

Broadly speaking, the fluctuations in prices are more violent and more frequent in the case of wholesale than retail prices, a phenomenon which is observed not only in Australia, but in other countries also. Various explanations have been put forward as to the reasons for this. For example, it has been stated to be due to the fact that a variation in the wholesale price of a raw material may be substantial in itself, but yet may not be large enough to necessitate a change in the retail price of the manufactured commodity; that is to say, the cost of the labour element in the retail price of a commodity may be comparatively large, or, again, there may be a disinclination on the part of shopkeepers to vary prices until the urgent necessity therefor arises. It is stated, moreover, that retail dealers in certain branches of trade purchase their stock at contract or standard prices, which do not reflect all the movements in the prices of raw materials.

SECTION VIII.—CURRENT RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

1. **General.**—The collection of material respecting the current rate of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries carried on in each State of the Commonwealth was first undertaken by this Bureau, in the early part of the year 1913. The inquiry, which was confined to the rate of wage payable to adult workers only,* was further limited in a degree to those industries in operation within the metropolitan area of the capital town in each State.† The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations, and industrial agreements under Commonwealth and State Acts, and related to the minimum wage prescribed. In cases where no award, determination or agreement was in force, the ruling union or predominant rate of wage being paid was ascertained from employers and secretaries of trade unions. For convenience of comparison, weekly rates of wages were adopted, though in many instances they were actually based on daily or hourly rates, as specified in awards, determinations, or agreements.‡

* This limitation was necessary owing to the difficulty of ascertaining reliable particulars of the numbers of apprentices, improvers and other juvenile workers, to whom progressive rates of wage fixed or otherwise, according to increasing age or experience, are payable from year to year.

† In order to make the inquiry a comprehensive one, it was necessary to include certain industries which obviously are not carried on in the capital towns, *e.g.*, Mining, Shipping, Agricultural, and Pastoral.

‡ This precaution was necessary, in view of the fact that it is often in those industries and occupations in which employment is of an exceptionally casual or intermittent nature that wages are fixed and paid at a daily or hourly rate. Hence the average weekly earnings in such occupations will probably fall considerably short of the computed weekly rates.

The information thus obtained referred to the weekly rate of wage in upwards of 400 industries, and related to 1569 male occupations or callings. These particulars furnished the necessary data for the computation of average rate of wage in various industrial groups, and in each State and all States.* The average rate of wage thus computed represented the arithmetic average of the rate of wage payable in all classified occupations. It was not claimed that results obtained by this method are precisely correct, but owing to the difficulty in obtaining any satisfactory data as to the number of persons engaged in each of the occupations for which rate of wage had been obtained, no detailed system of weights could be applied.† For final results for each State and for each industrial group throughout the States, however, a careful system of weighting was adopted. For example, in computing the result for any State in any year, the computed average wage in each industrial group was multiplied by a number (weight) representing the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group of industries in the particular State. The sum of the products thus obtained, divided by the sum of the weights, represents the relative aggregate average wage for that State for the particular year.‡

The whole question of weighting was referred to in some detail in Report No. 1 (*Prices, Price Indexes and Cost of Living*) of the Labour and Industrial Branch of this Bureau. With the necessary verbal modifications, many of the statements there made and the problems there

* The following industrial classification of industries was adopted :—

Classification of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber-workers, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarrying, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco, &c., Manufacturing.	X.	Other Land Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Hats, Boots, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

† The summation of the weekly rate of wage divided by the number of occupations included.

‡ Though a great deal of information as to the number of persons engaged in different industries and occupations was available from the Census (1911) results, it was found impracticable to bring the classification of these results into line with the detailed classification of occupations in the various industries, as set out in the awards, determinations, etc.

§ The weights used in the computation of the average wage were as follows :—

Current Rates of Wage for Adult Male Occupations, Weights used for each Industrial Group.

Particulars.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.	XIII.	XIV.
N.S.W. ..	136	228	109	84	65	162	252	343	187	74	137	704	134	902
Victoria ..	118	195	160	95	68	141	190	157	136	54	65	455	95	734
Queensland ..	67	62	108	23	20	34	70	133	73	22	45	352	45	302
S. Australia ..	24	71	45	16	13	40	68	29	48	17	44	182	24	223
W. Australia ..	65	36	32	7	8	16	32	142	40	9	32	118	31	158
Tasmania ..	25	14	17	6	5	7	20	49	10	6	12	104	10	80
Commonwealth ..	435	606	561	281	169	400	632	853	494	182	335	1,915	339	2,399

considered in regard to the subject of prices, etc., refer equally to the question of weighting in other investigations, such as the present. Any inquirer wishing to thoroughly understand the subject may refer to that Report.

The results thus ascertained for the year 1913 were published in Labour Report No. 2, pp. 28-43. In the early part of the year 1914 the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended, and particulars of the weekly rates of wage in 930 specified industries and 4256 adult occupations (3948 male, and 308 female)* were included, and results obtained thereby to the 30th April, 1914, were published in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 44-50.† These results were further analysed, and the number of working hours, which constituted a full week's work in each occupation, was averaged and weighted in a similar manner to the rates of wage. This course was adopted in order to overcome the difficulty of making comparisons of the rates of wage in any specified occupation, owing, in many instances, to a different number of working hours constituting a full week's work in separate States. By dividing the weighted average number of working hours into the weighted average weekly rate of wage, what for some purposes may be considered a more adequate standard of comparison was ascertained. Results obtained from these computations were given for each industrial group for each State.

