

**CHAPTER XVII.—LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.****A.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.****§ 1. Collection of Returns of Retail Prices and Rents.**

The retail prices of an extensive range of articles and services in common demand are collected by the Bureau at frequent intervals from representative retail establishments in the more important towns throughout the Commonwealth. The prices of a less extensive range of commodities are also collected at annual intervals from most towns of any significant size, the total number of towns so covered reaching approximately 200.

Definite standards of quality have been established for each article in order to ensure that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for articles of identical grade or quality will be recorded at all times and for all places. These standards, which are incorporated in printed "specifications", are closely watched and revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing trade practices and conditions.

The actual collection of the data is carried out, under the direct supervision of the State Statisticians by specially qualified officers of the Bureau, while a supervising field officer is provided to assist in the co-ordination of activities in the several States. The prices of food are obtained, where practicable, from about ten retailers in each of the capital cities, and from about five retailers in the provincial towns. Tradespeople and agents are carefully selected in order to ensure the supply of representative figures for the whole of each town, and returns are carefully verified if there should be any doubt as to the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be abnormal.

Returns of rents are made in the middle of each quarter by a representative number of house-agents in each town, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to the number of rooms. The returns from the larger cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, all of which are inspected by the Bureau's field officers. The returns from the smaller provincial towns are in the form of averages supplied by house-agents. As opportunity permits the system of listing and inspecting individual houses in provincial towns is being extended.

**§ 2. Compilation of Indexes of Retail Prices and Rents.**

1. **General.**—The methods adopted for the compilation of indexes of retail prices and rents are very briefly described below. For a more detailed explanation, and an analysis of the problems involved, the reader should refer to Labour Report No. 28 and the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9.

2. **The Regimen.**—The "regimen" from which the retail price indexes are compiled consists of a list of those commodities and services which most commonly enter into the consumption of the average household. The regimen is divided into the following distinct groups and sections :—

RETAIL PRICES.	
Group.	Sections.
I. Food and Groceries .. .. .	{ A.—Groceries. B.—Dairy Produce. C.—Meat.
II. Housing .. .. .	{ D.—House Rent. E.—Clothing—Man. F.—Clothing—Woman.
III. Clothing .. .. .	{ G.—Clothing—Boy (10½ years). H.—Clothing—Girl (7 years). J.—Clothing—Boy (3½ years).
IV. Miscellaneous .. .. .	{ K.—Household Drapery. L.—Household Utensils. M.—Fuel and Light. N.—Other Miscellaneous.

An index (the "All Items" or "C" series) is compiled for the whole of the above groups, but for many purposes indexes are required for each group or section separately.

A list of the articles and services included in the various sections is published in the Labour Report.

3. **The Mass Units.**—The “mass units” or “multipliers” represent the estimated annual consumption per head in Australia of the units of quantity adopted for the various items in each of the sections. In the case of food and groceries the mass units are approximately the annual average consumption per head for household purposes of the various articles during the years 1927 to 1929. In the case of housing the mass unit is the multiplier applied to the weekly rental to raise it to an annual basis. In the case of Sections E to L the mass units represent the estimated annual consumption per head of the articles included in these sections. In the case of fuel and light the mass units represent the estimated consumption per household, while in Section N the actual amounts necessary to cover the estimated cost of the services included for an average household are used as multipliers.

It will be noted that the mass units are all on an annual *per capita* basis. In the tabulation for index-number purposes, the figures are raised to a “total population” basis, by multiplying the aggregate cost of each group or section by the numbers of the population properly applicable to it. Thus food and groceries is multiplied by the whole population; housing by the total number of households; the clothing sections by the proportions of the population applicable to each; and the Sections K to M (miscellaneous) by the total number of households. The resultant index-numbers measure changes, therefore, in the cost to the whole population of the commodities and services included.

4. **Relative Importance of the Groups and Sections.**—The relative importance of the groups and sections in the “All Items” (“C” series) index for Melbourne for the December quarter of 1937 was as follows:—

Group.	Section.	Percentage of Total Aggregate Cost.
I. Food and Groceries	A.—Groceries .. ..	13.2
	B.—Dairy Produce .. ..	10.4
	C.—Meat .. ..	11.2
II. Housing .. ..	D.—House Rent (4 and 5 rooms) ..	24.1
	E.—Man .. ..	8.3
III. Clothing .. ..	F.—Woman .. ..	8.9
	G.—Boy 10½ years .. ..	1.6
	H.—Girl, 7 years .. ..	1.1
	J.—Boy, 3½ years .. ..	0.6
	K.—Household Drapery .. ..	1.2
IV. Miscellaneous .. ..	L.—Household Utensils .. ..	0.5
	M.—Miscellaneous and Light .. ..	5.5
	N.—Other Miscellaneous .. ..	13.4
		100.0

5. **Base Periods of the Indexes.**—The base period originally adopted by the Bureau for its retail price indexes was the year 1911. When the collection of the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items was undertaken for the purposes of the “All Items” (“C” series) index, the month of November, 1914, was adopted as the base period for this series. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians in 1929, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the five years 1923–27 should be adopted as the base period. Commencing with the year 1930, therefore, the retail price indexes have been published on this basis. The aggregate to which all index-numbers are related is the weighted average cost of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base.

6. **The Methods of Tabulation.**—The prices (converted to pence) received from each retailer for each item of the regimen are added together and divided by the number of individual prices. These averages are then multiplied by their respective mass units. The sum of these products for each section or group of the regimen is then multiplied by the population factor applicable to such section or group. The aggregate so produced for any section, group or combination thereof for the period taken as the base of the indexes is regarded as equal to 1,000. The index-number for any other period is then calculated by applying to 1,000 the ratio which the aggregate for such period bears to the base aggregate.

### § 3. The Food and Rent ("B" Series) Index of Retail Prices.

1. *General.*—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled in respect of the year 1925, and index-numbers were retrospectively computed for the several earlier years shown below. It was designed to replace the "A" series index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index first compiled by the Bureau in 1912. Owing, however, to the continued use of the latter index by Industrial Tribunals for the purpose of adjusting wages to variations in retail prices, the "B" series index never replaced the "A" series in this connexion.

2. *Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities, 1907 to 1937.*—Index-numbers computed separately for each group of the regimen, and the weighted average for both groups together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table.

#### RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS: CAPITAL CITIES. ("B" SERIES).

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-37 = 1,000.)

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney .. .. .	523	553	646	1,062	800	825	840	848	868
Melbourne .. ..	517	523	610	1,063	713	748	784	809	836
Brisbane .. .. .	530	569	603	1,014	699	727	763	791	828
Adelaide .. .. .	532	570	679	1,066	731	767	780	798	826
Perth .. .. .	670	753	728	1,116	757	807	821	853	881
Hobart .. .. .	565	592	678	1,133	757	786	792	827	870
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	751	783	806	825	851
HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney .. .. .	593	701	760	989	864	869	891	930	965
Melbourne .. ..	455	569	628	820	801	808	850	882	909
Brisbane .. .. .	283	373	466	630	681	691	720	766	822
Adelaide .. .. .	510	706	655	809	694	700	736	795	832
Perth .. .. .	458	524	589	739	795	794	792	844	861
Hobart .. .. .	405	452	518	881	860	865	890	908	899
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	804	810	839	879	912
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney .. .. .	548	606	687	1,036	822	840	858	878	904
Melbourne .. ..	495	539	616	977	742	769	808	835	862
Brisbane .. .. .	442	500	554	877	690	713	747	781	824
Adelaide .. .. .	524	618	671	975	716	742	764	796	826
Perth .. .. .	594	672	679	982	768	802	810	849	871
Hobart .. .. .	508	542	621	1,044	792	814	827	856	879
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	768	792	818	844	872

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

### § 4. The All Items ("C" Series) Index of Retail Prices.

1. *General.*—This index measures the prices of food and groceries, rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements, and for convenience of reference has been designated the "All Items" ("C" series) index. It has become more important in recent years because of its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from 1st May, 1934, for the adjustment of wages controlled by that Court. It is used at present as the basis of the "Court" series of index-numbers adopted from July, 1937, by the same Court.

The compilation of this series was undertaken by the Bureau following a recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. The Commission itself had collected data on prices in the capital cities for the month of November, 1914 to 1920 inclusive. In consequence the Bureau commenced its own more comprehensive inquiries in the five principal towns of each State, as from November, 1921, and continued them at quarterly intervals thereafter.

2. Retail Price Index-Numbers : Thirty Towns, November 1921 to June Quarter 1938.—The following table gives index-numbers representing the variations in the prices, in 30 of the more important towns, of food and groceries, housing, clothing, and miscellaneous household requirements combined.

### RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS : THIRTY TOWNS ("C" SERIES) ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.

(Base : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-37 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	Nov- ember, 1921.	Year 1929.	Year 1931.	Year 1932.	Year 1933.	Year 1934.	Year 1935.	Year 1936.	Year 1937.	1938.	
										Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.
NEW SOUTH WALES--											
Sydney ..	1,046	1,073	922	867	832	842	852	866	889	900	908
Newcastle ..	1,041	1,028	888	840	819	834	856	853	849	860	873
Broken Hill ..	975	1,018	882	834	806	819	819	848	893	925	937
Goulburn ..	1,033	1,103	922	877	843	852	860	864	867	879	890
Bathurst ..	947	979	867	820	801	807	814	833	842	850	856
Weighted Average, 5 Towns ..	1,042	1,067	918	863	830	841	852	865	886	897	906
VICTORIA--											
Melbourne ..	1,003	1,017	846	813	789	801	824	844	868	881	892
Ballarat ..	992	957	808	776	760	781	803	826	839	841	846
Bendigo ..	1,002	969	833	808	789	811	820	821	840	844	850
Geelong ..	1,019	950	822	794	772	782	824	848	855	866	879
Warrnambool ..	1,034	960	860	838	812	826	850	851	856	874	887
Weighted Average, 5 Towns ..	1,003	1,011	843	811	787	801	824	843	866	878	889
QUEENSLAND--											
Brisbane ..	923	923	798	764	751	762	780	804	837	846	850
Toowoomba ..	949	916	816	788	778	785	785	802	840	841	844
Rockhampton ..	972	904	806	770	752	759	776	802	840	849	854
Townsville ..	..	1,026	914	878	850	851	852	866	883	895	901
Bundaberg ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	809	821	833
Weighted Average 5 Towns ..	941a	922a	801a	768a	753a	764a	780a	803a	840	849	853
SOUTH AUSTRALIA--											
Adelaide ..	989	1,037	837	802	789	806	820	839	859	878	889
Kadina, etc. ..	998	943	801	772	747	758	763	765	769	776	787
Port Pirie ..	1,025	980	834	791	762	778	789	813	844	858	866
Mount Gambier ..	1,029	963	831	816	800	800	809	818	830	841	846
Peterborough ..	948	1,043	884	848	832	832	833	843	851	863	868
Weighted Average, 5 Towns ..	992	1,030	836	801	787	804	817	835	855	873	884
WESTERN AUSTRALIA--											
Perth, etc. ..	1,008	1,026	885	840	811	830	834	856	869	873	886
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	1,048	1,032	937	940	937	975	1,011	1,027	1,030	1,031	1,052
Northam ..	1,030	1,022	878	844	814	825	829	860	890	894	904
Bunbury ..	1,045	978	877	842	824	843	865	880	897	900	914
Geraldton ..	1,056	1,051	951	904	851	866	886	933	970	951	961
Weighted Average, 5 Towns ..	1,020	1,026	891	852	825	842	848	870	884	887	900
TASMANIA--											
Hobart ..	1,070	1,000	875	844	825	837	849	860	875	885	885
Launceston ..	1,067	967	865	832	817	828	834	840	856	866	870
Burnie ..	1,003	966	837	811	775	780	792	814	854	862	863
Devonport ..	904	948	831	800	773	787	801	809	833	846	844
Queenstown ..	1,031	972	881	875	867	876	873	850	857	858	876
Weighted Average, 5 Towns ..	1,057	986	869	838	820	831	841	850	866	876	877
Weighted Average, 30 Towns ..	1,013	1,026	870	829	803	816	831	848	871	882	891
Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities ..	1,013	1,033	873	830	804	817	832	850	873	885	894

(a) Includes Charters Towers and Warwick in place of Townsville and Bundaberg.

3. Retail Price Index-Numbers : Capital Cities, 1914 to 1920.—The next table gives index-numbers representing the variations in the prices, in each capital city, of all items of household consumption combined. The index-numbers for the clothing and miscellaneous groups were compiled from data collected by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.

## RETAIL PRICE INDEX—NUMBERS: CAPITAL CITIES ("C" SERIES). ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Nov. 1914 ..	638	616	614	683	746	687	641
" 1915 ..	844	835	860	858	819	858	842
" 1916 ..	833	791	748	835	854	807	812
" 1917 ..	877	798	825	805	828	949	836
" 1918 ..	877	843	882	862	816	918	861
" 1919 ..	1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
" 1920 ..	1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209
HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).							
Nov. 1914 ..	758	608	463	611	586	525	649
" 1915 ..	780	611	472	574	581	571	659
" 1916 ..	791	625	467	573	592	574	665
" 1917 ..	797	657	492	606	602	586	685
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.							
Nov. 1914 ..	680	613	560	658	689	630	644
" 1915 ..	825	756	722	758	734	756	777
" 1916 ..	818	732	648	742	761	724	760
" 1917 ..	848	748	707	734	748	820	782
" 1918 ..	861	792	756	789	746	810	812
" 1919 ..	1,000	893	904	904	867	936	934
" 1920 ..	1,138	1,074	945	1,068	973	1,155	1,082
CLOTHING.							
Nov. 1914 ..	755	780	657	756	698	825	754
" 1915 ..	805	797	690	821	760	833	792
" 1916 ..	903	870	779	919	849	940	881
" 1917 ..	1,009	976	899	1,049	980	1,041	992
" 1918 ..	1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
" 1919 ..	1,237	1,213	1,192	1,303	1,277	1,344	1,238
" 1920 ..	1,323	1,422	1,274	1,384	1,359	1,430	1,365
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Nov. 1914 ..	766	728	728	770	780	699	749
" 1915 ..	798	770	756	803	822	770	786
" 1916 ..	808	784	766	832	869	780	802
" 1917 ..	889	879	836	883	926	865	882
" 1918 ..	988	950	931	988	1,035	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.							
Nov. 1914 ..	712	671	611	699	707	687	687
" 1915 ..	816	768	721	780	755	776	782
" 1916 ..	836	773	698	798	800	783	795
" 1917 ..	892	823	773	832	832	879	847
" 1918 ..	938	890	848	887	885	923	905
" 1919 ..	1,065	988	981	1,018	1,005	1,042	1,022
" 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

4. **Relative Cost of Each Group of Items.**—The following table shows for the towns covered by this Series of index-numbers the relative cost of each of the groups of household consumption :—

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS ("C" SERIES) ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION. RELATIVE COST OF EACH GROUP OF ITEMS.**

(Base : Weighted Average Cost of All Groups in each Town = 1,000.)

