

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

## A. PRICES.

## § 1. Wholesale Prices.

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

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of eighty commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to ninety-two.\* The methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price index-numbers are similar to those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurement for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity is used or consumed, are shown in a tabular statement in Labour Report No. 13 (page 62).

2. *Index-Numbers.*—Index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups together. The index-numbers for the several groups, and for all groups together, are shown in the following table, and in each case were computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base. They show, for each of the years specified, the expenditure necessary—if distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities concerned—to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911. Thus, from the last column it will be seen that the cost of the relative quantities of the various commodities was 1,229 in 1871, and 974 in 1901, as compared with 1,000 in 1911, 1,903 in 1921, and 1,832 in 1926. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871, 1921, or 1926, and the purchasing power of money in 1911 was, accordingly, greater. Again, prices were lower in 1901 than in 1911, and the purchasing power of money in the former year was, therefore, greater.

## INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, 1861 TO 1926.

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mate- rials.	VIII. Chemical- s.	All Com- modities together.
1861	1,438	1,881	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1902	1,007	756	1,193	1,215	945	1,447	837	881	1,051
1903	923	834	1,209	1,059	936	1,443	875	921	1,049
1904	821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875	890
1905	772	850	894	980	942	1,209	801	859	910
1906	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,088
1914	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922	1,942	1,681	1,628	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	1,532	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832

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

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

3. Fluctuations, July, 1914, to May, 1927.—Since the outbreak of war, prices of many commodities have increased considerably. This is shown in the following table in which the index-numbers are given for each group for the months of July, 1921, to 1926, and May, 1927, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (= 1,000) for each group :—

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, JULY, 1914, TO 1926,  
AND MAY, 1927.

Particulars.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1922 ..	1,764	1,555	1,532	1,564	1,810	1,185	1,681	1,991	1,569
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,876	1,691	1,668	1,698	2,229	1,780	1,923	1,799
" 1924 ..	1,666	2,119	1,525	1,431	1,677	1,281	1,666	1,743	1,626
" 1925 ..	1,663	1,744	1,643	1,404	1,667	1,492	1,605	1,716	1,618
" 1926 ..	1,741	1,456	1,860	1,514	1,686	1,248	1,557	1,798	1,615
May, 1927 ..	1,781	1,450	1,567	1,556	1,670	1,125	1,501	1,794	1,524

## § 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

1. Introduction.—(i) *General.* In Labour Report No. 1, issued in December, 1912, the results of certain investigations into the subjects of Prices, Price-Indexes and Cost of Living in past years were published, and some account was given of the methods employed for the collection of the data and of the technique adopted in the computation of the results. A detailed examination of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was given, but being necessarily too technical for the ordinary reader, was relegated to Appendixes. In Labour Reports Nos. 2, and 5 to 15, results of further investigations were included, and in Labour Bulletins Nos. 1 to 18, and in Quarterly Summaries of Statistics, Nos. 70 to 102, information was incorporated regarding variations in retail and wholesale prices, house rent, and purchasing-power of money up to the end of 1925.

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

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

3. Variations in Index-Numbers for Retail Prices and House Rents, Capital Cities, 1901 to 1926.—(i) *General*. In Labour Reports and Bulletins, and in recent issues of the Quarterly Summaries of Statistics, index-numbers were given for each of the four groups and for all groups combined for each capital city since 1901, the expenditure in 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). In this sub-section summarized results only are given, firstly, for food and groceries; secondly, for house rent; and thirdly, for the groups combined—the weighted average expenditure for all capital cities in 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in each table are fully comparable with one another, since they show not only the variations from year to year in each capital, but also the relative cost as between the cities.

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

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES, 1907 TO 1926.**

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Sydney .. .. .	936	989	1,156	1,898	1,703	1,820	1,732	1,785	1,867
Melbourne .. .. .	925	935	1,091	1,901	1,644	1,802	1,684	1,748	1,774
Brisbane .. .. .	947	1,018	1,078	1,812	1,608	1,693	1,690	1,734	1,788
Adelaide .. .. .	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,723	1,823	1,791	1,840	1,869
Perth .. .. .	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,776	1,828	1,891	1,938	1,866
Hobart .. .. .	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,025	1,794	1,863	1,849	1,810	1,868
Weighted Average (a) .. .	955	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,684	1,805	1,732	1,785	1,829

(a) For all capital cities.

The figures quoted are directly comparable in every respect; thus, the same quantity of food and groceries, which cost £1,000 in the capital cities considered as a whole in 1911, would have cost £1,156 in Sydney in 1914, £1,346 in Perth in 1911, or £1,774 in Melbourne in 1926.

In 1926 increases were experienced in all the capitals with the exception of Perth, which showed a decrease of 3.7 per cent. from the previous year. Comparing the results for 1926 with those for 1911, the extent by which prices increased varied from 89.7 per cent. in Melbourne to 38.6 per cent. in Perth. Prices, however, were abnormally high in Perth in 1911.

(iii) *Housing*. In previous issues of the Official Year Book the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under 4 rooms to 8 rooms and over. In the following tables that basis has been altered, to accord with a resolution adopted by the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand to the following effect: "that for purposes of computing price levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account." This alteration will account for the difference between index-numbers given in the following tables and those given for the same tables in previous issues of the Year Book.

The following table gives index-numbers computed for the weighted average house rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses in each of the capital cities from 1907 to 1926, taking the average rent for the six capitals in 1911 as the base (=1,000). The average rent has been obtained for each city separately by multiplying the average predominant rent for each class of house (i.e., wooden houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms and brick houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms) by a number ("weight") representing the relative number of houses of that class in the particular city. The sum of the products thus obtained divided by the sum of the weights, gives the weighted average for 4 and 5 roomed houses combined. The number of houses in each class for each city was obtained from the results of the 1911 census, and the index-numbers are based on the weighted average rents for 4 and 5 roomed houses combined, and do not refer to any particular class of house. The actual predominant rents for each class were given in appendixes to Labour Reports Nos, 1, 2, and 5 to 14, and an examination of these figures shows that for some classes of houses the increase has been greater, and in some less, than the general increase indicated in the following table.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING, CAPITAL CITIES, 1907 TO 1926.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Sydney .. .. .	969	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,680	1,739	1,831	1,870	1,826
Melbourne .. .. .	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,448	1,534	1,574	1,604	1,695
Brisbane .. .. .	463	610	762	1,030	1,128	1,151	1,157	1,165	1,333
Adelaide .. .. .	835	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,377	1,450	1,540	1,576	1,516
Perth .. .. .	749	857	963	1,209	1,256	1,294	1,311	1,340	1,469
Hobart .. .. .	661	739	847	1,441	1,359	1,503	1,592	1,649	1,628
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,410	1,486	1,553	1,615	1,647	1,677

(a) For all capital cities.

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

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

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS<sup>(a)</sup>—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.—  
CAPITAL CITIES, 1901 TO 1926.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Sydney .. .. .	948	1,048	1,188	1,793	1,694	1,790	1,769	1,817	1,852
Melbourne .. .. .	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,571	1,702	1,643	1,694	1,744
Brisbane .. .. .	765	865	959	1,519	1,427	1,490	1,490	1,521	1,617
Adelaide .. .. .	908	1,070	1,161	1,687	1,593	1,683	1,697	1,741	1,736
Perth .. .. .	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,700	1,581	1,627	1,673	1,714	1,717
Hobart .. .. .	879	938	1,075	1,806	1,631	1,728	1,753	1,750	1,778
Weighted Average (b) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,610	1,710	1,688	1,733	1,772

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

(b) For all capital cities.

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

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

4. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—The tables in sub-section 3 give the relative cost in the six capital cities of food, groceries, and housing from 1907 to 1926 in the form of index-numbers. The figures have been converted into a monetary basis in the next table, and show the sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such relative quantities (indicated by the mass units) of the several commodities, and to pay such sums for housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in 1911.

**RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1927 (2nd QUARTER) TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN 1911 IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.**

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).</b>							
	<i>s. d.</i>						
1907 .. .. .	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1911 .. .. .	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0
1914 .. .. .	23 1	21 10	21 7	24 4	26 0	24 3	22 11
1920 .. .. .	43 0	41 1	41 1	42 8	41 0	43 3	42 0
1921 .. .. .	38 0	38 0	36 3	38 1	40 0	40 6	38 0
1922 .. .. .	34 1	32 11	32 2	34 6	35 6	35 11	33 8
1923 .. .. .	36 5	36 1	33 10	36 6	36 7	37 3	36 1
1924 .. .. .	34 8	33 8	33 10	35 10	37 10	37 0	34 8
1925 .. .. .	35 8	35 0	34 8	36 10	38 9	36 2	35 8
1926 .. .. .	37 4	35 6	35 9	37 5	37 4	37 4	36 7
1926 { 1st Quarter .. .. .	36 9	35 0	35 6	37 3	37 1	37 7	36 2
1926 { 2nd " .. .. .	38 1	37 2	35 7	39 4	38 10	38 3	37 9
1926 { 3rd " .. .. .	37 3	35 2	35 11	36 9	37 3	37 2	36 5
1926 { 4th " .. .. .	37 3	34 7	36 1	36 2	36 2	36 5	36 1
1927 { 1st " .. .. .	36 11	34 0	34 5	36 7	36 3	36 3	35 8
1927 { 2nd " .. .. .	36 2	33 10	32 10	36 5	36 7	35 9	35 1

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

1907 .. .. .	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911 .. .. .	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 9	20 0
1914 .. .. .	24 10	20 6	15 3	21 5	19 3	16 11	20 8
1920 .. .. .	30 10	25 5	20 4	24 10	22 11	28 5	26 11
1921 .. .. .	32 4	26 10	20 7	26 5	24 2	28 10	28 2
1922 .. .. .	33 7	28 10	22 7	27 6	25 1	27 2	28 9
1923 .. .. .	34 9	30 8	23 0	29 0	25 11	30 1	31 1
1924 .. .. .	36 7	31 6	23 2	30 10	28 3	31 10	32 4
1925 .. .. .	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1926 .. .. .	36 6	33 11	26 8	30 4	29 5	32 7	33 7
1926 { 1st Quarter .. .. .	36 5	33 7	26 8	30 7	29 3	32 6	33 5
1926 { 2nd " .. .. .	36 7	34 0	26 8	30 7	29 5	31 11	33 7
1926 { 3rd " .. .. .	36 7	34 0	26 8	30 0	29 6	32 9	33 7
1926 { 4th " .. .. .	36 7	34 1	26 8	30 1	29 4	33 1	33 7
1927 { 1st " .. .. .	36 3	34 0	26 8	30 5	29 8	32 0	33 6
1927 { 2nd " .. .. .	36 6	34 0	26 8	30 5	29 7	31 9	33 7

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

1907 .. .. .	18 11	16 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911 .. .. .	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0
1914 .. .. .	23 9	21 4	19 2	23 3	23 6	21 6	22 5
1920 .. .. .	38 5	35 3	33 3	35 11	34 2	37 8	36 4
1921 .. .. .	35 10	33 10	30 5	33 9	34 0	36 1	34 4
1922 .. .. .	33 10	31 5	28 6	31 10	31 7	32 7	32 2
1923 .. .. .	35 10	34 0	29 10	33 8	32 6	34 7	34 2
1924 .. .. .	35 5	32 10	29 10	33 11	33 6	35 1	33 9
1925 .. .. .	36 4	33 11	30 5	34 10	34 3	35 0	34 8
1926 .. .. .	37 1	34 11	32 4	34 9	34 4	35 7	35 5
1926 { 1st Quarter .. .. .	36 7	34 6	32 2	34 9	34 1	35 8	35 1
1926 { 2nd " .. .. .	37 6	36 0	32 2	36 1	35 3	35 10	36 2
1926 { 3rd " .. .. .	37 0	34 9	32 5	34 3	34 4	35 7	35 4
1926 { 4th " .. .. .	37 0	34 5	32 7	33 11	33 7	35 2	35 2
1927 { 1st " .. .. .	36 8	34 0	31 6	34 3	33 9	34 8	34 10
1927 { 2nd " .. .. .	36 4	33 11	30 7	34 2	33 11	34 3	34 7

5. Variations in Index-Numbers, Retail Prices and Housing, Thirty Australian Towns, 1926.—The index-numbers given in the preceding sub-sections show changes in the cost of food, groceries, and housing separately for each capital city during the years 1907 to 1926. The figures given in the next table show the relative cost of food and groceries, and of housing for the years 1924 to 1926 in the thirty towns for which particulars are now collected. The weighted aggregate expenditure for the six capitals for the year 1911 has been taken as base and made equal to 1,000, hence the columns are comparable both horizontally and vertically. The index-numbers in the last column are the same as in previous tables where the period and town are comparable.

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

Town.	1924.			1925.			1926.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food Groceries and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food Groceries and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food Groceries and Housing.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	1,082	687	1,769	1,115	702	1,817	1,166	686	1,852
Newcastle .. .. .	1,092	571	1,663	1,125	621	1,746	1,155	638	1,793
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,221	349	1,570	1,315	376	1,691	1,322	413	1,735
Goulburn .. .. .	1,104	659	1,763	1,115	634	1,749	1,156	654	1,810
Bathurst .. .. .	1,028	472	1,500	1,074	516	1,590	1,119	547	1,666
Weighted Average .. .. .	1,086	667	1,753	1,120	685	1,805	1,168	674	1,842
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. .. .	1,052	591	1,643	1,092	602	1,694	1,108	636	1,744
Ballarat .. .. .	1,064	361	1,425	1,101	388	1,489	1,131	384	1,515
Bendigo .. .. .	1,080	370	1,450	1,111	409	1,520	1,125	449	1,574
Geelong .. .. .	1,045	475	1,520	1,081	496	1,577	1,100	589	1,689
Warrnambool .. .. .	1,076	461	1,537	1,074	459	1,533	1,096	455	1,551
Weighted Average .. .. .	1,053	569	1,622	1,092	581	1,673	1,109	616	1,725
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	1,055	435	1,490	1,083	438	1,521	1,116	501	1,617
Toowoomba .. .. .	1,000	388	1,388	1,045	428	1,473	1,105	454	1,559
Rockhampton .. .. .	1,049	300	1,349	1,092	386	1,478	1,170	407	1,577
Charters Towers .. .. .	1,150	342	1,492	1,171	346	1,517	1,268	349	1,617
Warwick .. .. .	1,014	413	1,427	1,042	408	1,450	1,121	439	1,560
Weighted Average .. .. .	1,053	415	1,468	1,083	428	1,511	1,126	482	1,608
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,119	578	1,697	1,149	592	1,741	1,167	569	1,736
Kadina, &c. .. .. .	1,097	372	1,469	1,158	326	1,484	1,203	310	1,513
Port Pirie .. .. .	1,137	377	1,514	1,208	394	1,602	1,246	426	1,672
Mount Gambier .. .. .	1,057	304	1,361	1,095	308	1,403	1,143	325	1,468
Peterborough .. .. .	1,135	460	1,595	1,211	477	1,688	1,238	457	1,695
Weighted Average .. .. .	1,117	558	1,675	1,152	568	1,720	1,171	549	1,720
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth, &c. .. .. .	1,181	492	1,673	1,210	504	1,714	1,165	552	1,717
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. .. .	1,325	345	1,670	1,339	337	1,676	1,327	337	1,664
Northam .. .. .	1,197	499	1,696	1,257	528	1,785	1,260	527	1,787
Bunbury .. .. .	1,212	434	1,646	1,255	438	1,693	1,253	434	1,687
Geraldton .. .. .	1,239	507	1,740	1,284	525	1,809	1,255	529	1,784
Weighted Average .. .. .	1,198	476	1,674	1,228	485	1,713	1,188	525	1,713
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. .. .	1,155	598	1,753	1,131	619	1,750	1,167	611	1,778
Launceston .. .. .	1,147	473	1,625	1,121	495	1,616	1,151	489	1,640
Burnie .. .. .	1,173	489	1,662	1,137	503	1,640	1,186	482	1,668
Devonport .. .. .	1,163	480	1,643	1,155	468	1,623	1,177	466	1,643
Queenstown .. .. .	1,259	305	1,564	1,278	304	1,582	1,301	244	1,545
Weighted Average .. .. .	1,157	544	1,701	1,135	561	1,696	1,168	552	1,720
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. .. .	1,085	583	1,668	1,118	597	1,715	1,147	609	1,756
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. .. .	1,082	606	1,688	1,114	619	1,733	1,142	630	1,772

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

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

to 33), where some 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, 1923 to 1926.—The results of the investigation made in November, 1926, are set out in the following tables. The aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4 rooms, and food, groceries, and rent of 5 rooms are shown for each year for each individual town. The index-number 1,687 represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,556 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four roomed houses in November, 1926. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,072 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1926. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for all 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1,687, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,714, while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,550.

