

CHAPTER XVII.—LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

A.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

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

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

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE.

(Base 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Fute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,001	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,086
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,233	1,149
1915 ..	1,264	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,605	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,497	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,120	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	2,868	2,055
1920 ..	2,295	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	1,883
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,707	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,600	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,932	1,596
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,704	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428
1932 ..	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933 ..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,195	1,714	1,487	2,061	2,106	1,409
1934 ..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,018	1,471
1935 ..	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,720	1,508	1,964	1,996	1,469

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

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

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

§ 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES:
(Base: 1923-27 (= 1,000).)

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	876	852	800	825	840
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,003	791	758	713	748	784
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	778	738	699	727	763
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	789	761	731	767	780
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	836	804	757	807	821
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	816	797	757	786	792
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	826	796	751	783	806

(a) For all capital cities.

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

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Sydney	593	701	760	989	1,026	894	864	869	891
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	867	816	801	808	850
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	680	641	681	691	720
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	755	691	694	700	736
Perth	458	524	589	739	881	810	795	794	792
Hobart	405	452	518	881	901	868	860	865	890
Weighted Average (b) ..	497	612	662	862	901	817	804	810	839

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

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

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

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	929	867	822	840	858
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	818	778	742	769	808
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	743	704	690	713	747
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	777	736	716	742	764
Perth	594	672	679	982	852	805	768	802	810
Hobart	568	542	621	1,044	846	822	792	814	827
Weighted Average (b) ..	520	578	648	992	852	803	768	792	818

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

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

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

RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1936 TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD HAVE COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN THE FIVE-YEARLY BASE PERIOD 1923-1927, IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).*							
	<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>
1907	10 0	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1914	12 11	12 2	12 1	13 7	14 7	13 7	12 10
1921	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1931	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1932	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1933	16 0	14 3	14 0	14 7	15 2	15 2	15 0
1934	16 6	15 0	14 7	15 4	16 2	15 9	15 8
1935	16 10	15 8	15 3	15 7	16 5	15 10	16 1
1935 { March Qtr.	16 6	15 6	14 11	15 5	16 3	15 11	15 11
June ..	16 6	15 7	14 11	15 7	16 7	15 10	15 11
Sept. ..	17 1	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 6	15 9	16 4
Dec. ..	17 1	15 10	15 8	15 8	16 4	15 10	16 4
1936 { March ..	16 11	15 8	15 8	15 5	16 3	15 10	16 2
June ..	16 9	15 11	15 5	16 0	17 1	15 11	16 3
HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (WEIGHTED AVERAGE—4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).							
	<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>
1907	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1914	15 2	12 7	9 4	13 1	11 9	10 4	13 3
1921	19 9	10 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1931	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1932	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1933	17 3	16 0	13 7	13 11	15 11	17 2	16 1
1934	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1935	17 10	17 0	14 5	14 9	15 10	17 10	16 9
1935 { March Qtr.	17 7	16 10	14 2	14 7	15 9	17 8	16 7
June ..	17 7	16 11	14 5	14 8	15 9	17 9	16 8
Sept. ..	17 11	17 1	14 6	14 9	15 10	17 11	16 11
Dec. ..	18 2	17 2	14 5	14 11	15 11	17 11	17 0
1936 { March ..	18 4	17 7	14 7	15 1	16 4	18 1	17 3
June ..	18 7	17 7	14 9	15 4	16 5	18 2	17 5
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY) COMBINED.							
	<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>
1907	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1914	13 9	12 4	11 1	13 5	13 7	12 5	13 0
1921	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 0	19 8	20 11	19 10
1931	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1932	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1933	16 5	14 10	13 10	14 4	15 4	15 10	15 4
1934	16 10	15 5	14 3	14 10	16 1	16 3	15 10
1935	17 2	16 2	14 11	15 3	16 2	16 7	16 4
1935 { March Qtr.	16 11	16 0	14 8	15 1	16 1	16 6	16 2
June ..	16 11	16 1	14 9	15 3	16 3	16 6	16 2
Sept. ..	17 5	16 3	15 2	15 5	16 3	16 6	16 6
Dec. ..	17 6	16 4	15 3	15 5	16 2	16 7	16 7
1936 { March ..	17 5	16 4	15 3	15 4	16 3	16 8	16 7
June ..	17 5	16 6	15 2	15 9	16 10	16 9	16 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. **New Regimens.**—From the 1st Quarter of 1935 a revised regimen was introduced for the Clothing and Miscellaneous sections of this Index, and was "grafted" to the old so as to make no appreciable break in the continuity of the new index-numbers with those derived from the old regimen. A new regimen for the Food and Groceries section of this Index was adopted from the 3rd Quarter of 1932. Both these regimens are published in full in Labour Report, No. 25, 1934.

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

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

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX.

("C" Series.)

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

State and Town.	Nov- em- ber, 1921. *	Year 1928.	Year 1929.	Year 1930.	Year 1931.	Year 1932.	Year 1933.	Year 1934.	Year 1935.	1936.	
										Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.
NEW SOUTH WALES—											
Sydney ..	1,046	1,042	1,073	1,026	922	867	832	842	852	863	862
Newcastle ..	1,041	1,014	1,023	991	888	840	819	834	856	803	861
Broken Hill ..	975	997	1,018	973	882	834	806	819	819	819	825
Goulburn ..	1,033	1,074	1,108	1,039	922	877	843	852	860	871	875
Bathurst ..	947	964	979	959	867	820	801	807	814	833	832
Weighted Average ..	1,042	1,038	1,067	1,022	918	863	830	841	852	862	861
VICTORIA—											
Melbourne ..	1,003	992	1,017	956	846	813	789	801	824	828	832
Ballarat ..	992	929	957	909	808	776	760	781	803	800	811
Bendigo ..	1,002	936	969	926	833	808	789	811	820	808	810
Geelong ..	1,019	973	930	917	822	794	772	782	824	823	841
Warrnambool ..	1,034	941	960	939	860	838	812	826	850	848	850
Weighted Average ..	1,003	987	1,011	951	843	811	787	801	824	826	832
QUEENSLAND—											
Brisbane ..	923	917	923	859	798	764	751	762	780	787	785
Toowoomba ..	949	906	916	855	816	788	778	785	785	782	785
Rockhampton ..	972	903	904	868	806	779	752	759	776	799	793
Charters Towers ..	1,025	925	939	883	827	794	762	759	789	816	809
Warwick ..	994	914	931	882	815	777	757	761	769	775	764
Weighted Average ..	941	915	922	863	801	768	753	764	780	788	786
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—											
Adelaide ..	989	1,027	1,037	952	837	802	789	806	820	823	838
Kadina, etc. ..	998	927	943	885	801	772	747	758	763	761	769
Port Pirie ..	1,025	960	980	927	834	791	762	778	789	794	811
Mount Gambier ..	1,029	948	963	918	831	816	800	800	809	811	819
Peterborough ..	948	1,017	1,043	980	884	848	832	832	833	829	844
Weighted Average ..	992	1,019	1,030	948	836	801	787	804	817	820	834
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—											
Perth, etc. ..	1,008	1,012	1,026	977	885	840	811	830	831	831	852
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	1,018	995	1,032	986	937	940	917	975	1,011	1,021	1,034
Northam ..	1,030	1,003	1,022	969	878	844	814	825	829	828	817
Bunbury ..	1,045	963	978	966	877	842	824	843	865	872	881
Geraldton ..	1,056	1,029	1,051	1,029	951	904	851	866	886	894	914
Weighted Average ..	1,020	1,009	1,026	979	891	852	825	842	848	850	867
TASMANIA—											
Hobart ..	1,070	980	1,000	956	875	844	825	837	849	854	858
Launceston ..	1,067	957	967	949	865	832	817	828	834	835	833
Burnie ..	1,003	941	966	918	837	811	775	780	792	794	803
Devonport ..	904	909	948	920	831	800	773	787	801	804	804
Queenstown ..	1,031	934	972	949	881	875	867	876	873	865	856
Weighted Average ..	1,057	966	986	951	869	838	820	831	841	844	846
Weighted Average for 30 Towns ..	1,013	1,003	1,026	971	870	829	803	816	831	838	841
Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities ..	1,013	1,009	1,033	975	873	830	804	817	832	838	842
Townsville (Q.) (a) ..	..	1,023	1,026	966	914	878	850	851	852	860	849
Port Augusta (S.A.) (a) ..	1,035	1,050	1,061	1,026	911	853	814	822	822	836	848

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.

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

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
November, 1914 ..	712	671	611	609	707	687	657
November, 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,156

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

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

State and Town.	1934.					1935.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
NEW SOUTH WALES—										
Sydney	319	185	172	166	842	325	189	171	167	852
Newcastle	322	168	187	157	834	333	178	187	158	856
Broken Hill	354	137	160	168	810	361	137	157	164	819
Goulburn	315	174	215	148	852	317	183	212	148	860
Bathurst	310	166	184	147	807	319	165	182	148	814
Weighted Average ..	320	182	174	165	841	326	187	173	166	852
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne	289	172	185	155	801	303	181	183	157	824
Ballarat	299	139	194	149	781	314	142	197	150	803
Bendigo	303	140	214	154	811	313	146	204	157	820
Geelong	294	157	181	150	782	308	173	194	149	824
Warramboul	303	170	212	141	826	316	179	210	145	850
Weighted Average ..	290	169	187	155	801	304	178	185	157	824
QUEENSLAND—										
Brisbane	281	147	181	153	762	295	153	178	154	780
Toowoomba	268	156	207	154	785	283	159	188	155	785
Rockhampton	296	126	188	149	759	310	127	190	149	776
Charters Towers ..	312	109	173	165	759	328	113	175	173	789
Warwick	283	133	193	152	761	292	137	182	158	769
Weighted Average ..	282	145	184	153	764	296	150	180	154	780
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—										
Adelaide	296	149	195	166	806	302	156	196	166	820
Kadina, etc.	325	82	191	160	758	332	84	187	160	763
Port Pirie	307	127	183	161	778	314	133	185	157	789
Mount Gambier ..	283	132	218	162	800	300	133	216	160	809
Peterborough	308	139	222	163	832	314	141	213	165	833
Weighted Average ..	298	145	195	166	804	303	153	196	165	817
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—										
Perth, etc.	312	169	188	161	830	317	169	190	158	834
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	381	192	238	164	975	378	223	244	166	1,011
Northam	328	166	177	154	825	330	163	178	158	829
Bunbury	327	165	199	152	843	328	172	210	153	865
Geraldton	316	197	189	164	866	327	200	193	166	886
Weighted Average ..	318	171	192	161	842	322	173	194	159	848
TASMANIA—										
Hobart	304	184	203	146	837	306	189	208	146	849
Launceston	296	164	221	147	828	305	166	216	147	834
Burnie	307	139	193	141	780	321	148	188	135	792
Devonport	307	145	195	140	787	313	156	190	142	801
Queenstown	348	150	241	137	876	350	155	227	141	873
Weighted Average ..	303	173	209	146	831	308	178	210	145	841
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	304	169	183	160	816	313	176	182	160	831
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	303	172	181	161	817	312	178	181	161	832
TOWNSVILLE (Q.) (a) ..	318	171	202	160	851	335	167	195	155	852
PORT AUGUSTA (S.A.) (a) ..	331	128	202	161	822	340	131	189	162	822

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.

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

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

2. **Detailed Results, 1933 to 1935.**—The base of the table is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911, and is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the element of rent in the base itself differs from that contained in this table, but the index-numbers are comparable throughout.

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

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Albury	788	1,263	1,340	836	1,280	1,364	846	1,311	1,408
Armidale	768	1,122	1,209	817	1,169	1,247	865	1,220	1,273
Ballina	850	1,177	1,282	846	1,175	1,280	885	1,223	1,315
Bathurst	816	1,180	1,233	852	1,217	1,270	887	1,229	1,310
Bega	832	1,183	1,247	866	1,217	1,281	896	1,258	1,320
Berry	557	1,173	1,252	906	1,222	1,301	920	1,315	1,407
Blackheath	843	1,209	1,258	896	1,265	1,295	929	1,310	1,335
Bourke	879	1,208	1,339	892	1,221	1,352	920	1,249	1,328
Bowral	846	1,202	1,298	876	1,229	1,337	893	1,258	1,392
Broken Hill	920	1,253	1,362	973	1,313	1,418	978	1,311	1,418