State and Town.	1936.					1937.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>										
Sydney .. ..	366	238	202	194	1,000	352	251	202	195	1,000
Newcastle .. ..	376	223	213	188	1,000	374	226	206	194	1,000
Broken Hill .. ..	417	172	199	212	1,000	403	174	203	220	1,000
Goulburn .. ..	303	226	229	182	1,000	303	233	211	193	1,000
Bathurst .. ..	376	217	220	187	1,000	366	223	213	198	1,000
Weighted Average 5 Towns .. ..	366	236	204	194	1,000	355	247	202	196	1,000
<b>VICTORIA—</b>										
Melbourne .. ..	358	231	211	200	1,000	347	242	203	208	1,000
Ballarat .. ..	379	184	230	207	1,000	368	192	217	223	1,000
Bendigo .. ..	374	190	224	212	1,000	305	198	214	223	1,000
Geelong .. ..	355	225	222	198	1,000	351	226	208	215	1,000
Warrnambool .. ..	300	219	228	193	1,000	350	233	211	206	1,000
Weighted Average 5 Towns .. ..	358	229	212	201	1,000	348	239	204	209	1,000
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>										
Brisbane .. ..	367	211	218	204	1,000	356	227	209	208	1,000
Toowoomba .. ..	354	221	218	207	1,000	340	231	211	218	1,000
Rockhampton .. ..	394	168	234	204	1,000	370	200	217	213	1,000
Townsville .. ..	406a	140a	220a	234a	1,000	367	221	203	209	1,000
Bundaberg .. ..	375b	177b	221b	227b	1,000	387	164	219	230	1,000
Weighted Average 5 Towns .. ..	370	207	219	204	1,000	358	220	210	210	1,000
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Adelaide .. ..	355	210	224	211	1,000	347	223	210	220	1,000
Kadina, etc. .. ..	426	110	237	227	1,000	421	112	230	237	1,000
Port Pirie .. ..	396	172	206	226	1,000	390	181	211	218	1,000
Mount Gambler .. ..	367	176	246	211	1,000	366	191	217	226	1,000
Peterborough .. ..	371	190	228	211	1,000	368	201	210	221	1,000
Weighted Average 5 Towns .. ..	359	205	225	211	1,000	351	217	211	221	1,000
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Perth, etc. .. ..	371	220	215	194	1,000	365	229	205	201	1,000
Kalgoorlie, etc. .. ..	363	254	211	172	1,000	353	294	178	175	1,000
Northam .. ..	390	205	210	195	1,000	375	224	202	199	1,000
Bunbury .. ..	367	224	225	184	1,000	358	253	203	186	1,000
Geraldton .. ..	363	240	206	191	1,000	357	253	188	202	1,000
Weighted Average 5 Towns .. ..	371	223	215	191	1,000	363	235	202	200	1,000
<b>TASMANIA—</b>										
Hobart .. ..	357	235	224	184	1,000	358	237	206	199	1,000
Launceston .. ..	358	214	235	193	1,000	361	223	211	205	1,000
Burnie .. ..	388	204	225	183	1,000	381	220	211	188	1,000
Devonport .. ..	383	199	229	189	1,000	355	201	220	194	1,000
Queenstown .. ..	394	198	232	176	1,000	390	214	210	186	1,000
Weighted Average 5 Towns .. ..	361	225	228	186	1,000	361	230	209	200	1,000
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. ..	364	226	212	198	1,000	354	238	204	204	1,000
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. ..	363	229	209	199	1,000	351	241	204	204	1,000
<b>CHARTERS TOWERS (Q.) ..</b>	406	140	220	234	1,000	391	135	221	253	1,000
<b>WARWICK (Q.) ..</b>	375	177	221	227	1,000	368	170	225	237	1,000
<b>PORT AUGUSTA (S.A.) ..</b>	408	165	222	205	1,000	401	168	214	217	1,000

(a) Charters Towers.

(b) Warwick.

5. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency : Capital Cities, 1914 to 1938.—In each part of the following table the average cost of the particular regimen in the six capital cities during the five-yearly period 1923–27 has been equated to a base of 20s. od. The figures measure the variations in the prices of (i) food and groceries, (ii) housing (4 and 5 rooms), (iii) food, groceries and housing, combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous household requirements and (vi) all items of household consumption combined.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS IN TERMS OF CURRENCY : CAPITAL CITIES  
("C" SERIES).

(Base of each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923–27 = 20s. od.)

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
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
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
1936 .. ..	17 0	16 2	15 10	16 0	17 1	16 6	16 6
1937 .. ..	17 4	16 9	16 7	16 6	17 7	17 5	17 0
1937 { March Qtr.	17 5	16 4	16 10	16 3	17 4	17 3	16 11
June ..	17 2	16 6	16 5	16 5	18 1	17 4	16 10
Sept. ..	17 4	17 0	16 5	16 9	17 8	17 4	17 1
Dec. ..	17 7	17 1	16 8	16 8	17 4	17 9	17 3
1938 { March ..	17 7	17 0	16 8	16 10	17 8	17 6	17 3
June ..	17 10	17 6	16 9	17 4	18 2	17 7	17 7

HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).							
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1914 .. ..	15 2	12 7	9 4	13 1	11 9	10 4	13 3
1921 .. ..	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
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
1936 .. ..	18 7	17 8	15 4	15 11	16 11	18 2	17 7
1937 .. ..	19 4	18 2	16 5	16 8	17 3	18 0	18 3
1937 { March Qtr.	19 0	18 0	16 4	16 3	17 2	17 10	18 0
June ..	19 2	18 1	16 5	16 5	17 2	17 11	18 2
Sept. ..	19 6	18 3	16 6	16 9	17 3	18 0	18 4
Dec. ..	19 7	18 5	16 7	17 1	17 4	18 2	18 6
1938 { March ..	19 9	18 6	16 8	17 2	17 4	18 2	18 7
June ..	20 0	18 8	16 9	17 4	17 5	18 3	18 9

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).							
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1914 .. ..	13 9	12 4	11 1	13 5	13 7	12 5	13 0
1921 .. ..	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
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
1936 .. ..	17 7	16 8	15 7	15 11	17 0	17 1	16 11
1937 .. ..	18 1	17 3	16 6	16 6	17 5	17 7	17 5
1937 { March Qtr.	18 0	16 11	16 7	16 2	17 3	17 6	17 3
June ..	17 11	17 1	16 4	16 5	17 8	17 6	17 4
Sept. ..	18 1	17 5	16 5	16 9	17 6	17 7	17 6
Dec. ..	18 4	17 7	16 7	16 9	17 4	17 10	17 8
1938 { March ..	18 5	17 7	16 8	16 11	17 6	17 9	17 9
June ..	18 8	17 11	16 8	17 3	17 10	17 9	18 0

RETAIL PRICE INDEX—NUMBERS IN TERMS OF CURRENCY: CAPITAL CITIES ("C" SERIES)—*continued*.

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 208. od.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
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## CLOTHING.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1914 .. ..	15 1	15 7	13 2	15 1	14 0	16 6	15 1
1921 .. ..	25 1	25 5	22 6	23 11	24 8	28 7	24 11
1933 .. ..	14 10	16 3	15 10	16 7	16 5	17 7	15 9
1934 .. ..	14 11	16 1	15 9	16 11	16 4	17 8	15 8
1935 .. ..	14 11	15 11	15 5	17 1	16 6	18 1	15 8
1936 .. ..	15 7	15 10	15 7	16 8	16 4	17 2	15 10
1937 .. ..	16 4	16 1	15 11	16 5	16 1	16 5	16 3
1937 { March Qtr.	16 2	15 9	15 7	16 0	15 10	15 11	15 11
June ..	16 4	16 0	15 9	16 4	16 1	16 5	16 2
Sept. ..	16 5	16 1	15 11	16 7	16 3	16 7	16 3
Dec. ..	16 6	16 5	16 3	16 9	16 3	16 10	16 6
1938 { March ..	16 7	16 5	16 3	17 0	16 4	16 11	16 6
June ..	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 2	16 6	16 11	16 7

## MISCELLANEOUS.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1914 .. ..	15 4	14 7	14 7	15 5	15 7	14 0	15 0
1921 .. ..	20 2	20 5	18 11	20 8	20 7	18 8	20 2
1933 .. ..	19 9	18 4	18 0	19 8	18 11	17 2	19 0
1934 .. ..	19 6	18 3	18 0	19 6	18 10	17 1	18 11
1935 .. ..	19 6	18 5	18 1	19 6	18 7	17 1	18 11
1936 .. ..	19 0	18 11	18 4	19 10	18 8	17 8	18 11
1937 .. ..	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 5	18 11	18 9	19 2
1937 { March Qtr.	18 8	19 4	18 9	20 4	18 11	18 8	19 1
June ..	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 5	18 11	18 9	19 2
Sept. ..	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 6	18 11	18 10	19 3
Dec. ..	18 11	19 7	18 10	20 6	19 0	18 10	19 3
1938 { March ..	18 10	19 7	18 10	20 6	18 11	18 10	19 3
June ..	18 8	19 8	18 11	20 5	19 0	18 7	19 2

## ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1914 .. ..	14 3	13 5	12 3	14 0	14 2	13 9	13 9
1921 .. ..	20 11	20 1	18 6	19 9	20 2	21 5	20 3
1933 .. ..	16 8	15 9	15 0	15 9	16 3	16 6	16 1
1934 .. ..	16 10	16 0	15 3	16 1	16 7	16 9	16 4
1935 .. ..	17 1	16 6	15 7	16 5	16 8	17 0	16 8
1936 .. ..	17 4	16 11	16 1	16 9	17 1	17 2	17 0
1937 .. ..	17 9	17 4	16 9	17 2	17 5	17 6	17 6
1937 { March Qtr.	17 8	17 1	16 9	16 11	17 2	17 4	17 3
June ..	17 8	17 3	16 8	17 1	17 6	17 5	17 4
Sept. ..	17 10	17 6	16 8	17 4	17 5	17 6	17 6
Dec. ..	18 0	17 7	16 11	17 5	17 4	17 9	17 8
1938 { March ..	18 0	17 7	16 11	17 7	17 6	17 8	17 8
June ..	18 2	17 10	17 0	17 9	17 9	17 9	17 11

### § 5. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. **General.**—To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding sections a special investigation into prices in 70 additional towns was undertaken in November, 1913. 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 was further increased to 170. Information in regard to prices obtained in November each year relates at present, therefore, to 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (pp. 26 to 33), and details respecting succeeding investigations are incorporated in the Labour Bulletins and Reports issued subsequently by this Bureau.

In previous issues of these publications information was given regarding movements in the rents of 4-roomed and 5-roomed houses. While the index-numbers were useful in a general way as a measure of changes in rents in any one town from time to time, there has been an increasing tendency to regard them as an adequate measure of the relative absolute levels of rents in different towns at any given date. In order to prevent such a misuse of the figures, and because of increasing doubts as to the ability of the Bureau, except at prohibitive cost, to ensure that returns of rents from all these towns shall be based on continuously representative samples, it has reluctantly been decided to limit the published information to the prices of food and groceries. Should any industrial tribunal desire further information on house rentals in any of these towns, the Bureau will be prepared to make its records available and to consider requests for special investigations by its staff of field officers.

2. **Retail Price Index-Numbers : 200 Towns, 1933 to 1937.** In the following table the base of the index-numbers has been changed from that used in previous issues of the Official Year Book. The new base is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in the period 1923-27. To facilitate comparisons over a period of years, the index-numbers previously published have been recomputed and the table has been extended to include the results of the last five investigations.

#### RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS—(200 TOWNS SERIES) : FOOD AND GROCERIES.

(Base : Weighted Average in Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>					
Albury .. ..	749	794	803	857	864
Armidale .. ..	729	776	821	811	853
Ballina .. ..	808	803	812	853	852
Bathurst .. ..	774	809	842	838	861
Bega .. ..	790	823	851	863	875
Berry .. ..	814	861	874	873	880
Blackheath .. ..	800	851	882	920	927
Bourke .. ..	835	847	873	901	913
Bowral .. ..	803	832	848	861	887
Broken Hill .. ..	874	924	929	977	1,036
Casino .. ..	776	790	855	900	900
Cessnock .. ..	959	792	846	849	858
Cobar .. ..	1,007	976	1,012	1,031	1,038
Cooma .. ..	855	837	895	879	883
Coonamble .. ..	844	880	918	961	921

INDEX-NUMBERS.—200 TOWNS SERIES: FOOD AND GROCERIES—*continued.*

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i></b>					
Cootamundra .. ..	731	789	824	849	829
Corrimal .. ..	767	817	834	876	884
Cowra .. ..	745	808	844	860	873
Cronulla .. ..	789	833	859	876	886
Deniliquin .. ..	823	864	883	907	967
Dubbo .. ..	686	771	842	848	863
Forbes .. ..	788	823	883	862	863
Gilgandra .. ..	783	846	873	864	881
Glen Innes .. ..	758	767	807	814	819
Goulburn .. ..	770	824	846	855	888
Grafton .. ..	751	781	824	854	888
Grenfell .. ..	772	806	830	837	841
Griffith .. ..	856	908	913	940	936
Gulgong .. ..	745	782	821	855	839
Gunnedah .. ..	732	775	829	842	833
Hay .. ..	866	897	903	931	906
Inverell .. ..	779	809	848	802	831
Junee .. ..	773	817	828	876	914
Katoomba .. ..	811	833	867	885	915
Kempsey .. ..	780	810	803	811	836
Kiama .. ..	819	887	887	904	911
Kurri Kurri .. ..	752	818	808	839	838
Leeton .. ..	811	848	886	894	926
Lismore .. ..	773	782	834	886	918
Lithgow .. ..	771	854	859	809	873
Maitland .. ..	731	788	833	832	835
Morree .. ..	836	878	886	904	894
Moss Vale .. ..	782	813	844	849	895
Mudgee .. ..	684	773	819	840	860
Narrabri .. ..	770	841	877	894	901
Narrandera .. ..	801	848	864	898	896
Newcastle .. ..	803	849	880	869	882
Nowra .. ..	830	840	901	899	887
Orange .. ..	750	773	817	812	815
Parkes .. ..	782	805	843	859	903
Penrith .. ..	743	788	806	818	825
Port Kembla .. ..	797	855	866	908	905
Portland .. ..	804	841	862	857	877
Queanbeyan .. ..	796	850	884	905	953
Quirindi .. ..	833	855	864	866	890
Richmond .. ..	761	839	826	816	827
Scone .. ..	767	809	836	861	871
Singleton .. ..	755	779	826	813	830
Sydney .. ..	785	836	851	863	877
Tamworth .. ..	740	785	806	806	829

INDEX-NUMBERS.—200 TOWNS SERIES: FOOD AND GROCERIES—*continued.*

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—con-</b>					
<i>tinned.</i>					
Taree .. ..	748	785	848	864	889
Temora .. ..	763	803	804	823	862
Tenterfield .. ..	736	772	831	865	864
Tumut .. ..	792	810	832	837	842
Ulmarra .. ..	774	828	852	892	885
Wagga Wagga .. ..	753	797	835	850	884
Walcha .. ..	798	836	927	845	866
Wellington .. ..	754	831	818	828	829
Weston .. ..	763	792	818	835	841
Windsor .. ..	781	788	850	851	864
Wollongong .. ..	755	867	829	853	878
Wyalong .. ..	801	815	862	870	895
Yass .. ..	758	813	850	837	887
Young .. ..	774	853	855	843	867
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) .. ..	785	834	852	863	878
<b>VICTORIA—</b>					
Ararat .. ..	778	828	855	918	910
Bacchus Marsh .. ..	736	788	820	860	887
Bairnsdale .. ..	781	846	862	880	879
Ballarat .. ..	732	777	818	872	860
Beechworth .. ..	784	813	828	885	890
Benalla .. ..	759	830	850	880	905
Bendigo .. ..	727	794	812	856	853
Camperdown .. ..	766	814	849	863	868
Casterton .. ..	792	835	845	888	873
Castlemaine .. ..	748	775	828	845	848
Colac .. ..	761	813	817	842	850
Creswick .. ..	743	789	838	859	863
Daylesford .. ..	765	789	813	843	865
Dunolly .. ..	741	794	835	889	872
Echuca .. ..	746	784	824	846	857
Euroa .. ..	769	803	845	875	878
Geelong .. ..	732	757	796	833	857
Hamilton .. ..	762	805	855	911	885
Healesville .. ..	763	818	831	892	917
Horsham .. ..	766	801	873	926	916
Kerang .. ..	753	819	869	895	927
Koroit .. ..	767	795	828	836	840
Korumburra .. ..	737	781	783	835	859
Kyneton .. ..	705	757	785	851	870
Lilydale .. ..	784	815	845	884	881

INDEX-NUMBERS.—200 TOWNS SERIES: FOOD AND GROCERIES—*continued.*

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>VICTORIA—<i>continued.</i></b>					
Maffra .. ..	761	785	825	901	865
Maldon .. ..	790	827	848	876	888
Maryborough .. ..	732	785	811	888	891
Melbourne .. ..	721	758	797	833	848
Mildura .. ..	843	870	903	938	977
Morwell .. ..	797	822	842	858	887
Nhill .. ..	798	853	913	956	933
Orbost .. ..	832	814	870	912	919
Portland .. ..	789	804	863	863	862
Port Fairy .. ..	761	783	820	862	840
St. Arnaud .. ..	804	851	875	930	930
Sale .. ..	784	785	827	895	890
Seymour .. ..	782	848	880	901	937
Shepparton .. ..	738	804	819	864	880
Stawell .. ..	801	861	911	949	934
Swan Hill .. ..	743	833	874	918	924
Terang .. ..	798	819	875	863	885
Traralgon .. ..	734	787	816	839	834
Wangaratta .. ..	782	787	827	880	879
Warracknabeal .. ..	750	788	828	858	881
Warragul .. ..	713	789	820	827	845
Warrnambool .. ..	740	759	785	844	834
Wonthaggi .. ..	737	794	804	895	913
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) .. ..	728	765	803	841	854
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>					
Ayr .. ..	803	819	825	841	867
Barcaldine .. ..	830	881	938	959	959
Bowen .. ..	816	888	885	902	902
Brisbane .. ..	696	726	780	820	835
Bundaberg .. ..	722	753	803	874	873
Cairns .. ..	814	837	887	915	914
Charleville .. ..	849	881	949	989	969
Charters Towers .. ..	779	802	876	889	887
Chillagoe .. ..	911	913	900	915	946
Cloncurry .. ..	907	930	1,030	1,026	1,031
Cooktown .. ..	887	920	963	986	989
Cunnamulla .. ..	861	894	927	938	921
Dalby .. ..	744	760	807	870	836
Gayndah .. ..	763	792	851	907	867
Gladstone .. ..	743	771	827	871	870
Goondiwindi .. ..	794	820	889	914	868
Gympie .. ..	737	773	857	849	840
Hughenden .. ..	905	891	919	931	925
Innisfail .. ..	852	907	943	974	995
Ipswich .. ..	728	745	785	820	825