A change has been made in the basis on which the index-numbers in this table are computed. Previously, the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the same basis is taken as in the case of the tables referring to 30 towns and six capital cities given in the preceding section, i.e. the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing accommodation in the six capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1,000.

**INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS IN 1924, 1925, AND 1926, 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.	1924. November.			1925. November.			1926. November.												
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.										
										A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>																			
Sydney .. .. .	1,022	1,559	1,690	1,072	1,623	1,759	1,096	1,649	1,769										
Newcastle .. .	1,006	1,447	1,599	1,090	1,603	1,733	1,071	1,576	1,724										
Broken Hill .. .	1,145	1,467	1,525	1,244	1,570	1,648	1,106	1,563	1,651										
Goulburn .. .	1,020	1,521	1,694	1,086	1,607	1,695	1,072	1,636	1,713										
Bathurst .. .	941	1,264	1,378	1,043	1,418	1,488	1,038	1,423	1,506										
Albury .. .	990	1,648	1,785	1,082	1,812	1,954	1,083	1,817	1,982										
Armidale .. .	986	1,371	1,469	1,095	1,464	1,674	1,052	1,421	1,631										
Ballina .. .	1,052	1,546	1,678	1,175	1,644	1,742	1,191	1,639	1,685										
Bega .. .	1,029	1,322	1,437	1,114	1,432	1,561	1,089	1,331	1,449										
Berry .. .	1,068	1,331	1,496	1,151	1,464	1,595	1,133	1,445	1,577										
Blackheath .. .	1,130	1,623	1,738	1,203	1,677	1,779	1,235	1,676	1,771										
Bourke .. .	1,055	1,266	1,292	1,201	1,382	1,474	1,176	1,407	1,505										
Bowral .. .	1,060	1,530	1,672	1,118	1,684	1,790	1,182	1,741	1,820										
Casino .. .	1,063	1,490	1,611	1,157	1,617	1,708	1,163	1,681	1,772										
Cessnock .. .	1,014	1,529	1,683	1,094	1,664	1,774	1,108	1,651	1,749										
Cobar .. .	1,073	1,162	1,208	1,156	1,245	1,291	1,174	1,283	1,309										
Cooma .. .	1,083	1,425	1,537	1,131	1,474	1,615	1,118	1,422	1,611										
Coomamble .. .	1,077	1,406	1,472	1,143	1,459	1,569	1,105	1,447	1,572										
Cootamundra .. .	976	1,447	1,549	1,100	1,669	1,807	1,100	1,594	1,791										
Corrimal .. .	975	1,304	1,370	1,077	1,471	1,498	1,112	1,507	1,533										
Cowra .. .	1,017	1,438	1,511	1,102	1,536	1,668	1,159	1,559	1,681										
Cronulla .. .	1,071	1,713	1,845	1,099	1,740	1,878	1,105	1,672	1,832										
Cudjiegong .. .	1,053	1,289	1,355	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)										
Deniliquin .. .	1,009	1,336	1,429	1,078	1,412	1,529	1,072	1,391	1,549										
Dubbo .. .	1,065	1,537	1,641	1,141	1,630	1,741	1,119	1,645	1,733										
Forbes .. .	1,000	1,491	1,651	1,098	1,609	1,756	1,133	1,609	1,727										

(a) Figures not available.

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

State and Town.	1924. November.			1925. November.			1926. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i></b>									
Gilgandra .. .. .	1,016	1,268	1,321	1,146	1,398	1,556	1,176	1,505	1,584
Glen Innes .. .. .	925	1,254	1,401	1,000	1,337	1,505	1,003	1,344	1,532
Grafton .. .. .	1,035	1,324	1,430	1,093	1,611	1,734	1,079	1,558	1,737
Griffiths .. .. .	1,038	1,493	1,630	1,120	1,571	1,696	1,092	1,533	1,678
Gungah .. .. .	1,006	1,796	1,862	1,166	1,877	2,186	1,151	1,973	2,203
Gunnedah .. .. .	995	1,291	1,354	1,093	1,297	1,350	1,034	1,341	1,440
Hay .. .. .	962	1,333	1,439	1,051	1,437	1,545	1,027	1,417	1,547
Inverell .. .. .	1,085	1,392	1,531	1,175	1,513	1,683	1,151	1,488	1,684
June .. .. .	1,011	1,373	1,451	1,103	1,513	1,607	1,111	1,590	1,696
Katoomba .. .. .	972	1,564	1,696	1,068	1,699	1,788	1,077	1,756	1,800
Kempsey .. .. .	1,129	1,619	1,737	1,147	1,663	1,779	1,136	1,719	1,840
Kiama .. .. .	1,004	1,398	1,484	1,046	1,472	1,547	1,086	1,527	1,607
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	1,068	(a)	(a)	1,145	1,492	1,651	1,145	1,507	1,606
Leeton .. .. .	1,068	1,424	1,496	1,148	1,576	1,658	1,156	1,545	1,605
Lismore .. .. .	1,097	1,867	1,886	1,172	1,896	1,932	1,176	1,854	1,861
Lithgow .. .. .	1,049	1,404	1,566	1,088	1,490	1,680	1,167	1,696	1,879
Maitland .. .. .	1,023	1,422	1,502	1,087	1,489	1,581	1,116	1,535	1,626
Moree .. .. .	952	1,409	1,491	1,078	1,578	1,700	1,076	1,560	1,717
Moss Vale .. .. .	1,104	1,556	1,692	1,183	1,657	1,782	1,194	1,734	1,869
Mudgee .. .. .	1,034	1,516	1,670	1,121	1,648	1,779	1,075	1,562	1,680
Narrabri .. .. .	982	1,398	1,485	1,086	1,503	1,601	1,034	1,486	1,611
Narrandera .. .. .	960	1,309	1,436	1,096	1,403	1,518	1,066	1,434	1,579
Norwa .. .. .	1,069	1,516	1,694	1,164	1,592	1,727	1,189	1,682	1,880
Orange .. .. .	1,036	1,481	1,595	1,105	1,553	1,681	1,159	1,650	1,729
Parke .. .. .	992	1,447	1,565	1,057	1,476	1,561	1,045	1,615	1,760
Penrith .. .. .	1,020	1,480	1,595	1,110	1,586	1,693	1,096	1,570	1,732
Port Kembla .. .. .	1,025	1,340	1,436	1,090	1,491	1,666	1,047	1,448	1,570
Portland .. .. .	1,057	1,380	1,450	1,120	1,442	1,537	1,109	1,484	1,548
Quincbeyan .. .. .	1,042	1,423	1,535	1,122	1,583	1,623	1,122	1,510	1,635
Richmond .. .. .	1,057	1,551	1,704	1,136	1,632	1,815	1,135	1,747	1,879
Seone .. .. .	1,034	1,350	1,507	1,134	1,446	1,647	1,092	1,401	1,593
Sington .. .. .	1,075	1,493	1,569	1,135	1,547	1,645	1,069	1,460	1,603
Singleton .. .. .	985	1,335	1,491	1,058	1,475	1,607	1,037	1,439	1,606
Stamworth .. .. .	988	1,353	1,442	1,080	1,445	1,534	1,098	1,460	1,592
Taree .. .. .	947	1,380	1,465	1,047	1,519	1,610	1,012	1,427	1,586
Temora .. .. .	979	1,538	1,686	1,076	1,586	1,750	1,059	1,562	1,706
Tenterfield .. .. .	1,057	1,584	1,692	1,160	1,703	1,861	1,128	1,622	1,737
Tumut .. .. .	1,010	1,383	1,436	1,079	1,473	1,546	1,130	1,553	1,610
Uhnarra .. .. .	1,039	1,533	1,632	1,158	1,619	1,783	1,048	1,498	1,607
Wagga Wagga .. .. .	1,075	1,470	1,602	1,101	1,549	1,601	1,054	1,448	1,527
Walcha .. .. .	1,016	1,740	1,838	1,063	1,776	1,989	1,065	1,707	1,822
Wellington .. .. .	994	1,257	1,405	1,111	1,471	1,572	1,093	1,379	1,626
Weston .. .. .	1,018	1,308	1,421	1,109	1,404	1,486	1,101	1,373	1,512
Windsor .. .. .	1,066	1,356	1,395	1,155	1,519	1,583	1,134	1,476	1,562
Wollongong .. .. .	1,052	1,488	1,562	1,143	1,554	1,653	1,098	1,550	1,629
Wyalong .. .. .	1,045	1,508	1,595	1,092	1,599	1,678	1,126	1,718	1,789
Yass .. .. .	1,099	1,494	1,626	1,125	1,520	1,619	1,072	1,522	1,598
Young .. .. .	1,080	1,458	1,524	1,211	1,658	1,737	1,172	1,595	1,681
Young .. .. .	942	1,376	1,475	1,085	1,671	1,727	1,052	1,585	1,676
<b>Weighted Average for State</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,653</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>1,747</b>
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. .. .	963	1,455	1,600	1,053	1,556	1,691	1,024	1,550	1,714
Ballarat .. .. .	987	1,268	1,384	1,066	1,266	1,506	1,047	1,321	1,489
Bendigo .. .. .	988	1,293	1,373	1,070	1,403	1,524	1,053	1,392	1,549
Geelong .. .. .	945	1,318	1,448	1,049	1,475	1,590	1,013	1,521	1,612
Warrnambool .. .. .	987	1,370	1,497	1,040	1,424	1,545	1,004	1,377	1,517
Ararat .. .. .	1,049	1,372	1,455	1,174	1,518	1,613	1,143	1,546	1,608
Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	961	1,389	1,520	1,050	1,408	1,642	1,032	1,493	1,611
Bairnsdale .. .. .	1,052	1,414	1,578	1,151	1,545	1,677	1,149	1,561	1,681
Beechworth .. .. .	1,040	1,303	1,369	1,116	1,373	1,440	1,111	1,407	1,473
Benalla .. .. .	993	1,325	1,421	1,086	1,448	1,560	1,079	1,441	1,533
Camperdown .. .. .	1,001	1,404	1,527	1,098	1,515	1,647	1,081	1,520	1,621
Casterton .. .. .	1,013	1,300	1,425	1,111	1,424	1,517	1,097	1,426	1,557
Castlemaine .. .. .	1,059	1,389	1,505	1,111	1,427	1,550	1,081	1,340	1,485
Colac .. .. .	1,042	1,574	1,667	1,070	1,591	1,728	1,046	1,588	1,709
Creswick .. .. .	962	1,107	1,126	1,072	1,230	1,289	1,048	1,180	1,200
Daylesford .. .. .	986	1,216	1,282	1,064	1,327	1,426	993	1,310	1,369
Dunolly .. .. .	996	1,147	1,180	1,056	1,214	1,267	1,060	1,218	1,271

(a) Figures not available.