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i>									
Casino	817	1,225	1,344	832	1,240	1,359	900	1,352	1,471
Cessnock	799	1,063	1,102	834	1,103	1,146	890	1,171	1,258
Cobar	1,060	1,228	1,297	1,028	1,217	1,278	1,066	1,307	1,329
Cooma	900	1,203	1,335	881	1,204	1,342	943	1,292	1,436
Coonamble	888	1,173	1,248	927	1,254	1,328	966	1,313	1,401
Cootamundra	770	1,175	1,291	831	1,246	1,366	868	1,301	1,419
Corrimal	808	1,200	1,269	861	1,253	1,321	878	1,270	1,339
Cowra	784	1,210	1,278	851	1,313	1,408	889	1,344	1,448
Cronulla	831	1,247	1,340	877	1,286	1,418	905	1,350	1,456
Deniliquin	867	1,198	1,324	910	1,256	1,401	930	1,282	1,433
Dulbo	722	1,218	1,256	812	1,311	1,372	887	1,302	1,468
Forbes	829	1,272	1,413	866	1,280	1,494	930	1,375	1,576
Gilgandra	824	1,120	1,186	891	1,220	1,253	919	1,325	1,397
Glen Innes	798	1,160	1,245	807	1,162	1,288	850	1,230	1,366
Goulburn	811	1,241	1,294	868	1,306	1,345	891	1,351	1,377
Grafton	790	1,218	1,363	823	1,281	1,440	867	1,302	1,553
Grenfell	813	1,208	1,340	849	1,293	1,411	874	1,350	1,471
Griffith	901	1,663	1,826	956	1,697	1,884	961	1,715	1,816
Gulgong	705	1,040	1,116	823	1,000	1,152	865	1,101	1,266
Gunnedah	771	1,140	1,267	816	1,177	1,343	873	1,234	1,410
Hay	912	1,260	1,436	945	1,293	1,460	951	1,334	1,524
Inverell	811	1,236	1,301	851	1,306	1,362	893	1,383	1,501
Junee	814	1,205	1,393	861	1,371	1,499	872	1,382	1,510
Katoomba	854	1,350	1,448	877	1,421	1,525	913	1,462	1,566
Kempsey	821	1,236	1,333	853	1,238	1,357	845	1,253	1,342
Kiama	862	1,152	1,329	935	1,225	1,421	935	1,231	1,461
Kurri Kurri	792	1,046	1,143	861	1,107	1,192	851	1,114	1,180
Leeton	854	1,413	1,512	893	1,489	1,620	933	1,591	1,722
Lismore	814	1,249	1,421	823	1,300	1,455	878	1,411	1,531
Lithgow	812	1,156	1,162	899	1,216	1,224	904	1,178	1,218
Maitland	770	1,058	1,247	830	1,128	1,193	877	1,191	1,257
Moree	880	1,406	1,505	925	1,476	1,579	933	1,504	1,621
Moss Vale	824	1,173	1,260	856	1,246	1,330	889	1,325	1,418
Mudgee	720	1,122	1,240	814	1,273	1,339	863	1,356	1,396
Narrabri	811	1,206	1,245	885	1,321	1,364	924	1,368	1,409
Narrandera	844	1,304	1,409	893	1,406	1,499	909	1,446	1,541
Newcastle	845	1,223	1,335	894	1,284	1,397	927	1,356	1,467
Nowra	875	1,267	1,338	885	1,319	1,420	949	1,431	1,545
Orange	790	1,200	1,354	814	1,219	1,361	861	1,283	1,403
Parkes	824	1,182	1,275	847	1,220	1,350	888	1,227	1,373
Penrith	782	1,065	1,186	829	1,132	1,209	849	1,204	1,277
Port Kembla	839	1,256	1,313	901	1,276	1,374	912	1,356	1,412
Portland	846	1,110	1,175	885	1,148	1,214	908	1,171	1,237
Queanbeyan	838	1,117	1,196	895	1,205	1,275	931	1,269	1,387
Quirindi	878	1,208	1,314	900	1,242	1,351	910	1,253	1,358
Richmond	802	1,196	1,262	884	1,298	1,344	870	1,298	1,363
Scone	808	1,235	1,312	852	1,293	1,389	881	1,302	1,414
Singleton	795	1,131	1,221	821	1,174	1,224	870	1,275	1,294
Sydney	826	1,260	1,346	880	1,316	1,413	896	1,340	1,444
Tamworth	780	1,142	1,227	826	1,188	1,303	849	1,296	1,390
Taree	787	1,230	1,331	827	1,296	1,432	893	1,397	1,507
Temora	803	1,297	1,397	845	1,328	1,416	846	1,394	1,480
Tenterfield	775	1,120	1,211	813	1,177	1,237	875	1,287	1,334
Tumut	834	1,311	1,402	853	1,324	1,422	876	1,348	1,457
Ullmarra	815	1,210	1,342	872	1,267	1,398	897	1,292	1,423

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
NEW SOUTH WALES—continued.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wagga Wagga	793	1,247	1,423	839	1,342	1,500	880	1,404	1,557
Walcha	841	1,170	1,279	880	1,238	1,294	976	1,344	1,423
Wellington	794	1,104	1,202	875	1,237	1,283	861	1,225	1,297
Weston	804	1,095	1,143	834	1,126	1,179	861	1,153	1,205
Windsor	822	1,250	1,348	830	1,274	1,356	895	1,372	1,421
Wollongong	795	1,254	1,311	850	1,307	1,419	873	1,354	1,480
Wyalong	843	1,166	1,205	858	1,187	1,253	907	1,236	1,302
Yass	798	1,143	1,242	856	1,250	1,292	895	1,253	1,390
Young	816	1,224	1,319	898	1,310	1,367	900	1,317	1,378
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns)	827	1,244	1,334	878	1,303	1,401	898	1,334	1,437
VICTORIA—									
Ararat	819	1,138	1,266	872	1,202	1,333	901	1,247	1,361
Bacchus Marsh	775	1,119	1,254	850	1,175	1,247	863	1,206	1,265
Bairnsdale	882	1,124	1,247	891	1,161	1,339	908	1,237	1,360
Ballarat	771	1,074	1,227	818	1,129	1,264	861	1,173	1,316
Beechworth	826	1,122	1,175	856	1,152	1,191	872	1,168	1,234
Benalla	799	1,125	1,298	874	1,200	1,384	895	1,232	1,431
Bendigo	765	1,072	1,200	836	1,154	1,274	855	1,202	1,313
Camperdown	806	1,107	1,333	857	1,236	1,382	894	1,258	1,418
Casterton	834	1,176	1,261	879	1,261	1,340	890	1,272	1,351
Castlemaine	787	1,082	1,178	816	1,104	1,198	872	1,208	1,289
Colac	801	1,216	1,317	856	1,274	1,371	861	1,296	1,407
Creswick	782	914	966	831	989	1,041	882	1,040	1,093
Daylesford	806	1,016	1,094	831	1,041	1,118	856	1,067	1,144
Dunolly	780	960	1,006	836	1,047	1,083	880	1,087	1,117
Echuca	785	1,085	1,210	826	1,135	1,283	868	1,184	1,316
Euroa	810	1,113	1,170	846	1,142	1,251	890	1,210	1,324
Geelong	771	1,124	1,298	798	1,172	1,332	838	1,237	1,430
Hamilton	803	1,189	1,318	847	1,218	1,304	900	1,272	1,368
Healesville	804	1,070	1,146	861	1,124	1,210	875	1,151	1,236
Horsham	807	1,155	1,267	843	1,231	1,301	919	1,380	1,446
Kerang	793	1,187	1,253	862	1,250	1,298	915	1,303	1,343
Koroit	808	1,071	1,130	838	1,114	1,167	872	1,135	1,201
Korumburra	776	1,089	1,252	823	1,142	1,274	824	1,170	1,318
Kyneton	743	1,035	1,146	797	1,088	1,227	827	1,131	1,248
Lilydale	826	1,158	1,240	858	1,180	1,252	860	1,210	1,284
Maffra	801	1,172	1,252	826	1,150	1,247	860	1,198	1,296
Maldon	832	944	1,017	871	1,003	1,068	893	1,054	1,114
Maryborough	770	1,025	1,095	826	1,087	1,206	855	1,122	1,230
Melbourne	759	1,163	1,287	798	1,207	1,340	839	1,278	1,398
Mildura	887	1,419	1,555	917	1,483	1,650	950	1,550	1,714
Morwell	839	1,260	1,352	865	1,287	1,379	887	1,308	1,400
Nhill	840	1,143	1,256	808	1,214	1,326	962	1,291	1,405
Orbost	877	1,210	1,333	857	1,149	1,305	916	1,245	1,376
Portland	831	1,160	1,226	847	1,136	1,209	908	1,213	1,280
Port Fairy	801	1,091	1,196	824	1,127	1,252	863	1,163	1,258
St. Arnaud	847	1,164	1,278	897	1,223	1,348	921	1,290	1,398
Sale	826	1,169	1,253	826	1,217	1,302	871	1,273	1,379
Seymour	824	1,153	1,258	893	1,216	1,324	926	1,249	1,357
Shepparton	777	1,156	1,300	847	1,238	1,390	863	1,313	1,432
Stawell	844	1,103	1,228	907	1,157	1,270	959	1,252	1,348

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Victoria—<i>continued.</i>									
Swan Hill	782	1,292	1,473	877	1,387	1,568	920	1,446	1,644
Terang	840	1,163	1,234	863	1,218	1,363	921	1,290	1,428
Traralgon	773	1,111	1,256	828	1,187	1,347	859	1,216	1,566
Wangaratta	824	1,267	1,378	828	1,293	1,401	871	1,356	1,432
Warracknabeal	790	1,109	1,199	830	1,167	1,258	871	1,200	1,283
Warragul	751	1,285	1,451	831	1,232	1,397	826	1,350	1,502
Warrnambool	779	1,173	1,341	799	1,334	1,501	864	1,274	1,430
Wonthaggi	776	1,105	1,212	836	1,165	1,262	847	1,117	1,219
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns)	767	1,155	1,280	805	1,203	1,331	846	1,261	1,391
QUEENSLAND—									
Ayr	846	1,293	1,416	862	1,314	1,446	869	1,321	1,474
Barcaldine	874	1,249	1,308	928	1,303	1,327	988	1,352	1,400
Bowen	860	1,215	1,287	935	1,284	1,363	932	1,287	1,370
Brisbane	733	1,071	1,161	765	1,112	1,196	822	1,175	1,275
Bundaberg	761	1,039	1,085	793	1,052	1,118	845	1,122	1,188
Cairns	857	1,370	1,548	881	1,424	1,598	934	1,487	1,605
Charleville	894	1,324	1,438	928	1,339	1,511	1,000	1,438	1,614
Charters Towers	820	1,079	1,136	845	1,036	1,170	923	1,180	1,255
Chillagoe	960	1,157	1,210	901	1,159	1,211	948	1,145	1,198
Cloncurry	955	1,340	1,429	979	1,348	1,461	1,085	1,479	1,568
Cooktown	934	1,079	1,131	968	1,113	1,166	1,015	1,159	1,212
Cunnamulla	906	1,301	1,433	941	1,336	1,468	977	1,371	1,503
Dalby	783	1,141	1,253	800	1,109	1,261	850	1,251	1,346
Gayndah	803	1,073	1,132	834	1,110	1,215	896	1,192	1,317
Gladstone	783	1,112	1,204	812	1,155	1,260	871	1,227	1,336
Goondiwindi	836	1,230	1,318	864	1,290	1,399	936	1,384	1,463
Gympie	776	1,107	1,220	814	1,139	1,268	903	1,223	1,350
Hughenden	953	1,361	1,446	938	1,346	1,431	968	1,375	1,461
Innisfail	898	1,450	1,582	955	1,491	1,624	993	1,532	1,674
Ipswich	767	990	1,109	785	1,002	1,120	826	1,041	1,177
Longreach	914	1,226	1,356	970	1,314	1,452	1,030	1,378	1,527
Mackay	813	1,208	1,339	850	1,267	1,416	918	1,379	1,554
Maryborough	754	1,083	1,192	761	1,090	1,200	836	1,165	1,275
Mount Morgan	833	1,017	1,026	875	1,059	1,072	900	1,085	1,098
Nambour	761	1,065	1,158	808	1,098	1,177	878	1,177	1,261
Rockhampton	772	1,074	1,119	805	1,113	1,165	883	1,198	1,245
Roma	848	1,085	1,212	866	1,116	1,208	924	1,226	1,292
Stanthorpe	807	1,162	1,228	816	1,172	1,237	845	1,201	1,247
Toowoomba	709	1,103	1,128	732	1,111	1,169	791	1,166	1,253
Townsville	827	1,228	1,315	860	1,257	1,364	934	1,333	1,430
Warwick	759	1,052	1,131	759	1,057	1,171	834	1,134	1,246
Winton	953	1,216	1,368	968	1,244	1,395	981	1,270	1,402
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns)	763	1,096	1,182	787	1,127	1,214	849	1,201	1,300
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	772	1,107	1,249	815	1,159	1,290	826	1,193	1,313
Freeling	770	1,033	1,099	809	1,072	1,138	847	1,110	1,176
Gawler	771	1,017	1,096	818	1,073	1,182	813	1,095	1,181
Kadina, etc.	840	1,022	1,094	894	1,076	1,159	914	1,097	1,184
Kapunda	756	958	1,052	803	981	1,079	835	1,046	1,116