Since the 30th April, 1914, the number of occupations included in comparative computations have been kept constant, but the particulars of wages contained in Appendixes IV. and V. to this Report include those for many additional occupations. In most instances these have been taken from awards or determinations made subsequent to that date by industrial tribunals or from agreements registered under State Acts, or as a result of direct inquiry.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage and Wage Index-Numbers in Classified Industries and States, 31st December, 1916.—The particulars given in the Appendixes, referred to above, furnish the necessary data for the computation of relative rates of wage in different classified industrial groups and States at the 31st December, 1916.

* The weights used in the computation of the average wage in female occupations were as follows

Current Rates of Wage for Adult Female Occupations. Weights used for each Industrial Group.

Particulars.	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I. II. V. VI. Other Manufactures	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.
New South Wales	23	228	44	104	124
Victoria	23	320	57	80	111
Queensland	5	80	8	47	40
South Australia	3	56	7	22	32
Western Australia	1	29	.	20	..
Tasmania	1	18	2	8	..
Commonwealth	61	731	118	290	307

† In Appendixes IV. and V. of that Report, particulars were given of the weekly ruling rates of wages at the 30th September, 1914, in the number of occupations mentioned.

(i.) *Weighted Average Nominal Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each State, 31st December, 1916.*—The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage payable at the 31st December, 1916, to adult male workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth. These results are based on the rates of wage in a large number of important industries, and serve to indicate with a considerable degree of precision the relative conditions in the several States. For the purposes of comparison as between States it should, however, be observed that the lists of occupations to which the rates of wage refer are not by any means uniform, neither do they necessarily include all the more important industries carried on in each State, and any conclusions drawn from such comparisons must be subject to these qualifications. Taking the weighted average rate of wage for the six States as base (= 1000), index numbers for each State are also shewn.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 31st December, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of Occupations included ..	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948
Weighted Average Weekly Rate of Wage	s. d. 61 11	s. d. 58 10	s. d. 60 4	s. d. 59 0	s. d. 65 2	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 60 8*
Index-Numbers	1,021	970	996	973	1,075	940	1,000*

* Weighted average.

The results shew that the weighted average nominal rate of wage was highest in Western Australia, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania.

(ii.) *Weighted Average Nominal Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each Industrial Group, 31st December, 1916.*—The following table gives particulars in regard to the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage at the 31st December, 1916, for adult male workers in each of the several industrial groups and to the weighted average for all groups combined. In computing, the index-number for each industrial group, the weighted average rate of wage for all groups is taken as base (= 1000.)

It may be observed from the following figures that the highest weighted average wage was that paid in Group VIII. (Mining), 72s. 9d., per week, 20 per cent. above the weighted average for all groups, and the lowest in Group XIII. (Hotels, etc.), 51s. per week, about 16 per cent. below the weighted average for all groups.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each Industrial Group, 31st December, 1916.

Industrial Groups.	No. of Rates Included.	Weighted Aver. Weekly Rate of Wage (for Full Week's Work).		Index-Numbers
		s.	d.	
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	270	63	10	1,053
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	636	62	1	1,024
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	576	61	2	1,009
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc. . .	124	56	7	933
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	205	68	1	1,123
VI. Other Manufacturing . .	875	61	8	1,016
VII. Building	190	69	8	1,148
VIII. Mining	161	72	9	1,200
IX. Rail & Tram Services, etc.	224	63	5	1,045
X. Other Land Transport . .	70	57	10	954
XI. Shipping, etc.	198	59	1†	974
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	72	55	0‡	908
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	114	51	0§	841
XIV. Miscellaneous	233	58	3	961
All Groups	3,948	60	8	1,000*

* Weighted average. † Including the value of victualling and accommodation (estimated at 45s. per month) where supplied. ‡ Including the value of Board and Lodging where supplied as follows:—In Sydney 15s. and 18s., according to the rates of wages, in Melbourne 14s., in Perth 23s., and in Brisbane, Adelaide, and Hobart 15s. § Including the value of Board and Lodging where supplied as follows:—In the agricultural industry 14s. per week in Victoria and 15s. in the remaining States; in the pastoral industry, 19s. in New South Wales, 22s. in Queensland, 15s. in West Australia and 17s. in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

(iii.) *Weighted Average Nominal Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Female Workers in each State, 31st December, 1916.*—The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage payable at 31st December, 1916, to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State, and the Commonwealth. Taking the weighted average rate of wage for the whole Commonwealth as base (= 1000), index-numbers for each State are shown. The figures given in this table are subject to the qualifications, regarding want of uniformity in the data for the several States, stated in paragraph (i.).

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 31st December, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of Occupations included	85	87	37	47	24	28	308
Weighted Average Weekly Rate of Wage	s. d. 28 7	s. d. 28 6	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 24 11	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 4	s. d. 28 6*
Index-Numbers	1,003	1,000	959	873	1,364	994	1,000*

* Weighted average.

It will be seen that the weighted average nominal rate of wage for adult female workers was highest in Western Australia, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, and South Australia.