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

State and Town.	1924. November.			1925. November.			1926. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
<b>VICTORIA—continued.</b>									
Echuca .. .. .	1,026	1,355	1,470	1,116	1,438	1,570	1,084	1,436	1,594
Euroa .. .. .	1,070	1,389	1,465	1,143	1,479	1,604	1,071	1,404	1,542
Hamilton .. .. .	1,086	1,590	1,744	1,141	1,623	1,744	1,090	1,586	1,706
Healesville .. .. .	1,016	1,430	1,542	1,075	1,469	1,568	1,070	1,498	1,563
Horsham .. .. .	1,065	1,668	1,865	1,117	1,732	1,907	1,096	1,644	1,908
Kerang .. .. .	1,061	1,620	1,752	1,118	1,688	1,797	1,093	1,619	1,773
Koroit .. .. .	988	1,251	1,357	1,075	1,345	1,404	1,040	1,323	1,382
Korumburra .. .. .	1,037	1,497	1,629	1,084	1,545	1,660	1,029	1,473	1,605
Kyneton .. .. .	980	1,316	1,410	1,062	1,397	1,532	1,060	1,429	1,521
Lilydale .. .. .	1,012	1,440	1,572	1,138	1,582	1,747	1,094	1,506	1,637
Maffra .. .. .	1,019	1,622	1,732	1,023	1,615	1,747	1,042	1,700	1,798
Maldon .. .. .	1,000	1,158	1,206	1,061	1,214	1,278	1,037	1,175	1,228
Maryborough .. .. .	1,000	1,214	1,309	1,104	1,337	1,456	1,082	1,336	1,455
Mildura .. .. .	1,084	1,693	1,805	1,152	1,784	1,926	1,131	1,774	1,873
Morwell .. .. .	1,041	1,764	1,830	1,129	1,700	1,853	1,067	1,659	1,746
Nhill .. .. .	1,124	1,550	1,699	1,174	1,700	1,832	1,110	1,636	1,733
Orbst .. .. .	1,047	1,442	1,573	1,127	1,522	1,785	1,101	1,501	1,824
Portland .. .. .	1,067	1,357	1,498	1,187	1,525	1,680	1,105	1,444	1,533
Port Fairy .. .. .	1,016	1,292	1,352	1,096	1,391	1,458	1,072	1,362	1,486
St. Arnaud .. .. .	1,040	1,435	1,514	1,193	1,632	1,752	1,141	1,602	1,759
Sale .. .. .	987	1,432	1,582	1,074	1,537	1,677	1,045	1,515	1,677
Seymour .. .. .	1,062	1,400	1,490	1,145	1,476	1,555	1,123	1,454	1,533
Shepparton .. .. .	1,007	1,476	1,590	1,080	1,633	1,760	1,071	1,637	1,782
Stawell .. .. .	1,087	1,372	1,451	1,179	1,500	1,595	1,185	1,505	1,615
Swan Hill .. .. .	1,052	1,710	1,809	1,098	1,690	1,822	1,098	1,690	1,822
Terang .. .. .	1,041	1,449	1,567	1,125	1,546	1,651	1,117	1,512	1,651
Traralgon .. .. .	1,024	1,386	1,485	1,115	1,461	1,612	1,050	1,407	1,573
Wangaratta .. .. .	1,061	1,458	1,563	1,149	1,590	1,720	1,137	1,579	1,698
Warracknabeal .. .. .	1,020	1,536	1,645	1,131	1,657	1,745	1,139	1,639	1,742
Warragul .. .. .	969	1,429	1,561	1,080	1,551	1,716	1,079	1,609	1,767
Wonthaggi .. .. .	1,049	1,474	1,563	1,145	1,623	1,693	1,072	1,497	1,585
Weighted Average for State	973	1,437	1,574	1,062	1,539	1,671	1,033	1,531	1,686
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	970	1,303	1,423	1,068	1,405	1,523	1,041	1,411	1,569
Toowoomba .. .. .	905	1,223	1,324	1,051	1,359	1,505	1,022	1,362	1,491
Rockhampton .. .. .	972	1,211	1,278	1,075	1,372	1,474	1,094	1,399	1,521
Charters Towers .. .. .	1,065	1,322	1,411	1,156	1,422	1,510	1,217	1,484	1,579
Warwick .. .. .	931	1,291	1,352	1,039	1,377	1,450	1,076	1,405	1,536
Ayr .. .. .	1,125	1,546	1,691	1,224	1,685	1,849	1,160	1,584	1,711
Barcardine .. .. .	1,116	1,477	1,609	1,184	1,579	1,727	1,232	1,587	1,646
Bowen .. .. .	1,079	1,507	1,655	1,184	1,579	1,645	1,179	1,607	1,706
Bundaberg .. .. .	947	1,232	1,327	1,044	1,364	1,439	1,040	1,371	1,496
Cairns .. .. .	1,139	1,596	1,710	1,238	1,786	1,913	1,205	1,797	1,907
Charleville .. .. .	1,077	1,537	1,702	1,183	1,571	1,676	1,214	1,658	1,828
Chillagoe .. .. .	1,063	1,326	1,392	1,277	1,513	1,540	1,281	1,550	1,610
Cloncurry .. .. .	1,178	1,540	1,636	1,212	1,592	1,708	1,238	1,603	1,709
Cooktown .. .. .	1,072	1,173	1,221	1,141	1,273	1,330	1,153	1,284	1,363
Cunnamulla .. .. .	1,074	1,403	1,468	1,186	1,515	1,581	1,227	1,654	1,687
Dalby .. .. .	981	1,310	1,375	1,051	1,412	1,495	1,063	1,431	1,524
Gayndah .. .. .	952	1,245	1,310	1,093	1,383	1,455	1,114	1,411	1,476
Gladstone .. .. .	1,020	1,283	1,415	1,109	1,385	1,437	1,097	1,352	1,492
Goondiwindi .. .. .	1,033	1,362	1,471	1,139	1,554	1,643	1,113	1,519	1,607
Gympie .. .. .	990	1,286	1,352	1,087	1,399	1,493	1,090	1,397	1,518
Hughenden .. .. .	1,101	1,583	1,682	1,197	1,734	1,866	1,276	1,723	1,830
Innisfail .. .. .	1,211	1,649	1,803	1,316	1,842	1,974	1,298	1,825	1,956
Ipswich .. .. .	963	1,246	1,331	1,044	1,373	1,439	1,096	1,454	1,524
Longreach .. .. .	1,073	1,446	1,591	1,177	1,561	1,646	1,260	1,654	1,760
Mackay .. .. .	987	1,407	1,511	1,087	1,536	1,671	1,094	1,576	1,730
Maryborough .. .. .	953	1,233	1,351	1,051	1,347	1,449	1,041	1,337	1,462
Mount Morgan .. .. .	1,023	1,300	1,346	1,071	1,282	1,321	1,117	1,328	1,367
Nambour .. .. .	994	1,410	1,498	1,085	1,458	1,541	1,103	1,520	1,623
Roma .. .. .	1,010	1,326	1,434	1,109	1,468	1,545	1,135	1,534	1,644
Stanthorpe .. .. .	1,075	1,431	1,503	1,153	1,548	1,614	1,155	1,484	1,537
Townsville .. .. .	1,085	1,569	1,719	1,176	1,655	1,797	1,216	1,733	1,894
Winton .. .. .	1,108	1,656	1,722	1,199	1,802	1,912	1,288	1,803	1,902
Weighted Average for State	987	1,320	1,430	1,085	1,430	1,540	1,080	1,448	1,586

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

State and Town.	1924. November.			1925. November.			1926. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,020	1,516	1,645	1,067	1,567	1,688	1,056	1,541	1,641
Kadina, etc. . . . .	1,014	1,281	1,373	1,110	1,369	1,450	1,120	1,370	1,458
Port Pirie . . . . .	1,060	1,399	1,479	1,154	1,500	1,596	1,137	1,515	1,615
Mount Gambier . . . . .	994	1,233	1,316	1,040	1,266	1,362	1,062	1,322	1,369
Peterborough . . . . .	1,103	1,502	1,584	1,116	1,520	1,596	1,149	1,566	1,647
Freeling . . . . .	1,083	1,379	1,445	1,105	1,473	1,539	1,073	1,487	1,586
Gawler . . . . .	1,016	1,398	1,457	1,050	1,386	1,458	1,065	1,425	1,504
Kapunda . . . . .	1,004	1,215	1,327	1,073	1,284	1,349	1,030	1,208	1,327
Koranga . . . . .	1,053	1,448	1,514	1,101	1,298	1,386	1,074	1,272	1,360
Millicent . . . . .	966	1,427	1,440	986	1,299	1,388	996	1,325	1,414
Murray Bridge . . . . .	1,023	1,474	1,582	1,070	1,491	1,543	1,099	1,543	1,645
Port Augusta . . . . .	1,123	1,448	1,551	1,209	1,565	1,648	1,186	1,560	1,625
Quorn . . . . .	1,028	1,518	1,620	1,100	1,536	1,643	1,089	1,496	1,544
Victor Harbour . . . . .	1,050	1,642	1,774	1,102	1,635	1,777	1,085	1,592	1,750
Renmark . . . . .	1,116	1,613	1,749	1,231	1,708	1,840	1,206	1,654	1,763
Weighted Average for State	1,024	1,494	1,616	1,074	1,545	1,661	1,065	1,524	1,623
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth and Fremantle . . . . .	1,114	1,527	1,618	1,065	1,476	1,569	1,062	1,510	1,620
Kalgoorlie and Boulder . . . . .	1,258	1,590	1,651	1,235	1,556	1,611	1,215	1,530	1,600
Northam . . . . .	1,074	1,496	1,612	1,161	1,556	1,732	1,163	1,577	1,739
Bunbury . . . . .	1,137	1,507	1,601	1,134	1,504	1,698	1,177	1,521	1,679
Geraldton . . . . .	1,192	1,632	1,704	1,172	1,619	1,751	1,168	1,609	1,745
Albany . . . . .	1,204	1,498	1,609	1,230	1,532	1,626	1,183	1,505	1,602
Beverley . . . . .	1,132	1,366	1,423	1,119	1,384	1,472	1,137	1,435	1,519
Bridgetown . . . . .	1,193	1,538	1,604	1,232	1,643	1,709	1,247	1,603	1,641
Broome . . . . .	1,330	1,988	2,053	1,322	1,980	2,045	1,428	2,020	2,152
Carnarvon . . . . .	1,184	1,710	1,776	1,329	1,823	1,921	1,301	1,795	1,926
Collie . . . . .	1,172	1,567	1,632	1,236	1,598	1,664	1,205	1,506	1,639
Greenbushes . . . . .	1,242	1,440	1,466	1,251	1,435	1,474	1,257	1,454	1,507
Katanning . . . . .	1,077	1,459	1,577	1,089	1,473	1,553	1,114	1,466	1,574
Leonora and Gwalia . . . . .	1,399	1,557	1,597	1,354	1,512	1,551	1,379	1,560	1,643
Meekeatharra . . . . .	1,364	1,627	1,693	1,430	1,693	1,759	1,409	1,672	1,738
Narrogin . . . . .	1,154	1,628	1,812	1,160	1,643	1,792	1,156	1,639	1,788
Wagin . . . . .	1,185	1,491	1,537	1,144	1,467	1,575	1,133	1,479	1,528
York . . . . .	1,176	1,522	1,574	1,213	1,558	1,637	1,127	1,479	1,527
Weighted Average for State	1,138	1,536	1,624	1,103	1,499	1,590	1,098	1,522	1,627
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart . . . . .	1,051	1,579	1,724	1,077	1,554	1,718	1,066	1,574	1,750
Launceston . . . . .	1,057	1,444	1,610	1,064	1,459	1,610	1,045	1,427	1,605
Burnie . . . . .	1,042	1,485	1,621	1,110	1,575	1,689	1,079	1,529	1,595
Devonport . . . . .	1,080	1,524	1,641	1,098	1,501	1,651	1,083	1,512	1,592
Queenstown . . . . .	1,185	1,448	1,527	1,225	1,488	1,567	1,193	1,403	1,443
Beaconsfield . . . . .	1,099	1,218	1,257	1,069	1,174	1,201	1,060	1,139	1,165
Campbelltown . . . . .	1,045	1,259	1,333	1,094	1,208	1,340	1,081	1,296	1,316
Deloraine . . . . .	1,014	1,363	1,396	1,023	1,352	1,418	1,014	1,389	1,428
Franklin . . . . .	1,061	1,298	1,325	1,063	1,300	1,326	1,072	1,309	1,335
New Norfolk . . . . .	1,032	1,361	1,460	1,057	1,393	1,449	1,045	1,367	1,436
Scottsdale . . . . .	1,039	1,336	1,418	1,060	1,367	1,429	1,059	1,357	1,432
Ulverstone . . . . .	1,030	1,380	1,477	1,082	1,411	1,510	1,057	1,321	1,452
Zeehan . . . . .	1,154	1,364	1,430	1,256	1,454	1,519	1,252	1,450	1,515
Weighted Average for State	1,059	1,509	1,647	1,083	1,506	1,652	1,069	1,502	1,654
Weighted Average for Australia . . . . .	1,012	1,472	1,597	1,077	1,549	1,675	1,072	1,556	1,687

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus, for November, 1926, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1024. Subtracting this from 1,550 (column B) gives a difference of 526, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,714 (column C) gives a difference of 690, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms.

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

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

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

1. *General.*—The index-numbers in §3 show the variations in the cost of food, groceries and house rent. The expenditure on these items covers approximately 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of the ordinary household. The balance is expended on clothing, boots, fuel, light, and such miscellaneous items as renewals of furniture, furnishings, drapery, crockery, lodge dues, trade union dues, recreation, newspapers, etc. The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage recommended in its report that a method should be adopted of ascertaining from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in its relation to the total household expenditure. The Government adopted the recommendation, and the duty of carrying out the necessary investigations was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, which adopted the methods hereunder described.

2. *Methods Adopted.*—The Commission was concerned principally with the ascertainment of variations in the cost of the regimen described in the Indicator Lists published in its Report. It is clear, however, that restriction of the investigations of the Bureau of Census and Statistics in the way suggested by the Commission, would have limited their usefulness. It was decided, therefore, to apply to the extended investigation the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries, and rent. The index-numbers may be used to determine accurately from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family as outlined by the Commission, as well as for the determination of variations in any standard fixed by previous investigators, or which may be fixed in the future.

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

The investigations of this Bureau advisedly had been confined to food, groceries, and house rent,\* and it was necessary, therefore, to make investigations into the cost of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and life of articles, and this has been utilized in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables. Forms were sent out to retailers on which the prices of the articles at November, 1920, were given. These prices, so far as the capital cities are concerned (being in general the prices quoted by the firms to whom the forms were sent), are the predominant prices, i.e., the price of the grade of the articles which is most in demand. The retailers were asked to quote for November, 1921, and for May, 1922, the prices of the same articles. In order to ascertain the change in expenditure, the quantities and life as given in the Indicator Lists of the Basic Wage Commission were used for "weighting" purposes to arrive at a weekly expenditure for clothing. This weekly expenditure is then multiplied by weights in the same manner as is the weekly expenditure on rent, thus giving an aggregate expenditure comparable with the aggregate expenditure on food and groceries and on rent.

\* See pages 22-25 of Labour Report No. 12.

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., and also with regard to other items included in the Indicator Lists for Miscellaneous Expenditure, and the aggregate expenditure on these items has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

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

3. Period Selected as Base.—For the new 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, but they may be accepted as typical of immediate pre-war conditions.

4. Variations in Cost in the Capital Cities.\*—The index-numbers in the following table show the variations not only in each city from period to period, but also as between the various cities at any given period. Thus, the increase in cost in the six capital cities from November, 1914, was greatest in November, 1920, when it amounted to 69.7 per cent. The increase for the year 1926, compared with November, 1914, was 47.1 per cent. Further, in 1926 the cost of the commodities and services included was greatest in Hobart (1,506) and least in Brisbane (1,383).

INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.—  
1914 TO 1926.

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

Cities.	November.				Year.			
	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	
Sydney .. .. .	1,036	1,523	1,486	1,488	1,458	1,478	1,503	
Melbourne .. .	976	1,460	1,402	1,460	1,420	1,432	1,453	
Brisbane .. . .	889	1,344	1,276	1,343	1,332	1,344	1,383	
Adelaide .. . .	1,018	1,440	1,388	1,467	1,476	1,496	1,493	
Perth .. . . .	1,029	1,467	1,355	1,422	1,430	1,446	1,444	
Hobart .. . . .	999	1,556	1,450	1,517	1,529	1,496	1,506	
Weighted Average ..	1,000	1,474	1,420	1,460	1,436	1,451	1,471	

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

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

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

B. WAGES.

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

1. General.—Particulars of the operations of Wages Boards and Industrial and Arbitration Courts under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours, and conditions of labour were first compiled to the 31st December, 1913, and reviews to the end of approximately quarterly periods appear in Labour Bulletins and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1926.

\* In Labour Report No. 17, index-numbers are given showing the relative cost from November, 1921, to end of 1926, in 30 of the principal towns in Australia.