INDEX-NUMBERS.—200 TOWNS SERIES: FOOD AND GROCERIES—*continued.*

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>QUEENSLAND—<i>continued.</i></b>					
Longreach .. ..	868	921	978	990	993
Mackay .. ..	772	807	872	898	895
Maryborough .. ..	716	723	794	828	835
Mount Morgan .. ..	791	831	855	891	880
Nambour .. ..	723	767	834	844	863
Rockhampton .. ..	733	764	839	864	877
Roma .. ..	805	823	877	885	870
Stanthorpe .. ..	766	775	803	817	830
Toowoomba .. ..	673	695	751	800	789
Townsville .. ..	785	817	887	904	921
Warwick .. ..	721	721	792	820	795
Winton .. ..	905	919	931	951	963
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. ..	724	747	806	841	850
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>					
Adelaide .. ..	733	774	784	804	833
Freeling .. ..	731	768	804	823	845
Gawler .. ..	732	777	772	814	827
Kadina, etc. .. ..	797	849	868	890	897
Kapunda .. ..	718	762	793	812	836
Koorunga .. ..	771	790	868	879	899
Millicent .. ..	757	806	805	820	918
Mount Gambier .. ..	726	751	802	815	847
Murray Bridge .. ..	710	732	763	776	810
Peterborough .. ..	770	806	816	851	884
Port Augusta .. ..	824	864	892	926	945
Port Pirie .. ..	738	813	811	896	915
Quorn .. ..	778	801	848	841	853
Renmark .. ..	840	791	920	919	906
Victor Harbour .. ..	760	908	815	839	852
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. ..	738	779	791	813	841
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>					
Albany .. ..	792	871	884	806	892
Beverley .. ..	848	873	890	918	963
Bridgetown .. ..	878	918	930	955	973
Broome .. ..	1,156	1,155	1,142	1,180	1,181
Bunbury .. ..	781	844	845	873	896
Carnarvon .. ..	971	1,008	1,032	1,082	1,127
Collie .. ..	724	862	855	901	874
Geraldton .. ..	764	835	840	960	924
Greenbushes .. ..	862	924	946	960	937
Kalgoorlie and Boulder .. ..	926	994	981	1,006	1,002

INDEX-NUMBERS.—200 TOWN SERIES: FOOD AND GROCERIES—*continued.*

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—con-</b>					
<i>tinued.</i>					
Katanning .. ..	769	844	829	884	872
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,028	1,084	1,094	1,140	1,168
Meekatharra .. ..	1,026	1,047	1,088	1,143	1,164
Narrogin .. ..	802	873	863	910	884
Northam .. ..	792	845	850	910	905
Perth and Fremantle ..	740	813	813	863	866
Wagin .. ..	814	817	856	924	870
York .. ..	767	802	859	848	867
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) .. ..	769	833	835	882	884
<b>TASMANIA—</b>					
Beaconsfield .. ..	744	801	818	841	830
Burnie .. ..	747	821	837	883	906
Campbelltown .. ..	779	814	860	878	872
Deloraine .. ..	756	788	787	795	824
Devonport .. ..	762	835	824	873	895
Franklin .. ..	817	889	896	868	905
Hobart .. ..	756	813	797	874	889
Launceston .. ..	722	786	793	844	870
New Norfolk .. ..	783	822	830	909	891
Queenstown .. ..	869	913	900	920	922
Scottsdale .. ..	729	770	780	814	829
Ulverstone .. ..	770	815	812	888	867
Zeehan .. ..	938	966	943	981	983
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. ..	756	812	805	867	884
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>					
Canberra (a) .. ..	857	916	931	949	965
<b>Weighted Averages—</b>					
Australia (200 Towns) ..	754	797	825	851	865
Thirty Towns .. ..	750	795	820	847	862
Six Capitals .. ..	746	792	817	843	859

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

## § 6. Changes in the Regimen.

Since the original compilation of retail price indexes by the Bureau, the regimen of the several groups and sections have undergone some modifications. These are briefly referred to in the following paragraphs.

(i) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen for food and groceries was originally introduced in 1912, and the first revision was made in the September quarter of 1932. A second revision took place in the September quarter of 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936. The main features of this revision are referred to in (iv) below.

(ii) *Housing.* The housing constituent of the regimen has also been revised. Originally the rentals of all houses from "3 rooms and under" to "8 rooms and over" were tabulated, and they have been continuously used since 1912 in the "A" series index. They were also used in the "All Items" index up to and including the year 1924. From the following year rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses only were used in the "C" series index, and in the same year they were combined with food and groceries to form the "B" series index.

Since the December quarter of 1936, following on the resolutions of the 1936 Conference of Statisticians, the rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses in certain towns have been collected and tabulated on a somewhat different basis from that previously used. The returns in the twelve more important cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, on the basis of which variations from a pre-determined standard are measured. This standard, the change in which has affected the index-numbers only in respect of the relative levels of rents in the different towns, and in respect of their absolute height, was determined by means of a special investigation of the 1933 census data relating to rentals of 4 and 5-roomed wood and brick houses occupied by fully-employed wage and salary-earners. This method not being generally applicable to the circumstances of small country towns, on account of greater diversity of average "quality" of houses, returns from these centres show the average rent of occupied houses of a defined standard.

(iii) *Clothing and Miscellaneous.* The regimen for clothing and miscellaneous household requirements was originally introduced in 1921, and the first revision was made in the March quarter of 1935. A second revision took place in the September quarter of 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936.

(iv) *The Revision of the Regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936,* was of a comprehensive nature. The resolutions of the Conference were reprinted in Appendix XI. of Labour Report No. 27.

This Conference not only recommended extensive revisions of the regimen from which the indexes are compiled, but also considered methods of collection and compilation. As a result of its deliberations, and subsequent discussions by correspondence, many improvements and refinements were introduced.

The changes in the regimen were made with a view to improving the index-numbers as measures of price variations. They comprised chiefly the elimination or replacement of articles no longer in demand, or which experience had shown to be unsuitable media for the measurement of price variations; the alteration of units of quantity in certain cases to conform with those in most general use; the adjustment of the mass unit allotted to certain articles to bring them into accord with present-day consumption habits; and the re-adjustment of the population weights applicable to the several groups and sections of the regimen in accordance with the results of the 1933 Census. Definite grades or qualities were also established for each article in the regimen, to ensure that quotations should be given, as far as possible, for the same article at all times and in all places. Improved methods of collecting and weighting average house rentals were also adopted (see par. (ii) above).

## B.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

### § 1. General.

The data on which this section is based relate almost entirely to wholesale prices in Melbourne. An index of Sydney wholesale prices is compiled by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, and published in the *Year Book* and the *Monthly Summary of Business Statistics* of that State.

The index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912, and has been continued on the same lines since that year. It was resolved, however, at the Conference of Statisticians at Brisbane in 1930 that the time had come to revise and extend the items included in order to bring the index into line with changed conditions. An investigation to that end was commenced, and in the course of the past few

years, many new price-series have been collected on a monthly basis back to January, 1928. Some of these have been incorporated in a new index of the prices of basic materials and foodstuffs, preliminary index-numbers of which are currently published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*. Others are being incorporated in a number of "special-purpose" indexes, which it is hoped to publish shortly. Their construction has been delayed in order to make use, for weighting purposes, of the more extensive information which is now becoming available as the result of the collection for 1936-37 of more extensive statistics of factory production. In the meantime, the original index has been continued on existing lines.

The items included in the (old) Melbourne wholesale price index comprise chiefly basic materials which in the form of raw material, food, or as a source of power, enter into production for home consumption. The purpose of the index, therefore, is to measure the changes in the prices of these particular materials rather than the changes in prices generally. As Australia does not, to any extent, manufacture from imported raw material commodities for export, the local consumption appears to give the most appropriate weighting. Any lack of uniformity in the variations of the index-numbers for these wholesale prices and for retail prices would indicate broadly changes in the relation of manufacturing and distributing charges to the cost of basic materials.

## § 2. Index-Numbers.

Index-numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups together are shown in the following table:—

### MELBOURNE WHOLESALE PRICES—INDEX-NUMBERS, 1861 TO 1937.

(Base of each Group : Year 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	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	1,061	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
1914	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,596
1931	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428
1932	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
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	1,729	1,508	1,964	1,996	1,469
1936	1,566	1,331	1,480	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,997	1,543
1937	1,772	1,406	1,604	1,451	1,750	1,678	2,430	2,006	1,656

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

## C.—WAGES.

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

1. **General.**—Particulars regarding operations 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 the Labour Reports and in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics.

2. **Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.**—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1933 to 1937:—

## AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

State.	1933.		1934.		1935.		1936.		1937.	
	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 ..	30	24	55	22	44	31	52	39	63	42
Victoria ..	138	..	90	..	101	..	141	..	121	..
Queensland ..	55	21	32	25	46	22	61	37	46	42
South Australia ..	16	1	19	3	69	9	22	17	42	16
Western Australia ..	10	9	12	11	17	24	24	26	35	32
Tasmania ..	9	3	7	1	18	..	22	..	43	..
Commonwealth Court	8	6	24	4	69	13	32	13	38	11
Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator ..	1	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	3	..
Total ..	267	64	239	66	368	99	356	132	391	143

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 ..	573	520	1,181	607
31st December, 1930 ..	642	580	1,285	601
31st December, 1934 ..	655	581	1,403	689
31st December, 1935 ..	660	583	1,435	709
31st December, 1936 ..	660	583	1,452	767
31st December, 1937 ..	660	583	1,608	806

(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 1937, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 1,033 and 405 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

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

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

**BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913 AND 1937.**

Particulars.	At 31st Dec.	Commonwealth.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
		Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.							
<i>Industrial and Wages—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 .. 1937 ..	..	..	216 (a) 319	135 189	75 ..	56 76	.. 19	23 57	505 660
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 .. 1937 ..	..	..	123 (b) 279	123 167	74 ..	47 65	.. 17	19 55	386 583
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 .. 1937 ..	17 204	.. 48	265 532	127 179	73 302	54 113	18 170	21 60	575 1,608
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 .. 1937 ..	228 167	..	75 140	..	5 264	11 40	82 185	.. 10	401 806
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. 1937 ..	..	..	13 141	17 156	15 48	16 118	9 45	13 91	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. 1937 ..	..	..	132 44	129 77	68 27	62 95	57 41	61 77	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	1937	..	..	42	38	32	35	32	31	..

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and, at the end of 1937, 303 Committees were in force.

(iii) *Australian Capital Territory.* A review of the operations of the Industrial Board in the Australian Capital Territory, which was created and issued its first award in 1922, will be found in Labour Report No. 28, Chapter II., § 1.

## § 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 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 housing—all houses) which are also computed to the year 1911 as base. In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

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

2. **Weekly Rates of Wage, 1933 to 1937.**—(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 :—

#### WAGE RATES OF ADULT MALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.(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, 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 December, 1935	84 2	79 9	88 5	77 11	84 2	81 0	82 10
31st December, 1936	85 6	83 1	88 7	79 6	88 6	83 3	84 10
31st March, 1937 ..	85 8	83 3	88 7	79 9	88 6	83 5	85 0
30th June, 1937 ..	86 9	83 7	90 8	81 1	88 6	83 7	85 11
30th September, 1937	88 9	86 6	91 8	82 11	90 7	85 8	88 1
31st December, 1937	92 1	88 1	92 8	85 10	90 10	87 0	90 2

#### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

	1,598	1,502	1,718	1,433	1,587	1,522	1,570
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 December, 1935	1,642	1,555	1,725	1,520	1,642	1,581	1,617
31st December, 1936	1,668	1,621	1,729	1,552	1,726	1,625	1,656
31st March, 1937	1,672	1,624	1,729	1,557	1,727	1,628	1,659
30th June, 1937 ..	1,692	1,631	1,770	1,583	1,727	1,630	1,677
30th September, 1937	1,732	1,687	1,789	1,618	1,768	1,671	1,718
31st December, 1937	1,797	1,719	1,808	1,674	1,772	1,697	1,760

(a) Weighted average.

(b) Calculated to nearest rd.

Wages declined 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. Increases were granted in each of the States during the next four years but particularly in 1937, when the weighted average nominal rate for Australia was 9s. 8d. per week more than in 1933. At the 31st December, 1937, rates were highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the quarter ended September, 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 dates specified.

WAGE RATES OF ADULT MALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES 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 1d.), and Index-Number at—							
	31st Dec., 1933.	31st Dec., 1934.	31st Dec., 1935.	31st Dec., 1936.	31st March, 1937.	30th June, 1937.	30th Sept., 1937.	31st Dec., 1937.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage .. 82/8 Index-No. 1,613	Wage .. 85/4 Index-No. 1,664	Wage .. 86/8 Index-No. 1,691	Wage .. 88/3 Index-No. 1,722	Wage .. 88/3 Index-No. 1,722	Wage .. 89/8 Index-No. 1,750	Wage .. 91/6 Index-No. 1,785	Wage .. 95/1 Index-No. 1,855
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage .. 81/4 Index-No. 1,587	Wage .. 83/2 Index-No. 1,623	Wage .. 85/3 Index-No. 1,663	Wage .. 86/10 Index-No. 1,694	Wage .. 87/8 Index-No. 1,712	Wage .. 89/3 Index-No. 1,741	Wage .. 91/4 Index-No. 1,782	Wage .. 94/11 Index-No. 1,852
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage .. 83/3 Index-No. 1,625	Wage .. 83/8 Index-No. 1,633	Wage .. 85/3 Index-No. 1,664	Wage .. 87/3 Index-No. 1,702	Wage .. 87/3 Index-No. 1,702	Wage .. 88/10 Index-No. 1,733	Wage .. 90/0 Index-No. 1,756	Wage .. 92/6 Index-No. 1,805
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage .. 76/7 Index-No. 1,494	Wage .. 79/11 Index-No. 1,559	Wage .. 80/0 Index-No. 1,576	Wage .. 81/4 Index-No. 1,587	Wage .. 81/6 Index-No. 1,590	Wage .. 82/3 Index-No. 1,605	Wage .. 85/8 Index-No. 1,672	Wage .. 89/0 Index-No. 1,737
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage .. 97/6 Index-No. 1,902	Wage .. 99/6 Index-No. 1,942	Wage .. 100/11 Index-No. 1,969	Wage .. 104/4 Index-No. 2,035	Wage .. 104/6 Index-No. 2,039	Wage .. 104/9 Index-No. 2,044	Wage .. 106/3 Index-No. 2,073	Wage .. 108/7 Index-No. 2,119
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage .. 79/5 Index-No. 1,549	Wage .. 81/4 Index-No. 1,587	Wage .. 83/0 Index-No. 1,619	Wage .. 85/2 Index-No. 1,661	Wage .. 85/7 Index-No. 1,670	Wage .. 86/2 Index-No. 1,681	Wage .. 88/3 Index-No. 1,722	Wage .. 91/3 Index-No. 1,780
VII. Building	Wage .. 92/3 Index-No. 1,800	Wage .. 93/8 Index-No. 1,828	Wage .. 94/2 Index-No. 1,836	Wage .. 95/7 Index-No. 1,866	Wage .. 95/7 Index-No. 1,865	Wage .. 97/0 Index-No. 1,893	Wage .. 98/8 Index-No. 1,925	Wage .. 101/7 Index-No. 1,982
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage .. 97/0 Index-No. 1,893	Wage .. 97/7 Index-No. 1,904	Wage .. 99/2 Index-No. 1,908	Wage .. 99/2 Index-No. 1,935	Wage .. 99/2 Index-No. 1,935	Wage .. 102/10 Index-No. 1,935	Wage .. 103/0 Index-No. 2,007	Wage .. 103/0 Index-No. 2,010
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage .. 80/4 Index-No. 1,567	Wage .. 82/8 Index-No. 1,613	Wage .. 84/9 Index-No. 1,653	Wage .. 86/0 Index-No. 1,677	Wage .. 86/0 Index-No. 1,678	Wage .. 87/9 Index-No. 1,712	Wage .. 90/5 Index-No. 1,764	Wage .. 92/4 Index-No. 1,802
X. Other Land Transport	Wage .. 76/9 Index-No. 1,497	Wage .. 78/9 Index-No. 1,537	Wage .. 80/1 Index-No. 1,562	Wage .. 81/8 Index-No. 1,593	Wage .. 81/8 Index-No. 1,594	Wage .. 82/11 Index-No. 1,618	Wage .. 84/5 Index-No. 1,647	Wage .. 88/3 Index-No. 1,722
XI. Shipping, etc.(a)	Wage .. 80/9 Index-No. 1,575	Wage .. 84/8 Index-No. 1,652	Wage .. 85/2 Index-No. 1,661	Wage .. 86/8 Index-No. 1,690	Wage .. 86/8 Index-No. 1,691	Wage .. 87/0 Index-No. 1,698	Wage .. 93/11 Index-No. 1,833	Wage .. 95/6 Index-No. 1,863
XII. Agricultural, etc.(b)	Wage .. 71/11 Index-No. 1,404	Wage .. 73/4 Index-No. 1,431	Wage .. 73/4 Index-No. 1,431	Wage .. 75/9 Index-No. 1,478	Wage .. 75/9 Index-No. 1,478	Wage .. 75/11 Index-No. 1,481	Wage .. 78/2 Index-No. 1,525	Wage .. 78/9 Index-No. 1,537
XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	Wage .. 74/10 Index-No. 1,460	Wage .. 75/9 Index-No. 1,478	Wage .. 76/8 Index-No. 1,496	Wage .. 79/1 Index-No. 1,543	Wage .. 79/4 Index-No. 1,548	Wage .. 80/8 Index-No. 1,574	Wage .. 81/9 Index-No. 1,595	Wage .. 85/3 Index-No. 1,663
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage .. 77/5 Index-No. 1,511	Wage .. 78/7 Index-No. 1,532	Wage .. 79/6 Index-No. 1,552	Wage .. 82/2 Index-No. 1,603	Wage .. 82/4 Index-No. 1,606	Wage .. 83/7 Index-No. 1,631	Wage .. 84/9 Index-No. 1,654	Wage .. 87/6 Index-No. 1,707
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage .. 80/6 Index-No. 1,570	Wage .. 82/0 Index-No. 1,599	Wage .. 82/10 Index-No. 1,617	Wage .. 84/10 Index-No. 1,656	Wage .. 85/0 Index-No. 1,659	Wage .. 85/11 Index-No. 1,677	Wage .. 88/1 Index-No. 1,718	Wage .. 90/2 Index-No. 1,760