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—<i>continued.</i>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Koorlinga	812	1,141	1,207	832	1,128	1,244	914	1,221	1,348
Millicent	797	1,071	1,174	849	1,162	1,244	847	1,187	1,264
Mount Gambier	765	1,022	1,158	791	1,065	1,204	845	1,142	1,252
Murray Bridge	747	988	1,122	771	1,004	1,123	803	1,035	1,137
Peterborough	811	1,180	1,250	848	1,212	1,289	860	1,225	1,302
Port Augusta	868	1,159	1,283	910	1,202	1,326	939	1,234	1,359
Port Pirie	777	1,084	1,166	856	1,162	1,275	894	1,166	1,279
Quorn	819	1,115	1,194	844	1,160	1,229	893	1,222	1,275
Renmark	885	1,280	1,345	956	1,334	1,396	969	1,373	1,447
Victor Harbour	801	1,169	1,222	833	1,162	1,281	859	1,260	1,346
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns)	777	1,100	1,234	820	1,154	1,280	833	1,188	1,305
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Albany	834	1,132	1,224	917	1,238	1,354	930	1,259	1,391
Beverley	893	1,268	1,382	920	1,336	1,413	937	1,354	1,431
Bridgetown	925	1,226	1,319	967	1,278	1,395	980	1,335	1,440
Broome	1,217	1,678	1,875	1,217	1,677	1,875	1,203	1,663	1,861
Bunbury	822	1,239	1,307	889	1,294	1,399	890	1,309	1,424
Carnarvon	1,023	1,477	1,587	1,062	1,491	1,621	1,087	1,500	1,640
Collie	762	1,108	1,236	908	1,247	1,379	900	1,285	1,361
Geraldton	804	1,288	1,421	880	1,361	1,457	885	1,368	1,526
Greenbushes	908	1,073	1,112	973	1,121	1,190	996	1,128	1,171
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	975	1,466	1,544	1,047	1,570	1,659	1,033	1,579	1,702
Katanning	810	1,132	1,256	889	1,193	1,305	873	1,202	1,314
Leonora and Gwalia	1,083	1,346	1,412	1,142	1,405	1,464	1,152	1,481	1,516
Meekatharra	1,080	1,541	1,738	1,103	1,585	1,739	1,146	1,666	1,700
Narrogin	845	1,240	1,379	919	1,367	1,521	909	1,403	1,448
Norham	833	1,237	1,346	800	1,295	1,399	895	1,301	1,401
Perth and Fremantle	779	1,174	1,273	856	1,254	1,344	857	1,259	1,353
Wagin	857	1,112	1,186	860	1,145	1,222	901	1,191	1,267
York	807	1,123	1,176	844	1,180	1,233	905	1,240	1,293
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns)	810	1,209	1,308	878	1,281	1,374	879	1,289	1,387
TASMANIA—									
Beaconsfield	784	902	942	843	988	1,054	861	1,058	1,121
Burnie	787	1,155	1,239	864	1,222	1,318	881	1,252	1,339
Campbelltown	820	1,029	1,087	858	1,100	1,154	905	1,156	1,274
Deloraine	796	1,119	1,188	830	1,159	1,185	820	1,158	1,181
Devonport	803	1,212	1,274	879	1,296	1,354	868	1,291	1,355
Franklin	860	1,097	1,156	936	1,173	1,232	943	1,180	1,259
Hobart	797	1,237	1,370	856	1,300	1,435	830	1,288	1,419
Launceston	760	1,163	1,271	827	1,219	1,343	835	1,236	1,343
New Norfolk	825	1,141	1,167	866	1,182	1,234	874	1,242	1,295
Queenstown	916	1,311	1,357	961	1,356	1,415	948	1,347	1,415
Scottsdale	767	1,030	1,123	811	1,047	1,150	822	1,070	1,193
Ulverstone	811	1,052	1,126	858	1,126	1,220	856	1,163	1,231
Zeehan	987	1,185	1,217	1,017	1,214	1,247	993	1,190	1,223
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns)	796	1,200	1,310	855	1,261	1,379	818	1,262	1,373
Federal Capital Territory (a)									
Canberra	902	1,465	1,574	964	1,530	1,638	980	1,574	1,656
Weighted Averages—									
Australia (200 Towns)	794	1,182	1,288	840	1,236	1,345	868	1,279	1,390
Thirty Towns	790	1,185	1,292	837	1,239	1,340	863	1,278	1,391
Six Capitals	786	1,188	1,295	834	1,241	1,352	860	1,280	1,393

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

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

B.—WAGES.

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

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

2. *Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.*—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1931 to 1935 :—

AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

State.	1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.
New South Wales	46	40	38	25	30	24	55	22	44	31
Victoria	204	..	103	..	138	..	90	..	101	..
Queensland	48	28	21	..	4	55	21	32	25	46
South Australia	64	15	18	..	8	16	1	19	3	69
Western Australia	7	10	5	..	4	10	9	12	11	17
Tasmania	31	3	11	..	3	..	7	..	1	18
Commonwealth Court Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator	11	16	21	..	9	6	24	4	69	13
Total	412	112	218	53	267	64	239	66	368	99

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

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards which have made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913	505	387(b)	575(c)	401
31st December, 1920	475	440	1,041	972
31st December, 1925	575	524	1,181	607
31st December, 1930	644	582	1,285	601
31st December, 1932	657	591	1,337	625
31st December, 1933	657	583	1,363	653
31st December, 1934	657	583	1,403	689
31st December, 1935	662	585	1,435	709

(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 1935, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements* in force had increased by 860 and 308 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

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

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913 AND 1935.

Particulars.	Commonwealth.				Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
	At 31st Dec.	Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.	N.S.W.						
<i>Industrial and Wages—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1935 ..	..	..	(a) 319	189	2	76	19	57	662
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1935 ..	..	..	(b) 279	167	2	65	17	55	585
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 ..	17	..	265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1935 ..	164	4†	484	174	290	79	144	56	1,435
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 ..	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1935 ..	156	..	159	..	137	34	163	10	709
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1935 ..	..	..	111	118	37	90	37	70	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1935 ..	..	..	39	71	22	27	17	42	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	{ 1935 ..	..	..	39	36	30	32	29	29	..

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and at the end of 1935, 294 Committees were in force.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

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

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

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

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

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1930 to 1935.—(i) *General*. The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to is taken for each industrial group. These averages are weighted in accordance with census results to give the average of all occupations for the States and for Australia.

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

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

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

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

RATES OF WAGE. (b)

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1931 ..	93 5	82 2	89 0	75 0	84 1	79 9	86 10
31st December, 1932 ..	84 11	77 10	88 5	72 7	81 9	78 1	81 10
31st December, 1933 ..	81 11	77 0	88 1	73 5	81 4	78 0	80 6
31st December, 1934 ..	83 2	78 8	88 9	75 6	84 1	79 7	82 0
31st March, 1935 ..	83 3	79 4	88 10	75 10	84 1	80 1	82 3
30th June, 1935 ..	83 3	79 4	88 10	76 2	84 1	80 6	82 3
30th September, 1935 ..	83 9	79 4	88 10	76 2	84 1	80 6	82 6
31st December, 1935 ..	84 2	79 9	88 5	77 11	84 2	81 0	82 10

INDEX—NUMBERS.

31st December, 1931 ..	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
31st December, 1932 ..	1,657	1,518	1,726	1,416	1,595	1,523	1,597
31st December, 1933 ..	1,598	1,502	1,718	1,433	1,587	1,522	1,570
31st December, 1934 ..	1,623	1,534	1,732	1,473	1,640	1,552	1,599
31st March, 1935 ..	1,624	1,548	1,733	1,480	1,641	1,563	1,604
30th June, 1935 ..	1,624	1,548	1,733	1,485	1,641	1,570	1,605
30th September, 1935 ..	1,634	1,548	1,733	1,485	1,641	1,570	1,609
31st December, 1935 ..	1,642	1,555	1,725	1,520	1,642	1,581	1,617

(a) Weighted average.

(b) Calculated to nearest rd.

Wages declined sharply in all States during the three years 1931 to 1933, the average rates at the 31st December of the latter year being approximately 17 per cent. less than those ruling at the end of 1930. Varying increases were granted in each of the States during 1934 and 1935, and as the result the weighted average nominal rate for Australia increased by 2s. 4d. per week. At the 31st December, 1935, rates were highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by Western Australia and New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the third quarter of 1929, viz., 101s. 5d. per week.

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

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

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

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage (to nearest <i>id.</i>), and Index-Number at—								
	31st Dec., 1931.	31st Dec., 1932.	31st Dec., 1933.	31st Dec., 1934.	31st March, 1935.	30th June, 1935.	30th Sept., 1935.	31st Dec., 1935.	
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage ..	<i>s. d.</i> 85/7	<i>s. d.</i> 83/4	<i>s. d.</i> 82/8	<i>s. d.</i> 85/4	<i>s. d.</i> 85/11	<i>s. d.</i> 86/2	<i>s. d.</i> 86/4	<i>s. d.</i> 86/8
	Index-No.	1,669	1,627	1,613	1,664	1,676	1,681	1,684	1,691
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage ..	86/3	81/6	81/4	83/2	83/9	83/10	84/1	85/3
	Index-No.	1,683	1,589	1,587	1,623	1,634	1,636	1,641	1,663
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage ..	88/6	84/2	83/3	83/8	84/0	84/0	84/3	85/3
	Index-No.	1,727	1,642	1,625	1,633	1,639	1,639	1,645	1,664
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage ..	83/11	77/3	76/7	79/11	79/11	79/11	80/3	80/9
	Index-No.	1,638	1,507	1,494	1,559	1,559	1,559	1,566	1,576
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage ..	102/0	98/3	97/6	99/6	99/7	99/7	100/2	100/11
	Index-No.	1,991	1,918	1,902	1,942	1,943	1,944	1,954	1,969
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage ..	85/4	80/7	79/5	81/4	81/8	81/9	82/0	83/0
	Index-No.	1,664	1,572	1,549	1,587	1,593	1,594	1,600	1,619
VII. Building	Wage ..	98/9	93/11	92/3	93/8	94/2	94/2	94/5	94/2
	Index-No.	1,926	1,833	1,800	1,828	1,836	1,838	1,843	1,836
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage ..	102/5	98/2	97/0	97/7	97/10	97/10	97/10	97/10
	Index-No.	1,999	1,916	1,893	1,904	1,908	1,908	1,908	1,908
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage ..	86/7	80/11	80/4	82/8	83/4	83/4	83/9	84/9
	Index-No.	1,690	1,579	1,567	1,613	1,626	1,626	1,633	1,653
X. Other Land Transport	Wage ..	83/11	78/3	76/9	78/9	79/5	79/6	79/11	80/1
	Index-No.	1,638	1,527	1,497	1,537	1,549	1,551	1,559	1,562
XI. Shipping, etc.(c)	Wage ..	81/10	79/6	80/9	84/8	85/8	85/8	85/8	85/2
	Index-No.	1,596	1,552	1,575	1,652	1,672	1,672	1,672	1,661
XII. Agricultural, etc.(b)	Wage ..	80/3	74/9	71/11	73/4	73/4	73/4	73/4	73/4
	Index-No.	1,566	1,458	1,404	1,431	1,431	1,431	1,431	1,431
XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	Wage ..	85/3	76/5	74/10	75/9	76/1	76/1	76/5	76/8
	Index-No.	1,663	1,492	1,460	1,478	1,484	1,484	1,492	1,496
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage ..	83/11	78/11	77/5	78/7	78/7	78/8	79/0	79/6
	Index-No.	1,637	1,540	1,511	1,532	1,534	1,535	1,541	1,552
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage ..	86/10	81/10	80/6	82/0	82/3	82/3	82/6	82/10
	Index-No.	1,694	1,597	1,570	1,599	1,604	1,605	1,609	1,617

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

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1935, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 100s. 11d. per week, followed by Groups VIII. (Mining), 97s. 10d. per week; VII. (Building), 94s. 2d. per week; I. (Wood Furniture, etc.), 86s. 8d. per week; II. (Engineering, etc.), 85s. 3d.; III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 85s. 3d.; and XI. (Shipping, etc.), 85s. 2d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 73s. 4d. per week. During the year rates of wage increased in all groups, the greatest increases occurring in the following:—Engineering, etc., 2s. 1d. per week; Railways, etc., 2s. 1d. per week; Other Manufacturing, 1s. 8d. per week; Food, Drink, etc., 1s. 7d. per week; Wood, Furniture, etc., 1s. 4d. per week; and Other Land Transport, 1s. 4d. per week. The increase during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 0s. 10d. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1929, the highest point recorded for that date in any year, wages at the end of the year 1935 showed a decrease of 18s. 4d. per week.

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

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

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

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

RATES OF WAGE. (b)

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1931 ..	49 8	45 10	47 11	43 11	51 7	45 8	47 5
31st December, 1932 ..	44 8	43 0	46 9	40 11	49 7	43 4	44 2
31st December, 1933 ..	43 2	42 9	46 9	41 0	48 4	43 1	43 5
31st December, 1934 ..	44 3	43 9	47 8	41 11	49 1	44 1	44 5
31st March, 1935 ..	44 3	43 9	47 8	41 11	49 1	44 1	44 5
30th June, 1935 ..	44 10	44 1	48 0	42 4	49 1	44 8	44 11
30th September, 1935 ..	44 10	44 1	48 0	42 4	49 1	44 8	44 11
31st December, 1935 ..	44 11	44 2	48 0	42 5	49 1	44 10	45 0

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1931 ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
31st December, 1932 ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
31st December, 1933 ..	1,589	1,573	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,587	1,599
31st December, 1934 ..	1,628	1,609	1,755	1,541	1,809	1,623	1,636
31st March, 1935 ..	1,628	1,609	1,755	1,541	1,809	1,623	1,636
30th June, 1935 ..	1,650	1,623	1,767	1,558	1,809	1,643	1,652
30th September, 1935 ..	1,650	1,623	1,767	1,558	1,809	1,643	1,652
31st December, 1935 ..	1,654	1,626	1,767	1,561	1,809	1,651	1,655

(a) Weighted average. (b) Calculated to nearest rd.

Female rates followed the same downward course as male rates from 1931 to 1933. The weekly average nominal wage for Australia fell from 53s. 7d. in 1930 to 43s. 5d. in 1933, a decline of 10s. 2d., or 17 per cent. As with the rates for males increases were recorded in all States during the next two years, and the weighted average rate for Australia advanced by 1s. 7d. per week.