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each quarter for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

**AWARDS, DETERMINATIONS, AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS, 1925 AND 1926.**

State and Commonwealth.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Full Year.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filled.								
1925.										
New South Wales	1	8	11	6	15	5	5	16	32	35
Victoria ..	13	..	20	..	12	..	22	..	67	..
Queensland ..	..	7	19	9	26	9	60	8	105	33
South Australia	12	1	9	..	18	1	8	3	47	5
Western Australia	..	20	..	16	2	16	2	14	4	66
Tasmania ..	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	5	1
Cwlth. Court ..	6	11	11	11	4	10	35	10	56	42
Cwlth. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	4	..
Total ..	34	47	71	43	79	41	136	51	320	182
1926.										
New South Wales	27	21	6	17	35	6	83	7	151	51
Victoria ..	13	..	19	..	38	..	36	..	106	..
Queensland ..	25	7	20	8	11	8	34	4	90	27
South Australia	1	3	1	2	7	..	5	2	14	7
Western Australia	1	10	..	7	1	6	8	14	10	37
Tasmania ..	2	..	..	..	2	2	3	..	7	2
Cwlth. Court ..	10	10	11	8	9	6	20	6	50	30
Cwlth. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	3	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	10	..
Total ..	82	51	59	42	106	28	191	33	438	154

3. Boards Authorized, Awards, etc., in Force.—(i) *Totals for Australia.* The following table gives particulars at the dates specified for all States—excepting Western Australia, in which State there is no provision for Boards—of Boards authorized, etc., and including operations under the Commonwealth and the Western Australian Arbitration Acts, of the number of awards, determinations, and industrial agreements in force :—

**BOARDS AUTHORIZED, ETC., AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA, 1913, 1925, AND 1926.**

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards Constituted.	Boards which had made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913 ..	..	505	501	387(b)	401
30th June, 1925 ..	..	571	537	518	583
31st December, 1925 ..	..	575	541	524	607
30th June, 1926 ..	..	588	554	524	656
31st December, 1926 ..	..	599	565	538	681

(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 1926, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 687 and 280 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

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

**BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913, 1925, AND 1926.**

Particulars.	At 31st Dec.	Commonwealth.			Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
		Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.	N.S.W.						
<i>Boards Authorized, etc. (a)—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			(b) 216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1925 .. .. .			269	186	2	75	..	49	575
	{ 1926 .. .. .			291	182	2	75	..	49	599
Boards constituted ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			(b) 223	132	74	51	..	21	501
	{ 1925 .. .. .			269	178	2	49	..	43	541
	{ 1926 .. .. .			291	180	2	49	..	43	565
Boards which have made Awards or Determinations ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1925 .. .. .			253	166	..	66	..	39	524
	{ 1926 .. .. .			265	168	..	66	..	39	538
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Awards and Determinations in force ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	17	..	(c) 265	127	73	54	18	49	575
	{ 1925 .. .. .	179	32	321	177	223	101	99	49	1,181
	{ 1926 .. .. .	199	34	346	179	237	109	107	51	1,262
<i>State Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Applying to Whole State ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			32	8	3	..	..	15	58
	{ 1925 .. .. .			32	66	66	15	4	40	223
	{ 1926 .. .. .			54	67	66	16	5	41	249
Applying to Metropolitan area ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			58	..	28	53	13	1	153
	{ 1925 .. .. .			91	1	52	62	56	..	262
	{ 1926 .. .. .			94	2	60	64	59	1	280
Applying to Metropolitan and Country areas ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			49	105	1	..	1	5	161
	{ 1925 .. .. .			136	97	45	2	8	7	295
	{ 1926 .. .. .			133	97	47	2	10	7	296
Applying to Country areas ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			126	14	41	1	4	..	186
	{ 1925 .. .. .			62	13	60	22	31	2	190
	{ 1926 .. .. .			65	13	64	27	33	2	204
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Awards in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1925 .. .. .			115	131	35	99	36	66	..
	{ 1926 .. .. .			123	144	39	111	41	78	..
<i>C'wealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Determinations in force in each State ..	{ 1925 .. .. .			31	27	26	26	26	25	..
	{ 1926 .. .. .			32	29	27	27	27	26	..
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 .. .. .	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1925 .. .. .	229	..	142	..	86	46	101	3	607
	{ 1926 .. .. .	252	..	167	..	95	48	115	4	681
C'wealth Agreements in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. .. .			132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1925 .. .. .			80	93	27	26	19	24	..
	{ 1926 .. .. .			90	105	28	25	19	25	..

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

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

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

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

1. *General.*—The collection of information respecting the current rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries was first undertaken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in the early part of the year 1913. The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements, under Commonwealth and State Acts, and therefore show 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 have been taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement

\* 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.

is in force, particulars are given, where available, of the ruling union or predominant rate as furnished by employers or secretaries of trade unions. The total number of occupations for which particulars of wages are available back to 1901 is 652. Since 1913, when the scope of the inquiry was extended to 930 specified industries and 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 male and 308 female), the number of occupations included in the comparative computations has been kept constant.

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

An extensive tabular presentation of the minimum rates of wage for adult male and female workers in the main occupations in the capital city of each State is given in the Appendix to Labour Report, No. 17.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1921 to 1926.—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to furnishes the basis for the computation of relative weighted wages in the different States and industrial groups.

(ii) *Adult Males—States.* The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the 31st December in the years 1921 to 1926 for a full week's work in each State and Australia, together with index-numbers computed with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (=1,000).

**WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1921 TO 1926.**

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>						
31st December, 1921 ..	95 10	93 7	96 8	89 5	95 0	91 8	94 6
31st December, 1922 ..	91 6	91 4	93 10	87 6	93 9	88 5	91 6
31st December, 1923 ..	94 6	95 7	94 2	90 9	94 2	92 4	94 4
31st December, 1924 ..	93 6	95 5	95 9	91 10	94 8	92 6	94 3
31st December, 1925 ..	96 0	97 2	99 11	94 4	97 0	93 5	96 9
31st March, 1926 ..	96 3	97 5	100 2	95 0	96 10	93 7	97 0
30th June, 1926 ..	96 11	98 2	100 3	95 10	97 6	94 6	97 7
30th September, 1926 ..	97 7	99 9	100 4	97 0	98 5	95 2	98 6
31st December, 1926 ..	100 5	99 6	100 1	95 8	98 9	94 10	99 4

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

31st December, 1921 ..	1,869	1,826	1,886	1,745	1,853	1,788	1,844
31st December, 1922 ..	1,785	1,783	1,830	1,708	1,829	1,726	1,785
31st December, 1923 ..	1,844	1,865	1,837	1,770	1,838	1,802	1,840
31st December, 1924 ..	1,824	1,862	1,868	1,791	1,847	1,805	1,839
31st December, 1925 ..	1,873	1,897	1,950	1,841	1,893	1,823	1,887
31st March, 1926 ..	1,879	1,901	1,955	1,854	1,890	1,827	1,892
30th June, 1926 ..	1,891	1,916	1,956	1,870	1,902	1,843	1,904
30th September, 1926 ..	1,905	1,947	1,958	1,892	1,921	1,856	1,922
31st December, 1926 ..	1,959	1,941	1,952	1,867	1,927	1,851	1,938

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1926, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in New South Wales, followed in the order named by Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania. In all States wages increased rapidly from December, 1919, to the end of 1921. During 1922, however,

the average declined on account of adjustments made in accordance with the decrease in the cost of living. In 1923, the average wage increased in each State. During 1924, wages decreased in New South Wales and Victoria, but there was sufficient movement in the opposite direction in the remaining States to allow the weighted average for Australia as a whole to remain practically stationary. Nominal wages showed an upward trend in all States during 1925, with the sole exception of Victoria, where the weighted average nominal weekly rate at 31st March, 1925, showed a slight decrease as compared with the rate at 31st December, 1924. Subsequently, however, wages in Victoria rose steadily. During 1926, the trend of nominal wages was progressively upward in all States, with the exception of the final quarter, when all States except New South Wales and Western Australia showed decreases. The steady rise however continued in the weighted average wage for Australia, mainly due to the substantial rise in New South Wales in the final quarter. The largest percentage increase during the period under review was in South Australia with 7.0 per cent., followed by Victoria 6.3 per cent., New South Wales 4.8 per cent., Western Australia 4.0 per cent., and Queensland and Tasmania 3.5 per cent. The increase in the weighted average for Australia was 5.1 per cent.

(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows (a) the average weekly rate of wage in each of the fourteen industrial groups, (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, and (c) index-numbers based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (5s. 3d.), as base (=1,000):—

**WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1922 TO 1926.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and all industrial groups, based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (5s. 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., 1922.	31st Dec., 1923.	31st Dec., 1924.	31st Dec., 1925.	31st March, 1926.	30th June, 1926.	30th Sept., 1926.	31st Dec., 1926.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage .. 95.4	99.2	99.7	101.2	101.5	101.9	104.6	104.5
	Index-No. 1,860	1,935	1,943	1,973	1,980	1,986	2,038	2,037
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage .. 93.10	97.4	97.5	100.4	100.5	101.3	102.10	102.0
	Index-No. 1,832	1,900	1,901	1,957	1,959	1,975	2,007	1,991
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage .. 91.10	94.2	94.0	96.6	96.10	97.2	98.11	98.9
	Index-No. 1,792	1,837	1,835	1,883	1,890	1,896	1,930	1,926
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage .. 91.1	93.11	93.0	93.2	94.10	94.10	95.9	96.6
	Index-No. 1,777	1,833	1,815	1,817	1,851	1,851	1,868	1,883
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage .. 102.9	104.5	108.3	109.6	110.5	110.6	111.2	111.5
	Index-No. 2,004	2,037	2,113	2,137	2,155	2,156	2,168	2,173
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage .. 91.11	96.2	95.6	98.2	98.5	99.3	101.2	100.6
	Index-No. 1,793	1,876	1,863	1,915	1,920	1,937	1,973	1,961
VII. Building	Wage .. 100.5	103.8	105.6	108.5	109.0	109.8	110.9	110.9
	Index-No. 1,960	2,023	2,058	2,115	2,126	2,140	2,160	2,160
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage .. 103.8	104.5	104.2	108.7	108.10	108.11	109.2	109.6
	Index-No. 2,022	2,037	2,033	2,119	2,123	2,125	2,130	2,137
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage .. 93.4	97.8	96.11	100.6	101.2	101.10	103.8	102.6
	Index-No. 1,821	1,906	1,892	1,962	1,975	1,986	2,023	2,001
X. Other Land Transport	Wage .. 88.5	92.6	89.4	93.3	93.3	93.5	94.6	95.6
	Index-No. 1,725	1,806	1,744	1,820	1,820	1,823	1,843	1,863
XI. Shipping, etc. (a)	Wage .. 99.9	102.4	97.10	104.8	104.9	105.1	105.9	103.7
	Index-No. 1,947	1,997	1,908	2,043	2,044	2,051	2,063	2,020
XII. Agricultural, etc. (b)	Wage .. 83.11	85.8	85.10	87.4	87.7	88.9	89.0	93.5
	Index-No. 1,637	1,671	1,675	1,704	1,708	1,732	1,736	1,823
XIII. Domestic, etc. (b)	Wage .. 82.4	84.6	86.0	89.1	89.1	89.9	89.10	90.10
	Index-No. 1,606	1,648	1,678	1,738	1,738	1,751	1,753	1,772
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage .. 88.8	92.3	92.2	93.11	94.0	94.5	95.4	95.6
	Index-No. 1,730	1,800	1,798	1,833	1,834	1,842	1,860	1,863
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage .. 91.6	94.4	94.3	96.9	97.0	97.7	98.6	99.4
	Index-No. 1,785	1,840	1,839	1,887	1,892	1,904	1,922	1,938

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

The foregoing table shows that the rate of increase in the weighted average weekly wage in occupations and callings classified in the fourteen industrial groups during the period 31st December, 1922 to 1926, was greatest in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.) 11.4 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 10.3 per cent., VII. (Building), 10.2 per cent., IX. (Railways, etc.), 9.9 per cent., and I. (Wood, Furniture

etc.), 9.5 per cent. The smallest increase occurred in Group XI. (Shipping, etc.), 3.7 per cent. In seven of the groups the increase was more, and in seven groups less than the increase in the weighted average for all groups. During the year 1926, increases in average wages occurred in all industrial groups, with the exception of Group XI. (Shipping, etc.), which showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. The increase was greatest in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.) 7 per cent., followed by 3.6 per cent. in Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 3.2 per cent. in Group I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), and 2.4 per cent. in Groups VI. (Other Manufacturing) and X. (Other Land Transport). The percentage increase during the year was least in Group VIII. (Mining), 0.8 per cent. The weighted average wage for all groups combined increased by 2.7 per cent.

(iv) *Adult Females—States.* The following table shows the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index-numbers are given also for each State based on the average weekly wage at the end of each of the periods indicated, computed with the weighted average wage for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

**WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1921 TO 1926.**

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	23	308

**RATES OF WAGE.**

	s. d.						
31st December, 1921 ..	49 0	47 10	50 3	45 2	56 4	57 6	48 8
31st December, 1922 ..	47 8	48 0	48 2	44 0	56 4	47 7	47 11
31st December, 1923 ..	49 3	49 5	50 5	46 4	56 4	48 6	49 6
31st December, 1924 ..	49 1	49 7	50 10	46 6	56 11	50 3	49 7
31st December, 1925 ..	49 8	50 8	51 9	48 10	57 6	50 2	50 7
31st March, 1926 ..	50 2	51 5	52 7	49 7	57 6	50 9	51 2
30th June, 1926 ..	50 2	51 6	52 7	49 8	57 6	50 9	51 3
30th September, 1926 ..	50 5	51 7	52 7	50 0	57 9	50 11	51 5
31st December, 1926 ..	50 8	51 11	52 10	50 0	58 6	51 8	51 8

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

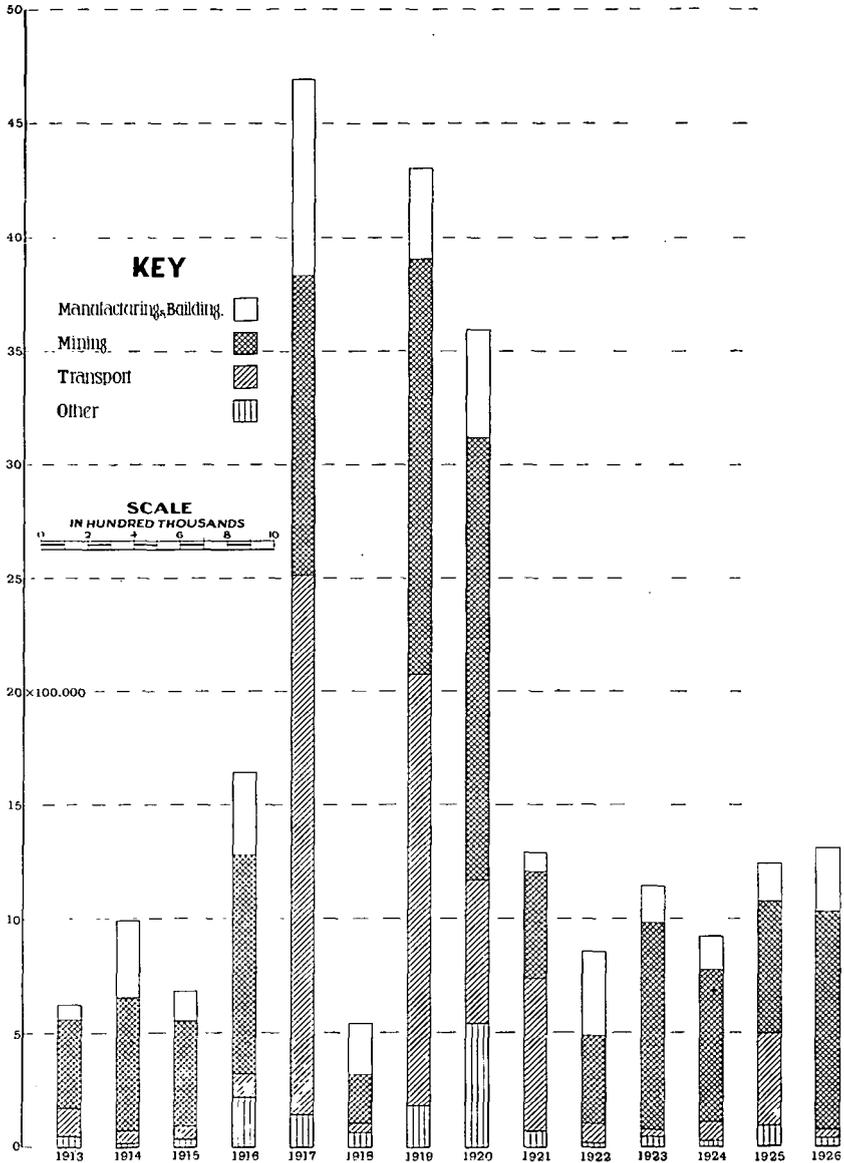
31st December, 1921 ..	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	2,074	1,749	1,790
31st December, 1922 ..	1,754	1,767	1,771	1,620	2,075	1,751	1,763
31st December, 1923 ..	1,812	1,819	1,855	1,704	2,075	1,785	1,821
31st December, 1924 ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826
31st December, 1925 ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
31st March, 1926 ..	1,847	1,892	1,935	1,826	2,116	1,868	1,884
30th June, 1926 ..	1,847	1,895	1,935	1,827	2,117	1,868	1,886
30th September, 1926 ..	1,856	1,900	1,936	1,839	2,127	1,873	1,892
31st December, 1926 ..	1,865	1,911	1,944	1,839	2,152	1,902	1,902

(a) Weighted average.