(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, 1937, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 108s. 7d. per week, followed by Groups VIII. (Mining, 103s. per week ; VII. (Building), 101s. 7d. per week ; XI. (Shipping, etc.), 95s. 6d. per week ; I. (Wood Furniture, etc.), 95s. 1d. per week ; II. (Engineering, etc.), 94s. 11d. per week ; III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 92s. 6d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 78s. 9d. per week. During the year rates of wage increased in all groups, the greatest increases occurring in the following :—Shipping, etc., 8s. 10d. per week ; Engineering, etc., 8s. 1d. per week ; Clothing, Boots, etc., 7s. 8d. per week ; Wood, Furniture, etc., 6s. 10d. per week ; and other Land Transport, 6s. 7d. per week. The increase during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 5s. 4d. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1929 (101s. 2d.), the highest point recorded for that date in any year, wages at the end of the year 1937 showed a decrease of 11s. per week.

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

### WAGE RATES OF ADULT FEMALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.

Partulars.	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, 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 December, 1935 ..	44 11	44 2	48 0	42 5	49 1	44 10	45 0
31st December, 1936 ..	45 7	46 10	48 4	43 4	50 11	45 1	46 5
31st March, 1937 ..	45 8	47 1	48 6	43 6	50 11	45 2	46 7
30th June, 1937 ..	47 3	46 2	49 8	44 5	50 11	45 4	47 0
30th September, 1937 ..	47 10	47 10	50 6	45 3	51 6	47 4	48 1
31st December, 1937 ..	50 2	49 2	51 4	46 10	51 6	48 6	49 8

### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

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 December, 1935 ..	1,654	1,626	1,767	1,561	1,809	1,651	1,655
31st December, 1936 ..	1,677	1,722	1,780	1,594	1,873	1,661	1,708
31st March, 1937 ..	1,682	1,733	1,786	1,602	1,873	1,662	1,715
30th June, 1937 ..	1,739	1,700	1,828	1,634	1,873	1,669	1,729
30th September, 1937 ..	1,760	1,759	1,861	1,664	1,894	1,743	1,768
31st December, 1937 ..	1,848	1,810	1,889	1,724	1,894	1,785	1,828

(a) Weighted average.

(b) Calculated to nearest 1d.

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 four years, and the weighted average rate for Australia at 31st December, 1937, had advanced by 6s. 3d. per week over that ruling on 31st December, 1933. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the quarter ended 30th September, 1929, viz., 54s. 2d. 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.

WAGE RATES OF ADULT FEMALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.

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

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
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 December, 1935..	42 1	44 2	44 8	46 3	46 5	45 0
31st December, 1936..	43 1	44 9	45 8	47 1	50 9	46 5
31st March, 1937 ..	43 2	45 0	45 11	47 4	50 9	46 7
30th June, 1937 ..	44 1	45 3	46 3	48 8	50 5	47 0
30th September, 1937	44 6	46 8	47 3	49 6	51 0	48 1
31st December, 1937..	45 7	48 1	49 4	51 2	53 0	49 8

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

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 December, 1935..	1,549	1,625	1,645	1,701	1,708	1,655
31st December, 1936..	1,585	1,646	1,680	1,734	1,867	1,708
31st March, 1937 ..	1,589	1,655	1,690	1,743	1,867	1,715
30th June, 1937 ..	1,621	1,666	1,702	1,790	1,856	1,729
30th September, 1937	1,638	1,717	1,738	1,822	1,878	1,768
31st December, 1937..	1,677	1,770	1,815	1,883	1,952	1,828

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

During the year 1937 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups showed an increase as compared with those for the previous year, the greatest increases occurring in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 4s. 1d. per week; Groups I., II., V. and VI. (all other manufacturing) 3s. 8d. per week; and IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.) 3s. 4d. per week. The weighted average for all groups increased by 3s. 3d. per week.

3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1933 to 1937.—(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 1933 to 1937. 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 OF ADULT WORKERS

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
MALE WORKERS.								
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
31st Dec., 1936	Weekly Wage (a) ..	85/6	83/1	88/7	79/6	88/6	83/3	84/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.08	46.41	43.69	46.55	45.30	46.33	45.09
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/0½	1/10	2/1	1/9	2/0	1/9½	1/11½
31st Dec., 1937	Weekly Wage (a) ..	92/1	88/1	92/8	85/10	90/10	87/0	90/2
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.07	46.22	43.68	46.57	45.25	46.24	45.03
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2½	1/11½	2/2½	1/10½	2/0½	1/11	2/0½
FEMALE WORKERS.								
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
31st Dec., 1936	Weekly Wage ..	45/7	46/10	48/4	43/4	50/11	45/2	46/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	44.94	44.03	46.03	45.57	45.24	44.60
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	1/0½	1/0½	0/11½	1/1½	1/0	1/0½
31st Dec., 1937	Weekly Wage ..	50/2	49/2	51/4	46/10	51/6	48/6	49/8
	Working Hours ..	43.92	44.76	44.03	46.02	45.57	45.24	44.52
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1½	1/1½	1/2	1/0½	1/1½	1/0½	1/1½

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

(iii) *Index-Numbers.* 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 INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.—ADULT WORKERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia, 30th April, 1914\* = 1,000.)

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
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MALE WORKERS.

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
31st Dec., 1936	{ Weekly Wage	..	1,552	1,508	1,609	1,444	1,606	1,512	1,541
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	..	1,731	1,567	1,787	1,500	1,724	1,552	1,662
31st Dec., 1937	{ Weekly Wage	..	1,672	1,599	1,682	1,558	1,649	1,580	1,637
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	..	1,878	1,676	1,875	1,602	1,751	1,643	1,774

FEMALE WORKERS.

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
31st Dec., 1936	{ Weekly Wage	..	1,677	1,722	1,780	1,594	1,873	1,661	1,708
	{ Hourly Wage	..	1,875	1,883	1,985	1,700	2,018	1,803	1,881
31st Dec., 1937	{ Weekly Wage	..	1,848	1,810	1,889	1,724	1,894	1,785	1,828
	{ Hourly Wage	..	2,066	1,985	2,107	1,839	2,041	1,938	2,017

(a) See footnote to following table.

\* Approximate Weekly Rates—M = 55/1 ; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2 ; F = 0/6½.

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 make workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1933 to 1937.

#### HOURS OF LABOUR.

##### INDEX-NUMBERS OF WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR OF 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). Overtime is excluded.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
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
31st Dec., 1936	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.08	46.41	43.69	46.55	45.30	46.33	45.09
	Index-numbers ..	901	948	893	951	926	947	922
31st Dec., 1937	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.07	46.22	43.68	46.57	45.25	46.24	45.03
	Index-numbers ..	901	945	893	952	925	945	920

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

5. **Nominal and Effective Wages.**—(i) *General.* Wages are said to be *nominal* when they represent the actual amounts of money received in return for labour, and are described as *effective* or *real* when expressed in terms of their equivalent purchasing power, that is, their purchasing power over some definite composite unit or regimen the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between nominal and effective or real wages was discussed at some length in Labour Report No. 6, and was also referred to in Labour Report No. 11.

Since it is possible to measure purchasing power over more than one composite unit or regimen it is equally possible to convert any given nominal wage series into more than one series of effective or real wages. It has been the practice of the Bureau in the past to compute effective wage index-numbers by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series). While wage-rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" series index-numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. Now that the Commonwealth Court has abandoned the "A" series, the merit of the "C" series of retail price index-numbers for "deflating" nominal wage rates is strengthened. The "C" series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five roomed houses, clothing, and miscellaneous household requirements. In the following tables, therefore, real wages are measured in terms of their purchasing power over both the "A" series regimen and the "C" series regimen. For some purposes the one is appropriate and for some purposes the other.

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers 1901 to 1937—States.* The following table shows the course of nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities. 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.

(Base : Weighted Average Wage for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1935.										
New South Wales	158	874	858	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,012	1,638	1,617	1,631	1,654	1,723
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,062	1,803	1,964	1,502	1,523	1,550	1,583	1,665
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,035	1,879	1,976	1,720	1,727	1,731	1,728	1,774
South Australia ..	134	567	819	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,891	1,423	1,458	1,493	1,533	1,608
Western Australia	69	485	1,052	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,960	1,584	1,619	1,641	1,688	1,748
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,027	1,745	1,840	1,519	1,540	1,571	1,610	1,656
Australia (a) ..	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,081	1,827	1,972	1,584	1,590	1,609	1,635	1,703

(a) Weighted average.

(iii) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers in each State, 1901-1937.* In the following tables the index-numbers for the years prior to 1914 are computed from nominal wage index-numbers based on rates current at the end of December, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and following years, however, they are computed from nominal wage index-numbers based on the average of rates current at the end of the four quarters of each year. So far as the years 1901 and 1911 are concerned, however, the index-numbers may be taken as substantially accurate, since the movement in wages during the course of any one year prior to 1914 was comparatively slight.

In obtaining the index-numbers for each State the nominal wage index-numbers for each State have been divided by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000.

## EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR ADULT MALES (FULL WORK).

Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "A" series regimen.

(Base : Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1929.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
New South Wales	961	973	906	911	1,050	1,160	1,150	1,138	1,101	1,095	1,090	1,107
Victoria ..	915	1,037	961	875	1,084	1,162	1,126	1,139	1,114	1,092	1,075	1,099
Queensland ..	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,036	1,220	1,345	1,376	1,417	1,377	1,323	1,261	1,237
South Australia ..	948	957	929	853	1,067	1,178	1,133	1,152	1,144	1,149	1,143	1,151
Western Australia	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,012	1,143	1,232	1,212	1,246	1,221	1,224	1,221	1,224
Tasmania ..	827	838	942	830	1,064	1,104	1,067	1,094	1,080	1,099	1,094	1,088
Australia (a) ..	964	1,000	948	911	1,082	1,185	1,168	1,178	1,148	1,133	1,119	1,131

(a) Weighted average.

Since the "C" series index-numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed for the purpose of the following table that fluctuations between 1911, the base of the table, and 1914 in the "C" series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" series.

## EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR ADULT MALES (FULL WORK).

Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "C" series regimen.

(Base : Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1929.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
New South Wales	..	..	925	850	1,130	1,210	1,206	1,186	1,157	1,153	1,150	1,168
Victoria ..	..	..	954	806	1,164	1,200	1,150	1,147	1,146	1,134	1,131	1,155
Queensland ..	..	..	1,022	957	1,290	1,336	1,366	1,382	1,366	1,338	1,296	1,277
South Australia ..	..	..	914	776	1,099	1,137	1,079	1,086	1,091	1,097	1,101	1,128
Western Australia	..	..	1,043	838	1,152	1,189	1,158	1,177	1,177	1,187	1,190	1,214
Tasmania ..	..	..	902	758	1,108	1,120	1,094	1,110	1,109	1,115	1,128	1,141
Australia (a) ..	..	..	1,000	948	1,151	1,210	1,190	1,187	1,174	1,166	1,160	1,177

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over any period of years.

(iv) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers in the Commonwealth, 1901-37.* In the following table similar index-numbers are given for Australia as a whole. These are obtained by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers for Australia by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities and multiplying by 1,000.

### NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS (FULL WORK).

(Base : Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	Nominal Weekly Wage Index- Numbers.	Retail Price Index-numbers.		Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers, i.e., Relative Purchasing Power over Regimen of—	
		" A " Series (Food, Groceries and Rent of All Houses).	" C " Series (All Items).	" A " Series.	" C " Series.
1901 .. .. .	848	880	..	964	..
1910 .. .. .	955	970	..	985	..
1911 .. .. .	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	(1,000)
1912 .. .. .	1,051	1,101	..	955	..
1913 .. .. .	1,076	1,104	..	975	..
1914 .. .. .	1,081	1,140	1,140	948	948
1915 .. .. .	1,092	1,278	1,297	854	842
1916 .. .. .	1,144	1,324	1,319	864	867
1917 .. .. .	1,226	1,318	1,406	930	872
1918 .. .. .	1,270	1,362	1,501	932	846
1919 .. .. .	1,370	1,510	1,695	907	808
1920 .. .. .	1,627	1,785	1,935	911	841
1921 .. .. .	1,826	1,697	1,680	1,076	1,087
1922 .. .. .	1,801	1,600	1,619	1,126	1,112
1923 .. .. .	1,805	1,700	1,664	1,062	1,085
1924 .. .. .	1,840	1,681	1,637	1,095	1,124
1925 .. .. .	1,861	1,722	1,654	1,081	1,125
1926 .. .. .	1,914	1,786	1,677	1,072	1,141
1927 .. .. .	1,946	1,766	1,662	1,102	1,171
1928 .. .. .	1,963	1,760	1,675	1,115	1,172
1929 .. .. .	1,972	1,822	1,713	1,082	1,151
1930 .. .. .	1,939	1,683	1,618	1,152	1,198
1931 .. .. .	1,752	1,479	1,448	1,185	1,210
1932 .. .. .	1,639	1,403	1,377	1,168	1,190
1933 .. .. .	1,584	1,345	1,335	1,178	1,187
1934 .. .. .	1,590	1,385	1,355	1,148	1,173
1935 .. .. .	1,609	1,420	1,380	1,133	1,166
1936 .. .. .	1,635	1,461	1,409	1,119	1,160
1937 .. .. .	1,704	1,507	1,448	1,131	1,177

NOTE.—For years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers 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.

### § 3. The Basic Wage in Australia.

1. *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 Commonwealth 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.

2. *The Commonwealth Basic Wage*.—(i) *General*. 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 day 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 (“A” Series), 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 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 1,000 as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made in the case of 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 as a general “loading” 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. In the same year the system was instituted of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to accord with variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the “A” Series retail price index-numbers.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the “basic” wage, or any alteration thereof including the principles on which it is computed, together with any variation or interpretation of any award involving any such alteration, shall 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 that Court. By a

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

† *Ibid.*

‡ As these indexes covered only about 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.

judgment of the High Court on the 21st April, 1933, the "basic" wage is taken to mean for the foregoing purpose, not only the "Harvester" wage but any "loadings" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer. 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." The wage payable for skilled labour is assessed on the basis of the "basic" wage, including "loadings."