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

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

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

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V., and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, etc.(a)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups. (b)
RATES OF WAGE.						
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
31st December, 1931	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
31st December, 1932	41 0	42 4	44 2	46 2	47 0	44 2
31st December, 1933	40 6	41 11	43 5	43 4	45 11	43 5
31st December, 1934	40 8	43 6	44 2	45 11	47 2	44 5
31st March, 1935 ..	40 8	43 6	44 2	45 11	47 2	44 5
30th June, 1935 ..	40 10	44 2	44 4	46 2	46 5	44 11
30th September, 1935	40 10	44 2	44 4	46 2	46 5	44 11
31st December, 1935..	42 1	44 2	44 8	46 3	46 5	45 0
INDEX-NUMBERS.						
31st December, 1931	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
31st December, 1932	1,508	1,559	1,625	1,700	1,730	1,624
31st December, 1933	1,491	1,542	1,599	1,594	1,691	1,599
31st December, 1934	1,497	1,601	1,626	1,689	1,737	1,636
31st March, 1935 ..	1,497	1,601	1,626	1,689	1,737	1,636
30th June, 1935 ..	1,504	1,625	1,633	1,700	1,708	1,652
30th September, 1935	1,504	1,625	1,633	1,700	1,708	1,652
31st December, 1935	1,549	1,625	1,645	1,701	1,708	1,655

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

During the year 1935 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups, except Miscellaneous, showed an increase as compared with those for the previous year, the greatest increases occurring in Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 1s. 5d. per week and Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 0s. 8d. per week. The weighted average for all groups increased by 0s. 7d. per week.

3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1931 to 1935.—(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 other 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 1931 to 1935. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage; (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work; and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes

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

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

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

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage (a) ..	93/5	82/2	89/0	75/0	84/1	79/9	86/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2½	1/9½	2/0½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/11½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage (a) ..	84/11	77/10	88/5	72/7	81/9	78/1	81/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11½	1/8½	2/0½	1/7	1/10	1/8½	1/10
31st Dec., 1933	Weekly Wage (a) ..	81/11	77/0	88/1	73/5	81/4	78/0	80/6
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11	1/8	2/0½	1/7½	1/10	1/8½	1/9½
31st Dec., 1934	Weekly Wage (a) ..	83/2	78/8	88/9	75/6	84/1	79/7	82/0
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11½	1/8½	2/0½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/10½
31st Dec., 1935	Weekly Wage (a) ..	84/2	79/9	88/5	77/11	84/2	81/0	82/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.18	46.74	43.69	46.63	45.48	46.75	45.26
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11½	1/9	2/1	1/8½	1/10½	1/9½	1/10½
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage ..	49/8	45/10	47/11	43/11	51/7	45/8	47/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1½	1/0	1/1	0/11½	1/1½	1/0	1/0½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage ..	44/8	43/0	46/9	40/11	49/7	43/4	44/2
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/1	0/11½	0/11½
31st Dec., 1933	Weekly Wage ..	43/2	42/9	46/9	41/0	48/4	43/2	43/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.03	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.81
	Hourly Wage ..	0/11½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/0½	0/11½	0/11½
31st Dec., 1934	Weekly Wage ..	44/3	43/9	47/8	41/11	49/1	44/1	44/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.03	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.81
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0	0/11½	1/1	0/11	1/1	0/11	1/0
31st Dec., 1935	Weekly Wage ..	44/11	44/2	48/0	42/5	49/1	44/10	45/0
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.03	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.81
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	0/11½	1/1	0/11	1/1	0/11½	1/0

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

(iii) *Index-Numbers.* The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924 to 1928 was towards a slight reduction in hours of labour, particularly in Queensland and New South Wales, where a 44-hour week became operative on 1st July, 1925, and on 4th January, 1926, respectively. Further decreases were recorded in the hours of work per week for male employees during 1927 in all States excepting Queensland, where hours remained stationary. The decline in the other States was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group II. (Engineering, etc.) from 48 to 44 hours per week, as awarded by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The decline in the weekly hours in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania in 1928 was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.). During 1929 the hours of work per week for timber workers in certain States were increased by the Commonwealth Court, with the result that the weighted average hours for Australia were slightly increased. The repeal of the Acts in New South Wales and Queensland providing for a 44-hour week tended to increase the average number of hours of labour per week in those States during the year 1930, while the restoration of this measure in New South Wales during 1931 and in Queensland during 1933 was mainly responsible for the reduction in hours since 1930. A further slight reduction in Queensland was brought about by the introduction in April, 1935, of a 40 hour week for employees on Building Construction. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table:—

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

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

(Weekly Rates*—M = 55/1; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2; F = 0/6¼.)

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,695	1,490	1,615	1,360	1,526	1,447	1,575
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,541	1,411	1,605	1,317	1,483	1,416	1,485
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,701	1,451	1,748	1,355	1,584	1,464	1,584
31st Dec., 1933	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,486	1,396	1,598	1,332	1,476	1,415	1,460
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,655	1,438	1,775	1,372	1,571	1,463	1,567
31st Dec., 1934	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,509	1,427	1,610	1,369	1,525	1,443	1,487
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,676	1,484	1,782	1,410	1,624	1,494	1,594
31st Dec., 1935	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,528	1,448	1,605	1,415	1,528	1,470	1,504
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,703	1,496	1,782	1,476	1,626	1,519	1,617
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,837	1,711	1,863	1,605	1,967	1,700	1,777
31st Dec., 1933	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,589	1,573	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,587	1,599
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,776	1,700	1,919	1,611	1,916	1,691	1,752
31st Dec., 1934	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,628	1,609	1,755	1,541	1,809	1,623	1,636
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,819	1,738	1,956	1,699	1,947	1,730	1,797
31st Dec., 1935	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,654	1,626	1,767	1,561	1,808	1,650	1,655
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,848	1,758	1,971	1,721	1,947	1,759	1,818

(a) See footnote to following table.

* Approximate only—the Indexes being calculated from the exact rates.

4. **Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1931 to 1935.

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

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

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
31st Dec., 1931	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Index-numbers ..	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
31st Dec., 1932	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Index-numbers ..	903	958	919	957	930	955	930
31st Dec., 1933	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Index-numbers ..	904	957	899	957	930	956	927
31st Dec., 1934	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Index-numbers ..	904	957	899	957	930	956	927
31st Dec., 1935	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.18	46.74	43.69	46.63	45.48	46.75	45.26
	Index-numbers ..	903	955	893	953	929	955	925

(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.

5. **Nominal and Real Wages, 1901 to 1935.**—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates necessarily are taken for places other than the capital cities. For the year 1914 and subsequent years the index-numbers in the following table are based on the average wage for the four quarters of each year :—

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.

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

State.	Number of Occupations Included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1935.												
New South Wales	158	874	858	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,003	2,012	1,983	1,851	1,734	1,638	1,617	1,631
Victoria ..	130	909	796	985	1,062	1,803	1,956	1,964	1,937	1,683	1,552	1,502	1,523	1,550
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,035	1,879	1,971	1,976	1,808	1,760	1,731	1,720	1,727	1,731
South Australia	134	567	819	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,884	1,891	1,857	1,580	1,434	1,423	1,438	1,493
Western Australia	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,938	1,960	1,955	1,745	1,611	1,584	1,619	1,641
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,027	1,745	1,825	1,840	1,829	1,625	1,533	1,519	1,540	1,571
Australia (a)	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,081	1,827	1,963	1,972	1,939	1,752	1,639	1,584	1,590	1,609

(a) Weighted average.

During the period from 1911 to the end of the year 1929 the average weekly rate of wage increased in New South Wales and Victoria, 100 per cent. ; in Queensland, 98 per cent. ; in South Australia, 87 per cent. ; in Western Australia, 70 per cent. ; and in Tasmania, 130 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 97 per cent. Comparing the yearly average rates for 1929 and 1935 nominal wages declined in all States during the period, Victoria showing the greatest fall with 21.1 per cent., followed by South Australia, 20.0 per cent., and New South Wales, 18.7 per cent. The smallest decline was recorded in Queensland, i.e., 12.7 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for Australia declined 18.3 per cent. Compared with 1911 the average weekly nominal wage for Australia was 61 per cent. higher in 1935.

(ii) *Real Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus, 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the "real" wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1935.

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

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

State.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
New South Wales	961	973	906	1,079	1,089	1,050	1,107	1,160	1,150	1,138	1,101	1,095
Victoria	915	1,037	961	1,038	1,120	1,084	1,158	1,162	1,126	1,139	1,114	1,092
Queensland	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,244	1,236	1,220	1,317	1,345	1,376	1,417	1,377	1,323
South Australia	948	957	929	1,027	1,089	1,067	1,166	1,178	1,133	1,152	1,144	1,149
Western Australia	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,139	1,156	1,143	1,229	1,232	1,213	1,246	1,221	1,224
Tasmania	827	838	942	977	1,099	1,064	1,111	1,104	1,067	1,094	1,081	1,099
Australia (a)	964	1,000	948	1,076	1,115	1,082	1,135	1,185	1,168	1,178	1,148	1,133

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the "real" wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the "real" wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1935 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the "real" wage in all States.

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

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

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

NOMINAL AND "REAL" WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

Year.	I. Nominal Wage Index- numbers.	II. Percentage Unem- ployed.	Rate of Wage Index-numbers, Allowing for Unemployment.	IV. Retail Price Index- numbers. (Food, Groceries, Rent—all houses.)	"Real" Wage Index- numbers.	
			III. Re-computed. (1911 = 1,000).		V. Full Work.	VI. Allowing for Unemploy- ment.
1901 ..	848	6.6	832	880	964	945
1909 ..	923	5.8	913	948	974	963
1910 ..	955	5.6	945	970	985	974
1911 ..	1,000	4.7	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,051	5.5	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913 ..	1,076	5.3	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914 ..	1,081	8.3	1,040	1,140	948	912
1915 ..	1,092	9.3	1,039	1,278	854	813
1916 ..	1,144	5.8	1,131	1,324	864	854
1917 ..	1,226	7.1	1,195	1,318	930	907
1918 ..	1,270	5.8	1,255	1,362	932	921
1919 ..	1,370	6.6	1,343	1,510	907	889
1920 ..	1,627	6.5	1,596	1,785	911	894
1921 ..	1,826	11.2	1,701	1,697	1,076	1,002
1922 ..	1,801	9.3	1,715	1,600	1,126	1,072
1923 ..	1,805	7.1	1,760	1,700	1,062	1,035
1924 ..	1,840	8.9	1,759	1,681	1,095	1,046
1925 ..	1,861	8.8	1,781	1,722	1,081	1,034
1926 ..	1,914	7.1	1,866	1,786	1,072	1,045
1927 ..	1,946	7.0	1,899	1,766	1,102	1,075
1928 ..	1,963	10.8	1,837	1,760	1,115	1,044
1929 ..	1,972	11.1	1,839	1,822	1,082	1,009
1930 ..	1,939	19.3	1,642	1,683	1,152	976
1931 ..	1,752	27.4	1,335	1,479	1,185	903
1932 ..	1,639	29.0	1,221	1,403	1,168	870
1933 ..	1,584	25.1	1,245	1,345	1,178	926
1934 ..	1,590	20.5	1,326	1,385	1,148	957
1935 ..	1,609	16.5	1,410	1,420	1,133	993

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.

* e.g. (1912)—95.3 : 94.5 :: 1,051 : 1,042.

In 1935 prices rose to a greater extent than wages with the result that the effective wage for full work fell from 1,148 in the previous year to 1,133. Allowing for the factor of unemployment the "real" wage improved from 870 in 1932 to 993 in 1935 owing to a marked decline in unemployment during the past three years following the maximum figure of 29 per cent. recorded for Australia in 1932. Compared with 1911 the "real" wage increased by 13.3 per cent. for full time work, but declined by 0.7 per cent. when allowance is made for unemployment.

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

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

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

By a judgment of the High Court on the 21st April, 1933, however, the "basic" wage is taken to include, for the foregoing purpose, any "loading" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer, the wage payable for skilled labour being assessed on the basis of that primary wage. A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill."

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

The "Harvester" basic rates for all other towns throughout Australia were fixed at practically the same rates until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the Retail Price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses, for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. These index-numbers had been taken back to 1901, with the year 1911 as base, and disclosed not

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

† *Ibid.*

only considerable percentage increases since 1907, but also large disparities in the relative purchasing power of money in the various towns. The basic rates for towns were thereafter fixed on their respective index-numbers, taking the index-number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to 42s. per week—or the base of the table 1000 as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made as regards many country towns, where certain loadings were applied to counterbalance their lower index numbers due to cheaper rentals.*

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s."† was added to the weekly wage for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard, and in the same year the system was instituted of regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the retail price index-numbers.

The adequacy or otherwise of the "Harvester" standard has been the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. The abnormal conditions during and for some time after the war rendered such a review out of the question, particularly in view of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being automatically adjusted to changes in the cost of living. A Royal Commission (referred to later) was appointed in 1920 to assess a Basic Wage, but its recommendations were disregarded.

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

In the meantime, however, the Economic depression, which made itself felt severely in Australia in 1930, forced the employers to seek relief from the Court of part of the heavy burden of wages on industrial recovery; and in this section of Official Year Books Nos. 25 and 26 an account will be found of the proceedings which resulted in an order of the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931, together with references to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to rescind the Order on applications made by the Unions.

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

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

Applications by organizations generally renewing the request for rescission of the 10 per cent. reduction having been made, the case opened before the Full Court on the 19th February, 1934, and the hearing continued until the 14th March, 1934.

* As these indexes covered only 60 per cent. of household expenditure, a low index due to low rentals would wrongly presume low costs in the remaining uninvestigated 40 per cent. of household expenditure and *vice versa*. † Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the 'Gas Workers' case.

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

COMPARISON OF BASIC RATES AWARDED FOR CAPITAL CITIES.

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

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

* Adjustments for the latest available date will be found in the Appendix.