As in the case of male occupations, female wages increased rapidly up to December, 1921, but in 1922 reductions were recorded. The decrease over the whole of Australia was relatively much less than in the case of males. There was an increase in each State during 1923, with the exception of Western Australia, where the wages remained stationary. The upward tendency was continued during 1924 with increases in all States with the exception of New South Wales. During 1925, the Australian average rose from 49s. 7d. to 50s. 7d., each State, with the exception of Tasmania, showing increases, while during 1926 it rose to 51s. 8d., each State showing an increase over the previous year. The advance in the Australian average during the period under review was 6.3 per cent.

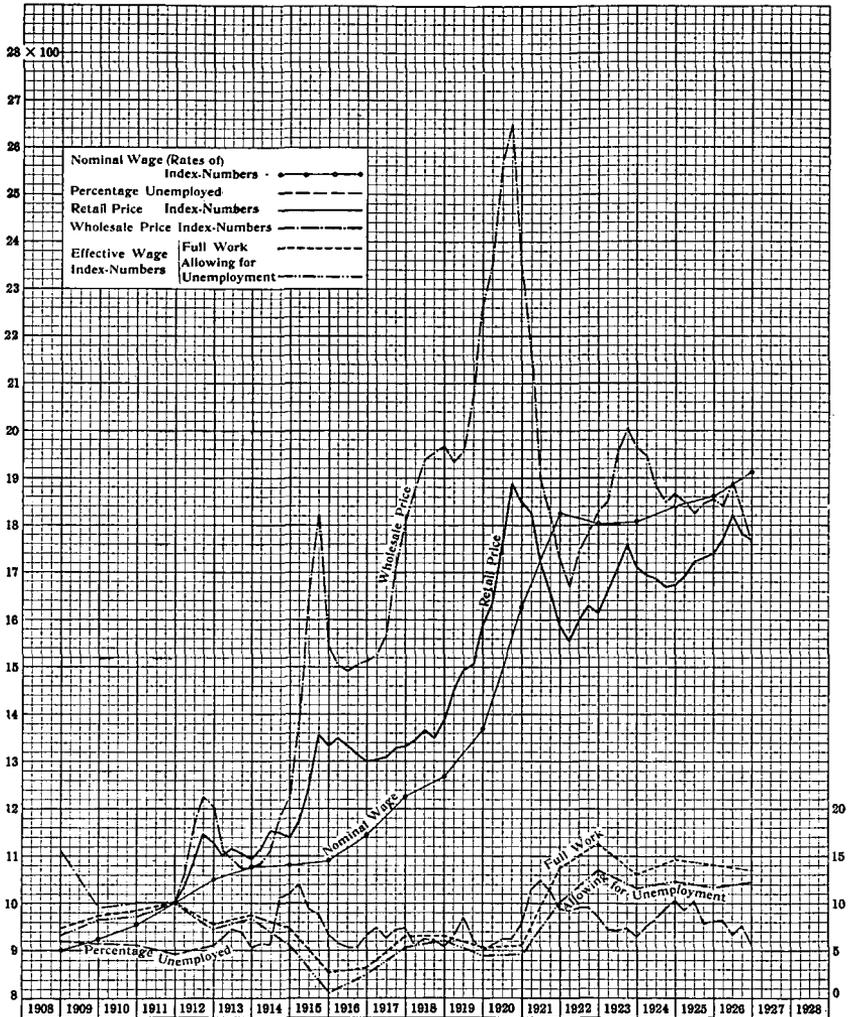
(v) *Adult Females—Industrial Groups.* The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined. Taking the average wage for all groups at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000), index-numbers are given computed on the average rate of wage ruling at the end of each period indicated.

## Industrial Disputes - Working Days Lost in Various Industrial Groups



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

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1908 TO 1926.



NOTE.—The figures on the right represent the scale for the percentage unemployed according to trade-union returns. The figures on the left represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price Index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter.

**WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1921, TO 1926.**

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

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V. and VI., All Other Manufac- turing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. (a).	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups. (b).
<b>RATES OF WAGE.</b>						
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
31st December, 1921 ..	43 9	48 7	48 0	48 6	50 0	48 8
31st December, 1922 ..	43 3	47 10	47 4	48 3	48 9	47 11
31st December, 1923 ..	44 1	50 1	48 10	49 5	49 6	49 6
31st December, 1924 ..	45 2	49 7	49 6	49 7	50 7	49 7
31st December, 1925 ..	45 8	50 1	51 2	51 0	52 0	50 7
31st March, 1926 ..	46 11	51 3	51 9	51 0	52 0	51 2
30th June, 1926 ..	47 0	51 3	51 10	51 1	52 0	51 3
30th September, 1926..	47 5	51 5	52 10	51 1	52 0	51 5
31st December, 1926 ..	47 8	51 7	52 10	52 0	52 0	51 8
<b>INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>						
31st December, 1921 ..	1,609	1,789	1,766	1,787	1,841	1,790
31st December, 1922 ..	1,593	1,762	1,741	1,777	1,794	1,763
31st December, 1923 ..	1,622	1,842	1,799	1,819	1,821	1,821
31st December, 1924 ..	1,661	1,826	1,821	1,824	1,862	1,826
31st December, 1925 ..	1,682	1,844	1,884	1,877	1,914	1,861
31st March, 1926 ..	1,725	1,886	1,903	1,877	1,914	1,884
30th June, 1926 ..	1,729	1,886	1,908	1,881	1,914	1,886
30th September, 1926..	1,746	1,892	1,943	1,881	1,914	1,892
31st December, 1926 ..	1,754	1,900	1,943	1,912	1,914	1,902

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

The greatest increase in the weekly rate of wage during the period under review occurred in Groups I., II., V., and VI. (All Other Manufacturing), 10.0 per cent., followed in the order named by Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 9.0 per cent., XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 6.2 per cent., and XIV. (Miscellaneous), 4.0 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for all groups was 6.3 per cent. higher at the end of 1926 than at the 31st December, 1921.

With the exception of Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), which has remained stationary since September, 1925, average wages in each industrial group increased during the year 1926, the largest increase being 4.3 per cent. in Group III., followed in the order named by Groups I., II., V., and VI., 3.1 per cent., IV., 3.0 per cent., and XIII., 1.9 per cent. The weighted average for all groups increased by 2.2 per cent.

**3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1922 to 1926.—(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 1922 to 1926. 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 are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, hence the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

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

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

**WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.—ADULT WORKERS, 1922 TO 1926.**

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1922	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 91 6	s. d. 91 4	s. d. 93 10	s. d. 87 6	s. d. 93 9	s. d. 88 5	s. d. 91 6
	Working Hours (b) ..	46.05	46.99	45.51	47.00	46.41	46.93	46.38
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/0½	1/11½	2/1½	1/10½	2/0½	1/10½	2/-
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 96 6	s. d. 98 0	s. d. 95 9	s. d. 91 8	s. d. 95 2	s. d. 93 3	s. d. 96 3
	Working Hours (b) ..	46.73	47.06	45.51	47.00	46.66	47.27	46.70
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/0½	2/1	2/1½	1/11½	2/0½	1/11½	2/0½
31st Dec., 1924	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 93 6	s. d. 95 5	s. d. 95 9	s. d. 91 10	s. d. 94 8	s. d. 92 6	s. d. 94 3
	Working Hours (b) ..	46.75	46.99	45.40	46.98	46.52	47.26	46.66
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/0½	2/1	2/1½	1/11½	2/0½	1/11½	2/0½
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 96 0	s. d. 97 2	s. d. 99 11	s. d. 94 4	s. d. 97 0	s. d. 93 5	s. d. 96 9
	Working Hours (b) ..	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/1½	2/1½	2/3½	2/0½	2/1½	2/-	2/1½
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 100 5	s. d. 99 6	s. d. 100 1	s. d. 95 8	s. d. 98 9	s. d. 94 10	s. d. 99 4
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.55	46.94	43.95	46.95	45.80	47.27	45.57
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/3½	2/2	2/4	2/0½	2/2½	2/0½	2/2½
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1922	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 47 8	s. d. 48 0	s. d. 48 2	s. d. 44 0	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 47 7	s. d. 47 11
	Working Hours ..	45.33	46.14	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.82
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	1/0½	1/0½	-1/1½	1/2½	1/-	1/0½
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 49 3	s. d. 49 5	s. d. 50 5	s. d. 46 4	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 48 6	s. d. 49 6
	Working Hours ..	45.81	46.13	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.98
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1	1/0½	1/1½	1/0	1/2½	1/0½	1/1
31st Dec., 1924	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 49 1	s. d. 49 7	s. d. 50 10	s. d. 46 6	s. d. 56 11	s. d. 50 3	s. d. 49 7
	Working Hours ..	45.98	46.08	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	48.02
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	1/1	1/1½	1/-	1/2½	1/0½	1/1
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 49 8	s. d. 50 8	s. d. 51 9	s. d. 48 10	s. d. 57 6	s. d. 50 2	s. d. 50 7
	Working Hours ..	46.17	45.83	44.00	46.10	45.57	47.86	45.78
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1	1/1½	1/2	1/0½	1/3½	1/0½	1/1½
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 50 8	s. d. 51 11	s. d. 52 10	s. d. 50 0	s. d. 58 6	s. d. 51 8	s. d. 51 8
	Working Hours ..	44.02	45.60	44.01	46.10	45.57	47.86	44.94
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1½	1/1½	1/2½	1/1	1/3½	1/1	1/1½

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

(iii) *Index-numbers.* There was a diminution in each of the States during the year 1921 in the number of working hours constituting a full week's work for male and female occupations, but during 1922 and 1923 certain increases in hours were recorded, principally in New South Wales. The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 has been towards a slight reduction in hours of labour, particularly in Queensland and New South Wales, where a 44-hour week became operative on 1st July, 1925, and on 4th January, 1926, respectively. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table. In each instance (male and female occupations separately) the basis taken is the weighted average for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (= 1,000).

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT WORKERS,  
1922 TO 1926.

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1922	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,600	1,657	1,702	1,588	1,701	1,605	1,660
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,735	1,709	1,803	1,621	1,766	1,628	1,726
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,714	1,734	1,703	1,646	1,709	1,675	1,711
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,775	1,790	1,808	1,676	1,754	1,696	1,771
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,696	1,731	1,737	1,665	1,717	1,679	1,710
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,761	1,790	1,838	1,709	1,771	1,706	1,774
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,741	1,763	1,813	1,712	1,760	1,695	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,808	1,823	1,988	1,761	1,827	1,723	1,829
31st Dec., 1926	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,821	1,805	1,815	1,735	1,791	1,721	1,802
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,944	1,864	1,997	1,776	1,878	1,746	1,900
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1922	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,754	1,767	1,771	1,620	2,075	1,751	1,763
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,899	1,881	1,908	1,726	2,215	1,797	1,889
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,812	1,819	1,855	1,704	2,075	1,785	1,821
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,943	1,937	1,997	1,815	2,215	1,831	1,944
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,929	1,943	2,017	1,821	2,236	1,898	1,949
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,944	2,000	2,125	1,913	2,280	1,893	1,995
31st Dec., 1926	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,865	1,911	1,944	1,839	2,152	1,902	1,902
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,080	2,059	2,169	1,959	2,319	1,952	2,078

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, 1922 to 1926. Index-numbers are given also for each State based on the weekly average hours at the end of each of the periods specified, computed with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

HOURS OF LABOUR.—WEEKLY INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES,  
1922 TO 1926.

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., 1922	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.05	46.99	45.51	47.00	46.41	46.93	46.38
	{ Index-numbers ..	941	960	930	961	948	959	948
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.73	47.06	45.51	47.00	46.66	46.27	46.70
	{ Index-numbers ..	955	962	930	961	954	966	954
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.75	46.99	45.40	46.98	46.52	47.26	46.66
	{ Index-numbers ..	955	960	928	960	951	966	954
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	{ Index-numbers ..	956	960	897	960	945	966	949
31st Dec., 1926	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.55	46.94	43.95	46.95	45.80	47.27	45.57
	{ Index numbers ..	910	959	898	960	936	966	931

(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.

There was a diminution in each State during the year 1921 in the number of working hours constituting a full week's work for male occupations, but during 1922 and 1923, in certain States, especially in New South Wales, hours of labour were increased. Each State, excepting New South Wales, shows a decrease for both 1924 and 1925, while, for 1926, four of the States show decreases, the remaining two, Queensland and Tasmania, showing minor increases on account of further industries being brought under Commonwealth Arbitration Court awards, under which the prescribed hours are greater than in the corresponding State awards. The weighted average weekly hours index-number for Australia at the 31st December, 1926, was 931, as compared with 1,000 at 30th April, 1914, a reduction of 6.9 per cent. The lowest weighted average nominal weekly hours index-number at the 31st December, 1926, was that for Queensland (898), followed in the order named by New South Wales (910), Western Australia (936), Victoria (959), South Australia (960), and Tasmania (966).

5. Nominal and Effective Wages, 1901 to 1926.—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (=1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities.

#### NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1926.

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

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1924.												
New South Wales ..	158	874	858	1,003	1,096	1,286	1,498	1,835	1,869	1,785	1,844	1,824	1,873	1,959
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,065	1,278	1,404	1,679	1,826	1,783	1,865	1,862	1,897	1,941
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,042	1,356	1,534	1,785	1,886	1,830	1,837	1,868	1,950	1,952
South Australia ..	134	567	819	1,013	1,062	1,278	1,373	1,613	1,745	1,708	1,770	1,791	1,841	1,867
Western Australia ..	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,226	1,372	1,516	1,751	1,853	1,829	1,838	1,847	1,893	1,927
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,028	1,193	1,346	1,674	1,788	1,726	1,802	1,805	1,823	1,851
Australia (a) ..	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,085	1,296	1,462	1,752	1,844	1,785	1,840	1,839	1,887	1,938

(a) Weighted average.

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

During the period 1911 to the end of the year 1926 the average weekly rate of wage in New South Wales increased 90 per cent., in Victoria 97 per cent., in Queensland 96 per cent., in South Australia 84 per cent., in Western Australia 67 per cent., and in Tasmania 132 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 94 per cent.

(ii) *Effective Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal only to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the effective wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1926.