(iv.) *Weighted Average Nominal Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Female Workers in Industrial Groups, 31st December, 1916.*—The following table gives particulars regarding the weighted average nominal rate of wage for adult females in those industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and the weighted average for all groups combined. Index-numbers based on the weighted average for all groups as base (= 1000) are also given:—

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in Industrial Groups, 31st December, 1916.

Industrial Groups.	No. of Rates Included.	Weighted Aver. Weekly Rate of Wage (for Full Week's Work).		Index-Numbers.
		s.	d.	
III. Food, Drink, etc.	35	25	4	888 ^o
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	114	26	11	946
I, II, V., VI. All Other Manu- facturing Combined	84	29	5	1,034
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	57	31	2*	1,094
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	18	29	10	1,048
All Groups	308	28	6	1,000†

* See footnote to table on preceding page. † Weighted average.

The results set out in the immediately preceding table show that omitting Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), the highest weighted average wage was that paid in Group XIV. (Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.), 29s. 10d., or 4.8 per cent. higher than the average wage for all groups. This is followed in the order named by Groups I, II, V., and VI. (All Other Manufacturing Combined), 29s. 5d., Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 26s. 11d., and Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 25s. 4d., being respectively 3.4 per cent. above, and 5.4 and 11.2 per cent. below the weighted average wage for all groups.

3. **Relative Weekly Wages and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and for all States, 1914-16**—The arithmetic average of the rates of wages given in the appendixes referred to furnish the basis for the computation of relative weighted wages in different industrial groups and States. In the following tables particulars are given of the results thus obtained of the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wages payable to adult workers, male and female, separately, at the 30th April, 1914, and approximately at the end of each subsequent quarterly period to the 31st December, 1916, for a full week's work, in each State and for all States. In addition index-numbers for each State at each period are given, based on the weighted average for all States as the base (= 1000).

(i) *Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each State, 1914-16.*—The following tables show the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage payable to adult male workers for a full week's work, together with index-numbers for each State at each specified interval (a) based on the average wage at the end of that period for all States as base (= 1000), and (b) index-numbers for each State at each specified interval based on the average for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers, for a Full Week's Work and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1916.

(NOTE.—Index-number based on the average wage for the Commonwealth at the end of each period as base (= 1000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable horizontally but are not directly comparable vertically.)

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
No. of Occupations Included ..		874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948
30th April, 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 55 9	s. d. 54 3	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 62 2	s. d. 52 6	s. d. 55 1
	Index-numbers ..	1,011	984	955	936	1,128	952	1,000
30th June, 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 55 11	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 52 10	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 62 9	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 55 3
	Index-numbers ..	1,011	982	956	933	1,135	952	1,000
30th Sept., 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 56 2	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 53 4	s. d. 54 5	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 55 6
	Index-numbers ..	1,011	982	960	930	1,132	949	1,000
31st Dec., 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 56 2	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 54 5	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 55 7
	Index-numbers ..	1,011	982	961	930	1,132	949	1,000
31st Mar., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 56 3	s. d. 54 8	s. d. 53 4	s. d. 54 3	s. d. 63 1	s. d. 52 9	s. d. 55 7
	Index-numbers ..	1,012	983	959	976	1,135	949	1,000
30th June, 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 56 3	s. d. 54 8	s. d. 53 4	s. d. 54 3	s. d. 63 1	s. d. 52 9	s. d. 55 7
	Index-numbers ..	1,016	981	957	973	1,132	946	1,000
30th Sept., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 56 10	s. d. 54 11	s. d. 53 8	s. d. 54 3	s. d. 63 1	s. d. 52 9	s. d. 56 0
	Index-numbers ..	1,016	981	959	970	1,128	943	1,000
31st Dec., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 57 7	s. d. 55 3	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 54 8	s. d. 63 4	s. d. 53 3	s. d. 56 6
	Index-numbers ..	1,019	978	960	968	1,121	942	1,000
31st Mar., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 58 2	s. d. 56 7	s. d. 55 1	s. d. 55 9	s. d. 63 4	s. d. 53 9	s. d. 57 3
	Index-numbers ..	1,015	988	961	972	1,106	939	1,000
30th June, 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 58 11	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 56 5	s. d. 56 1	s. d. 63 4	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 57 11
	Index-numbers ..	1,018	984	974	968	1,093	938	1,000
30th Sept., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 59 6	s. d. 57 9	s. d. 57 11	s. d. 56 6	s. d. 63 8	s. d. 54 0	s. d. 58 8
	Index-numbers ..	1,014	984	987	964	1,085	934	1,000
31st Dec., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. d. 61 11	s. d. 58 10	s. d. 60 4	s. d. 59 0	s. d. 65 3	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 60 8
	Index-numbers ..	1,021	970	996	973	1,075	940	1,000

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914 (55.12s.), as base (= 1000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Dates.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
30th April, 1914	1,011	984	955	936	1,128	952	1,000
30th June, 1914	1,014	985	958	936	1,130	954	1,003
30th September, 1914	1,016	990	967	938	1,140	956	1,008
31st December, 1914	1,019	990	969	938	1,140	956	1,008
31st March, 1915	1,021	992	967	934	1,144	957	1,009
30th June, 1915	1,028	992	967	934	1,145	957	1,012
30th September, 1915	1,031	996	974	935	1,145	958	1,015
31st December, 1915	1,044	1,002	986	932	1,149	965	1,023
31st March, 1916	1,055	1,026	999	1,011	1,149	976	1,039
30th June, 1916	1,069	1,035	1,024	1,018	1,149	986	1,051
30th September, 1916	1,079	1,047	1,051	1,025	1,155	993	1,064
31st December, 1916	1,123	1,067	1,095	1,071	1,182	1,034	1,100

From the first portion of the immediately preceding table it will be seen that the average weekly wage for adult male workers, as indicated by index-numbers at the 30th April, 1914, in two States, viz., New South Wales and Western Australia, exceeded the weighted average wage for the Commonwealth. This feature remained constant in varying degrees of excess throughout the whole period for which results have been computed.