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 hindered such a review which was regarded as less urgent by reason of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being automatically adjusted to changes in retail prices. A Royal Commission (referred to later) was appointed in 1920 to assess a basic wage, but its recommendations were not carried out.

No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of the depression, which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court by employers for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that afforded by the automatic adjustments to falling retail prices. An account of the proceedings which resulted in the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from the 1st February, 1931, is given in Labour Report No. 23, page 74. Reference is also made to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to remove this special reduction.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1934. The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued as the theoretical basis of the wage of the Commonwealth Court until 31st May, 1934, when it was superseded by a judgment delivered on 17th April, 1934, full particulars of which appear in preceding issues of the Year Book. The basic wage declared on this occasion (known as the "Restoration Basic Wage, 1934") was as follows for the six capital cities:—

			<i>s. d.</i>				<i>s. d.</i>
Sydney	..	..	67 0	Adelaide	..	..	64 0
Melbourne	..	..	64 0	Perth	..	..	66 0
Brisbane	..	..	61 0	Hobart	..	..	67 0

Six Capital Cities, 65s. od.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the basis of the periodical adjustments to retail price variations was transferred from the "A" Series to the "C" Series of Index-Numbers. The latter Series covers Food and Groceries; Rent of 4-roomed and 5-roomed Houses; Clothing; Fuel; Light; Household Utensils; Household Drapery; Fares; and other Miscellaneous household requirements. The base of the table (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. per week. This gave the above rates for the capital cities, which are proportionate to their respective index-numbers. In effect, the new rate for the Six Capital Cities was the same as that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers" 3s., and without the 10 per cent. reduction. Certain towns gained and others lost in comparison with rates under the "A" Series, owing to the different relationship of towns under the "A" and the "C" Series.

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1937. In May, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined Unions for an increase in the basic wage. The Unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" Series Index be increased from 81s. to 93s. which on current index-numbers would have represented an average increase of about 10s. per week. The hearing extended from 10th May, to 4th June, 1937, and the Court delivered judgment on 23rd June. The chief features of the judgment were—

(a) Various amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" on the rates that would have been payable under the "shilling table" as determined by the 1934 judgment. The latter was referred to in the judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wage. The "loadings" and resultant "total basic wages" for the six capital cities were as follows :—

City.	" Needs " Basic Wage.		" Loading." "		Total Basic Wage.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Sydney .. .. .	72	0	6	0	78	0
Melbourne .. .. .	69	0	6	0	75	0
Brisbane .. .. .	68	0	6	0	74	0
Adelaide .. .. .	68	0 (a)	4	0	72	0
Perth .. .. .	70	0 (a)	4	0	74	0
Hobart .. .. .	70	0 (b)	4	0	74	0
Six Capitals .. .. .	70	0	5	0	75	0

(a) An additional 1s. was actually being paid under the " 2s. minimum adjustment " provision.

(b) Represents 1s. gain on rate actually being paid.

The above were not to apply to railway employees, to whom the Court granted "loadings" of 5s. in New South Wales and Victoria, and 3s. in South Australia and Tasmania. Workers in the provincial towns were to receive "loadings" 6s. in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland; and 4s. in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. The Maritime workers were granted a "loading" of 21s. 6d. per month, and the Pastoral workers received increases proportionate to the increase of the flat basic rate, from 68s. to 77s. in respect of the basis of piece work rates. Station hands received an increase of 3s. per week.

The "loadings" were to come into operation by instalments as follows :—

" Loading."	Instalments.	Date of Operation. (First pay period to begin in—)
s. d.	s. d.	
6 0	3 0	July, 1937
	3 0	October, "
5 0	3 0	July, "
	2 0	October, "
4 0	2 0	July, "
	2 0	October, "
3 0	2 0	July, "
	1 0	October, "

The Maritime, Pastoral and Gas Workers' increases were to become fully operative in the first pay period in July.

(b) The former proviso that no adjustment of wages should take place unless the amount of variation reached at least 2s. was rescinded in favour of minimum variations of 1s. per week.

(c) The general policy laid down in the previous judgment in regard to rates for country towns was retained, with the exception that the rates for Geelong and Warrnambool were made the same as those for Melbourne.

(d) The basis of the adjustment of wages in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index-numbers was transferred from the "C" Series to a special "Court" Series based upon the "C" Series.

(e) Female and Junior rates were left for adjustment by individual Judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the Judgment were reprinted in the previous issue of the Official Year Book.

(iv) *Current Federal Basic Wage Rates.* The basic wage rates of the Federal Court operative from 1st December, 1938, are as follows, including the "loadings" referred to above :—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
New South Wales—			South Australia—		
Sydney ..	81	0	Adelaide ..	76	0
Newcastle ..	81	0	Five Towns ..	76	0
Broken Hill ..	82	0			
Five Towns ..	81	0	Western Australia—		
			Perth ..	76	0
Victoria—			Kalgoorlie ..	90	0
Melbourne ..	79	0	Geraldton ..	82	0
Geelong ..			Five Towns ..	77	0
Warrnambool ..					
Mildura ..			Tasmania—		
Yallourn ..	85	6	Hobart ..	76	0
Five Towns ..	79	0	Launceston ..	75	0
			Queenstown (a) ..	66	6
Queensland—			Five Towns ..	75	0
Brisbane ..	75	0	Thirty Towns ..	78	0
Five Towns ..	76	0	Six Capital Cities ..	78	0

(a) Fixed wage.

With the exception of those mentioned above, the rate for provincial towns is 3s. less than that of their respective capital cities.

3. *State Basic Wages.*—(i) *New South Wales.* The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard living wage for adult male employees was made on the 16th February, 1914, by the Court of Industrial Arbitration. The Board of Trade was established in 1918 with power to determine the living wage for adult male and female employees in the State; the Board made numerous declarations from 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 established the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, which exercised the powers of the Board of Trade from the 15th April, 1926.

The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife, and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent children.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates shown in the following table; a living wage for rural workers of £3 6s. per week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921, and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927 to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn.

The variations in the living wages determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales up to 27th April, 1937, are shown in the following table. Thereafter changes are made automatically in accordance with the procedure outlined in the next paragraph, and the latest current rate payable will be found in the table in par. vi of this section.

## BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Male.		Female.	
Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.	Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
16th February, 1914 ..	2 8 0	..	..
17th December, 1915 ..	2 12 6	..	..
18th August, 1916 ..	2 15 6	..	..
5th September, 1918 ..	3 0 0	17th December, 1918 ..	1 10 0
8th October, 1919 ..	3 17 0	23rd December, 1919 ..	1 19 0
8th October, 1920 ..	4 5 0	23rd December, 1920 ..	2 3 0
8th October, 1921 ..	4 2 0	22nd December, 1921 ..	2 1 0
12th May, 1922 ..	3 18 0	9th October, 1922 ..	1 19 6
10th April, 1923 ..	3 19 0	(a) ..	2 0 0
7th September, 1923 ..	4 2 0	..	2 1 6
24th August, 1925 ..	4 4 0	..	2 2 6
27th June, 1927 ..	4 5 0	..	2 6 0
20th December, 1929 ..	4 2 6	..	2 4 6
26th August, 1932 ..	3 10 0	..	1 18 0
11th April, 1933 ..	3 8 6	..	1 17 0
20th October, 1933 ..	3 6 6	..	1 16 0
26th April, 1934 ..	3 7 6	..	1 16 6
18th April, 1935 ..	3 8 6	..	1 17 0
24th April, 1936 ..	3 9 0	..	(b) 1 17 6
27th October, 1936 ..	3 10 0	..	1 18 0
27th April, 1937 ..	3 11 6	..	1 18 6

(a) Dates of declaration from 1923 on same as those for male rate.

(b) Rate declared, £1 15s. 6d., but law amended to provide a rate for females at 54 per cent. of that for males.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court referred to on page 570, the Government of New South Wales decided to bring the State Basic Wage into line with the Federal rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act to give effect thereto. The Act (No. 9 of 1937) was passed on 7th October, 1937, and was expressed to come into operation from the commencement of the first pay period in October, practically from 1st October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable, and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations of retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's "All Items" Retail Price Index Numbers, shortly known as the "Court" Series of Index Numbers. The Commonwealth Court's principle of treating the "prosperity loadings" as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility of altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the intentions of the new Act; to define boundaries within which the various rates are to operate; and to specify the appropriate "Court" Series retail price index-numbers to which they are to be related.

Compared with State adult basic wages of £3 11s. 6d. per week for males, and £1 18s. 6d. for females operative at the time, the alteration represented for males increases of 6s. 6d. in Sydney; 3s. 6d. in Country districts (with certain exceptions); and 4s. 6d. for railway and other Crown employees as defined by the Act. For females the increases were 54 per cent. of the foregoing, and amounted to 3s. 6d., 3s., and 2s. 6d., respectively.

The latest rates applicable in the metropolitan area from 1st December, 1938, are £4 1s. for males and £2 3s. 6d. for females.

The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age is operative in New South Wales, and a brief account of the main features of the system appears in § 4, par. 2 hereafter.

(ii) *Victoria and Tasmania.* 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 variations in retail prices has been followed in the past by these bodies. In the case of Victoria, by amendments of the Factories and Shops Act No. 4275 of 1934 and No. 4461 of 1936, it is now obligatory on all Wages Boards to adopt such provisions of Commonwealth Awards which such Boards are under the Factory and Shops Acts empowered to include in their determinations. The Secretary of Labour is also empowered under this Act to make adjustments of wages according to variations in retail price index-numbers without calling the Board together.

(iii) *Queensland.* The first formal declaration by the Industrial Arbitration Court in this State of a basic wage was gazetted on 24th February, 1921. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. per week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its Awards as the basic or living wage. The basic wage is nominally intended to provide for the needs of a man, his wife and three children. The variations in the adult basic wages determined by the Industrial Arbitration Court are shown below :—

#### BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN QUEENSLAND.

Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.					
	Male.			Female.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st March, 1921.. .. .	4	5	0	2	3	0
1st March, 1922.. .. .	4	0	0	2	1	0
28th September, 1925 (a).. .. .	4	5	0	2	3	0
1st August, 1930 .. .. .	4	0	0	2	1	0
1st December, 1930 .. .. .	3	17	0	1	19	6
1st July, 1931 .. .. .	3	14	0	1	19	0
1st April, 1937 .. .. .	3	18	0	2	1	0
1st April, 1938 .. .. .	4	1	0	2	3	0

(a) Fixed by Basic Wage Act.

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the South-Eastern Division of the State : allowances are added for the following divisions—Northern, 10s. ; North-Western, 17s. 4d. ; Mackay, 5s. 6d. ; and South-Western, 7s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.

(iv) *South Australia.* The Industrial Code 1920 provides that the Board of Industry shall after public inquiry declare the living wages to be paid to adult male and female employees. Prior to the passing of this Act the living wage was declared by the Industrial Court, the first award, 7s. per day, being made by Mr. Justice Gordon in the Brushmakers' Case in December, 1908.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. per week.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but it is stated that the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 definitely decided that the average employee in respect of whom the living wage is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The variations in the living wages determined by the Board of Industry are shown below :—

### BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.\*

Male.		Female.	
Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.	Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
15th July, 1921 ..	3 19 6	11th August, 1921 ..	1 15 0
11th April, 1922 ..	3 17 6	..	..
19th October, 1923 ..	3 18 6	..	..
30th April, 1924 ..	4 2 0	22nd October, 1924 ..	1 18 0
29th July, 1925 ..	4 5 6	17th August, 1925 ..	1 19 6
11th October, 1930 ..	3 15 0	22nd December, 1930 ..	1 15 0
17th August, 1931 ..	3 3 0	4th December, 1931 ..	1 11 6
18th October, 1935 ..	3 6 0	24th December, 1935 ..	1 13 0
18th December, 1936 ..	3 9 6	9th April, 1937 ..	1 14 9
25th November, 1937 ..	3 14 0	25th November, 1937 ..	1 16 6

(v) *Western Australia.* The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1934 provides that the Court of Arbitration shall determine and declare a basic wage to operate from 1st July of each year and, wherever and whenever necessary, differential basic rates in special or defined areas of the State. In an amending Act of 1930 provision is made for quarterly adjustments when the Government Statistician reports a variation in the cost of living of 1s. or more per week compared with the previous quarter.

The first declaration of the basic wage by the Court of Arbitration since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court in 1925 was made on 11th June, 1926. The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis for its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children. The variations in the annual declarations of the Court of Arbitration are shown in the following table :—

### BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Date of Operation.	Metropolitan Area.		South-West Land Division.		Other Parts of State.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st July, 1926 ..	4 5 0	2 5 11	..	..	4 5 0	2 5 11
1st July, 1929 ..	4 7 0	2 7 0	..	..	4 7 0	2 7 0
1st July, 1930 ..	4 6 0	2 6 5	..	..	4 5 0	2 5 11
1st July, 1931 ..	3 18 0	2 2 2	..	..	3 17 0	2 1 8
1st July, 1932 ..	3 12 0	1 18 11	3 13 6	1 19 8	3 18 0	2 2 2
1st July, 1933 ..	3 8 0	1 16 9	3 9 6	1 17 6	3 17 6	2 1 10
1st July, 1934 ..	3 9 6	1 17 5	3 10 0	1 17 10	3 19 6	2 2 11
1st July, 1935 ..	3 10 6	1 18 1	3 11 2	1 18 5	4 4 4	2 5 6
1st July, 1936 ..	3 10 6	1 18 1	3 11 9	1 18 9	4 6 0	2 6 5
1st July, 1937 ..	3 13 9	1 19 10	3 14 8	2 0 4	4 7 0	2 7 0
26th July, 1937(b) ..	3 14 11	2 0 5	3 15 10	2 0 11	4 7 0	2 7 0
1st July, 1938 ..	4 0 0	2 3 2	4 1 0	2 3 9	4 13 3	2 10 4
30th July, 1938(b) ..	4 1 1	2 3 9	4 1 0	2 3 9	4 15 2	2 11 5

(a) Excluding Gold-fields areas, where rates were the same as those operating from 1st July, 1926.

(b) Quarterly adjustment.

(vi) *Current State Basic Wage Rates.* In the following table are given the current basic wage rates declared by the various State tribunals:—

### 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) 4 1 0	2 3 6	1.12.38	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	4 1 0	2 3 0	1.4.38	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	(c) 3 14 0	(d) 1 16 6	25.11.37	" " "
Western Australia ..	(e) 4 1 1	2 3 9	30.7.38	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 January, 1937. (d) Operative from 23rd April, 1937. (e) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Gold-fields Areas and portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males £4 15s. 2d.; females £2 11s. 5d.; Agricultural Areas and S.W. Land Division—males £4 2s. 2d.; females £2 4s. 4d.

4. **Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.**—The Federal basic wage referred to in par. 2 (1) *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 carried out owing largely 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.

### § 4. Child Endowment in Australia.

1. **General.**—The principal 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.†

2. **New South Wales.**—The first attempt in Australia to institute the system was made 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, but the subject again came up in the Session of 1926–27, when Acts,‡ which

\* 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.

have been amended during subsequent years, provided for the payment of child allowances. 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 to 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 23rd July, 1927. The basic wage was determined for a family unit of a man, wife and one child on 20th December, 1929, and an amending Act, assented to on the 23rd December, 1929, excluded one child in each family from endowment. The fund from which child endowment payments were originally made was created by a levy on the wages bill of employers. The rate of tax from employers during the year 1930 was fixed at 1 per cent. 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 wages above £3 per week. The levy was discontinued as from 1st January, 1934, the cost of endowment being met from the Special Income and Wages Tax, which is also used for other social services.

3. **Commonwealth Public Service.**—The first system of child endowment in Australia was instituted within the Commonwealth Public Service. It came into operation on 1st November, 1920, when, 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, these allowances were confirmed as a permanent part of the salary scheme, and the necessary fund to meet them was created by deducting the average value of the payment from the basic wage of all adult officers. In effect, therefore, 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.

4. **National Scheme.**—The Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt a scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. 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

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

† The 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.

the States were not prepared to relinquish. 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 that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left 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.