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

**EFFECTIVE WEEKLY WAGE INDEX NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1926.(a)**

States.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
New South Wales	961	973	906	890	875	911	1,079	1,113	1,040	1,069	1,048	1,035
Victoria	915	1,037	961	925	904	875	1,038	1,102	1,036	1,097	1,073	1,069
Queensland	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,042	990	1,036	1,244	1,273	1,214	1,232	1,241	1,183
South Australia	948	957	929	934	901	853	1,027	1,090	1,036	1,051	1,053	1,076
Western Australia	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,095	1,008	1,012	1,139	1,226	1,192	1,161	1,162	1,165
Tasmania	827	838	942	869	840	830	977	1,053	1,000	1,017	1,044	1,037
Australia (b)	964	1,000	948	932	907	911	1,076	1,126	1,062	1,095	1,081	1,072

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

(b) Weighted average.

In the table above the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1926 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the effective wage in all States.

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

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

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

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

WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE, 1901 TO 1926.(a)

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

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

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

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

for full time work, however, again decreased. In 1926 the effective wage allowing for unemployment was 4.5 per cent., and working full time 7.2 per cent., higher than in 1911.

6. *Basic Wage.*—A short historical account of the Basic Wage and Child Endowment in Australia will be found in Labour Report No. 17. Chapter 2 § 5.

### § 3. Changes in Rates of Wage.

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) *Summary—States, 1926.* During the year 1926 the number of increases in rates of wage recorded was in excess of the decreases.

## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN EACH STATE, 1926.

State.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Week.
		£		£		£	s. d.
New South Wales	425,972	55,002	99,829	11,531	525,801	43,471	1 8
Victoria	324,121	39,878	105,484	11,958	429,605	27,920	1 4
Queensland	31,354	5,234	1,599	153	32,953	5,081	3 1
South Australia	72,652	8,459	30,639	3,862	103,291	4,597	0 11
Western Australia	32,432	4,765	5,839	601	38,271	4,164	2 2
Tasmania	16,305	1,321	9,073	573	25,378	748	0 7
Northern Territory	53	20	..	..	53	20	7 7
Federal Capital Territory	63	11	..	..	63	11	3 6
Common to all States (a)	48,538	3,124	17,807	1,516	66,345	1,608	0 6
Total	951,490	117,814	270,270	30,194	1,221,760	87,620	1 4

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

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

(iii) *Australia, 1922 to 1926.* The following table gives separate particulars of the effect of increases and decreases in rates of wage in Australia during the years 1922 to 1926 :—

## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Head per Week.
		£		£		£	s. d.
1922 ..	156,017	22,412	472,099	92,974	628,116	(a)70,562	(a) 2 3
1923 ..	820,856	125,379	169,996	21,361	990,852	104,018	3 0
1924 ..	337,823	85,616	509,832	44,250	847,655	41,366	1 0
1925 ..	1,124,095	130,220	138,114	10,793	1,262,209	119,427	1 11
1926 ..	951,490	117,814	270,270	30,194	1,221,760	87,620	1 4

(a) Decrease.

## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T.	(a) All States.	Aust.
	No. of Persons Affected	1922 363,909 1923 519,440 1924 196,066 1925 514,123 1926 525,801	90,172 276,094 338,761 343,123 429,605	78,791 30,051 52,975 184,595 32,953	35,722 63,209 111,261 113,721 103,291	18,547 32,057 40,598 40,152 38,271	16,038 25,918 26,144 18,566 25,378	.. 71 35 26 53	337 1,002 30 47,660 63	24,600 43,010 81,785 47,660 66,345
Total Net Amount of Increase per Week	1922 £ 642,930 1923 53,868 1924 7,860 1925 40,789 1926 43,471	£ 66,625 36,934 7,312 19,968 27,920	£ 614,836 62,177 13,993 43,975 5,081	£ 62,687 9,784 7,835 9,693 4,597	£ 61,589 669 1,879 3,199 4,164	£ 61,701 1,755 1,335 293 748	£ .. 620 15 69 20	£ 658 298 1 133 11	£ 6138 3,645 1,136 1,395 1,608	£ 670,562 104,018 41,366 119,427 87,620
Average Increase per Head per Week	1922 s. d. 62 4 1923 2 9 1924 0 10 1925 1 7 1926 1 8	s. d. 61 6 2 8 0 5 1 2 1 4	s. d. 63 9 61 5 5 3 4 9 3 1	s. d. 61 6 3 11 1 5 1 8 0 11	s. d. 61 9 1 4 0 11 1 7 2 2	s. d. 62 1 1 4 1 0 0 4 0 7	s. d. .. 65 8 8 7 66 11 7 7	s. d. 63 4 5 11 0 8 10 11 3 6	s. d. 60 1 1 9 0 8 0 7 0 6	s. d. 62 3 3 0 1 0 1 11 1 4

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

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

(iv) *Industrial Groups—Australia. Workpeople affected by Changes.* In the following table particulars are given of the number of changes, the number of persons (males and females) affected, and the total amount of increase per week, classified according to Industrial Groups throughout Australia during the years 1922 to 1926:—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA,  
1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	Industrial Groups.							
	I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.	II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manufacturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.
1922								
Number of Persons affected	14,824	68,844	34,987	13,793	13,533	64,285	48,603	17,716
Amount of Increase per week	£ 22,028	£ 114,399	£ 25,805	£ 21,412	£ 21,722	£ 26,784	£ 28,049	£ 22,330
1923.								
Number of Persons affected	60,724	102,475	72,851	19,593	10,445	82,785	79,685	18,223
Amount of Increase per week	£ 6,209	£ 12,258	£ 3,594	£ 833	£ 1,021	£ 9,144	£ 13,034	£ 828
1924.								
Number of Persons affected	62,728	79,067	43,685	55,155	8,803	78,843	66,596	12,100
Amount of Increase per week	£ 62,506	£ 62,270	£ 2,713	£ 4,103	£ 4,246	£ 61,881	£ 7,306	£ 580
1925.								
Number of Persons affected	95,720	123,669	68,596	40,202	16,224	115,692	121,549	31,373
Amount of Increase per week	£ 7,905	£ 9,500	£ 7,609	£ 1,444	£ 1,128	£ 8,407	£ 10,149	£ 4,108
1926.								
Number of Persons affected	60,422	96,677	43,416	98,659	21,157	92,324	132,012	57,650
Amount of Increase per week	£ 1,669	£ 850	£ 4,180	£ 5,334	£ 2,513	£ 4,231	£ 14,848	£ 8,123

Particulars.	Industrial Groups—continued.						
	IX. Rail and Tram Services.	X. Other Land Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	XIII. Domestic Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous.	ALL GROUPS.
1922.							
Number of Persons affected	86,161	12,603	28,432	56,292	15,663	152,380	628,116
Amount of Increase per week	£ 215,311	£ 2,075	£ 259	£ 4,136	£ 21,288	£ 212,916	£ 270,562
1923.							
Number of Persons affected	155,830	23,510	79,466	24,720	21,724	238,821	990,852
Amount of Increase per week	£ 11,990	£ 237	£ 6,873	£ 9,647	£ 3,117	£ 26,399	£ 104,018
1924.							
Number of Persons affected	86,961	43,343	94,110	13,989	7,607	194,668	847,655
Amount of Increase per week	£ 6,544	£ 1,555	£ 25,350	£ 4,749	£ 1,834	£ 19,243	£ 41,366
1925.							
Number of Persons affected	188,752	27,249	77,285	55,495	37,472	262,931	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week	£ 18,196	£ 3,435	£ 6,656	£ 10,577	£ 4,239	£ 27,074	£ 119,427
1926.							
Number of Persons affected	283,101	27,019	90,685	13,160	1,066	204,412	1,221,760
Amount of Increase per week	£ 20,227	£ 2,404	£ 2,416	£ 552	£ 369	£ 19,904	£ 87,620

(a) Decrease.

(v) *Male and Female Occupations.* Included in the changes in rates of wage recorded in the table on page 536 are those which in the whole or part thereof affected female occupations. Particulars in respect of these changes in so far as they relate to the numbers of male and female workers affected, etc., are set out hereunder:—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN MALE AND FEMALE OCCUPATIONS, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	All States. (a)	Australia.
NUMBER OF MALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.										
1922	322,813	85,005	64,473	34,085	18,248	14,473	..	337	24,600	564,034
1923	465,446	256,666	27,421	60,967	31,507	24,931	71	1,002	42,830	910,841
1924	181,779	295,591	38,271	95,743	37,185	24,100	35	30	76,994	749,728
1925	429,300	322,075	162,971	98,337	36,651	17,848	26	243	40,854	1,108,305
1926	478,633	369,093	26,430	91,190	33,401	23,539	53	63	57,767	1,080,169

NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.										
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922	(b)40,245	(b)6,943	(b)13,965	(b)2,626	(b)1,640	(b)1,818	..	(b) 56	(b) 138	(b) 67,431
1923	50,954	33,902	(b) 2,290	9,270	(b) 123	1,893	(b) 20	298	3,654	97,538
1924	6,947	2,600	11,869	7,010	1,457	1,086	15	1	356	31,341
1925	37,480	18,448	41,893	8,748	2,767	293	(b) 9	133	1,213	110,966
1926	40,658	24,641	4,781	4,019	3,562	673	20	11	1,411	79,776

AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.										
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.						
1922	(b) 2 6	(b)1 8	(b) 4 4	(b)1 6	(b)1 10	(b)2 6	..	(b)3 4	(b)0 1	(b) 2 5
1923	2 2	2 8	1 8	3 1	(b)0 1	1 6	(b)5 8	5 11	1 9	2 2
1924	0 9	0 2	6 2	1 6	0 9	0 11	8 7	0 8	0 1	0 10
1925	1 9	1 2	5 2	1 10	1 6	0 4	(b)6 11	10 11	0 7	2 0
1926	1 8	1 4	3 7	0 11	2 2	0 7	7 7	3 6	0 6	1 6

NUMBER OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.										
1922	41,096	5,167	14,318	1,637	299	1,565	..	..	..	64,082
1923	53,994	19,428	2,630	2,242	550	987	..	..	180	80,011
1924	14,287	43,170	14,704	15,518	3,413	2,044	..	..	4,791	97,927
1925	84,823	21,048	21,624	15,384	3,501	718	6,806	..	..	153,904
1926	47,168	60,512	6,523	12,101	4,870	1,839	..	..	3,578	141,591

NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.										
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922	(b) 2,685	318	(b) 871	(b) 61	51	117	..	..	..	(b) 3,131
1923	2,914	3,032	113	514	54	(b) 138	..	..	(b) 9	6,480
1924	913	4,712	2,124	825	422	249	..	..	780	10,025
1925	3,300	1,520	2,082	945	432	..	182	..	..	8,461
1926	2,813	3,379	300	578	602	75	..	..	197	7,944

AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.										
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1922	(b) 1 4	1 3	(b) 1 4	(b)0 9	3 5	1 6	..	..	..	(b) 1 0
1923	1 1	3 2	0 10	4 7	2 0	(b) 0 3	..	..	(b)1 0	1 8
1924	1 3	2 2	2 11	1 1	2 6	2 5	..	..	3 3	2 1
1925	0 9	1 5	1 11	1 3	2 6	..	0 6	..	..	1 1
1926	0 1	1 1	0 11	0 11	2 6	0 10	..	..	0 6	1 1

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

3. Methods by which Changes were Effected, and Results.—(i) *Summary, Australia, 1926.* The following table gives for Australia the number of workpeople affected, and the total net amount of increase in the weekly wage distribution brought about either without, or after, stoppage of work during the year 1926, as a result of the application of one or other of the methods set out in the tables :—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA, 1926.

Methods by which Changes were Effected.	Without Stoppage of Work.		After Stoppage of Work.		All Changes.	
	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.
By direct negotiations .. .. .	40,493	£ 2,416	3,796	£ 1,044	44,289	£ 3,460
By negotiations, intervention or assistance of third party .. .. .	40,112	5,077	24	7	40,136	5,084
By award of Court under Commonwealth Act .. .. .	893,344	41,598	..	..	893,344	41,598
By agreement registered under Commonwealth Act .. .. .	69,555	5,785	..	..	69,555	5,785
By award or determination under State Acts .. .. .	140,468	27,976	..	..	140,468	27,976
By agreement registered under State Acts .. .. .	15,715	2,446	285	75	16,000	2,521
By other means .. .. .	17,968	1,196	..	..	17,968	1,196
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,217,655</b>	<b>86,494</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>1,221,760</b>	<b>87,620</b>

(ii) *Summary, Australia, 1922 to 1926.* So far as possible, the effect of awards or agreements is recorded in the figures for the year in which such awards or agreements are made and filed. In certain cases, however, the awards or agreements are made retrospective as to the date on which the altered rate of wage has to be paid, and in others the particulars as to the number of workpeople affected and the effect of the change are difficult to ascertain.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	By Direct Negotiations.	By Negotiations, Intervention or Assistance of Third Party.	By Award of Court under C'wealth Act.	By Agreement Registered under C'wealth Act.	By Award or Determination under State Act.	By Agreement Registered under State Act.	By other Means.	TOTAL.
<b>1922.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	7,186	54,878	125,195	43,002	376,994	20,861	..	628,116
Amount of Increase per week £	1,905	5,122	12,307	4,242	58,206	2,774	..	70,562
<b>1923.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	18,605	52,298	334,180	46,974	503,722	35,073	..	990,852
Amount of Increase per week £	2,488	1,124	46,438	6,633	42,614	4,721	..	104,018
<b>1924.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	1,939	65,653	521,469	34,401	205,615	18,578	..	847,655
Amount of Increase per week £	654	14,627	14,636	51	31,668	9,104	..	41,366
<b>1925.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	15,110	23,317	581,306	64,849	547,986	29,641	..	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week £	1,880	1,959	29,996	4,524	80,322	746	..	119,427
<b>1926.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	44,289	40,136	893,344	69,555	140,468	16,000	17,968	1,221,760
Amount of Increase per week £	3,460	5,084	41,598	5,785	27,976	2,521	1,196	87,620

(a) Decrease.

## C. EMPLOYMENT.

## § 1. Industrial Disputes.

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

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

2. *Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1926.*—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1926, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the years 1913 to 1925 was published in Labour Reports Nos. 5 to 16.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1926.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Estab. Involved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								£
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . .	2	2	54	9	63	728	767
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	11	220	8,022	125	8,147	226,975	213,755
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution . . .	5	5	294	280	574	1,026	685
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	1	1	31	..	31	124	87
V.	Books, printing, bookbinding, etc. . . . .	1	2	22	9	31	1,178	1,067
VI.	Other manufacturing . . . . .	4	4	154	..	154	714	611
VII.	Building . . . . .	4	4	262	50	312	831	770
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . . . .	202	345	56,743	27,074	83,817	849,463	988,436
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . . . .	2	2	219	61	280	490	438
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . . .	10	21	943	379	1,322	24,034	18,515
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . . . .	2	13	33	10	43	93	74
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . . . .	12	12	1,504	362	1,866	5,574	4,205
	Total . . . . .	(a)256	631	68,281	28,359	96,640	1,111,230	1,229,410
VICTORIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	4	4	264	..	264	2,977	2,581
III.	Food, drink, etc. . . . .	5	7	252	2	254	4,133	3,355
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . . . .	1	1	17	16	33	66	33
VI.	Other manufacturing . . . . .	3	3	157	..	157	756	580
VII.	Building . . . . .	6	8	340	10	350	2,634	1,982
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . . . .	8	10	5,094	2,136	7,230	89,107	97,049
X.	Other land transport . . . . .	1	1	24	..	24	48	36
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . . .	3	3	109	81	190	405	253
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. . . . .	1	1	21	..	21	63	14
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . . . .	1	1	42	..	42	546	540
	Total . . . . .	33	39	6,320	2,245	8,565	100,735	106,423

(a) Six disputes in New South Wales (involving 6 establishments and 1,285 workers); one in Queensland (1 establishment and 10 workers); one in Western Australia (1 establishment and 137 workers) commenced in 1925.