The second portion of the above table relates to a comparison of the weighted average weekly wage index-number for each State and all States, at each different period, with that for the Commonwealth at

the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1000). It will be seen that the movement in wages since that date has been greatest in Queensland; followed in the order named by New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia.

(ii.) *Weighted Average Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each Industrial Group, 1914-1916.*—The following table gives particulars in regard to (a) the average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, as at 30th April, 1914, and at approximately quarterly periods to the 31st December, 1916. Index-numbers for each industrial group and all groups, based on the average wage at 30th April, 1914 (=1000) are given.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each Industrial Group 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1916.†

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and all industrial groups, based on the average wage at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—						
	30th April, 1914.	31st Dec., 1914.	31st Dec., 1915.	31st Mar., 1916.	30th June, 1916.	30th Sept., 1916.	31st Dec., 1916.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage.	s. d. 58 6	s. d. 59 6	s. d. 60 2	s. d. 61 4	s. d. 62 4	s. d. 62 7
	Index-No.	1,000	1,016	1,028	1,049	1,065	1,070
II. Engineering, etc. *	Wage.	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 57 9	s. d. 60 2	s. d. 60 6	s. d. 60 10	s. d. 61 3
	Index-No.	1,000	1,012	1,056	1,062	1,067	1,075
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage.	s. d. 55 0	s. d. 55 8	s. d. 57 9	s. d. 58 8	s. d. 59 3	s. d. 60 0
	Index-No.	1,000	1,012	1,050	1,067	1,077	1,091
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage.	s. d. 52 3	s. d. 53 0	s. d. 53 2	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 54 11	s. d. 55 11
	Index-No.	1,000	1,015	1,018	1,045	1,052	1,071
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage.	s. d. 63 2	s. d. 63 10	s. d. 64 6	s. d. 65 0	s. d. 65 10	s. d. 66 8
	Index-No.	1,000	1,010	1,019	1,028	1,041	1,055
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage.	s. d. 55 1	s. d. 56 0	s. d. 57 8	s. d. 58 8	s. d. 59 4	s. d. 60 5
	Index-No.	1,000	1,015	1,046	1,064	1,077	1,095
VII. Building ..	Wage.	s. d. 65 0	s. d. 65 5	s. d. 65 10	s. d. 66 9	s. d. 68 0	s. d. 68 2
	Index-No.	1,000	1,006	1,012	1,016	1,045	1,049
VIII. Mining, etc. ..	Wage.	s. d. 65 1	s. d. 65 2	s. d. 66 7	s. d. 69 2	s. d. 69 8	s. d. 70 1
	Index-No.	1,000	1,001	1,022	1,063	1,071	1,078
IX. Railways, etc. ..	Wage.	s. d. 59 8	s. d. 59 8	s. d. 60 10	s. d. 61 2	s. d. 61 5	s. d. 62 3
	Index-No.	1,000	1,000	1,020	1,025	1,030	1,043
X. Other Land Transport	Wage.	s. d. 51 0	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 53 4	s. d. 55 3	s. d. 56 1	s. d. 57 10
	Index-No.	1,000	1,032	1,045	1,082	1,100	1,134
XI. Shipping, etc.* ..	Wage.	s. d. 48 10	s. d. 49 10	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 54 3
	Index-No.	1,000	1,021	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,112
XII. Agricultural, etc.* ..	Wage.	s. d. 49 5	s. d. 49 5	s. d. 49 8	s. d. 49 10	s. d. 50 5	s. d. 50 8
	Index-No.	1,000	1,000	1,005	1,008	1,020	1,026
XIII. Domestic, etc.* ..	Wage.	s. d. 47 0	s. d. 47 11	s. d. 48 7	s. d. 48 7	s. d. 48 7	s. d. 49 3
	Index-No.	1,000	1,019	1,033	1,034	1,034	1,048
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	Wage.	s. d. 53 7	s. d. 54 0	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 55 4	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 57 4
	Index-No.	1,000	1,008	1,019	1,033	1,051	1,071
All Industrial Groups†	Wage.	s. d. 55 1	s. d. 55 7	s. d. 56 6	s. d. 57 3	s. d. 57 11	s. d. 58 8
	Index-No.	1,000	1,008	1,023	1,039	1,051	1,064

* See footnote to table on page 416
table will be found on page 60 of Report No. 6

† Particulars for the quarters omitted from this

In the foregoing table it may be seen that the rate of increase in the weighted average weekly wage in occupations and callings classified in the fourteen industrial groups was greatest in Group XI. (Shipping), 21.1 per cent. The groups next in order according to percentage of increase in weekly wage are Groups X. (Other Land Transport), 13.4 per cent., VIII. (Mining), 11.9 per cent., VI. (Other Manufacturing), 11.8 per cent., XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), 11.3 per cent., III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 11.2 per cent. It may be seen that in eight of the industrial groups the increase was less than that for the whole fourteen groups combined.