### § 5. 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.

## D.—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.

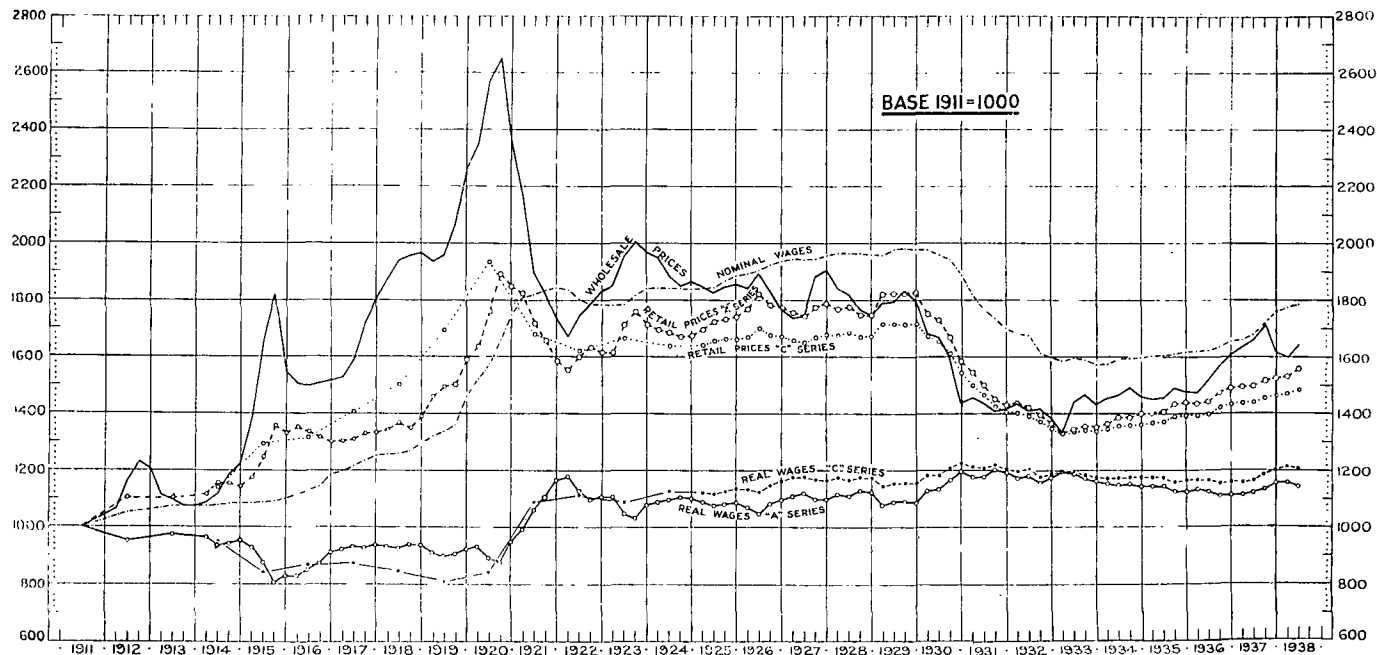
In annual tabulations particulars are included of all disputes which either *commenced* or were *current* during the year under review. As regards "number of disputes", "establishments involved", and "workpeople involved", therefore, duplication will take place in respect of those disputes which started 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, 1937.**—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1937, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the previous years was published in preceding issues of the Official Year Book and Labour Report:—

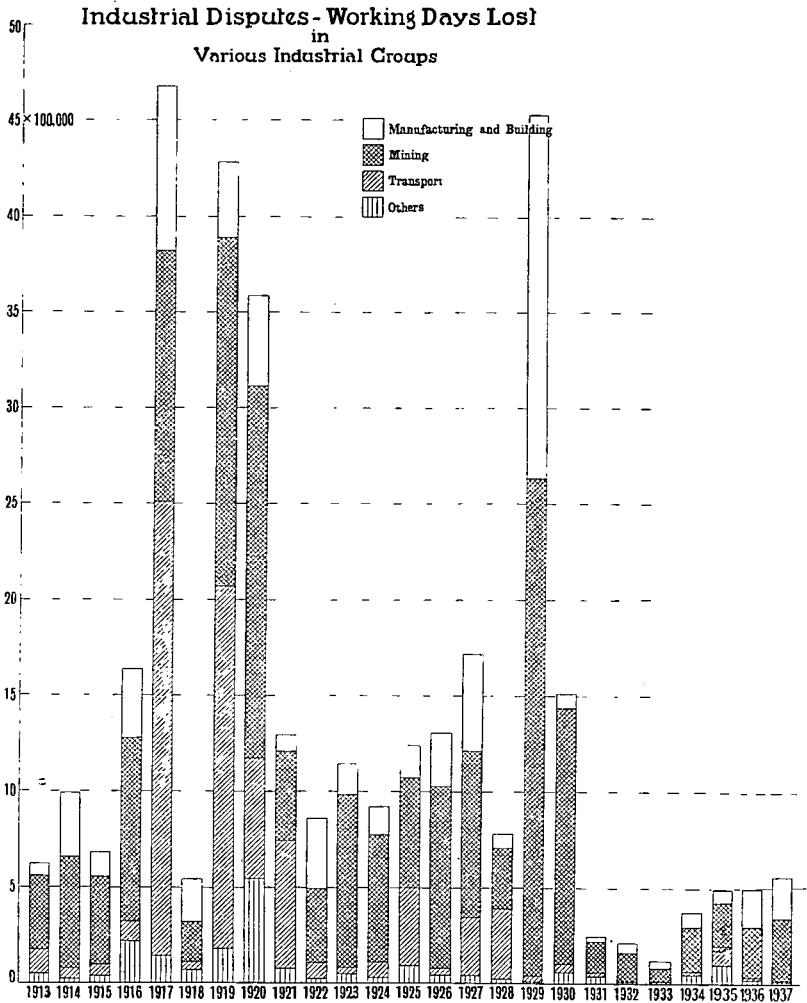
#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1937.

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.								
I.	Wood, saw-mills, etc. . .	1	1	15	..	15	30	30
II.	Engineering, metal workers, etc. . .	22	103	8,210	1,743	9,953	166,925	128,738
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	8	8	1,272	375	1,647	4,836	4,222
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc. . .	4	4	600	..	600	2,890	2,064
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	5	5	1,496	..	1,496	3,706	2,148
VII.	Building . . .	1	1	15	..	15	90	101
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining . . .	237	251	67,873	1,292	69,165	230,575	243,975
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. . .	7	7	2,991	..	2,991	16,687	16,055
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	2	2	240	..	240	2,040	1,800
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	9	9	1,611	105	1,716	6,838	4,025
	Total . . .	296	391	84,323	3,515	87,838	434,617	403,158

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1938.



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the above graph are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. They are shown *quarterly* from the year 1912 in the case of the "A" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries and rent of all houses) and Wholesale Prices (Melbourne). The "C" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5 rooms, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown *quarterly* from the year 1925. Nominal Wages are shown *quarterly* from 1914, and Real Wages *quarterly* from 1914 for the "A" Series, and from 1925 for the "C" Series.



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.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1937—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Estab-lish-ments In-volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti-mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
VICTORIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mills, etc.	1	1	30	..	30	2,490	1,678
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	1	1	53	..	53	159	80
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	774	28	802	11,228	7,742
VII.	Building	1	1	5	10	15	90	110
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	5	5	2,605	6	2,611	53,272	46,672
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	2	303	..	303	3,514	900
	Total	11	11	3,770	44	3,814	70,753	57,182
QUEENSLAND.								
II.	Engineering, metal workers, etc.	4	4	90	134	224	3,373	2,896
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	2	165	35	200	5,000	5,000
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	3	3	327	10	337	6,836	7,441
X.	Other land transport	1	1	200	..	200	200	150
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	1	10	24	34	272	212
	Total	10	11	792	203	995	15,681	15,699
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mills, etc.	1	10	100	..	100	2,600	1,350
II.	Engineering, metal workers, etc.	1	1	30	..	30	60	70
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	687	..	687	687	600
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	380	..	380	380	300
VIII.	(b) Other mining, etc.	1	1	30	..	30	60	60
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	30	52	82	164	84
	Total	6	15	1,257	52	1,309	3,951	2,464
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mills, etc.	1	1	220	..	220	5,720	4,040
II.	Engineering, metal workers, etc.	2	2	101	..	101	900	634
III.	Food, drink, etc.	2	28	310	5	315	1,085	1,185
V.	Books, printing, etc.	1	2	35	15	50	1,000	841
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	7	250	200	450	1,800	2,000
VIII.	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	3	3	448	..	448	3,545	3,550
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	1	19	..	19	285	260
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	62	..	62	62	60
	Total	12	45	1,445	220	1,665	14,397	12,570
TASMANIA.								
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	4	7	374	5	379	17,016	14,964
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
VIII.	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	61	13	74	444	468
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	1	81	..	81	162	150
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	18	..	18	90	90
	Total	3	3	160	13	173	696	708
AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mills, etc.	4	13	365	..	365	10,840	7,008
II.	Engineering, metal workers, etc.	29	110	8,431	1,877	10,308	171,258	132,338
III.	Food, drink, etc.	12	39	2,434	415	2,849	11,608	11,007
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	5	5	633	..	633	3,049	2,144
V.	Books, printing, etc.	1	2	35	15	50	1,000	841
VI.	Other manufacturing	8	14	2,900	228	3,128	17,114	12,190
VII.	Building	2	2	20	10	30	180	211
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	249	266	71,179	1,313	72,492	307,699	313,052
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	12	12	3,530	13	3,543	20,736	20,133
X.	Other land transport	1	1	200	..	200	200	150
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	5	5	350	24	374	2,750	2,422
XIV.	Miscellaneous	14	14	2,024	157	2,181	10,668	5,159
	Total	342	483	92,121	4,052	96,173	557,111	500,745

3. **Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1933 to 1937.**—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 1933 to 1937, 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 73 per cent. of the total. In the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work people engaged in coal-mining amounted to 933,336, 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.							
1933	16	..	52	6	1	15	90
1934	13	1	91	9	6	35	155
1935	21	4	108	9	21	20	183
1936	30	3	171	13	3	15	235
1937	59	2	249	12	6	14	342
1933-37	139	10	671	49	37	99	1,005

#### WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1933 ..	5,361	..	17,461	5,415	50	1,826	30,113
1934 ..	7,284	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
1936 ..	5,480	581	45,600	7,022	375	1,529	60,587
1937 ..	17,353	30	72,492	3,543	574	2,181	96,173
1933-37 ..	39,564	714	190,694	26,637	10,310	17,134	285,053

#### WORKING DAYS LOST.

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
1936 ..	199,641	2,337	224,113	37,582	8,087	25,488	497,248
1937 ..	214,869	180	307,699	20,736	2,959	10,668	557,111
1933-37 ..	582,436	3,919	933,336	191,927	125,922	194,285	2,031,825

#### ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

1933 ..	£ 23,407	£ ..	£ 44,927	£ 23,683	£ 90	£ 2,941	£ 95,048
1934 ..	49,304	80	186,027	37,806	10,164	34,328	317,859
1935 ..	47,079	1,143	164,648	57,791	61,249	58,686	390,596
1936 ..	160,259	1,846	249,767	36,408	5,480	15,065	468,825
1937 ..	165,618	211	313,052	20,133	2,572	5,159	506,745
1933-37 ..	445,727	3,280	958,421	175,911	79,555	116,179	1,779,073

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1933 to 1937.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1933 to 1937 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.	Indirectly.	Total.		
New South Wales	1933	54	143	13,406	1,663	15,069	53,104	48,760
	1934	117	129	33,065	2,943	36,008	213,753	196,265
	1935	134	162	31,350	2,055	33,405	301,345	237,707
	1936	188	231	50,557	1,728	52,285	432,513	414,375
	1937	296	391	84,323	3,515	87,838	434,617	403,158
Victoria	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
	1936	10	22	1,599	224	1,823	12,251	9,899
	1937	11	11	3,770	44	3,814	70,753	57,182
Queensland	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
	1936	12	12	1,052	194	1,246	14,053	12,325
	1937	10	11	792	203	995	15,681	15,699
South Australia	1933	1	1	50	..	50	100	90
	1934	1	1	44	..	44	11	17
	1935	3	5	340	..	340	2,463	1,557
	1936	1	1	101	..	101	505	400
	1937	6	15	1,257	52	1,309	3,951	2,464
Western Australia	1933	10	10	3,644	276	3,920	16,896	14,530
	1934	10	16	3,309	176	3,485	17,792	14,099
	1935	11	29	3,597	6	3,603	71,976	61,901
	1936	19	49	3,408	1,309	4,717	32,408	27,714
	1937	12	45	1,445	220	1,665	14,397	12,570
Tasmania	1933	1	1	75	..	75	1,200	1,050
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1935	1	1	70	4	74	148	91
	1936	4	4	369	6	375	3,718	3,212
	1937	4	7	374	5	379	17,016	14,964
Northern Territory	1933	1	1	21	8	29	87	125
	1934	1	1	18	2	20	240	240
	1935	1	1	4	..	4	128	100
	1936	1	1	32	8	40	1,200	900
	1937	3	3	160	13	173	696	708
Aust. Cap. Territory	1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1935	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1936	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1937	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1933	90	195	26,988	3,125	30,113	111,956	95,048
	1934	155	1,061	46,063	3,895	50,858	370,386	317,859
	1935	183	257	44,813	2,509	47,322	495,124	390,596
	1936	235	320	57,118	3,469	60,587	497,248	468,825
	1937	342	483	92,121	4,052	96,173	557,111	506,745

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during the years 1933 to 1937 and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

5. Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1937.—(i) *General.* The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1937 classified according to Industrial Groups. Increases occurred in several of the principal groups during 1937 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 73 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 £243,975, or 48 per cent. of the total estimated loss of wages in Australia, viz., £506,745. 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.

(ii) *Interstate.*—(a) *General.*—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 1937 no dispute of an interstate character occurred.

*New South Wales.*—Alleged irritation tactics by the unions concerned in a demand for an increase in wages of 3s. per week resulted in a lock-out by metal trades employers in Sydney in March, 1937. Fifty-five establishments and about 2,000 employees were involved in this dispute which lasted for more than six weeks. Negotiations between the Metal Trades Employers' Association and Union officials brought the dispute to a conclusion satisfactory to the employees concerned.

A claim by two miners for "deficient place" was the cause of a stoppage involving 150 workpeople at Scarborough in April, 1937. Direct negotiations having failed to effect a settlement of the dispute, a Compulsory Conference was called by the Conciliation Commissioner, and as a result the parties concerned agreed to abide by the decision of an arbitrator mutually agreed upon. The arbitrator granted the claim made by the miners and work was resumed after a stoppage of nearly three months.

Engineers at Morts Dock, Sydney, were involved in a dispute in September, 1937, caused by the refusal of the employees to accept an interpretation of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court of a clause in its award. Negotiations between representatives of the parties to the dispute finally resulted in the employees' demands being granted. Work was resumed by the 167 workpeople involved after a stoppage of more than six months.

Approximately 900 coalminers were involved in a dispute at the John Darling and Burwood Collieries, Belmont in September, 1937. The cause of the stoppage was reported to be the objection by the employees to the company choosing men to operate coal loading machines without regard to seniority. After a stoppage of nearly three months direct negotiations between the parties resulted in a resumption of work on conditions similar to those operating before the dispute.

*Victoria.*—The question of safety was the principal cause of a dispute involving coalminers at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, in March, 1937. Approximately 800 workpeople were affected and operations at the colliery were suspended for a period of about two months. Several conferences between the parties were held but no satisfactory settlement of the matters in dispute could be arrived at. Finally, at a conference convened by the Acting Premier on 7th May, the representatives of all parties concerned unanimously accepted proposals which formed a basis for settlement of the dispute. These proposals were :—

- (1) Pending enactment by the Victorian Parliament of legislation amending the Coal Mines Regulation Act the provisions of the New South Wales Act with regard to—
  - (a) the introduction of safety lamps;
  - (b) conditions relating to their use; and
  - (c) provisions relating to shot-firing shall apply to the State Coal Mine.
- (2) The Railways Commissioners and Mine Manager undertake to act according to the instructions of the Inspector of Mines in the matter of "grunching" pending any appeal by them to a Court to be created when required, similar to the Court of Coal Mines Regulation under the New South Wales Act.
- (3) This arrangement is not to prejudice the right of the Miners' Federation to submit, at the proper time, suggested amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1928.

*Tasmania.*—A demand by contract miners for a guaranteed minimum wage owing to hard coal was given as the cause of a stoppage at Cornwall Colliery in February, 1937. Several conferences of the parties concerned were held but the proposals for settlement were rejected by the miners. However, in June, the miners decided to accept an agreement by which the company granted practically all the conditions asked at the beginning of the dispute, and the 98 workpeople involved resumed work after a stoppage of nearly five months.

6. Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1937.—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes during 1937 according to certain adopted limits of duration :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1937.