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

Column (3) represents the rates actually being paid to members of the applicant organizations, and the immediate gains are shown in Column (5), representing the differences of Columns (2) and (3). A comparison with past "standards" is made in Columns (6) and (7). Column (6) represents the increase or decrease compared with wages of workers not subject to the 10 per cent. reduction, who are still enjoying the standard represented by the "A" Series of index-numbers, which has existed since the "Harvester" wage was declared in 1907, plus the addition of the "Powers' 3s." in 1922. The most noteworthy feature of Column (4) is the coincidence that the new rate for the Six Capital Cities combined is that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s.," but reference to sub-section (v.)—"Basis of New Wage"—of this paragraph will disclose the fact that this rate was not used as the basis of the judgment. The rate for Hobart is likewise that formerly paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s.," while for Melbourne the rate is 6d under that amount; but in the case of Sydney, the decrease was 2s. in addition to that item. The increases disclosed by Column (6) for Adelaide and Perth are due to the higher relative rates under the "C" Series index-numbers for the towns mentioned, compared with those under the "A" Series. Column (7) represents the theoretical immediate gain to wages, had there been no adjustment of wages by means of the "D" Series index-numbers. It must be remembered in this connexion that the introduction of this system of adjustment in May, 1933, was merely a temporary measure adopted by the Court to arrest somewhat the steep drop in wages which was taking place as the result of adjustments made in accordance with the "A" Series index-numbers; and if, therefore, the 10 per cent.

reduction had continued to operate upon the rates derived from the "A" Series, the increases over the rates ruling would, on such an hypothesis, have been those shown in Column (7).

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

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

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

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

(v) *Basis of New Wage.* The new wage adopted by the Court is to a large extent founded upon the amount of 84s. per week, declared by the New South Wales Board of Trade in August, 1925.* As this amount took into consideration the upward tendency of prices, which continued, the Commonwealth Court regarded that rate as applicable to the year 1926, and taking the fall in prices in Sydney since that date up to the fourth quarter of 1933, as disclosed by the "All Items" index-numbers ("C" Series), the appropriate rate for Sydney was found to be 67s. per week. This rate was then equated to the "C" Series index-number for Sydney for the fourth quarter, 1933, viz., 829, and the proportionate rate for 1,000 (the base of the series) calculated as equal to 81s. per week. From the latter amount as base, a table of wages based on this series was calculated in divisions of 1s. per week (e.g., 994—1,006 = 81s. per week), and the value of all other index-numbers ascertained from the table.

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

(vi) *Reasons for Judgment.* The Court issued a lengthy statement specifying the reasons which actuated it in arriving at its judgment, but considerations of space preclude the insertion of this matter in the present chapter. Full particulars will, however, be found in Labour Report No. 26.

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

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

(ix) *Minority Judgment.* In his minority judgment, Judge Beeby expressed the opinion that although the economic position was much better than twelve months ago, recovery was not sufficient or permanent enough to justify the belief that the Commonwealth can get back to pre-depression standards; that 20 per cent. of the population was still unemployed; that the prices offering for our primary products were lower than those of 1931, and the difficulties of finding markets for our surpluses had increased; that prices offering for our base metals are barely sufficient to meet costs of production; that we are not entitled to assume that the remarkable recovery of wool prices is permanent; that budgetary deficits are still piling up, and the floating debt and consequent interest charges steadily increasing. He stated that the foregoing did not preclude consideration of whether and to what extent the Court's drastic cut in real wages should be modified in the light of substantial economic recovery, nor an examination made of the results of the Court's original order. He analysed the distribution of the products of industry as disclosed by manufacturing statistics which showed that since 1927-28 the proportions going to employers and workers had changed from 45.42 and 54.58 to 49.81 and 50.19 in favour of the employer, and considered that this decline of 4.39 per cent. in the share accruing to the worker called for complete re-examination of the whole theory and methods of wage fixation. He considered that wages should be related to production. He expressed doubt as to whether the reduction of the real wages of a section of the workers materially contributed to the partial recovery of last year, and considered that such transfer of spending power is not conducive to recovery unless it be part of a planned scheme of reorganization which guarantees that the transferred amount is either spent immediately on commodities or re-invested in labour-employing concerns. He reviewed the steps taken in other

countries towards economic reconstruction to show that the universal trend of economic thought from low wage to high wage theories and to shortening working hours should be considered by a Court exercising quasi-legislative functions. He considered that the rates awarded by the majority judgment were not commensurate with the degree of economic recovery, and that the following should be the amounts for the towns shown :—

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

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

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

The awards of various State tribunals in operation at the present moment are shown in the following statement. The Industrial Commission in New South Wales and the Industrial Court in Western Australia revised the living or basic rates of wage to be paid in the respective States during 1929. Particulars of these judgments are given in Labour Report, No. 20. The pronouncements of the Industrial Commission in New South Wales are published in the *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, and deal exhaustively with matters relating to basic wages. The living wage of £4 2s. 6d. per week for adult males determined in 1929 by the Industrial Commission in New South Wales was not altered during the years 1930 and 1931. On 26th August, 1932, the Commission declared the following rates—£3 10s. per week for adult males, and £1 18s. per week for adult females. The wage was altered as from 1st May, 1933, to £3 8s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 17s. for adult females, and from 1st November, 1933, to £3 6s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 16s. for adult females. From 1st May, 1934, the rates were increased to £3 7s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 16s. 6d. for adult females. Weekly rates of £3 8s. 6d. for males, and £1 17s. for females were originally declared to operate from 1st May, 1935, and were repeated by the commission in its six-monthly declaration on 25th October, 1935. An extensive inquiry into a new "standard" basic wage was commenced by the Industrial Commission on 1st April, 1935, and a declaration, made on 24th April, 1936, fixed rates of £3 9s. for males and £1 15s. 6d. for females. Strong protests made to the Government against the reduction in the female rate resulted in an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act to provide for the female rate being 54 per cent. of the male rate, or £1 17s. 6d. per week, and retrospectively from the date of operation of the original declaration, viz., 1st May, 1936.

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

the Court from 1st July, 1934, and from 1st July, 1935, the rates declared were £3 10s. 6d. for males and £1 18s. 1d. for females. The rates operative from 12th August, 1936, are £3 12s. for males, and £1 18s. 11d. for females. The Court of Arbitration declares also basic rates of wage for areas outside the Metropolitan area. The rates declared for these areas from 12th August, 1936, were—Agricultural areas, etc., adult male employees, £3 13s. per week; adult female employees, £1 19s. 5d. per week; Gold-fields area, etc., adult male employees, £4 7s. per week; adult female employees, £2 7s. per week.

The Industrial Court in Queensland reviewed the basic rates of wage for that State during 1930, and reduced the rate for adult male employees from £4 5s. to £4 per week as from 1st August, 1930. A further revision during the year reduced the rate for adult males to £3 17s. per week as from 1st December, 1930. The Industrial Court fixed the basic rates as from 1st July, 1931, at £3 14s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation at the end of June, 1936. The declarations of the Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette*.

In 1925 the Board of Industry in South Australia determined the living wage for adult male employees in the Metropolitan area at £4 5s. 6d. per week, and at £1 19s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation for more than five years. On 11th October, 1930, after a public inquiry, the Board of Industry determined the living wage to be paid to adult male employees in the metropolitan area at 12s. 6d. per day or £3 15s. per week, and on 22nd December, 1930, the living wage for adult female employees in the Metropolitan area was declared at £1 15s. per week. Further reductions were made by the Board of Industry on 17th August, 1931, after a public inquiry, to 10s. 6d. per day or £3 3s. per week for adult male employees, and on 4th December, 1931, to £1 11s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. Notwithstanding intervening exhaustive reviews by the Board of Industry, the latter rates were operative until superseded by the declaration of the Board of 11s. per day or £3 6s. per week for male adults, and £1 13s. per week for females, operative from 7th November, 1935, and 16th January, 1936, respectively. All the Board's declarations are published in the *Bulletins of the Board of Industry, South Australia*.

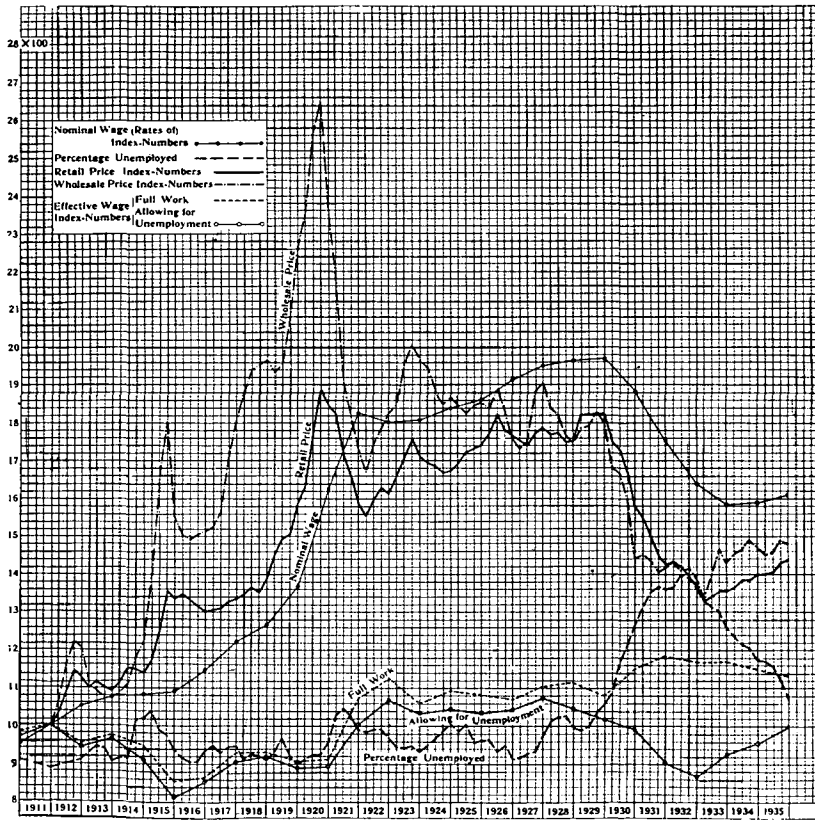
A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review. In the majority of cases the practice of the Commonwealth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

—BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES FIXED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS.

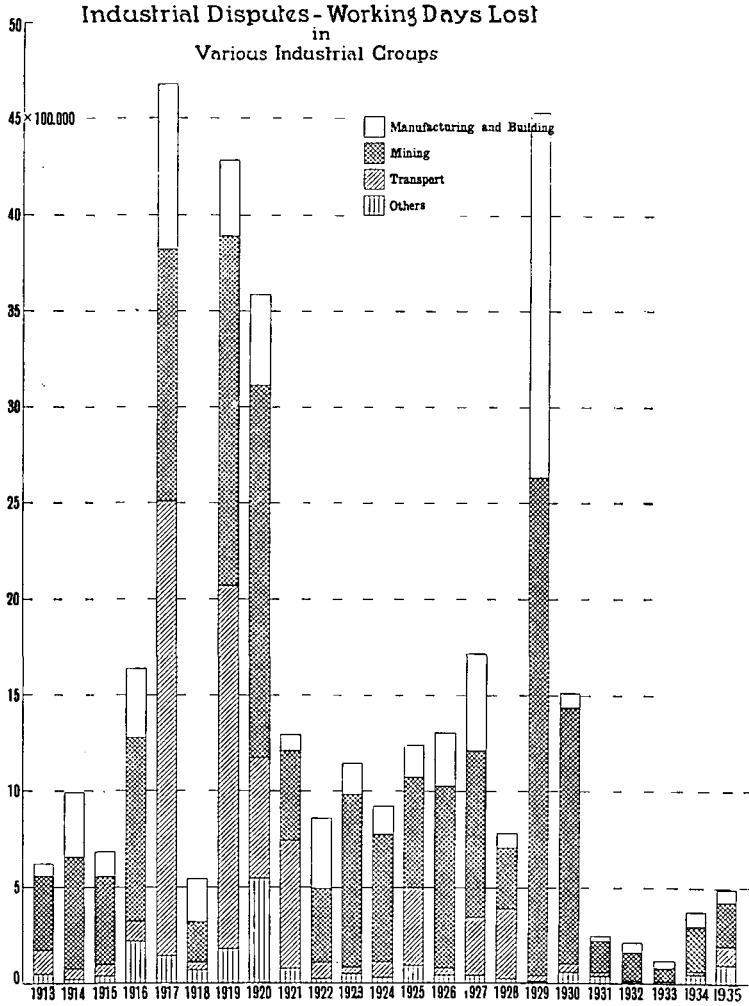
State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales..	(a) 3 9 0	1 17 6	1.5.36	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	1.7.31	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	(c) 3 6 0	(d) 1 11 6	..	..
Western Australia..	(e) 3 12 0	1 18 11	12.8.36	Man, wife and two children
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

(a) Plus child allowances. (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to a large extent.
 (c) Operative from 7th November, 1935. (d) Operative from 16th January, 1936.
 (e) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Gold-fields Areas and portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males £4 7s.; females £2 7s.; Agricultural Areas and S.W. Land Division—males £3 13s.; females £1 19s. 5d.

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1935.



NOTE.—The figures on the right represent the scale for the percentage unemployed according to trade-union returns. The figures on the left represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (=1,000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent (all houses) for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers, average nominal wage for adult males and *real* wage (full work and allowing for unemployment) for adult males, 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.



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.