(iii.) *Weighted Average Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers in each State, 1914-16.*—The first part of the following joint table shows the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914, and at approximately quarterly periods to the 31st December, 1916. Taking the weighted average wage for all States at the end of each period as the base (= 1000) index-numbers for each State are shown. The second part of the table shows index-numbers for each State based on the average weekly wage at the end of each of the periods indicated, computed from the weighted average wage for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each State and Commonwealth. 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1916.

NOTE.—Index-number based on the average wage for the Commonwealth at the end of each period as base (= 1000).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Occupations Included.	85	87	37	47	24	23	308
30th April, 1914. { Weighted Average weekly rate of wage.	s. 26	s. 27	s. 26	s. 24	s. 37	s. 25	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 9	d. 4	d. 11	d. 1	d. 4	d. 10	d. 2
30th June, 1914. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 26	s. 27	s. 27	s. 24	s. 37	s. 25	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 9	d. 4	d. 0	d. 1	d. 4	d. 10	d. 2
30th Sept., 1914. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 26	s. 27	s. 26	s. 24	s. 37	s. 25	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 10	d. 9	d. 11	d. 1	d. 4	d. 10	d. 4
31st Dec., 1914. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 26	s. 27	s. 27	s. 24	s. 37	s. 25	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 10	d. 9	d. 1	d. 1	d. 4	d. 10	d. 5
31st Mar., 1915. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 26	s. 26	s. 27	s. 24	s. 37	s. 26	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 10	d. 11	d. 2	d. 0	d. 5	d. 3	d. 1
30th June, 1915. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 27	s. 26	s. 27	s. 24	s. 37	s. 26	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 2	d. 11	d. 2	d. 0	d. 5	d. 3	d. 2
30th Sept., 1915. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 27	s. 26	s. 26	s. 24	s. 37	s. 26	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 3	d. 11	d. 11	d. 0	d. 5	d. 0	d. 3
31st Dec., 1915. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 27	s. 26	s. 26	s. 24	s. 37	s. 26	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 3	d. 11	d. 11	d. 6	d. 5	d. 0	d. 4
31st Mar., 1916. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 27	s. 27	s. 26	s. 24	s. 37	s. 26	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 7	d. 11	d. 11	d. 6	d. 5	d. 4	d. 0
30th June, 1916. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 27	s. 27	s. 26	s. 24	s. 37	s. 27	s. 27
Index-No.	d. 7	d. 11	d. 11	d. 6	d. 5	d. 9	d. 0
30th Sept., 1916. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 27	s. 28	s. 27	s. 24	s. 37	s. 27	s. 28
Index-No.	d. 11	d. 2	d. 2	d. 10	d. 5	d. 9	d. 1
31st Dec., 1916. { Weighted average weekly rate of wage.	s. 28	s. 28	s. 27	s. 24	s. 38	s. 28	s. 28
Index-No.	d. 7	d. 6	d. 4	d. 11	d. 10	d. 4	d. 6
	996	1,014	945	874	1,365	980	1,000

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers—cont.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on Weighted Average Wage for Commonwealth at 30th April, 1914 (27.19s.) as base (= 1000).

Dates.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
30th April, 1914	984	1,006	989	885	1,373	950	1,000
30th June, 1914	984	1,006	993	885	1,373	950	1,000
30th September, 1914	987	1,022	990	885	1,373	950	1,006
31st December, 1914	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
31st March, 1915	987	989	999	883	1,376	964	996
30th June, 1915	998	989	999	883	1,376	964	1,000
30th September, 1915	1,003	990	990	883	1,376	1,031	1,002
31st December, 1915	1,007	990	990	901	1,376	1,031	1,005
31st March, 1916	1,015	1,025	991	901	1,376	1,042	1,022
30th June, 1916	1,013	1,027	991	902	1,376	1,019	1,021
30th September, 1916	1,027	1,037	998	913	1,376	1,019	1,032
31st December, 1916	1,050	1,047	1,004	915	1,429	1,041	1,047

From the foregoing tables it will be seen that the general upward movement in the average weekly wage for adult female workers, as indicated for the whole Commonwealth, has been comparatively small, and that the 4.7 per cent. increase shown at the end of 1916 has been secured almost entirely during the year 1916.

(iv.) *Weighted Average Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Female Workers in Industrial Groups, 1914-16.*—The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers at the 30th April, 1914, and at approximately quarterly periods to the 31st December, 1916, in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined. Taking the average wage in each industrial group and for all groups, at the 30th April, 1914, in each instance, as base (= 1000), index-numbers are given, computed on the average rate of wage ruling at the end of each period indicated.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each Industrial Group, 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1916.†