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

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS,  
1926—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Estab. Involved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
<b>QUEENSLAND.</b>								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . .	1	1	6	2	8	48	38
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	3	3	298	234	532	8,398	5,919
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	4	12	439	130	569	8,789	8,816
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	2	2	210	..	210	381	250
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	2	2	102	..	102	876	291
VII.	Building . . .	2	2	72	14	86	1,572	1,981
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	3	8	488	8	496	6,934	8,305
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	3	3	174	..	174	2,503	1,366
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. . .	1	1	13	..	13	143	115
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	3	3	252	3	255	469	331
	<b>Total</b> . . .	(a)29	37	2,054	391	2,445	30,118	27,412
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA.</b>								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . .	4	35	827	..	827	5,948	4,619
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	2	3	117	60	177	3,813	3,707
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	2	2	76	69	145	1,039	570
VII.	Building . . .	2	2	51	..	51	128	119
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	2	2	231	382	613	3,311	2,141
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . .	1	1	255	229	484	4,356	2,930
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	2	2	48	..	48	476	362
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	2	13	403	..	403	3,765	2,685
	<b>Total</b> . . .	17	60	2,008	740	2,748	22,836	17,133
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA.</b>								
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	1	1	44	..	44	572	150
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	1	1	54	..	54	108	81
VII.	Building . . .	3	22	89	36	125	4,850	2,869
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	1	1	134	42	176	176	211
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . .	1	1	4	..	4	192	147
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	2	2	198	..	198	3,183	2,540
	<b>Total</b> . . .	(a)9	28	523	78	601	9,081	5,998
<b>TASMANIA.</b>								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	1	1	32	..	32	2,400	1,750
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	6	8	563	212	775	1,779	1,969
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	3	3	65	19	84	901	644
	<b>Total</b> . . .	10	12	660	231	891	5,080	4,363
<b>NORTHERN TERRITORY.</b>								
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	1	1	93	..	93	100	75
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	1	1	..	112	112	896	795
	<b>Total</b> . . .	2	2	93	112	205	996	870
<b>FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.</b>								
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	4	4	829	110	939	30,185	24,204
	<b>Total</b> . . .	4	4	829	110	939	30,185	24,204
<b>ALL STATES.</b>								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . .	7	38	887	11	898	6,724	5,424
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	21	231	8,733	419	9,152	244,563	227,712
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution . . .	16	26	1,061	481	1,542	14,987	13,426
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	5	5	302	16	318	1,143	520
V.	Books, printing, bookbinding, etc. . .	1	2	22	9	31	1,178	1,067
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	10	10	467	..	467	2,454	1,563
VII.	Building . . .	17	38	814	110	924	10,015	7,721
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	227	374	63,253	29,854	93,107	950,770	1,098,111
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . .	4	4	478	290	768	5,038	3,515
X.	Other land transport . . .	1	1	24	..	24	48	36
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	24	35	1,630	479	2,109	31,607	23,755
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . .	2	13	33	10	43	93	74
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. . .	2	2	34	..	34	206	129
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	23	34	3,030	587	3,617	41,435	32,760
	<b>Total Australia (a)</b> . . .	360	813	80,768	32,266	113,034	1,310,261	1,415,813

(a) See note (a) to table on page 540.

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1922 to 1926.—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 calendar year 1922 to 1926, classified according to industrial groups:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Calendar Year.	Manu- facturing, (Groups I. to VI.)	Building, (Group VII.)	Mining, (Group VIII.)	Transport, Land and Sea, (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous, (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
1922 ..	69	4	307	45	20	445
1923 ..	44	8	171	23	23	274
1924 ..	31	15	410	23	25	504
1925 ..	39	15	391	30	24	499
1926 ..	60	17	227	29	27	(a) 360
1922 to 1926 ..	243	59	1,506	155	119	2,082

## NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1922 ..	15,215	287	96,151	2,882	1,797	116,332
1923 ..	9,884	577	58,043	2,257	5,560	76,321
1924 ..	6,899	2,753	133,876	5,631	3,287	152,446
1925 ..	8,420	1,882	135,409	25,084	5,951	176,746
1926 ..	12,408	924	93,107	2,901	3,694	113,034
1922 to 1926 ..	52,826	6,423	516,586	38,755	20,289	634,879

## NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

1922 ..	366,134	3,720	383,414	85,693	19,724	858,685
1923 ..	153,053	6,886	907,767	32,609	45,662	1,145,977
1924 ..	116,427	28,204	662,257	85,479	26,279	918,646
1925 ..	129,808	37,615	577,132	291,415	92,600	1,128,570
1926 ..	271,049	10,015	950,770	36,693	41,734	1,310,261
1922 to 1926 ..	1,036,471	86,440	3,481,340	531,889	225,999	5,362,139

## ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

1922 ..	£ 242,159	£ 3,280	£ 427,363	£ 64,597	£ 14,108	£ 751,507
1923 ..	120,127	6,284	1,086,904	29,580	32,611	1,275,506
1924 ..	80,746	21,359	735,572	61,823	18,199	917,699
1925 ..	124,894	35,674	688,755	209,521	48,700	1,107,544
1926 ..	249,712	7,721	1,098,111	27,306	32,963	1,415,813
1922 to 1926 ..	817,638	74,318	4,036,705	392,827	146,581	5,468,069

(a) See footnote (a), page 540.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1922 to 1926.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in various years from 1922 to 1926, together with the number of workpeople involved, the number of working days lost, and the total estimated loss in wages.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

State or Territory.	Year.	No. of Disputes.	Establishments Involved in Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
New South Wales ..	1922	342	657	88,257	14,042	102,299	586,520	£ 579,491
	1923	200	601	54,809	5,390	60,199	892,306	1,038,519
	1924	416	584	116,087	17,648	133,735	706,796	755,142
	1925	430	458	123,292	16,937	140,229	649,840	736,601
	1926	(a) 256	631	68,281	28,359	96,640	1,111,230	1,229,410
Victoria ..	1922	29	412	5,819	311	6,130	64,701	47,695
	1923	29	133	3,279	771	7,050	98,880	108,512
	1924	30	36	9,621	416	10,037	66,567	60,735
	1925	19	158	5,428	3,172	8,600	131,737	150,817
	1926	33	39	6,320	2,245	8,565	100,735	106,423
Queensland ..	1922	38	49	2,611	620	3,231	36,730	32,589
	1923	25	36	2,724	340	3,064	55,131	53,081
	1924	25	30	2,889	246	3,135	47,214	42,018
	1925	22	64	20,432	840	21,272	219,826	164,480
	1926	(a) 29	37	2,054	391	2,445	30,118	27,412
South Australia ..	1922	19	229	2,294	929	3,223	114,334	43,222
	1923	10	23	806	975	1,781	25,971	20,440
	1924	14	52	1,546	147	1,693	19,459	14,851
	1925	11	24	1,118	281	1,399	19,463	12,240
	1926	17	60	2,008	740	2,748	22,836	17,133
Western Australia ..	1922	8	91	643	163	806	43,472	38,208
	1923	6	88	1,255	2,752	4,007	72,274	53,408
	1924	13	233	2,131	1,366	3,497	66,734	42,329
	1925	10	180	3,821	814	4,135	98,941	56,958
	1926	(a) 9	28	523	78	601	9,081	5,998
Tasmania ..	1922	5	5	382	4	386	9,284	7,497
	1923	3	3	197	..	197	1,093	1,296
	1924	5	5	268	54	322	11,606	12,268
	1925	3	16	169	70	239	2,989	2,300
	1926	10	12	660	231	891	5,080	4,363
Fed. Cap. Territory	1922	2	2	217	..	217	2,604	2,035
	1923	1	1	23	..	23	322	250
	1925	3	5	823	33	856	5,735	4,709
	1926	4	4	829	110	939	30,185	24,204
Northern Territory	1922	2	2	40	..	40	1,040	770
	1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1924	1	1	27	..	27	270	356
	1925	1	1	16	..	16	39	39
1926	2	2	93	112	205	996	870	
Australia ..	1922	445	1,447	100,263	16,069	116,332	858,685	751,507
	1923	274	885	66,093	10,228	76,321	1,145,977	1,275,506
	1924	504	941	132,569	19,877	152,446	918,646	917,699
	1925	499	906	154,599	22,147	176,746	1,128,570	1,107,544
	1926	(a) 360	813	80,768	32,266	113,034	1,310,261	1,415,813

(a) See footnote (a), page 540.

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

The figures given in the tables show that of the total number of disputes (360) which occurred in 1926 no less than 227 occurred in connexion with the mining industry, and of these 202 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £1,415,813. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £988,436, or 70 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia.

(i) *New South Wales.* The following are some of the principal disputes which occurred in this State:—A dispute affected engine-drivers and firemen employed in all coal mines throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania. The cause of the trouble was the objection of the organization mentioned to an award of the Special Coal Tribunal (Mr. C. Hibble) which had the effect of reducing the wage margins hitherto enjoyed by its members over other designations employed in the mines. The matter was quickly settled in Queensland without actual stoppage, while in Tasmania the men were only out for three days. In New South Wales and Victoria, however, the dispute lasted 34 days, and resulted in a loss in New South Wales of 442,000 working days and £530,400 in wages, and in Victoria of 60,996 working days and £73,195 in wages. The greater part of this loss was suffered indirectly, i.e., by those thrown out of work by the action of the engine-drivers, who only numbered about 1,000. The loss in Tasmania was very small—only 618 working days. Work was resumed on the old conditions, and a subsequent award by the Tribunal did not in any way modify the terms of the original award. The next dispute of importance was that of the Engineering trades which, although working under a Federal Award, claimed a 44-hour week, in common with other workers of the State, who had been granted this concession by State legislative enactment. The dispute lasted 24 days and involved a loss of 168,000 working days and £157,000 in wages. The matter was settled by compromise, the men agreeing to accept 44 hours' pay for 44 hours' work, to be worked on either five or six days, as required by the employer. Of the principal mining disputes the only others worthy of mention were—Coal Cliff Collieries (demand for minimum wage), lasted 117 days and involved a loss of 50,310 working days and £50,000 in wages. Aberdare Central Colliery (dismissal of deputies), lasted 23 days and represented a loss of 12,560 working days and £15,180 in wages. Abermain No. 1 Colliery (working of special headings), lasted 16 days and involved a loss of 11,400 working days and £13,700 in wages. Pelaw Main Colliery (institution of the "darg"), lasted fifteen days and loss of 10,800 working days and £13,000 in wages. Abermain No. 2 (dispute as to time worked), lasted fifteen days, loss of 8,520 working days and £10,200 in wages. A dispute also occurred in connexion with the seamen in coastal ports over a claim for wharf labourers' rates of pay while employed on cargo work; the trouble lasted 43 days and meted those involved in a loss of 13,300 working days and £10,000 in wages, while work was resumed on antecedent conditions.

(ii) *Victoria.* A reference to the Engine-drivers and Firemen's dispute in connexion with the Coal Mining Industry already appears under New South Wales, see (i) above. A dispute occurred in April at the Brown Coal Mine, Yallourn, the immediate cause of which was the reduction of 6d. per diem in the case of certain men, due to a misinterpretation of the award, although several other matters were brought into the dispute at the same time. The men decided to resume duty as the result of a ballot. The loss in working days amounted to 5,500 and in wages to £4,000. A second dispute occurred in November at this same mine, as the result of a demand for reduced hours on afternoon shift. The trouble was settled by compromise, the original hours being retained, but an increase in wages allowed to afternoon shiftmen. The loss in this case amounted to 16,779 working days and £14,500 in wages.

(iii) *Queensland.* Only one dispute of moment occurred in this State, that in which the employees of Borthwick's Meat Works were concerned. The dispute was in connexion with the non-employment of certain men. Work was resumed on reference of the matter to the Arbitration Court. The men lost 5,670 working days and £5,000 in wages.

(iv) *South Australia.* A dispute which occurred in connexion with the Stove-makers in Adelaide over a wage increase lasted 34 days and caused a loss of 3,638 working days and £3,600 in wages. The trouble was settled by compromise, a concession being made in regard to piece rates.

(v) *Western Australia.* The only dispute of note was one in which carpenters employed by the Public Works Department were concerned. The Union was dissatisfied with the methods adopted by a foreman, but work was resumed on antecedent conditions, after a loss of 3,496 working days.

(vi) *Tasmania.* The engineers employed at the Electrolytic Zinc Company's Works at Zeehan struck work to enforce payment of "dirt" money, which was finally conceded by the management. The dispute lasted 75 days, and represented a loss of 2,400 days and £1,750 in wages.

(vii) *Federal Capital Territory.* An extensive dispute occurred in connexion with Reticulation works at Canberra, the sewerage workers claiming an 8-hour day, inclusive of "crib" time of half an hour. The trouble extended over 44 days, and 28,600 working days and £23,000 were lost by the men. A concession was made, the Union to apply to the Industrial Tribunal for a review of the Award.

It is, of course, obvious that the mere number of disputes cannot by itself be accepted as a proper basis of comparison, nor does the number of workpeople afford a satisfactory basis. A better idea as to the significance and effect of industrial disputes may be obtained from the number of working days lost and the estimated loss in wages. A fuller discussion of this question will be found in Labour Report, No. 17, 1926, published by this Bureau.

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

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

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

5. *Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1926.*—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated amount of loss in wages respectively, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1926, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1926.(a)

Limits of Duration.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			Number of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less .. .. .	132	33,979	9,039	43,018	43,018	£ 50,923
2 days and more than 1 day	61	12,011	2,297	14,308	28,636	33,094
3 days and more than 2 days	30	3,598	1,224	4,822	14,431	15,423
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. .. .	25	6,045	1,344	7,389	31,925	31,049
1 week and less than 2 weeks	47	7,343	1,283	8,626	62,451	63,894
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	34	4,741	1,878	6,619	106,505	106,189
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	20	11,336	14,484	25,820	793,621	883,672
8 weeks and over .. .. .	11	1,715	717	2,432	229,674	231,569
Total .. .. .	a 360	80,768	32,266	113,034	1,310,261	1,415,813

(a) See footnote (a) on page 540.

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1925 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports.

6. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1914 to 1926.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the total number of working days lost in disputes during the years 1914 and 1921 to 1926, classified according to principal cause:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1926.