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) *The New South Wales Scheme.* The first attempt made in Australia to institute the system was in New South Wales in 1919, when a Bill was introduced into the State Parliament to provide a flat basic wage for a man and wife, and an allowance of 5s. per week for each child, the latter rate to be reduced on a sliding scale and to cease automatically when the income reached an amount of £3 per week above the basic wage. The Bill was rejected, and the matter dropped until the session of 1926–27, when measures providing for the payment of child allowances became law.‡ These measures provided for (a) the declaration of a basic wage for a man and wife,|| and (b) the payment of an allowance of 5s. per week in respect of each dependent child, subject to the provision that child allowances would be paid only to the extent by which the total earnings of the worker and his family fall short of the sum represented by the *basic wage* plus child allowance at the rate of 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years. Thus, a worker with three dependent children receiving £5 by way of wages would not be entitled to the allowance, but would receive it in respect of a fourth child. These payments in New South Wales commenced to operate from 1st September, 1927. An amending Act, assented to on the 23rd December, 1929, provides that child endowment shall be 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years except one in the family. The basic or living wage for adult male workers was determined by the Industrial Commission on the 20th December, 1929, at £4 2s. 6d. per week for a family unit consisting of a man, wife and one child. The fund from which child endowment payments are made is created by a levy on the wages bill of employers. The rate of tax to be collected by the Government from employers during the year 1930, was fixed at 1 per cent. This rate was in operation to 30th June, 1931. From 1st July, 1931, the rate was fixed at 2 per cent, and from 1st January, 1932, at the rate of 5d. in the £1 on all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 4. Changes in Rates of Wage.

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

* The Chairman of the Commission (Mr. A. B. Piddington, K.C.), in a supplementary report had suggested that the wage recommended (£5 16s.) be split up into a flat basic wage of £4 and a Child Endowment of 12s. per week for each dependent child, the fund for the payment of this allowance to be created by a tax on employers of 10s. 9d. per employee per week.

C.—EMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Industrial Disputes.

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

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

2. **Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1935.**—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1935, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the previous years was published in preceding issues of the Official Year Book and Labour Report:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1935.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num-ber.	Estab-lish-ments In-volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti-mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	7	7	784	55	839	3,097	£ 2,766
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	39	..	39	312	194
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	1	1	35	..	35	105	80
V.	Other Manufacturing	5	5	1,867	..	1,867	20,212	12,477
VII.	Building	3	10	16	..	16	733	577
VIII.	(a) Coal mining	98	98	23,466	1,243	24,709	137,259	143,572
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	5	..	5	30	44
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	127	..	127	1,651	1,467
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	6	27	3,715	706	4,421	75,091	45,323
XIV.	Miscellaneous	11	11	1,296	51	1,347	62,855	31,207
	Total	134	162	31,350	2,055	33,405	301,345	237,707
VICTORIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	14	..	14	182	136
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	63	..	63	3,006	1,867
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	3	150	6	156	1,560	717
VII.	Coal mining	7	7	6,350	6	6,356	21,822	17,890
X.	Other land transport	1	1	14	..	14	56	67
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	6	14	768	231	999	17,184	10,098
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	1	1	17	..	17	34	20
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	2	282	..	282	969	485
	Total	20	30	7,658	243	7,901	45,713	31,280
QUEENSLAND.								
III.	Food, drink, etc.	3	3	861	12	873	19,849	18,942
VII.	Building	1	1	21	12	33	561	566
	(a) Coal-mining	2	2	48	..	48	1,116	1,236
VIII.	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	85	..	85	13,000	9,754
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	3	8	178	24	202	2,962	1,787
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	1	12	400	150	550	35,455	25,295
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	2	201	3	204	408	380
	Total	13	29	1,794	201	1,995	73,351	57,960

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1935—*continued.*

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	4	263	..	263	2,386	1,496
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	77	..	77	77	61
	Total	3	5	340	..	340	2,463	1,557
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	200	..	200	13,200	9,900
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	1	1	400	6	406	2,436	1,950
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	6	17	2,631	..	2,631	51,646	47,902
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	9	116	..	116	1,444	1,011
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	250	..	250	3,250	1,138
	Total	11	29	3,597	6	3,603	71,976	61,901
TASMANIA.								
XIII.	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	70	4	74	148	91
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	1	1	4	..	4	128	100
AUSTRALIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	9	9	998	55	1,053	16,479	12,802
III.	Food, drink, etc.	5	5	903	12	975	24,067	21,003
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	1	1	35	..	35	105	80
VI.	Other manufacturing	6	8	2,017	6	2,023	21,772	13,194
VII.	Building	4	11	37	12	49	1,294	1,143
	(a) Coal-mining	108	108	30,264	1,255	31,519	162,633	164,648
VIII.	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	9	20	2,791	4	2,795	64,824	57,791
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	127	..	127	1,651	1,467
X.	Other land transport	1	1	14	..	14	56	67
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	19	62	5,040	961	6,001	99,067	59,715
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	3	14	421	150	571	35,617	25,415
XIV.	Miscellaneous	17	17	2,100	54	2,160	67,559	33,271
	Total	(a)183	257	44,813	2,509	47,322	495,124	390,596

(a) A dispute in New South Wales (involving one establishment and 264 workers), which commenced in 1934 and was uncompleted at the end of that year, is duplicated in the figures for 1935.

3. **Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1931 to 1935.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages caused by disputes which either commenced or were current during each of the years 1931 to 1935, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.). For the year 1913 the proportion of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high, ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to as much as 81 per cent. in 1921 and 1924. During the last two years disputes in the coal-mining industry represented 59 per cent. of the total. In the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work people engaged in coal-mining amounted to 656,767, representing 46 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining (Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal Mining.	Other Mining, etc.			
NUMBER.							
1931	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1932	20	4	77	8	5	13	127
1933	16	..	52	6	1	15	90
1934	13	1	91	9	6	35	155
1935	21	4	108	9	21	20	(a) 183
1931-35	85	13	407	40	43	101	689

WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1931	5,005	159	23,351	2,015	2,515	4,622	37,667
1932	8,236	120	19,540	2,602	181	2,238	32,917
1933	5,361	..	17,461	5,415	50	1,826	30,113
1934	7,281	54	23,622	7,862	3,169	8,867	50,858
1935	4,086	49	31,519	2,795	6,142	2,731	47,322
1931-35	29,972	382	115,493	20,689	12,057	20,284	198,877

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1931	29,032	1,006	124,089	36,012	19,861	35,991	245,991
1932	50,692	1,561	131,154	21,402	1,038	6,471	212,318
1933	31,625	..	48,528	26,985	100	4,718	111,956
1934	73,878	108	190,363	41,800	14,002	50,235	370,386
1935	62,423	1,294	162,633	64,824	100,774	103,176	495,124
1931-35	247,650	3,969	656,767	191,023	135,775	200,591	1,435,775

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931	28,694	901	126,535	29,249	13,553	28,799	227,731
1932	24,051	1,434	115,407	19,691	729	4,279	165,582
1933	23,407	..	44,927	23,683	90	2,941	95,048
1934	49,364	80	186,027	37,806	10,164	34,328	317,859
1935	47,079	1,143	164,648	57,791	61,249	58,686	399,596
1931-35	172,595	3,558	637,544	168,310	85,776	129,033	1,196,816

(a) See footnote to Table on page 556.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1931 to 1935.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1931 to 1935, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
New South Wales	1931	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,037	133,068
	1932	92	99	17,813	2,156	19,969	63,425	64,420
	1933	54	143	13,406	1,063	15,060	53,104	48,760
	1934	117	129	33,065	2,943	36,008	213,753	196,265
	1935	(a) 134	162	31,350	2,055	33,405	301,345	237,707
Victoria	1931	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
	1932	12	37	6,475	110	6,585	99,638	65,599
	1933	12	28	7,156	294	7,450	26,693	20,416
	1934	19	84	8,074	354	8,428	108,872	82,438
	1935	20	30	7,658	243	7,901	45,713	31,280
Queensland	1931	15	358	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
	1932	10	210	1,061	1,156	2,217	21,166	18,541
	1933	11	11	2,636	884	3,520	13,876	10,077
	1934	7	830	2,453	420	2,873	29,718	24,200
	1935	13	29	1,794	201	1,995	73,351	57,960
South Australia	1931	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
	1932	2	3	109	4	113	970	664
	1933	1	1	50	..	50	100	90
	1934	1	1	44	..	44	11	17
	1935	3	5	340	..	340	2,463	1,557
Western Australia	1931	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
	1932	8	16	2,531	162	2,693	11,203	9,538
	1933	10	10	3,644	276	3,920	16,896	14,530
	1934	10	16	3,309	176	3,485	17,792	14,699
	1935	11	29	3,597	6	3,603	71,976	61,901
Tasmania	1931	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
	1932	2	4	1,163	..	1,163	15,562	6,516
	1933	1	1	75	..	75	1,200	1,050
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1935	1	1	70	4	74	148	91
Northern Territory	1931	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
	1932	1	3	177	..	177	354	304
	1933	1	1	21	8	29	87	125
	1934	1	1	18	2	20	240	240
	1935	1	1	4	..	4	128	100
Fed. Cap. Territory	1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1935	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1931	134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731
	1932	127	372	29,329	3,588	32,917	212,318	165,582
	1933	90	195	26,988	3,125	30,113	114,956	95,048
	1934	155	1,061	46,963	3,895	50,858	370,386	317,859
	1935	(a) 183	257	44,813	2,509	47,322	495,124	390,591

(a) See footnote to Table on page 556.

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during the years 1931 to 1935 and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

5. **Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1935.**—(i) *General.* The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1935 classified according to Industrial Groups. Increases occurred in several of the principal groups during 1935 in respect of workpeople involved, and the number of working days and amount of wages lost. Of the total number of disputes no less than 59 per cent. were in connexion with the coal-mining industry, mostly in New South Wales. Wages lost in this industry in New South Wales were estimated at £143,572, or 37 per cent. of the total estimated loss of wages in Australia, viz., £390,596. Compared with earlier years there was no dispute of outstanding magnitude but particulars in the following paragraphs are given of the largest which occurred in the States mentioned.

(a) *Interstate.*—Disputes which extend beyond the limits of a single State, while in some cases extensive, are comparatively few in number. These disputes rarely start on an interstate basis, but develop into such through the interdependence of trade union organizations.

During the year 1935, one dispute of an interstate character occurred, involving seamen and others on vessels engaged in the interstate shipping trade. The dispute which commenced at the beginning of December related to the conditions of a new award of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and vessels were held up at the principal ports for several weeks. In view of the dislocation of seaborne trade the Commonwealth Government appealed to the seamen to reconsider their action, but without avail. Consequently the licensing system was introduced on 10th December, 1935; all ships called for volunteers, and by the end of the month most of the ships were manned.

(b) *New South Wales.*—A dispute involving emergency relief workers employed by the Lake Macquarie Shire Council occurred in July, 1935. Demands made by the workers included the following: Provisions of the Returned Soldiers' Preference Act not to apply to the works; gangers to be employed on a rotation basis; bonuses for men on special work to be shared by men on the roster, and award rates and conditions to apply to emergency relief works. After several conferences and deputations had failed to bring about a settlement of the dispute, a meeting of delegates from the affected centres was held on 28th October, 1935, and a resolution passed recommending the acceptance of starting dockets when made available. Work was resumed after a stoppage of nearly four months.

A demand that a youth sent home at mid-day for disobedience should be paid for time lost was given as the cause of a stoppage of about five weeks at the State Coal Mine, Lithgow, in July, 1935. At a conference convened by the Industrial Commissioner it was decided to resume work on the understanding that the Commissioner would decide the case.

A dispute involving persons engaged in the manufacture of glass occurred at Waterloo, Sydney, in September, 1935. The proposed re-arrangement of work with a higher percentage of juniors if the cut glass section was given as the cause, the employees contending that this was a breach of the award. A compulsory conference was convened by the Industrial Registrar, the president of which stated that he would not deal with the dispute while the employees remained idle. He invited the parties to discuss the matter in chambers, but no finality was reached. Ultimately the employees undertook to resume work on the conditions operating immediately before the stoppage, to submit all grievances to the Industrial Commission and to abide by its decisions. Work was resumed after a stoppage of about three weeks.

(c) *Victoria.* The suspension of four men for failing to earn the minimum wage was given as the cause of a stoppage at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, in September, 1935. A deputation from the employees, which was directed to interview the Railway Commissioner and the Minister for Transport, was informed that no negotiations would be made unless work was resumed. Several abortive conferences were held, but terms of settlement satisfactory to both parties were arrived at ultimately as a result of negotiations between the Coal Mine Tribunal and representatives of the management and the miners.

(d) *Queensland.* Refusal by the Queensland Meat Industry Board to grant certain demands, including increased wages and a 40-hour week, without reference to the State Arbitration Court was given as the cause of a dispute involving meat industry employees at Brisbane in February, 1935. This dispute caused a disorganization of the Queensland meat export trade and special arrangements were made for the continuance of the city's supply. Several attempts at a settlement of the dispute having failed, a compulsory conference was ordered by the Industrial Court. As a result of this conference the employees were ordered to resume work by 21st March or earlier. A mass meeting of meat workers was held and it was decided to resume after a stoppage of about four weeks.

A dispute between the truckers and the management was reported to be the cause of a stoppage involving metalliferous miners at Mt. Coolon in April, 1935. This dispute extended over a period of about six months and was finally settled by a compulsory conference presided over by the Industrial Magistrate.