NOTE.—Index-number for each Industrial Group and all Industrial Groups, based on the Average Wage at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—								
	30th April, 1914.	31st Dec., 1914.	31st Dec., 1915.	31st Mar., 1916.	30th June, 1916.	30th Sept., 1916.	31st Dec., 1916.		
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	{ Wage ..	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	{ Index-No.	1,000	1,041	1,085	1,109	1,109	1,111	1,125	
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc. ..	{ Wage ..	24 9	24 11	25 1	25 11	25 11	26 6	26 11	
	{ Index-No.	1,000	1,007	1,013	1,045	1,045	1,060	1,088	
V Other Manufacturing ...	{ Wage ..	26 11	27 0	27 4	27 8	27 11	28 7	29 5	
	{ Index-No.	1,000	1,003	1,015	1,026	1,036	1,059	1,092	
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.* ..	{ Wage ..	31 1	30 2	30 9	30 9	30 9	30 10	31 2	
	{ Index-No.	1,000	971	989	990	990	991	1,002	
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	{ Wage ..	30 2	31 4	30 1	30 1	29 11	29 8	29 10	
	{ Index-No.	1,000	1,030	997	997	993	983	990	
All Groups † ..	{ Wage ..	27 2	27 5	27 4	27 9	27 9	28 1	28 6	
	{ Index-No.	1,000	1,009	1,006	1,022	1,021	1,032	1,047	

* See footnote to table on page 416. † Weighted average. ‡ Particulars for the quarters omitted from this table will be found on page 63 of Report No 6.

4. **Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 31st December, 1916.**—The rates of wage referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Section relate to the minimum rates payable for a full week's work. It should be observed, however, that the number of hours which constitute a full week's work differ in many instances, not only as between various trades and occupations in each State, but also as 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, the results given in the preceding paragraphs are herein reduced to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour, classified according to industrial groups in each State and all States. In Appendixes IV. and V. of this Report, particulars in detail regarding the number of hours worked per week in the various industries in the several States are shown. It will be there seen that the specified number of hours of labour per week cover a very wide range. In the following tables the average number of hours per week for each State, according to industrial groups, is given.

(i.) *Males.*—The table on page 423 shows (a) the average weekly wage, (b) the average number of working hours per week for a full week's work, and (c) the average hourly wage for adult male workers in each State and industrial group except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Owing to the fact that many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and that the hours of labour are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, the necessary particulars for the computation of average working time and hourly rates of wage are not available.

The general effect of reducing the weighted average 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. In Western Australia, however, the fact that the average working hours per week is less than in any other State causes a corresponding increase in the hourly rates of wage as compared with the other States. On page 416 index-numbers are given showing the relative average *weekly* rate of wage for each State; the corresponding index-numbers for the *hourly* rate, taking the average for the whole Commonwealth as base (= 1000) are as follows:—New South Wales, 1019; Victoria, 972; Queensland, 993; South Australia, 973; Western Australia, 1091; and Tasmania, 914.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, Payable to Adult Male Workers, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1916.*

Industrial Groups.	Particulars.†	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Average for Six Capital Towns.
I. Wood, Furniture etc.	Weekly Wage	65/1	61/9	66/4	61/4	61/3	56/2	63/10
	Working Hours	48.02	48.07	46.24	47.90	48.00	48.00	47.75
	Hourly Wage	1/4½	1/3½	1/5½	1/3½	1/4½	1/2	1/4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	Weekly Wage	64/-	60/11	61/6	57/4	67/3	61/5	62/1
	Working Hours	48.00	48.00	45.85	48.00	47.95	48.00	47.76
	Hourly Wage	1/4	1/3½	1/4½	1/2½	1/4½	1/3½	1/3½
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Weekly Wage	62/3	60/10	60/10	61/5	61/-	54/5	61/2
	Working Hours	48.57	48.73	49.32	48.61	49.59	49.39	48.85
	Hourly Wage	1/3½	1/3	1/2½	1/3½	1/2½	1/1½	1/3
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Weekly Wage	60/2	54/11	52/8	52/-	63/9	52/6	56/7
	Working Hours	47.79	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	47.92
	Hourly Wage	1/3	1/1½	1/1½	1/1	1/4	1/1½	1/2½
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Weekly Wage	67/9	60/10	63/9	65/-	68/6	63/1	68/1
	Working Hours	46.73	45.93	45.30	47.56	45.77	46.35	46.29
	Hourly Wage	1/5½	1/6½	1/4½	1/4	1/6	1/4½	1/5½
VI. Other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	63/6	60/4	58/5	60/11	64/4	58/5	61/8
	Working Hours	47.98	48.01	47.57	48.44	48.10	48.23	48.01
	Hourly Wage	1/3½	1/3	1/2½	1/3	1/4	1/2½	1/3½
VII. Building	Weekly Wage	71/4	69/1	70/2	68/2	69/5	63/7	69/8
	Working Hours	47.18	44.41	44.00	46.22	47.90	46.67	45.91
	Hourly Wage	1/6½	1/6½	1/7½	1/5½	1/5½	1/4½	1/6½
VIII. Mining‡	Weekly Wage	72/6	64/5	74/9	85/7	81/7	63/2	72/9
	Working Hours	45.58	44.92	45.70	45.77	47.54	47.91	45.93
	Hourly Wage	1/7	1/5½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/4	1/7
IX. Rail & Tram Services	Weekly Wage	65/2	61/7	63/9	62/9	63/1	56/2	63/5
	Working Hours	48.50	48.15	48.79	48.50	48.46	49.80	48.47
	Hourly Wage	1/4	1/3½	1/3½	1/3½	1/3½	1/1½	1/3½
X. Other Land Transport	Weekly Wage	59/4	57/-	59/-	52/5	62/9	50/4	57/10
	Working Hours	54.89	52.78	52.67	49.45	48.00	53.00	53.09
	Hourly Wage	1/1	1/1	1/1½	1/0½	1/3½	1/1½	1/1
XI. Shipping, etc.	Weekly Wage	58/4	61/3	56/6	62/6	56/-	61/4	59/1
	Working Hours	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hourly Wage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural etc.	Weekly Wage	55/10	51/11	57/4	53/11	56/1	56/2	55/-
	Working Hours	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hourly Wage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage	53/3	47/3	47/8	50/8	60/1	43/6	51/-
	Working Hours	57.43	57.03	59.2	54.70	55.53	78.00	57.22
	Hourly Wage	-11½	-7/10	-9½	-11	1/1	-9	-10½
XIV. Miscellaneous	Weekly Wage	59/7	58/2	55/10	57/-	59/9	54/-	58/8
	Working Hours	48.63	49.67	49.17	48.11	47.02	48.43	48.55
	Hourly Wage	1/2½	1/2½	1/1½	1/2½	1/3	1/1½	1/2½
All Groups	Weekly Wage	61/11	58/10	60/4	59/-	65/2	57/-	60/8
All Groups excepting XI and XII	Working Hours	63/7	60/3	61/8	60/3	67/6	57/1	62/2
	Hourly Wage	48.51	48.27	48.27	48.14	48.11	48.55	48.33