Limits of Duration.	Num-ber.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less .. .. .	140	41,050	966	42,016	42,016	44,649
2 days and more than 1 day ..	72	17,695	307	18,002	36,004	36,749
3 days and more than 2 days ..	20	5,776	55	5,831	17,493	19,444
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. .. .	37	11,041	1,177	12,218	56,114	53,330
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	40	7,312	947	8,259	62,352	60,061
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	16	3,418	202	3,620	52,241	44,986
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	9	3,546	218	3,764	129,688	95,807
8 weeks and over .. .. .	8	2,283	180	2,463	161,203	151,719
Total .. .. .	342	92,121	4,052	96,173	557,111	506,745

7. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1937.—The following table shows the principal causes of the industrial disputes which occurred in 1913 and from 1932 to 1937:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
NUMBER.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase .. .. .	42	5	1	10	9	16	28
(b) Against decrease .. ..	4	11	4	3	5	1	1
(c) Other wage questions ..	31	26	14	31	44	48	77
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction .. .. .	3	2	..	..	..	1	2
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	7	..	7	6	2	4	4
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .	8	2	1	4	4	4	5
(b) Other union questions ..	5	3	3	8	12	16	24
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. .	44	50	35	52	53	81	80
5. Working Conditions .. .. .	51	11	9	25	40	43	72
6. Sympathetic .. .. .	5	2	..	3	1	5	11
7. Other Causes .. .. .	8	15	16	13	13	16	38
Total .. .. .	208	127	90	155	183	235	342

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase .. .. .	8,633	1,295	29	7,210	2,161	2,014	7,678
(b) Against decrease .. ..	563	7,327	2,178	2,817	339	40	15
(c) Other wage questions ..	7,160	5,417	4,336	8,335	11,804	12,930	21,588
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction .. .. .	460	198	..	..	..	20	429
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	1,819	..	2,620	309	1,601	488	1,474
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .	5,370	17	89	383	581	1,612	3,542
(b) Other union questions ..	1,418	501	705	2,184	2,532	4,011	5,889
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. .	11,370	12,556	11,803	15,638	11,497	22,978	20,401
5. Working Conditions .. .. .	10,785	2,804	4,503	6,062	11,298	10,985	17,854
6. Sympathetic .. .. .	947	316	..	1,045	22	1,062	3,235
7. Other Causes .. .. .	1,758	2,486	3,850	6,875	5,487	4,447	14,068
Total .. .. .	50,283	32,917	30,113	50,858	47,322	60,587	96,173

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

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
WORKING DAYS LOST.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	5,990	87	108,277	72,567	33,439	144,372
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	123,571	17,431	35,459	1,621	120	30
(c) Other wage questions ..	78,183	17,631	18,736	40,219	73,020	32,668	107,904
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	2,894				340	1,897
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	15,111		8,895	1,748	48,878	9,577	4,442
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	59	89	3,263	2,615	7,509	20,750
(b) Other union questions ..	32,388	6,261	1,421	10,774	11,696	9,616	9,569
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	191,723	36,054	31,799	110,166	144,453	266,310	138,428
5. Working Conditions ..	73,562	14,902	22,865	26,223	64,612	119,475	85,746
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	1,096		11,174	44	10,209	11,230
7. Other Causes ..	5,212	3,860	10,633	23,083	75,618	8,585	32,743
Total ..	623,528	212,318	111,956	370,386	495,124	497,248	557,111

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 in 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 recent years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The results of industrial disputes during each of the past six years are given in the following table:—

## 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.
1932..	29	77	21	..	5,437	17,518	9,962	..	23,572	48,893	139,853	..
1933..	17	58	13	1	4,778	20,697	4,361	213	12,301	84,697	14,468	426
1934..	29	102	14	9	7,025	31,220	9,620	2,729	40,048	179,126	126,081	19,059
1935..	44	105	17	15	9,312	30,338	4,359	3,179	67,933	346,666	62,007	10,194
1936..	44	165	7	10	13,997	40,279	908	5,403	248,363	179,748	7,027	62,110
1937a	86	206	7	41	23,939	58,665	713	12,273	192,181	285,755	3,744	37,395

(a) See next paragraph.

The following particulars of disputes, which were incomplete at 31st December, 1937, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding tables:—

State.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople.	Working Days Lost.
New South Wales ..	1	2	380	31,540
Tasmania ..	1	4	203	6,496
Total ..	2	6	583	38,036

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following table gives a classification of the methods of settlement according to the adopted schedule :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
NUMBER.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	87	64	84	130	174	265
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	17	4	1	2	3	16	9
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	19	5	3	10	7	3	6
By reference to Board or Court	22	2	3	9	6	6	4
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4	3	2	5	5	2	2
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	13	7	2	2	8	4	5
By closing-down establishment permanently	1	1	3	2	4	..	1
By other methods	13	18	11	40	18	30	48
Total	208	127	89	154	181	235	(a) 340

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	22,595	19,703	25,469	30,360	44,251	72,430
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	1,800	1,100	891	285	5,061	2,764
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	6,505	1,640	1,290	4,559	3,867	291	1,804
By reference to Board or Court	12,774	416	1,390	1,666	1,445	1,746	428
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	659	1,839	1,096	4,335	2,017	339	480
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	658	460	986	138	3,670	141	825
By closing-down establishment permanently	170	11	1,271	444	108	..	86
By other methods	2,988	4,156	3,213	13,092	5,436	8,758	16,773
Total	50,283	32,917	30,049	50,594	47,188	60,587	95,590

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	87,050	54,774	182,260	192,903	234,373	396,410
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	79,872	6,600	20,019	3,211	202,949	18,517
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	187,871	7,423	3,510	58,801	117,762	3,047	48,769
By reference to Board or Court	221,769	3,408	6,330	10,474	16,961	24,503	7,354
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	2,105	18,596	15,437	46,814	24,601	7,152	4,120
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	14,139	6,874	10,343	138	74,873	2,581	12,571
By closing-down establishment permanently	20,400	44	8,627	4,486	7,546	..	172
By other methods	56,509	8,451	6,071	41,322	48,943	22,643	31,162
Total	623,528	212,318	111,892	364,314	486,800	497,248	6519,075

(a) See previous paragraph.

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 240 disputes settled during 1937, 265 or 78 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 1937 was 4 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 440,000. 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.—1937.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. .. .	109	191,280	20,892	10.9
Victoria .. .. .	79	119,055	10,729	9.0
Queensland .. .. .	45	63,701	4,043	7.3
South Australia .. .. .	58	36,156	2,948	8.2
Western Australia .. .. .	63	30,069	1,697	5.6
Tasmania .. .. .	33	9,327	914	9.8
Australia .. .. .	387	449,588	41,823	9.3

(ii) *Summary for Australia.* The following table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years and quarterly for the years, 1934 to 1937. Particulars of unemployment percentages in 1938 will be found in the Appendix :—

## UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

Period.		Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
				Number.	Percentage.
1933	Year	394	415,305	104,035	25.1
1934	"	394	424,035	86,865	20.5
1935	"	396	435,938	71,823	16.5
1936	"	392	441,311	53,992	12.2
1937	"	387	449,588	41,823	9.3
1934	March Quarter	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	426,866	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
1936	March "	395	445,294	59,621	13.4
	June "	394	446,564	57,001	12.8
	September "	390	436,139	52,482	12.0
	December "	390	437,246	46,863	10.7
1937	March "	388	443,446	44,004	9.9
	June "	387	447,714	43,584	9.7
	September "	387	451,584	42,145	9.3
	December "	387	455,608	37,558	8.2

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 quarter ended June, 1932.

(iii) *Percentages in States.* The following table gives the percentages in each State from 1933 to 1937:—

## UNEMPLOYMENT.—PERCENTAGES.

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1933 Year	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
1936 "	15.4	10.7	7.8	10.8	8.1	12.7	12.2
1937 "	10.9	9.0	7.3	8.2	5.6	9.8	9.3
1935 March Quarter	23.6	15.0	9.3	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
1936 March	17.2	10.8	8.5	12.2	10.3	11.1	13.4
June "	16.2	10.6	8.5	11.0	9.2	12.7	12.8
Sept. "	14.8	11.7	7.2	10.0	7.4	14.0	12.0
Dec. "	13.3	9.7	7.2	9.9	5.6	12.9	10.7
1937 March	11.8	9.5	7.7	9.5	5.4	7.9	9.9
June "	11.4	9.6	7.6	8.3	5.6	10.4	9.7
Sept. "	10.5	9.5	7.2	8.4	6.6	10.6	9.3
Dec. "	10.1	7.3	6.6	6.5	5.0	10.2	8.2

(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, 1937.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
Manufacturing—				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	16	17,668	989	5.6
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	62	78,658	4,685	6.0
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	54	38,604	6,604	17.1
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	20	49,419	4,591	11.4
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	12	19,936	873	4.4
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	63	47,435	4,092	8.6
VII. Building ..	46	53,444	5,467	10.2
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	20	25,339	3,863	15.2
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services ..	11	17,672	2,086	11.8
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	83	110,413	8,573	7.8
All Groups ..	387	449,588	41,823	9.3

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. *Direct Measures of Employment.*—(i) *General.* In order to supplement the Trade Union Unemployment percentages, the Commonwealth and the State Statisticians have for the last five years been making direct monthly collections of employment in factories and retail stores. In the case of factories, these figures give fairly reliable indexes of the course of employment fully a year before the results of the annual collections become available. In the case of retail stores, the figures yield an index of employment where none existed before. These indexes are also published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and quarterly in mimeographed statements.

(ii) *Index of Employment in Factories.* This index is available monthly from July, 1933. "Factories" include all industrial establishments in which four or more hands are employed, or in which power other than hand is used. The index relates to employees on the pay roll on the pay day nearest to the 15th of the month, and includes managers, overseers, clerks and all workers except working proprietors and those engaged solely in the delivery and sale of goods.

Up to June, 1937, the index is based on the results of annual factory censuses, and actual mid-monthly factory employment of all persons is published in the Production Bulletin issued by the Bureau. For the year 1937-38 the index is based on returns from selected representative factories, and is issued subject to subsequent revision. Index-

numbers for later months, estimated in the same way, may be obtained from the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and quarterly press notices on employment issued by the Bureau. The number of these "sample" factories and their employees as a percentage of all factory employees in the year 1936-37 are shown at the foot of the table.

For the last three columns of the table the Australian index of employment has been divided by an index of employee population in order to compare the change in employment in factories with the change in the number of persons seeking employment generally. The indexes of employee population are based on the numbers of males and females aged 16 to 64 inclusive. These are found by applying vital and migration statistics to the numbers of males and females at varying ages at the Census date. The total index is obtained by taking a mean of the individual indexes weighted by the numbers of males and females in the employee group (wage and salary earners, unemployed, apprentices, and helpers) at the census of June, 1933. This gives males about three times the weight of females. Between 1928-29 and 1936-37 employee population as estimated in this way increased: males, 9.7 per cent.; females, 11.5 per cent.; total, 10.1 per cent. The increase of population of all ages over the same period was: males, 6.2 per cent.; females, 8.1 per cent.; total, 7.1 per cent. The difference is due to the fact that the average age of the Australian population is increasing.

The index of total factory employment, divided by the index of employee population, fluctuated between 100 and 105 from 1926-27 to 1928-29 (the base year); fell to 71 in 1931-32; and rose to 105 and 111 in 1936-37 and 1937-38 respectively. Thus the relative employment in factories was considerably higher in 1937-38 than it was in pre-depression years.

There have been changes in the distribution of factory employment. Thus female factory employment began to increase in 1931-32, a year sooner than male employment, and between 1928-29 and 1936-37 it had increased by 4 per cent. more than male employment, after allowing for the growth of employee population; the returns from the "sample" factories show that this difference was reduced during 1937-38. During the past few years total employment in Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia in that order fell below the average Australian level, while in Victoria it rose considerably above the average.

(iii) *Index of Employment in Retail Stores.* This index is not available even annually before July, 1933. It is based on employment in the number of establishments shown at the foot of the table. As there is no annual census of employment in retail stores, there is no means of knowing how accurately the movement of employment in these stores represents the whole field. Consequently this index is much less reliable than the index of employment in factories. The Australian index is an average of the State indexes weighted by the number of persons returned as engaged in "Commerce" in the June, 1933 census. This census industry class "Commerce" comprises both wholesale and retail dealing, and it is not possible to obtain separate figures for the latter. The numbers returned in the census as in the employee group in this class were, for Australia: males, 212,000; females, 87,000; total, 299,000. The respective percentages returned as totally unemployed in this group were: males, 18.1 per cent.; females, 10.6 per cent.; total, 15.9 per cent. In addition there was a good deal of part-time work.

The 22 per cent. increase in retail employment between July, 1933, and June, 1938, after correcting for growth of employee population, may be compared with the increase of 41 per cent. in the corresponding index of factory employment over the same period. However, unemployment in the census class "Manufacturing" was 22.1 per cent. compared with 15.9 per cent., quoted above, for "Commerce". In either case the increase in employment has been more than sufficient to absorb those returned as unemployed and working part-time at the census as well as the proportion of the normal growth of employee population ordinarily seeking employment in these classes.

(iv) *General Employment Indexes of New South Wales and Queensland.* The New South Wales Index is published by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, and fuller details may be found in the *New South Wales Year Book*. It refers to all wage and salary earners, and is based on the census record of employment at June, 1933, and receipts of wages tax and records of Government employment since that date.

The Queensland Index is published by the Queensland Bureau of Industry and fuller details may be found in the *Queensland Year Book*. It refers to adult male wage and salary earners and is based on the receipts of the unemployment insurance fund. Normal seasonal variation does not appear in the Index.

Both indexes give an almost complete record of employment, and are the most accurate indexes available in Australia. In both indexes, however, relief workers present a difficult problem. It is impossible to separate entirely "normal" loan works and relief works. Thus for the purposes of these indexes "relief workers" mean "part-time relief workers" in the case of New South Wales, and "intermittent relief workers" in the case of Queensland.

### MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES.

(Base : Average for Year 1928-29 = 100.)

Period.	New South Wales.			Victoria.			Queensland.			South Australia.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Number of Employees (a) ..	129.5	44.6	174.1	98.1	51.2	149.3	35.6	7.8	43.4	29.0	6.4	35.4
1928-29 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929-30 ..	90	91	90	96	98	96	95	94	94	87	89	87
1930-31 ..	68	75	70	76	83	80	83	85	84	63	71	64
1931-32 ..	66	79	69	77	90	81	78	84	80	61	76	64
1932-33 ..	73	86	76	87	101	92	80	92	82	68	84	71
1933-34 ..	82	94	85	96	107	100	86	99	88	77	89	80
1934-35 ..	93	107	97	105	113	108	92	105	94	89	97	91
1935-36 ..	104	116	107	117	119	117	97	110	99	104	110	105
1936-37 ..	112	125	115	123	121	123	103	116	106	110	113	111
1937-38 (b) ..	(c)	(c)	125	133	125	131	110	121	112	116	118	116
1937—												
January ..	111	118	113	121	113	118	91	109	94	109	108	109
February ..	114	126	119	125	123	125	96	115	99	114	118	115
March ..	115	130	119	127	126	127	99	118	102	115	119	116
April ..	114	129	118	129	126	128	101	114	104	119	120	120
May ..	115	128	119	127	122	125	105	116	107	120	117	119
June ..	117	128	120	126	120	124	109	115	110	119	116	118
July (b) ..			120	127	118	124	111	121	113	115	111	115
August ..			123	128	121	126	116	127	118	115	113	114
September ..			123	132	123	129	116	125	117	114	114	114
October ..			126	133	128	131	114	130	117	113	117	113
November ..			127	135	129	133	117	124	118	114	118	114
December ..			128	137	129	134	110	123	112	117	116	117
1938—	(c)											
January ..			123	134	116	128	98	112	100	116	117	116
February ..			125	134	131	133	104	121	107	120	120	120
March ..			127	139	134	137	107	120	110	119	125	120
April ..			126	137	127	134	107	121	109	119	125	120
May ..			126	132	128	131	110	117	111	115	122	116
June ..			127	130	122	127	112	118	113	110	114	111
Number of Factories in Sample ..	1,901			100			150			114		
Percentage of Employees (d) in Sample in 1936-37 ..	86			21			47			53		

For Footnotes see next page.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES—*continued.*

(Base : Average for Year 1928-29 = 100.)