(e) *Western Australia.* Objection by the employees to a provision in a new award for 88 hours per fortnight worked in alternate weeks of 40 and 48 hours was given as the cause of a dispute involving gold miners at Kalgoorlie in January, 1935. The dispute which lasted for approximately six weeks was settled by the intervention of the State Government which convened a conference with the mining companies. After much discussion the companies concerned agreed to accept the proposals put forward by the representatives of the employees and work was resumed on a 40-48 hour fortnightly basis, with the proviso that within six weeks the members of the union would decide by ballot whether or not they would revert to the 44-hour week.

6. **Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1935.**—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated loss in wages, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1935, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1935.

Limits of Duration.	Num-ber.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less	50	13,619	570	14,189	14,189	£ 14,977
2 days and more than 1 day	34	8,173	327	8,500	17,000	16,959
3 days and more than 2 days	12	2,900	206	3,106	9,318	9,555
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days)	15	2,333	132	2,465	10,780	11,076
1 week and less than 2 weeks	29	4,727	108	4,835	41,966	38,013
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	20	4,910	817	5,727	88,499	68,454
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	14	6,541	185	6,726	170,255	134,613
8 weeks and over	9	1,610	164	1,774	143,117	96,839
Total	(a) 183	44,813	2,509	47,322	495,124	390,596

(a) See footnote to Table on page 556.

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

7. **Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1935.**—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes during the years 1913 and 1930 to 1935, classified according to principal cause :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
NUMBER.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase	42	..	4	5	1	10	9
(b) Against decrease	4	9	17	11	4	3	5
(c) Other wage questions	31	44	16	26	14	31	44
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction	3	4	2	2	..	..	2
(b) Other disputes re hours	7	..	..	..	7	6	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists	8	..	1	2	1	4	4
(b) Other union questions	5	20	4	3	3	8	12
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons	44	48	50	50	35	52	53
5. Working Conditions	51	27	22	11	9	25	40
6. Sympathetic	5	11	5	2	..	3	1
7. Other Causes	8	20	13	15	16	13	13
Total	208	183	134	127	90	155	(a) 183

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

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	8,633	..	2,053	1,295	29	7,210	2,161
(b) Against decrease ..	563	12,824	7,108	7,327	2,178	2,817	339
(c) Other wage questions ..	7,160	12,686	3,999	5,417	4,336	8,335	11,804
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	460	4,334	192	198	..	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	1,819	..	..	..	2,620	309	1,601
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	..	9	17	89	383	581
(b) Other union questions ..	1,418	4,160	2,240	501	705	2,184	2,532
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	11,370	7,751	12,023	12,556	11,803	15,638	11,497
5. Working Conditions ..	10,785	4,276	6,659	2,804	4,503	6,062	11,298
6. Sympathetic ..	947	4,010	1,053	316	..	1,045	22
7. Other Causes ..	1,758	4,181	2,331	2,486	3,850	6,875	5,487
Total	50,283	54,222	37,667	32,917	30,113	50,858	47,322

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	..	15,425	5,990	87	108,277	72,567
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	1,227,808	111,258	123,571	17,431	35,459	1,621
(c) Other wage questions ..	78,183	113,102	43,746	17,631	18,736	40,219	73,020
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	63,583	152	2,894	..	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	15,111	..	..	..	8,895	1,748	48,878
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	..	99	59	89	3,263	2,615
(b) Other union questions ..	32,388	50,225	11,752	6,261	1,421	10,774	11,696
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	191,723	24,683	38,567	36,054	31,799	110,166	144,453
5. Working Conditions ..	73,562	8,551	17,106	14,902	22,865	26,223	64,612
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	17,648	4,070	1,096	..	11,174	44
7. Other Causes ..	5,212	5,641	3,816	3,860	10,633	23,083	75,618
Total	623,528	1,511,241	245,991	212,318	111,956	370,386	495,124

(a) See footnote to Table on page 556.

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1913 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. Since 1929 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" has averaged approximately 30 per cent. of the total number for each year. The majority of the dislocations of work classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry, and has been the principal cause of industrial disturbance of recent years. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but have been relatively unimportant during the past six years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the six years 1930 to 1935, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number.				Workpeople Involved.				Working Days Lost.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1930..	36	117	24	1	4,133	45,204	3,343	520	13,497	1,358,044	25,177	13,000
1931..	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..
1932..	29	77	21	..	5,437	17,518	9,962	..	23,572	48,893	139,853	..
1933..	17	53	13	1	4,778	20,697	4,361	213	12,301	84,697	144,668	426
1934..	29	102	13	9	7,025	31,220	9,620	2,729	40,048	179,126	126,081	19,059
1935a b	44	105	17	15	9,312	39,338	4,359	3,179	67,933	346,666	62,007	10,194

(a) See footnote to table on page 556. (b) The following particulars of disputes in New South Wales which were incomplete at 31st December, 1935, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding tables :—2 disputes ; 134 workpeople involved ; and 8,324 working days lost.

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

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1913 and 1930 to 1935, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935. (a) (b).
NUMBER.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	134	88	87	64	84	130
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	17	3	3	4	1	2	3
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	19	6	11	5	3	10	7
By reference to Board or Court	22	2	1	2	3	9	6
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4	..	4	3	2	5	5
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	13	9	2	7	2	2	8
By closing-down establishment permanently	1	1	2	1	3	2	4
By other methods	13	23	21	18	11	40	18
Total	208	178	132	127	89	154	(a) 181

(a) See footnote to table on page 556.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous table.

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

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935. (a) (b)
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	40,804	22,292	22,595	19,703	25,469	30,360
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	196	1,885	1,800	1,100	891	285
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	6,505	3,476	3,871	1,640	1,290	4,559	3,867
By reference to Board or Court ..	12,774	184	42	416	1,390	1,666	1,445
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	659	..	1,083	1,839	1,096	4,335	2,017
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	658	2,940	222	460	986	136	3,670
By closing-down establishment permanently	170	40	52	11	1,271	444	108
By other methods	2,988	5,560	8,058	4,156	3,213	13,092	5,136
Total	50,283	53,200	37,505	32,917	30,049	50,594	47,188

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	1,289,487	109,601	87,650	54,774	182,260	192,903
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	2,893	2,625	79,872	6,600	20,019	3,211
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	187,871	56,648	25,257	7,423	3,510	58,801	117,762
By reference to Board or Court ..	221,769	1,272	252	3,408	6,330	10,474	16,961
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	2,105	..	30,317	18,596	15,437	46,814	24,601
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	14,139	34,612	27,042	6,874	10,543	138	74,873
By closing-down establishment permanently	20,400	80	5,355	44	8,627	4,486	7,346
By other methods	56,509	24,726	37,970	8,451	6,071	41,322	48,943
Total	623,528	1,409,718	238,419	212,318	111,892	364,314	486,800

(a) See footnote to Table on page 556.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous Table.

The majority of disputes are settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled since 1913 ranging between 43 per cent. in 1925 and 75 per cent. in 1930. Of the 181 disputes settled during 1935, 130 or 72 per cent. were settled by this method. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration Acts has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging from 3 per cent. in 1915 to 22 per cent. in 1913. The proportion in 1935 was 10 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as

having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

§ 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. **General.**—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 420,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received, the percentages of unemployment derived from Trade Union returns may be regarded as of value by virtue of the indication they give of the relative intensity of unemployment from time to time, and it is believed that they can be taken as a rough index of the percentage of workers unemployed at any time. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT.—1935.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales	114	191,645	39,523	20.6
Victoria	82	118,578	16,626	14.0
Queensland	46	57,556	5,001	8.7
South Australia	58	31,314	5,514	17.6
Western Australia	62	27,708	3,710	13.4
Tasmania	34	9,137	1,449	15.9
Australia	396	435,938	71,823	16.5

(ii) *Summary for Australia.* The following table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years and quarterly for the years, 1932 to 1935. Particulars of unemployment percentages in 1936 will be found in the Appendix :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

Period.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1931	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1932	395	415,434	120,454	29.0
1933	394	415,305	104,035	25.1
1934	394	424,035	86,865	20.5
1935	390	435,938	71,823	16.5
1932 March Quarter	395	425,094	120,366	28.3
June	396	413,742	124,068	30.0
September	395	412,997	122,340	29.6
December	392	409,902	115,042	28.1
1933 March	394	412,674	109,182	26.5
June	394	415,559	106,652	25.7
September	394	410,426	104,560	25.1
December	394	416,560	95,745	23.0
1934 March	394	422,056	92,297	21.9
June	394	422,113	88,413	20.9
September	394	425,104	86,652	20.4
December	396	420,866	80,097	18.8
1935 March	396	433,116	80,548	18.6
June	397	433,254	77,177	17.8
September	395	438,216	69,575	15.9
December	395	439,165	59,992	13.7

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; the returns do not include persons out of work through strikes or lock-outs.

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

(iii) The following table gives the percentages in each State from 1931 to 1935 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—PERCENTAGES.

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1931 Year	30.8	25.8	16.2	32.5	27.3	27.4	27.4
1932 "	32.5	26.5	18.8	34.0	29.5	26.4	29.0
1933 "	28.9	22.3	15.3	29.9	24.8	19.1	25.1
1934 "	24.7	17.4	11.7	25.6	17.8	17.9	20.5
1935 "	20.6	14.0	8.7	17.6	13.4	15.9	16.5
1933 March Quarter	30.2	23.9	16.7	30.5	27.1	19.8	26.5
June	29.6	23.0	15.6	30.0	26.0	19.0	25.7
Sept. "	28.8	22.5	15.1	30.3	25.6	19.2	25.1
Dec. "	27.0	19.9	13.8	28.9	20.5	18.2	23.0
1934 March	25.8	18.6	13.7	28.5	19.5	17.7	21.9
June	25.0	18.0	12.7	25.4	18.3	17.9	20.9
Sept. "	24.5	17.5	11.4	25.4	17.2	18.9	20.4
Dec. "	23.5	15.3	9.1	23.0	16.3	17.0	18.8
1935 March	23.6	15.0	6.8	20.7	15.4	16.7	18.6
June	22.7	15.0	8.8	18.9	13.9	16.4	17.8
Sept. "	19.1	14.8	8.5	16.3	12.5	16.7	15.9
Dec. "	17.0	11.3	7.7	14.7	11.8	13.7	13.7

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1935.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
Manufacturing:—				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	16	18,938	4,278	22.6
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	73,811	12,573	17.0
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	53	37,033	6,476	17.5
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	20	37,585	4,394	11.7
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	18,498	1,373	7.4
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	67	41,763	6,841	16.4
VII. Building	47	50,496	9,652	19.1
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	20	27,052	7,974	29.1
X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway Services ..	12	17,662	2,729	15.5
IX., XL., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	85	113,100	15,533	13.7
All Groups	396	435,938	71,823	16.5

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

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

Special grants to the States were made by the Commonwealth Government, while special legislation relating to the relief of unemployment was enacted in practically all the States. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, the Acts provided for special taxation for the purpose of creating funds for relief works and sustenance for the unemployed. In South Australia income tax rates were increased and a Financial Emergency tax was levied in Western Australia. The funds necessary for the relief of unemployment in Tasmania were provided by a tax on wages.

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Reports, Nos. 22 to 26.

§ 3. Apprenticeship.

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

D.—ASSOCIATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations.

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

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 171 industrial unions of employers and 156 industrial unions of employees, the membership not being available in either case; Queensland, 13 industrial unions of employers with 11,669 members, and 78 industrial unions of employees with approximately 154,025 members; South Australia, 27 organizations of employees with 18,754 members; Western Australia, 32 organizations of employers with 865 members, and 137 organizations of employees with 43,073 members. There is no provision in the South Australian Industrial Acts for the registration of organizations of employers, and in Victoria and Tasmania, where Wages Board systems of wage fixation are in operation, organizations of employers and employees are not required to register. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. On 31st December, 1935, there were 30 registered organizations of employers with a membership of approximately 20,000, and 138 registered organizations of employees, with a total estimated membership of 650,000.

2. *Particulars regarding Trade Unions.*—(i) *Types.* The trade unions in Australia are very diverse in character, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be merely a branch of a British or International union. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour

organizations :—(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 1935 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS, 1935.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales	182	584	309,689
Victoria	147	399	199,132
Queensland	109	321	148,127
South Australia	112	183	59,102
Western Australia	130	190	58,315
Tasmania	77	77	14,556
Northern Territory	4	..	851
Federal Capital Territory	15	1	1,058
Total	776	1,755	790,830
Australia (a)	354 (a)	2,177 (b)	790,830

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. The figures represent the number of distinct organizations and inter-state groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations which are practically independent and self-governing.

(b) See remarks below.

In the preceding table the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line, allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are, therefore, 354 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,177 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 790,830 members.