* Hourly rates have been published as follows:—To 30th April, 1914 (Labour Report, No. 5, pp. 49-50); to 31st March, 1915 (Labour Bulletin, No. 9, pp. 72-3); to 30th June, 1915 (Labour Bulletin, No. 10, pp. 175-6); to 30th September, 1915 (Labour Bulletin, No. 11, pp. 264-5); to 31st December, 1915 (Labour Bulletin, No. 12, pp. 413-4); to 31st March, 1916 (Labour Bulletin, No. 13, p.p. 81-2); to 30th June, 1916, (Labour Bulletin, No. 14, pp. 189-90); and to 30th September, 1916, (Labour Bulletin, No. 15, p.p. 299-300)

† Particulars relate to the Average Weighted weekly wage, working hours and hourly wage, respectively. ‡ Average rates of wage and hours prevailing at the principal mining centres in each State. § Average rates of wage are for occupations other than Masters, Officers, and Engineers in the Merchant Marine Service, and include value of victualling and accommodation, where provided, at 45s per month, but does not include value of commission on bar sales to stewards. In the recent award for Masters and Officers on inter-State and intra-State merchant vessels, the annual value of victualling and accommodation which was estimated in 1910 at £30, was computed to be £43 17s. ¶ See footnotes to Table on page 416.

(ii.) *Females*.—On page 416 index-numbers are given, with respect to the relative average *weekly* rate of wage for adult female workers in each State; the corresponding index-numbers for the *hourly* rate, taking the average for the whole Commonwealth as base (= 1000), are as follows:—New South Wales, 994; Victoria, 1010; Queensland, 943; South Australia, 874; Western Australia, 1363; and Tasmania, 978.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wages payable to Adult Female Workers and Weekly Hours of Labour, 30th September, 1916.*

Industrial Groups.	Particulars.†	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Average for Six Capital Towns.
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Weekly Wage	25/8	26/3	20/0	23/3	21/3	24/0	25/4
	Working Hours	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00
	Hourly Wage	-/6½	-/6½	-/5½	-/5½	-/6½	-/6½	-/6½
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Weekly Wage	28/1	26/0	24/2	22/10	25/11	26/3	26/11
	Working Hours	47.86	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	46.50	47.92
	Hourly Wage	-/7	-/6½	-/6	-/5½	-/9	-/6½	-/6½
I. II. V. & VI. All other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	29/1	30/10	22/9	22/9	..	32/-	29/5
	Working Hours	47.17	47.90	47.43	48.00	..	48.00	47.60
	Hourly Wage	-/7½	-/7½	-/5½	-/5½	..	-/8	-/7½
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage	29/8	28/5	32/10	29/3	42/5	32/8	31/2
	Working Hours	53.17	50.77	55.17	50.67	50.20	58.00	52.48
	Hourly Wage	-/6½	-/6½	-/7½	-/7	-/10½	-/6½	-/7½
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	Weekly Wage	28/10	32/10	28/9	25/-	..	..	29/10
	Working Hours	50.29	48.00	48.00	50.00	..	..	49.13
	Hourly Wage	-/6½	-/8½	-/7½	-/6	..	..	-/7½
All Groups	Weekly Wage	23/7	28/6	27/4	24/11	38/10	28/4	28/6
	Working Hours	49.44	48.86	49.85	49.02	49.08	49.83	49.02
	Hourly Wage	-/7	-/7	-/6½	-/6	-/9½	-/6½	-/7

* For details as to previous publications, see footnote to table on previous page. † The particulars relate to the Average Weighted rates of wage, working hours and hourly wage, respectively. ‡ See footnote to table on page 416.

(iii.) *Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1914, 1915 and 1916*. Particulars are given in the following table, classified according to States for male and female occupations separately at 30th April, 1914, at 31st December, 1914, at 31st December, 1915, and at 31st December, 1916.† These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average weekly wage, (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work, and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. It should be observed that the weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial classes 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 classes other than Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.) Owing to the fact that many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and that the hours of labour in these occupations are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

§ See footnotes to table on page 416.

