults who are not eligible for membership of any trade union, such as certain persons employed in professional occupations, as well as others who, while eligible for membership so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. Moreover the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The Census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and age 20 years is taken as approximating to the age of admission to membership. A line has also been added showing the estimated numbers of "junior" workers under 20 years of age.

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

Particulars.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
MALES.					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over	1,288,200	1,302,400	1,313,000	1,321,000	1,330,000
No. of Members of Unions	785,189	774,931	735,767	656,105	630,688
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total					
Number of Employees	60.9	59.4	56.0	49.7	47.4
Junior Workers (under 20)	239,050	241,000	243,400	244,850	246,500
FEMALES.					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over	304,000	308,200	311,600	314,600	317,250
No. of Members of Unions	126,352	127,137	119,990	112,901	110,143
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total					
Number of Employees	41.5	41.3	38.5	35.9	34.7
Junior Workers (under 20)	134,200	136,000	137,500	138,870	139,980

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1932.—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1932.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions	21	12	19	23	41	116
Number of Members	31,950	43,491	92,518	182,540	261,835	612,334

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

It appears, therefore, that 116 out of the 361 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 116 unions reaches 612,334 or 83 per cent. of the membership (740,831) of all unions.

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

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

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution, and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:—(a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australasian Trade Union Movement from the Craft to an Industrial basis by the establishment of one Union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes; (d) educational propaganda among unions. The Australasian Council of Trade Unions is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the Trade Union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for choosing the Australian workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference at Geneva.

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto in each State at the end of the year 1932 :—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1932.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	F.C.Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	6	2	9	3	1	29
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	95	169	74	55	209	60	10	672

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

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines, and composed of delegates from separate unions the interests of the members of which are closely connected by reason of

the occupation of their members. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters, and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the iron, steel, or brass trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

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

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

§ 2. Employers' Associations.

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

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

2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1928 to 1932 :—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—STATES.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1928	146	140	76	56	59	28	505
1929	146	154	80	56	62	29	527
1930	146	152	83	58	66	29	534
1931	148	157	85	60	67	30	547
1932	148	158	85	60	68	30	549
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
1928	907	525	188	13	301	1	1,935
1929	921	526	191	12	301	6	1,957
1930	930	495	197	12	297	7	1,938
1931	906	465	197	18	306	7	1,899
1932	907	461	185	18	297	10	1,878
MEMBERSHIP.							
1928	55,353	33,626	18,393	6,751	10,390	2,668	127,181
1929	57,839	36,357	20,113	6,871	11,410	2,752	135,342
1930	56,430	37,790	18,791	7,218	11,723	2,717	134,669
1931	55,417	37,389	18,807	7,311	10,969	2,535	132,428
1932	54,005	37,342	18,929	6,656	10,189	2,504	129,625

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

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1931 and 1932.

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.
Manufacturing :—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	20	20	3	7	1,311	1,297
II. Engineering, etc. ..	16	16	12	12	3,028	3,000
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	117	118	91	81	20,070	19,697
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	21	21	2	2	1,916	1,890
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	45	45	2	2	2,876	2,873
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	51	51	3	2	3,529	3,537
VII. Building	30	30	13	13	2,665	2,501
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	12	12	..	..	241	228
X. Other Land Transport ..	19	19	21	21	2,472	2,365
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	16	16	7	7	275	263
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	47	47	1,714	1,700	76,328	74,008
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	17	17	..	..	1,541	1,413
XIV. Miscellaneous	136	137	31	31	16,176	16,553
Total	547	549	1,899	1,878	132,428	129,625

The female membership of these associations was 5,153 for 1931, and 5,589 for 1932.

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

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

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

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of interstate or federated associations having branches in two or more States from 1928 to 1932 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Particulars.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	

NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.

1928	..	..	..	3	3	3	11	16	36
1929	..	..	..	3	4	4	10	16	37
1930	..	..	..	4	3	4	12	16	39
1931	..	..	..	5	4	4	13	19	45
1932	..	..	..	5	4	4	13	19	45

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

1928	..	..	..	205	1,126	208	59,175	41,511	102,225
1929	..	..	..	201	1,066	594	60,729	43,166	105,756
1930	..	..	..	1,169	339	975	61,327	43,303	107,113
1931	..	..	..	1,190	359	741	61,813	42,871	106,974
1932	..	..	..	1,132	323	842	59,993	40,872	103,162

The above table shows that associations having 80 per cent. of the total membership (129,625) of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.