Period.	Western Australia.			Tasmania.			Australia.			Australia divided by Index of Employee Population.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Number of Em- ployees (a) ..	16.0	3.8	19.8	7.7	2.3	10.0	315.9	116.1	432.0	..	..	..
1928-29 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929-30 ..	94	98	94	105	99	104	92	95	93	91	93	92
1930-31 ..	68	76	69	85	83	84	73	79	75	71	76	72
1931-32 ..	61	75	63	84	87	85	70	84	74	68	80	71
1932-33 ..	68	81	70	86	90	87	78	93	82	74	87	77
1933-34 ..	75	85	77	93	89	92	86	99	90	81	92	84
1934-35 ..	83	92	85	101	97	100	96	108	100	89	99	92
1935-36 ..	98	107	100	112	103	110	107	116	109	98	108	100
1936-37 ..	107	113	108	122	103	118	114	121	116	104	108	105
1937-38 (b) ..	109	117	110	129	106	123	123	127	124	111	112	111
1937—												
January ..	109	112	110	125	99	119	112	114	113	102	102	102
February ..	109	113	110	132	112	128	115	124	118	105	110	106
March ..	110	112	110	133	117	129	117	126	119	106	112	108
April ..	109	111	109	130	106	125	118	125	120	107	111	108
May ..	108	111	109	127	105	122	118	123	119	107	109	108
June ..	107	110	108	123	104	119	119	122	120	107	108	108
July (b) ..	106	113	108	120	101	115	119	120	120	108	107	108
August ..	108	113	109	119	100	115	121	123	122	109	109	110
September ..	110	116	111	121	93	114	123	124	123	111	110	111
October ..	110	118	112	125	98	119	123	129	125	111	114	112
November ..	109	118	111	126	98	120	125	130	126	113	115	113
December ..	110	120	112	131	102	124	125	130	127	113	115	114
1938—												
January ..	109	119	111	133	115	129	122	119	122	110	105	109
February ..	109	123	112	134	115	130	123	130	125	111	115	112
March ..	110	119	112	136	119	132	126	133	128	113	117	114
April ..	110	115	111	135	110	129	125	129	126	112	114	113
May ..	109	115	110	133	112	128	123	130	125	110	114	111
June ..	106	113	107	131	112	126	122	127	123	110	111	110
Number of Factories in Sample ..	92			49			2,406			2,406		
Percentage of Employees (d) in Sample in 1936-37 ..	33			57			53			53		

(a) Number of employees in the base year, 1928-29 ('000), exclusive of working proprietors and those engaged solely on the delivery and sale of goods. (b) For 1937-38 indexes are based on sample returns, and will be revised. The indexes of total employment are based on total employment in sample factories. The male and female indexes are based on separate returns for males and females in 5 States (excluding New South Wales) adjusted so that the total of males and females agrees with the estimate of total employment. (c) Not available. (d) The samples vary in quality, so these percentages are intended to give only a very rough idea of the relative accuracy of the estimates. Tasmania and South Australia have proved less, and Victoria more, accurate than the relative size of the samples would suggest.

## MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES.

(Base : July, 1933 = 100.)

Month.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.	Australian Index divided by Index of Employee Population.
1933—July ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1933-34 ..	103	107	101	102	99	106	104	103
1934-35 ..	111	118	106	108	105	108	112	110
1935-36 ..	118	130	109	114	110	112	119	116
1936-37 ..	124	137	111	115	115	119	125	120
1937-38 ..	130	141	112	115	116	118	128	122
1936—								
July ..	122	130	109	116	113	107	121	117
August ..	120	128	109	115	111	113	120	116
September ..	120	128	109	118	113	115	120	116
October ..	121	133	110	112	116	116	122	118
November ..	123	139	111	115	116	119	125	121
December ..	137	155	121	125	127	132	138	133
1937—								
January ..	123	138	112	112	116	120	125	120
February ..	125	137	111	111	114	122	125	120
March ..	123	135	111	111	114	118	123	118
April ..	124	136	109	113	114	120	124	119
May ..	126	138	111	114	113	121	126	120
June ..	126	141	110	114	113	121	126	121
Average 1936-37	124	137	111	115	115	119	125	120
1937—								
July ..	129	137	110	115	115	124	127	121
August ..	126	133	110	112	113	121	124	118
September ..	126	135	110	117	113	123	125	119
October ..	127	140	110	113	114	123	127	121
November ..	129	143	110	115	116	125	129	123
December ..	144	161	123	129	126	138	144	137
1938—								
January ..	128	144	111	115	122	126	129	123
February ..	131	139	111	112	116	124	128	122
March ..	128	140	110	112	115	123	127	121
April ..	129	140	112	113	117	125	128	121
May ..	129	141	112	114	115	126	128	122
June (a) ..	131	142	113	114	114	126	129	122
Average 1937-38	130	141	112	115	116	118	128	122
Number of Establishments now furnishing Returns ..	599	102	120	35	69	14	939	..

(a) Indexes for later months may be obtained from the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and quarterly press notices on employment, issued by the Bureau.

**NEW SOUTH WALES—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF ALL AVAILABLE  
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS.**

Period.	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment.			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers.		(b) Including all part-time relief workers as unemployed.	
	Employed.	Unemployed.	Employed.	Unemployed.
	%	%	%	%
1933-June (Census) ..	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1933-34 .. .. .	77.9	22.1	75.9	24.1
1934-35 .. .. .	83.8	16.2	81.2	18.8
1935-36 .. .. .	88.6	11.4	86.1	13.9
1936-37 .. .. .	91.5	8.5	90.0	10.0
1937-38 .. .. .	95.7	4.3	94.5	5.5
1937-June .. ..	93.5	6.5	92.3	7.7
1938—				
January .. ..	94.6	5.4	93.5	6.5
February .. ..	96.0	4.0	95.0	5.0
March .. .. .	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
April .. .. .	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
May .. .. .	95.8	4.2	94.8	5.2
June .. .. .	96.1	3.9	95.1	4.9

The indexes were revised in November, 1937. In estimating the increase in the number of persons dependent on employment allowance is now made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage-earners, and (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made.

At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc., or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment, is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners employed and unemployed. The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 519,000 in June, 1934; 567,000 in June, 1935; 614,000 in June, 1936; 653,000 in June, 1937; and 689,000 in June, 1938.

## QUEENSLAND—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MEN WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS.

Period.	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of "intermittent relief workers."		(b) Including "intermittent relief workers" as unemployed.	
	Employed.	Unemployed.	Employed.	Unemployed.
	%	%	%	%
1929 .. .. .	89.9	10.1	89.9	10.1
1930 .. .. .	86.4	13.6	85.6	14.4
1931 .. .. .	77.2	22.8	74.3	25.7
1932 .. .. .	77.8	22.2	72.9	27.1
1933 .. .. .	79.8	20.2	73.9	26.1
1934 .. .. .	84.9	15.1	80.1	19.9
1935 .. .. .	89.0	11.0	84.4	15.6
1936 .. .. .	92.3	7.7	87.4	12.6
1937 .. .. .	94.0	6.0	90.3	9.7
3 months ended—				
1937—				
March .. .. .	91.4	8.6	87.8	12.2
June .. .. .	94.3	5.7	90.5	9.5
September .. .. .	95.0	5.0	91.4	8.6
December .. .. .	95.5	4.5	91.9	8.1
1938—				
January .. .. .	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2
February .. .. .	95.3	4.7	91.8	8.2
March .. .. .	95.4	4.6	91.7	8.3
April .. .. .	95.2	4.8	91.6	8.4
May .. .. .	95.3	4.7	91.7	8.3
June .. .. .	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2

The above table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment. Normal seasonal variation is excluded. Allowance has been made for an estimated annual increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number of men dependent on employment. The approximate number of men in employment in 1937, excluding relief workers, was 167,760.

5. **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. The funds necessary for the relief of unemployment in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were provided from Revenue.

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Reports, Nos. 22 to 28.

### § 3. Apprenticeship.

In Year Book No. 16, pp. 602-3, was given particulars of 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.

## E.—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, 12 industrial unions of employers with 11,790 members, and 77 industrial unions of employees with approximately 160,344 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 years following, 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, 1937, there were 31 registered organizations of employers and 139 registered organizations of employees, with a total estimated membership for the latter of 696,000.

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 1937 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS, 1937.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales .. .. .	184	571	333,879
Victoria .. .. .	147	396	209,794
Queensland .. .. .	110	309	162,212
South Australia .. .. .	113	171	63,770
Western Australia .. .. .	132	198	65,053
Tasmania .. .. .	76	70	19,208
Northern Territory .. .. .	6	..	912
Australian Capital Territory .. .. .	15	1	1,455
Total .. .. .	783	1,716	856,283
Australia (a) .. .. .	358 (a)	2,141 (b)	856,283

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

In the preceding table the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line, allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are; therefore, 358 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,141 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 856,283 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.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
Manufacturing :—	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	18 (4)	17 (4)	17 (4)	17 (4)	17 (4)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	63 (22)	63 (22)	61 (21)	63 (21)	63 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	62 (34)	62 (32)	63 (32)	69 (33)	70 (35)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	24 (11)	24 (11)	24 (11)	24 (11)	24 (11)
V. Books, Printing, etc.	15 (10)	15 (9)	15 (9)	14 (8)	14 (7)
VI. Other Manufacturing	77 (37)	76 (36)	73 (34)	73 (35)	73 (36)
VII. Building	51 (28)	51 (28)	49 (26)	49 (27)	49 (27)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	16 (12)	17 (14)	16 (13)	16 (13)	15 (12)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	51 (29)	51 (29)	52 (30)	50 (29)	50 (28)
X. Other Land Transport	11 (4)	10 (4)	10 (4)	11 (4)	12 (5)
XI. Shipping, etc.	55 (22)	55 (22)	55 (22)	55 (21)	55 (21)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	9 (4)	10 (6)	10 (7)	11 (7)	9 (8)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	20 (16)	20 (15)	19 (14)	20 (15)	20 (15)
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	30 (19)	30 (19)	32 (19)	32 (16)	32 (16)
(ii) Public Service	145 (45)	145 (45)	148 (47)	148 (48)	148 (47)
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (8)	8 (8)	8 (8)
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	13 (12)	13 (11)	16 (11)	16 (11)	16 (11)
(v) Other Miscellaneous	107 (39)	108 (41)	108 (42)	108 (45)	108 (45)
Total	775 (356)a	775 (355)a	776 (354)a	784 (356)a	783 (358)a

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Manufacturing—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27,164	25,886	27,079	25,365	27,465
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	69,244	73,363	76,070	79,047	83,993
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	62,103	65,663	68,292	72,120	76,702
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	50,173	56,484	59,484	62,269	66,323
V. Books, Printing, etc.	18,113	18,285	18,808	19,425	20,461
VI. Other Manufacturing	42,577	43,720	44,388	46,832	49,323
VII. Building	52,936	53,140	51,034	56,727	59,484
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	30,166	36,560	36,636	40,184	44,912
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	70,521	91,035	97,443	94,944	97,455
X. Other Land Transport	16,408	13,366	10,539	10,287	15,829
XI. Shipping, etc.	32,691	29,363	26,388	27,346	27,611
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	20,997	22,599	28,782	31,869	34,624
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	20,849	19,585	19,043	16,091	15,933
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	27,884	33,947	34,405	35,315	36,044
(ii) Public Service	79,809	77,355	82,776	83,484	84,716
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	26,426	29,009	32,619	32,178	33,055
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	36,261	32,482	38,926	39,603	40,948
(v) Other Miscellaneous	41,076	40,515	38,118	41,723	41,425
Total	739,398	762,567	790,830	814,809	856,283

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

(iv) *Trade Unions—Numbers of Male and Female Members and Percentages to total Employees—Australia.* The Census discloses the percentage of male and female employees (i.e., persons in "receipt of wage 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 populations 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, 1933 to 1937. 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 OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS AND PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL EMPLOYEES.—AUSTRALIA.**

Particulars.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
<b>MALES.</b>					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	1,344,290	1,393,155	1,401,286	1,426,109	1,448,204
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	626,266	641,370	662,447	685,795	720,587
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	46.6	46.0	47.3	48.1	49.8
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	249,010	253,682	255,160	265,176	268,334
<b>FEMALES.</b>					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	321,500	363,255	366,102	377,334	383,674
No. Members of Unions .. .. .	113,132	121,197	128,383	129,014	135,696
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	35.2	33.4	35.1	34.2	35.4
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	141,960	158,863	160,120	155,305	157,245
<b>TOTAL.</b>					
Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	1,665,790	1,756,410	1,767,388	1,803,443	1,831,878
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	739,398	762,567	790,830	814,809	856,283
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	44.4	43.4	44.7	45.2	46.7
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	390,970	412,545	415,280	420,481	425,579

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1937 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1937.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions	18	12	18	19	46	113
Number of Members	29,863	17,802	131,468	172,799	366,172	718,104

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

It appears, therefore, that 113 out of the 358 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 113 unions was 718,104 or 84 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 1937 :—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1937.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	6	2	8	2	1	27
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated ..	91	167	85	53	213	59	10	678

The figures given in the preceding table concerning the 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 regarding 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 1933 to 1937 :—

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
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
1936 .. ..	(a) 134	150	73	61	58	30	506
1937 .. ..	(a) 134	149	78	61	59	30	511
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
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
1936 .. ..	806	608	393	32	296	6	2,141
1937 .. ..	681	548	394	33	184	10	1,850

## MEMBERSHIP.

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
1936 .. ..	a 60,135	50,262	35,764	8,813	11,193	2,257	a 168,424
1937 .. ..	a 61,747	50,566	33,150	9,081	10,978	2,152	a 169,674

(a) Includes one association in the Australian 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 1936 and 1937 :—

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.
Manufacturing :—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	20	20	5	16	1,195	1,222
II. Engineering, etc. ..	13	17	12	12	2,378	2,500
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	106	103	78	92	20,956	20,504
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	17	16	5	11	1,652	1,932
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	39	41	..	..	2,991	3,210
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	40	42	1	2	3,318	3,567
VII. Building ..	25	24	4	9	2,060	2,010
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	11	11	..	1	296	282
X. Other Land Transport ..	13	19	..	9	1,835	3,387
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	19	18	3	3	209	263
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	50	52	1,978	1,648	103,280	109,363
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	17	18	25	..	8,450	1,765
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	136	130	30	47	19,744	19,069
Total .. ..	506	511	2,141	1,850	168,424	169,674

The female membership of these associations was 6,115 for 1936, and 7,000 for 1937.

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 Manufacturers, 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 Manufacturers, and 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 1933 to 1937 :—

#### INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	Associations Operating in—					Total.			
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.				
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.									
1933	..	..	..	6	4	5	14	16	45
1934	..	..	..	4	2	12	8	17	43
1935	..	..	..	4	2	10	6	20	42
1936	..	..	..	5	2	8	6	17	38
1937	..	..	..	3	3	10	10	17	43
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.									
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
1936	..	..	..	11,315	904	1,013	22,324	104,896	140,452
1937	..	..	..	9,351	2,019	1,118	92,049	38,908	143,445

The above table shows that associations having 84 per cent. of the total membership of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.

#### F.—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.	Housing.		Food and Housing.		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)				%
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
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	1,735	1,675	1,792	1,963	1,115	10.8
1929 ..	1,866	1,760	1,754	1,822	1,824	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	1,443	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	1,336	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	1,408	1,590	1,148	20.5
1935 ..	1,442	1,388	1,372	1,420	1,416	1,380	1,409	1,609	1,133	16.5
1936 ..	1,475	1,441	1,437	1,461	1,461	1,409	1,543	1,635	1,119	12.2
1937 ..	1,521	1,480	1,488	1,507	1,510	1,448	1,656	1,704	1,131	9.3
Quarter—										
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	1,692	1,668	1,680	1,607	1,599	1,939	1,162	20.5
Dec. ..	1,568	1,660	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	29.0
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	1,180	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 ..	1,401	1,365	1,310	1,387	1,372	1,358	1,463	1,592	1,148	20.9
Sept. ..	1,404	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
1936.										
March ..	1,445	1,419	1,413	1,434	1,433	1,391	1,475	1,620	1,130	13.4
June ..	1,455	1,430	1,425	1,445	1,444	1,397	1,520	1,625	1,125	12.8
Sept. ..	1,480	1,454	1,449	1,475	1,474	1,420	1,570	1,637	1,110	12.0
Dec. ..	1,510	1,461	1,461	1,490	1,491	1,430	1,607	1,656	1,111	10.7
1937.										
March ..	1,510	1,468	1,470	1,493	1,495	1,433	1,638	1,650	1,111	9.9
June ..	1,507	1,480	1,483	1,496	1,498	1,441	1,660	1,677	1,121	9.7
Sept. ..	1,526	1,494	1,499	1,513	1,516	1,454	1,710	1,718	1,135	9.3
Dec. ..	1,540	1,503	1,510	1,524	1,529	1,465	1,617	1,760	1,155	8.2

(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 Food and Rent of All Houses ("A" Series) Index. See p. 568 for Real Wages under the "C" Series Index. (c) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the Food and Rent of All Houses ("A" Series) Index.