The general effect of reducing the rates of wage to a common basis (*i.e.*, per hour) is to decrease the amount of the difference shewn when comparing the weekly wage in the several States. In Western Australia, however, the fact that the average working hours per week in male occupations is less than in any other State causes a corresponding increase in the hourly rate of wage as compared with the other States.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage payable to Adult Workers, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 30th April, 1914, 31st December, 1914, 1915 and 1916.†

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
MALE WORKERS.								
30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage* ..	s. d. 55 0	s. d. 54 3	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 62 2	s. d. 52 6	s. d. 55 1
	Working Hours†	49.42	48.80	48.78	48.60	47.78	48.62	48.93
	Hourly Wage‡	13.93d.	13.68d.	13.45d.	13.84d.	16.33d.	13.02d.	13.96d.
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage* ..	s. d. 56 2	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 54 5	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 55 7
	Working Hours†	49.35	48.66	48.64	48.59	48.18	48.62	48.87
	Hourly Wage‡	14.11d.	13.82d.	13.75d.	13.86d.	16.37d.	13.07d.	14.09d.
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage* ..	s. d. 57 7	s. d. 55 3	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 54 8	s. d. 63 4	s. d. 53 2	s. d. 56 6
	Working Hours†	49.28	48.50	48.56	48.50	48.12	48.56	48.77
	Hourly Wage‡	14.50d.	14.05d.	14.07d.	13.98d.	16.50d.	13.20d.	14.38d.
31st Dec. 1916	Weekly Wage* ..	s. d. 61 11	s. d. 58 10	s. d. 60 4	s. d. 59 0	s. d. 65 2	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 60 8
	Working Hours†	48.51	48.22	48.27	48.14	48.11	48.55	48.33
	Hourly Wage‡	15.73d.	14.99d.	15.32d.	15.01d.	16.84d.	14.11d.	15.43d.
FEMALE WORKERS.								
30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 26 9	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 2
	Working Hours ..	49.34	48.54	49.32	49.33	48.69	50.76	49.08
	Hourly Wage ..	6.51d.	6.78d.	6.48d.	5.85d.	9.20d.	6.11d.	6.04d.
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 26 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 1	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 5
	Working Hours ..	49.34	48.54	49.82	49.33	49.44	50.76	49.11
	Hourly Wage ..	6.53d.	6.87d.	6.53d.	5.85d.	9.06d.	6.11d.	6.70d.
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 27 5	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 6	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 28 0	s. d. 27 4
	Working Hours ..	49.45	48.46	49.84	49.35	49.89	50.14	49.12
	Hourly Wage ..	6.65d.	6.67d.	6.48d.	5.96d.	9.01d.	6.71d.	6.68d.
31st Dec., 1916	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 28 7	s. d. 28 5	s. d. 27 3	s. d. 24 10	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 3	s. d. 28 5
	Working Hours ..	49.44	48.36	49.85	49.02	49.08	49.83	49.02
	Hourly Wage ..	6.93d.	7.06d.	6.58d.	6.08d.	9.50d.	6.82d.	6.96d.

* Weighted average weekly wage in all industrial classes combined.

† Weighted average working hours per week, and computed hourly rates of wage for all industrial classes excepting Classes XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in industrial Classes XI. and XII.

‡ For details as to previous publications see footnote to table on page 423.

From the foregoing table it may be seen that with the exception of Western Australia, there has been a steady diminution in the number of working hours, constituting a full week's work in male occupations. On the other hand, excepting in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, the hours of work in female occupations have shown a slight increase. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared to 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 the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Relative Index-numbers for Weekly and Hourly Weighted Average Wage, 30th April, 1914, 31st December, 1914, 1915 and 1916.*

NOTE.—Weighted Average for the Commonwealth at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
MALE WORKERS.								
30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	1,011	984	955	986	1,128	952	1,000
	Hourly Wage ..	998	980	963	991	1,170	933	1,000
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	1,019	990	969	988	1,140	956	1,008
	Hourly Wage ..	1,010	990	985	993	1,173	936	1,009
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage ..	1,044	1,062	986	992	1,140	965	1,023
	Hourly Wage ..	1,039	1,006	1,008	1,001	1,182	946	1,030
31st Dec., 1916	Weekly Wage ..	1,123	1,067	1,095	1,071	1,182	1,034	1,100
	Hourly Wage ..	1,127	1,074	1,097	1,075	1,206	1,011	1,105
FEMALE WORKERS.								
30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	984	1,006	989	885	1,373	950	1,000
	Hourly Wage ..	980	1,021	976	881	1,386	920	1,000
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	987	1,022	990	885	1,373	950	1,008
	Hourly Wage ..	983	1,035	983	881	1,364	920	1,009
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage ..	1,007	990	990	901	1,376	1,031	1,005
	Hourly Wage ..	1,002	1,005	976	898	1,357	1,011	1,000
31st Dec., 1916	Weekly Wage ..	1,050	1,047	1,004	915	1,429	1,041	1,047
	Hourly Wage ..	1,044	1,063	991	916	1,431	1,027	1,048

* For details as to previous publications see footnote to table on page 423.