(iii) *Classification in Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the number of unions and members thereof in Australia at the end of each of the last five years. The number of unions specified refers to the number of different unions represented in each

State; and, while interstate or federated unions are counted once in each State in which they are represented, sub-branches within a State are not counted:—

TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Groups.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
Manufacturing:—	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)	17 (4)	17 (4)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	61 (21)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	63 (34)	63 (34)	62 (34)	62 (32)	63 (32)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	24 (12)	24 (12)	24 (11)	24 (11)	24 (11)
V. Books, Printing, etc.	15 (10)	15 (10)	15 (10)	15 (9)	15 (9)
VI. Other Manufacturing	76 (38)	77 (37)	77 (37)	76 (36)	73 (34)
VII. Building	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	49 (26)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	16 (13)	16 (13)	16 (13)	17 (14)	16 (13)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	51 (29)	51 (29)	51 (29)	51 (29)	52 (30)
X. Other Land Transport	11 (4)	11 (4)	11 (4)	10 (4)	10 (4)
XI. Shipping, etc.	57 (24)	57 (24)	55 (22)	55 (22)	55 (22)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	9 (4)	9 (4)	9 (4)	10 (6)	10 (7)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	20 (15)	20 (16)	20 (16)	20 (15)	19 (14)
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	31 (19)	31 (19)	30 (19)	30 (19)	32 (19)
(ii) Public Service	145 (46)	145 (45)	145 (45)	145 (45)	148 (47)
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (8)
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	14 (13)	14 (13)	13 (12)	13 (11)	16 (11)
(v) Other Miscellaneous	108 (40)	108 (40)	107 (39)	108 (41)	108 (42)
Total	780 (362) ^a	781 (361) ^a	775 (356) ^a	775 (355) ^a	776 (354) ^a

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Manufacturing:—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	26 700	27,054	27,164	25,886	27,079
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	74,316	72,883	69,244	73,363	76,070
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	63,582	61,183	62,103	65,663	68,292
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	47,707	51,154	50,173	56,484	59,484
V. Books, Printing, etc.	18,703	18,128	18,113	18,285	18,868
VI. Other Manufacturing	42,553	40,578	42,577	43,720	44,388
VII. Building	52,041	52,582	52,936	53,140	51,034
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	36,037	32,846	30,166	36,560	36,636
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	92,292	91,889	90,521	91,035	97,443
X. Other Land Transport	17,595	17,158	16,408	13,566	10,539
XI. Shipping, etc.	36,039	32,994	32,691	29,363	26,388
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	28,668	21,237	20,997	22,599	28,782
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	23,611	20,993	20,849	19,585	19,043
XIV. Miscellaneous:—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	30,222	28,420	27,884	33,947	34,405
(ii) Public Service	81,395	80,589	79,809	77 365	82,776
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	26,630	24,983	26,426	29,009	32,619
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	32,541	30,639	30,261	32,482	33,926
(v) Other Miscellaneous	38,374	35,221	41,076	40,515	38,118
Total	769,006	740,831	739,398	762,567	790,830

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

(iv) *Trade Unions—Numbers and Percentages of Male and Female Members—Australia.* The Census discloses the percentage of male and female employees (i.e., persons in "receipt of wages or salary," and persons "unemployed"), 20 years of age

and over, on the total male and female population, and by applying these percentages to the estimated total male and female population at the end of each year, an estimate of the number of adult employees of each sex in the year is obtained.

The following table shows separately for males and females (a) the number of members of trade unions; (b) the estimated number of employees of each sex 20 years of age and over in all professions, trades and occupations; and (c) the percentage of the former (a) on the latter (b) at the end of each year, 1931 to 1935. The estimated number of employees includes all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a large number of adults who are not eligible for membership of any trade union, such as certain persons employed in professional occupations, as well as others who, while eligible for membership so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. Moreover the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and age 20 years is taken as approximating to the age of admission to membership. A line has also been added showing the estimated numbers of "junior" workers under 20 years of age :—

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

Particulars.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
MALES.					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over)	1,321,000	1,330,000	1,344,290	1,393,155	1,401,286
No. of Members of Unions	656,105	630,688	626,266	641,370	662,447
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees	49.7	47.4	46.6	46.0	47.3
Junior Workers (under 20)	244,850	246,500	249,010	253,682	255,160
FEMALES.					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over)	311,600	317,250	321,500	363,255	366,102
No. of Members of Unions	112,901	110,143	113,132	121,197	128,383
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees	35.9	34.7	35.2	33.4	35.1
Junior Workers (under 20)	138,870	139,980	141,960	158,863	160,120
TOTAL.					
Estimated Number of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over)	1,635,600	1,647,250	1,665,790	1,756,410	1,767,388
Number of Members of Unions	769,006	740,831	739,398	762,567	790,830
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees	47.0	45.0	44.4	43.4	44.7
Junior Workers (under 20)	383,720	386,480	390,970	412,545	415,280

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1935 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1935.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions ..	20	10	19	23	40	112
Number of Members ..	31,891	23,923	119,976	200,196	273,934	649,920

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

It appears, therefore, that 112 out of the 354 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 112 unions reaches 649,920 or 82 per cent. of the membership of all unions.

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

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

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

of Trade Unions is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the Trade Union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference at Geneva.

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto in each State at the end of the year 1935 :—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1935.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	F.C.Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	6	2	8	3	1	28
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	92	167	84	54	212	59	11	679

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

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

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

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

§ 2. Employers' Associations.

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

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

2. Employers' Associations in each State.—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1931 to 1935:—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1931	148	157	85	60	67	30	547
1932	148	158	85	60	68	30	549
1933	140	153	80	58	62	28	521
1934	(a) 134	157	74	60	54	26	505
1935	(a) 131	156	72	60	56	25	500
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
1931	906	465	197	18	306	7	1,899
1932	907	461	185	18	297	10	1,878
1933	897	508	189	15	288	8	1,905
1934	810	520	135	15	301	8	1,789
1935	786	559	135	13	302	8	1,803

MEMBERSHIP.

1931	55,417	37,389	18,807	7,311	10,969	2,535	132,428
1932	54,005	37,342	18,929	6,656	10,189	2,504	129,625
1933	56,384	37,929	18,721	6,452	10,311	2,391	132,188
1934	a 58,387	38,276	18,943	6,765	10,464	2,095	134,930
1935	a 59,444	37,765	18,556	7,536	10,791	2,087	136,179

(a) Includes 1 association in Federal Capital Territory.

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

3. Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1934 and 1935:—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935.
Manufacturing:—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	20	20	4	4	1,048	986
II. Engineering, etc. ..	12	13	12	12	2,308	2,430
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	106	106	86	86	21,634	20,225
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	17	17	2	2	1,210	1,157
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	39	38	3	..	3,015	2,959
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	48	45	2	1	3,001	3,461
VII. Building	29	28	12	10	2,176	2,111
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	10	10	..	..	240	241
X. Other Land Transport ..	15	15	21	21	2,042	2,098
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	15	16	3	10	237	226
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	48	48	1,612	1,638	81,352	81,953
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	15	17	..	..	1,799	1,994
XIV. Miscellaneous	131	127	32	19	14,268	16,338
Total	505	500	1,789	1,803	134,930	136,179

The female membership of these associations was 6,006 for 1934, and 6,056 for 1935.

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

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

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

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of interstate or federated associations having branches in two or more States from 1931 to 1935:—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.						
1931	5	4	4	13	19	45
1932	5	4	4	13	19	45
1933	6	4	5	14	16	45
1934	4	2	12	8	17	43
1935	4	2	10	6	20	42
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.						
1931	1,190	359	741	61,813	42,871	106,974
1932	1,132	323	842	59,993	40,872	103,162
1933	1,354	290	1,118	66,144	35,299	104,205
1934	2,438	56	44,745	22,947	34,026	104,212
1935	10,529	57	3,311	63,155	37,723	114,775

The above table shows that associations having 82 per cent. of the total membership of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.

E.—COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS.

In order to show the relative movements of certain price and related data the following table of annual and quarterly index-numbers for the six capital cities combined has been compiled with a common base 1911 = 1,000.

COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

Base(a) of each Section—Weighted Average of Six Capitals 1911 = 1,000.

Period.	Food and Groceries.	Rent.		Food and Rent.		All Items of Household Expenditure.	Wholesale Prices Melbourne.	Nominal Wages, Adult Males.	Real Wages. (b)	Percentage of Unemployment among Trade Unionists.
		All Houses.	4 and 5 Rooms.	All Houses.	4 and 5 Rooms.					
Year—						(c) 1,000				%
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4.7
1914 ..	1,144	1,135	1,082	1,140	1,121	1,140	1,149	1,081	948	3.3
1919 ..	1,716	1,215	1,256	1,510	1,617	1,695	2,055	1,370	907	6.6
1920 ..	2,101	1,333	1,392	1,785	1,873	1,935	2,480	1,627	911	6.5
1921 ..	1,902	1,404	1,410	1,697	1,717	1,680	1,903	1,826	1,076	11.2
1928 ..	1,761	1,758	1,743	1,760	1,755	1,675	1,792	1,963	1,115	10.8
1929 ..	1,866	1,760	1,754	1,822	1,754	1,713	1,803	1,972	1,082	11.1
1930 ..	1,682	1,685	1,711	1,683	1,693	1,618	1,596	1,939	1,152	19.3
1931 ..	1,477	1,483	1,473	1,479	1,475	1,448	1,428	1,752	1,185	27.4
1932 ..	1,425	1,374	1,336	1,403	1,391	1,377	1,411	1,639	1,168	29.0
1933 ..	1,342	1,356	1,314	1,345	1,332	1,335	1,409	1,584	1,178	25.1
1934 ..	1,400	1,365	1,324	1,385	1,371	1,355	1,468	1,590	1,148	20.5
1935 ..	1,442	1,388	1,372	1,420	1,416	1,380	1,469	1,609	1,133	16.5
Quarter—										
1926.										
March	1,808	1,719	1,670	1,771	1,756	1,667	1,841	1,892	1,068	8.2
June ..	1,888	1,727	1,679	1,822	1,810	1,699	1,892	1,904	1,045	6.7
Sept. ..	1,820	1,726	1,678	1,781	1,766	1,675	1,832	1,922	1,079	7.6
Dec. ..	1,803	1,726	1,680	1,771	1,757	1,669	1,764	1,938	1,094	5.7
1927.										
March	1,782	1,723	1,673	1,758	1,741	1,656	1,737	1,944	1,106	5.9
June ..	1,758	1,721	1,678	1,743	1,728	1,648	1,743	1,921	1,114	6.4
Sept. ..	1,794	1,746	1,690	1,774	1,755	1,666	1,882	1,944	1,096	6.7
Dec. ..	1,820	1,746	1,694	1,789	1,773	1,678	1,904	1,955	1,093	8.9
1928.										
March	1,771	1,765	1,744	1,768	1,761	1,675	1,840	1,966	1,112	10.7
June ..	1,784	1,760	1,745	1,774	1,769	1,684	1,820	1,963	1,107	11.2
Sept. ..	1,745	1,752	1,741	1,748	1,744	1,670	1,764	1,963	1,123	11.4
Dec. ..	1,746	1,752	1,742	1,749	1,744	1,670	1,744	1,959	1,120	9.9
1929.										
March	1,859	1,763	1,758	1,820	1,821	1,713	1,788	1,958	1,076	9.3
June ..	1,865	1,759	1,753	1,821	1,823	1,713	1,794	1,977	1,086	10.0
Sept. ..	1,867	1,761	1,754	1,823	1,824	1,713	1,834	1,979	1,086	12.1
Dec. ..	1,873	1,755	1,751	1,825	1,827	1,712	1,799	1,974	1,082	13.1
1930.										
March	1,751	1,752	1,782	1,752	1,763	1,670	1,680	1,973	1,126	14.6
June ..	1,734	1,724	1,744	1,730	1,738	1,653	1,667	1,956	1,131	18.5
Sept. ..	1,673	1,662	1,668	1,680	1,607	1,599	1,939	1,162	1,102	20.5
Dec. ..	1,568	1,600	1,625	1,582	1,590	1,542	1,438	1,887	1,193	23.4
1931.										
March	1,538	1,557	1,560	1,546	1,546	1,500	1,453	1,814	1,173	25.8
June ..	1,496	1,507	1,501	1,501	1,498	1,464	1,437	1,764	1,175	27.6
Sept. ..	1,435	1,464	1,447	1,447	1,439	1,423	1,406	1,735	1,199	28.3
Dec. ..	1,439	1,406	1,382	1,425	1,418	1,406	1,418	1,694	1,189	28.0
1932.										
March	1,465	1,391	1,358	1,435	1,425	1,403	1,434	1,680	1,171	28.3
June ..	1,448	1,378	1,345	1,419	1,409	1,389	1,410	1,672	1,178	30.0
Sept. ..	1,416	1,367	1,327	1,395	1,382	1,370	1,418	1,608	1,153	29.6
Dec. ..	1,369	1,359	1,314	1,363	1,348	1,346	1,384	1,597	1,172	28.1
1933.										
March	1,317	1,357	1,318	1,330	1,318	1,327	1,336	1,585	1,192	26.5
June ..	1,337	1,354	1,314	1,342	1,329	1,334	1,401	1,595	1,189	25.7
Sept. ..	1,359	1,355	1,311	1,355	1,341	1,340	1,467	1,587	1,171	25.1
Dec. ..	1,355	1,357	1,311	1,354	1,339	1,337	1,432	1,570	1,160	23.0
1934.										
March	1,371	1,360	1,315	1,365	1,350	1,344	1,456	1,572	1,152	21.9
June ..	1,404	1,365	1,319	1,387	1,372	1,358	1,463	1,592	1,148	20.9
Sept. ..	1,401	1,367	1,331	1,387	1,375	1,357	1,492	1,596	1,151	20.4
Dec. ..	1,422	1,368	1,332	1,400	1,388	1,361	1,474	1,599	1,142	18.8
1935.										
March	1,420	1,374	1,356	1,401	1,396	1,368	1,451	1,604	1,145	18.6
June ..	1,425	1,381	1,363	1,407	1,402	1,371	1,456	1,605	1,141	17.8
Sept. ..	1,461	1,394	1,379	1,433	1,430	1,389	1,491	1,609	1,123	15.9
Dec. ..	1,460	1,403	1,390	1,437	1,434	1,391	1,479	1,617	1,125	13.7

(a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of housing, and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

(b) Calculated by "All Houses" ("A" Series) Index (Food and Rent of All Houses).

(c) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the Food and Rent ("All Houses") Index.