Causes of Dispute.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<b>NUMBER OF DISPUTES.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	50	19	15	35	44	33	23
(b) Against decrease ..	3	2	18	4	7	5	5
(c) Other wage questions ..	67	161	83	37	95	99	67
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	1	12	12	10	2	4	13
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	13	16	2	2	4	6	2
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	13	5	6	4	6	8	5
(b) Other union questions ..	11	22	15	11	31	27	22
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	83	169	155	68	137	118	108
5. Working Conditions ..	72	162	89	57	111	106	46
6. Sympathetic ..	3	13	8	9	8	16	8
7. Other Causes ..	21	43	42	37	59	77	61
Total .. ..	337	624	445	274	504	499	360(a)

## NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	7,362	2,659	843	9,816	8,312	23,443	17,046
(b) Against decrease ..	534	850	4,432	174	1,113	1,123	1,275
(c) Other wage questions ..	15,243	52,704	24,459	8,696	30,585	31,387	18,883
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	220	2,313	5,935	6,488	1,328	462	9,730
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	3,237	2,113	124	485	1,172	2,668	290
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,807	1,353	1,072	473	1,005	1,592	125
(b) Other union questions ..	1,593	6,607	4,264	2,310	12,078	10,957	3,790
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	14,863	45,408	36,194	11,269	39,839	36,075	25,165
5. Working Conditions ..	17,053	35,790	27,334	15,605	36,630	35,034	12,839
6. Sympathetic ..	675	3,251	1,119	875	436	5,328	3,499
7. Other Causes ..	4,462	12,053	10,556	20,130	19,948	28,877	20,342
Total .. ..	71,049	165,101	116,332	76,321	152,446	176,746	113,034

## NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	99,451	13,731	8,694	64,493	120,317	209,356	580,183
(b) Against decrease ..	32,965	25,700	154,791	1,012	13,553	24,352	2,573
(c) Other wage questions ..	169,847	192,858	149,129	81,749	111,613	154,169	82,898
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	9,240	13,315	164,794	101,807	130,440	12,816	280,152
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	16,855	13,260	1,701	36,092	42,441	16,173	290
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	92,720	17,890	5,485	784	2,555	14,784	1,623
(b) Other union questions ..	6,968	117,199	18,976	17,743	40,046	105,195	15,607
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	64,367	431,130	198,256	63,094	253,779	214,738	114,917
5. Working Conditions ..	584,289	69,732	123,665	134,330	124,041	150,325	123,390
6. Sympathetic ..	2,125	6,150	9,438	6,357	926	41,046	38,331
7. Other Causes ..	11,568	55,652	23,756	638,016	78,935	185,616	70,247
Total .. ..	1,090,395	956,617	858,685	1,145,977	918,646	1,128,570	1,310,261

(a) See footnote (a), page 540.

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the ten years 1914 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. The majority of the disputes classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages of work 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 the figures under "Hours of Labour" show a steady decrease. "Sympathetic" disputes represent only a small proportion of the total disputes, varying over the years shown from one-quarter to three per cent.

7. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the number of working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the five years 1922 to 1926, classified according to results:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.  
1922 TO 1926.(a)

Year.	No. of Disputes.				Number of Workpeople Involved in Disputes.				Total Number of Working Days Lost by Disputes.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1922 ..	81	268	82	9	18,050	77,785	16,366	81	175,379	383,342	132,615	738
1923 ..	77	156	24	8	12,951	54,926	5,787	1,784	65,625	917,162	132,135	2,392
1924 ..	146	281	48	45	32,762	89,709	13,843	15,432	153,533	416,174	291,039	29,445
1925 ..	130	335	20	6	50,983	116,658	4,844	2,829	448,136	549,796	52,321	12,923
1926 a b	72	243	30	11	11,631	85,115	14,220	1,623	73,313	891,093	257,004	21,486

(a) See footnote (a), page 540.

(b) The following particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1926, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding table:—

State.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Establishments.	Workpeople Involved.	Working Days Lost.	Wages Lost.
New South Wales ..	1	1	360	63,720	£ 50,976
Victoria ..	2	2	16	57	52
Queensland ..	1	1	69	3,588	4,306
Total ..	4	4	445	67,365	55,334

8. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and number of working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1914 and 1921 to 1926, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1926.(a)

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.(b)
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
<b>Negotiations—</b>							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	247	412	249	140	264	209	166
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	11	65	52	25	20	24	16
<b>Under State Industrial Acts—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	7	18	7	4	11	12	8
By reference to Board or Court	17	4	7	2	7	2	10
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	5	11	5	2	12	18	13
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	16	10	11	5	5	4	8
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	4	2	6	1	2	1	1
By Other Methods	30	102	96	86	179	226	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>(c) 356</b>

## NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

<b>Negotiations—</b>							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	48,204	93,912	62,000	30,213	70,895	75,961	44,995
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	8,054	20,775	15,554	10,277	4,448	12,767	17,072
<b>Under State Industrial Acts—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	770	11,229	1,222	615	2,519	1,781	936
By reference to Board or Court	7,308	1,083	1,128	544	2,952	208	684
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	205	12,037	446	58	4,262	3,251	4,332
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	629	334	790	315	130	160	245
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	86	53	171	18	170	26	1
By Other Methods	5,793	25,678	30,971	33,408	66,370	81,158	44,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,049</b>	<b>165,101</b>	<b>112,282</b>	<b>75,448</b>	<b>151,746</b>	<b>175,314</b>	<b>112,589</b>

## NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

<b>Negotiations—</b>							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	803,799	245,765	353,336	229,503	373,155	470,110	417,158
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	128,231	156,076	187,164	582,929	103,005	320,046	549,427
<b>Under State Industrial Acts—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4,256	136,735	16,016	25,531	41,900	17,650	11,281
By reference to Board or Court	120,685	22,752	13,767	8,484	142,939	4,338	8,744
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,421	327,048	8,081	473	74,376	67,272	134,841
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	4,402	3,542	11,759	2,517	3,040	1,168	2,865
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	3,646	538	603	18	1,250	1,932	1
By Other Methods	23,955	64,161	101,348	267,859	150,526	180,065	118,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,090,395</b>	<b>956,617</b>	<b>692,074</b>	<b>1,117,314</b>	<b>890,191</b>	<b>1,063,176</b>	<b>1,242,896</b>

(a) See footnote \*, page 540.

(b) See footnote (a), page 540.

(c) See footnote (b), page 547.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA,  
1914 TO 1926 (a)—*continued.*

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.(b)
<b>ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.</b>							
<b>Negotiation—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	402,729	240,442	283,515	252,059	398,628	505,565	425,527
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	66,225	146,929	200,835	676,288	114,830	230,771	658,498
<b>Under State Industrial Act—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,841	79,233	14,663	24,158	34,151	15,395	6,819
By reference to Board or Court	64,208	19,452	10,541	7,536	110,559	3,499	7,771
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	712	198,887	5,701	350	56,766	68,880	124,511
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	2,076	2,203	8,670	1,737	2,111	1,225	2,548
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	1,651	355	635	13	970	2,318	..
By Other Methods	11,786	69,527	92,308	279,104	167,149	206,775	134,805
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,228</b>	<b>757,028</b>	<b>616,868</b>	<b>1,241,245</b>	<b>885,164</b>	<b>1,034,428</b> <sup>(c)</sup>	<b>1,360,479</b>

(a) See footnote \*, page 540. (b) See footnote (a), page 540. (c) See footnote (b), page 547.

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. 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 1926 was 9 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause for such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

§ 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

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

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

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

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.—STATES, 1926.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. .. .	100	171,190	12,606	7.4
Victoria .. .. .	85	130,644	8,422	6.4
Queensland .. .. .	45	44,738	3,767	8.4
South Australia .. .. .	55	39,588	2,039	5.2
Western Australia .. .. .	59	23,302	1,666	7.1
Tasmania .. .. .	30	5,935	826	13.9
Australia .. .. .	374	415,397	29,326	7.1

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

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1922 .. .. .	445	380,945	35,219	9.2
1923 .. .. .	436	376,557	26,672	7.1
1924 .. .. .	413	397,613	35,507	8.9
1925 .. .. .	380	391,380	34,620	8.8
1926 .. .. .	374	415,397	29,326	7.1
1926 1st Quarter .. .. .	371	415,612	34,161	8.2
2nd „ .. .. .	355	369,894	24,920	6.7
3rd „ .. .. .	386	434,521	32,871	7.6
4th „ .. .. .	383	441,560	25,351	5.7

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

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

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

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1926.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	18	31,389	1,576	5.0
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	59	61,071	2,975	4.9
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	48	38,145	4,279	11.2
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	20	41,013	1,276	3.1
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	12	17,973	350	1.9
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	64	34,489	4,311	12.5
VII. Building ..	44	51,906	2,831	5.5
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	18	23,222	1,769	7.6
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services ..	8	12,632	537	4.3
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous ..	83	103,557	9,422	9.1
All Groups ..	374	415,397	29,326	7.1

§ 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, and also the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and journeywomen. This information has been omitted from the present issue, but further investigations are being made, and additional and more comprehensive information will be incorporated in a later issue.

D. ASSOCIATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations.

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

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 143 industrial unions of employers and 153 industrial unions of employees, the membership of the latter being 293,567; Queensland, 82 industrial unions of employees with approximately 137,460 members; South Australia, 20 organizations of employees with 34,622 members; Western

Australia, 42 organizations of employers with 1,026 members, and 124 organizations of employees with 41,050 members. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. In May, 1927, there were on the register 23 organizations of employers with 14,569 persons, firms or corporations affiliated, and 144 organizations of employees with 687,152 members.

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

(ii) *Number and Membership*. As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912, the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established, and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations, comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1926 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1926.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales	191	602	329,260
Victoria .. .. .	157	384	230,539
Queensland .. .. .	109	284	142,985
South Australia .. .. .	108	90	79,908
Western Australia .. .. .	121	153	52,616
Tasmania .. .. .	79	51	15,783
Northern Territory .. .. .	3	..	387
Total .. .. .	768	1,564	851,478
Australia (a) .. .. .	372 (a)	1,960 (b)	851,478

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. (b) Number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations, which are practically independent and self-governing. (See below.)

In the preceding table the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are therefore 372 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 1,960 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 851,478 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, 1922 TO 1926.

Industrial Groups.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . . . .	19	18	18	18 (4) <sup>a</sup>	18 (4) <sup>a</sup>
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . . . .	69	70	69	68 (21)	68 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . . . .	68	64	65	65 (39)	65 (35)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . . . .	25	24	24	22 (10)	22 (9)
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	17	14	14	14 (10)	14 (9)
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	84	79	78	78 (36)	77 (37)
VII. Building . . . . .	54	52	51	51 (31)	51 (31)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . . . .	19	16	16	15 (12)	15 (12)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . . . . .	52	51	51	50 (33)	51 (33)
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	20	14	13	13 (8)	13 (8)
XI. Shipping, etc. . . . .	74	94	91	56 (31)	54 (26)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . . . .	10	8	8	8 (3)	8 (3)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . . . .	26	26	23	22 (16)	23 (16)
XIV. Miscellaneous . . . . .	276	267	270	263 (128)	289 (127)
Total . . . . .	813	797	791	743 382 <sup>(a)</sup>	768 (372) <sup>(a)</sup>

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . . . .	23,582	24,465	23,859	32,279	35,315
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . . . .	53,637	59,032	68,243	72,750	79,201
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . . . .	54,497	58,663	55,402	58,326	67,255
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . . . .	44,540	45,842	46,521	44,632	47,932
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	15,341	16,249	15,856	16,532	18,592
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	37,942	38,554	40,370	41,689	44,605
VII. Building . . . . .	42,177	46,231	51,819	55,314	53,881
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . . . .	38,082	37,063	40,996	44,403	46,014
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . . . . .	92,152	89,405	90,365	108,037	114,899
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	20,376	16,386	17,785	18,219	20,844
XI. Shipping, etc. . . . .	41,510	38,006	37,823	39,309	40,594
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . . . .	43,538	36,584	46,081	48,157	54,173
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . . . .	21,130	20,713	22,861	24,251	25,760
XIV. Miscellaneous . . . . .	174,434	172,550	171,168	191,824	202,413
Total . . . . .	702,938	699,743	729,155	795,722	851,478

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

Particulars are given in Labour Report No. 17 of the number of male and female members of unions and the percentage of such members on the total number of adult wage-earners. Other tables in the same report show the classification of unions according to the number of members and the number of central labour organizations.

(iv) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1926 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1926.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions . . . . .	19	15	12	22	43	111
Number of Members . . . . .	26,271	53,873	86,491	204,094	341,061	711,790

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

It appears, therefore, that 111 out of the 372 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an inter-state basis. The membership of these 111 unions amounts to 711,790, or 84 per cent. of the total membership (851,478) of all unions.

**3. Central Labour Organization.**—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 organisation, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State. In this State there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils, to which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other five States, however, the organization is not so close, and, while provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils or for the representation of the central council of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies.

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 1926 :—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1926.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	2	6	4	2	9	2	1	26
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	91	196	85	65	206	47	3	693

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

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

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

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

## § 2. Employers' Associations.

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

2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1922 to 1926 :—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—STATES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.								
1922 ..	115	167	60	46	62	17	..	467
1923 ..	137	132	85	48	54	24	..	480
1924 ..	127	135	80	49	53	25	..	469
1925 ..	133	141	78	52	51	25	..	480
1926 ..	136	143	72	52	50	25	..	478
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.								
1922 ..	135	71	39	..	12	5	..	262
1923 ..	102	49	54	..	12	8	..	225
1924 ..	79	41	70	..	12	8	..	210
1925 ..	480	621	194	1	17	2	..	1,315
1926 ..	464	617	183	..	16	..	..	1,280
MEMBERSHIP.								
1922 ..	18,187	18,963	7,648	2,888	1,713	2,307	..	51,706
1923 ..	27,027	19,813	12,918	5,101	2,477	2,751	..	70,087
1924 ..	28,667	21,095	17,060	5,746	2,646	2,716	..	77,930
1925 ..	38,931	34,274	17,831	6,346	3,369	2,599	..	103,350
1926 ..	42,666	32,386	21,113	6,572	8,356	2,481	..	113,574

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

The large increase shown for "No. of Branches" for the year 1925 is wholly due to the inclusion of associations representing agricultural interests, while the increase in total membership is partly attributable to a more complete collection of statistics relating to these organizations.

The year 1922 was the first for which information was collected, and particulars for that year will be found in Year Book No. 17.

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the table hereunder refer to Australia at the end of the years 1925 and 1926.

**EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS—AUSTRALIA, 1925 AND 1926.**

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . . . .	20	18	2	3	1,384	1,469
II. Engineering, etc. . . . .	14	14	11	..	3,456	3,485
III. Food, Drink, etc. . . . .	100	93	25	53	17,865	16,449
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. . . . .	22	19	9	3	2,832	2,003
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	34	34	3	..	3,310	3,285
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	49	51	1	5	3,234	3,013
VII. Building . . . . .	27	26	12	14	2,983	3,068
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . . . .	13	13	..	..	320	304
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	18	18	1	1	3,009	3,459
XI. Shipping, etc. . . . .	16	17	2	2	256	240
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . . . .	30	39	1,243	1,195	46,487	57,982
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . . . .	17	17	..	..	1,727	1,695
XIV. Miscellaneous . . . . .	120	119	6	4	16,487	17,122
Total . . . . .	480	478	1,315	1,280	103,350	113,574

The female membership of these associations was 4,924 for 1925, and 3,758 for 1926.

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 Employers' Association, 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 inter-state or federated associations having branches in two or more States in 1923 to 1926 :—

**INTER-STATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, 1923 TO 1926.**

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

Of the total membership, amounting to 113,574, of these associations 47 per cent. is organized on an inter-state basis.