



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR REPORT, 1925.

No. 16.

Prepared under Instructions from the
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AND TERRITORIES

by

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August, 1926.

By Authority:

H. J. GREEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

[C.S. No. 495.]—C.9541.

PREFACE.

The first Labour Report of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was published in 1912, and the present is the sixteenth issue. The arrangement of the various sections has been altered somewhat, but the principal details are given on similar lines to those adopted in previous issues. The matter has been divided into four main Chapters covering information on Prices, Wages, Employment and Associations respectively. This arrangement will facilitate ready comparison of cognate matters. Thus all information dealing with comparisons of price levels is now gathered together in the one chapter instead of, as in the earlier issues, being given in various separated parts of the Report.

New features which were included in the last issue of this Report have been continued in the present issue. These are statistics relating to (i) Employers' Associations, and (ii) the International Labour Office of the League of Nations. A further international comparison appears in the Chapter dealing with Wages, in which effective or real wages in various countries are compared, while in Section VI. of the Appendix a table is given showing rates of wages and hours of labour in Sydney, Auckland, and Montreal at July 1914, December 1924, and December 1925.

For the purpose of tabulating the results of the investigations which have been made in regard to labour organizations, employers' associations, unemployment, rates of wage, industrial disputes, etc., the following classification of trades and occupations has been adopted :—

Classification of Industries and Occupations.

<p>I. Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber-works, &c.</p> <p>II. Engineering, Metal Works, &c.</p> <p>III. Food, Drink, and Tobacco Manufacture and Distribution.</p> <p>IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, Textiles, &c.</p> <p>V. Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.</p> <p>VI. Other Manufacturing.</p> <p>VII. Building.</p>	<p>VIII. Mining, Quarries, &c.</p> <p>IX. Railway and Tramway Services.</p> <p>X. Other Land Transport.</p> <p>XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.</p> <p>XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.</p> <p>XIII. Domestic, Hotels, &c.</p> <p>XIV. Miscellaneous.</p>
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In previous issues attention has been drawn to the great variety of sources of the data upon which this Report is based.

It is gratifying to record that secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of State and Commonwealth Departments, private employers, retail dealers, house agents and others have readily responded to the somewhat heavy demands made upon them.

Without the help so rendered, the investigations contained herein would have been impossible, and I take this opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks to all who have thus assisted.

My special thanks are due to Mr. J. T. Sutcliffe, the Supervisor of Labour Statistics in this Bureau, for the marked ability and zeal displayed by him in the performance of the complex duties attaching to his position; and to the staff under his control for the ready and capable assistance rendered by them at all times.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Melbourne, 30th August, 1926.

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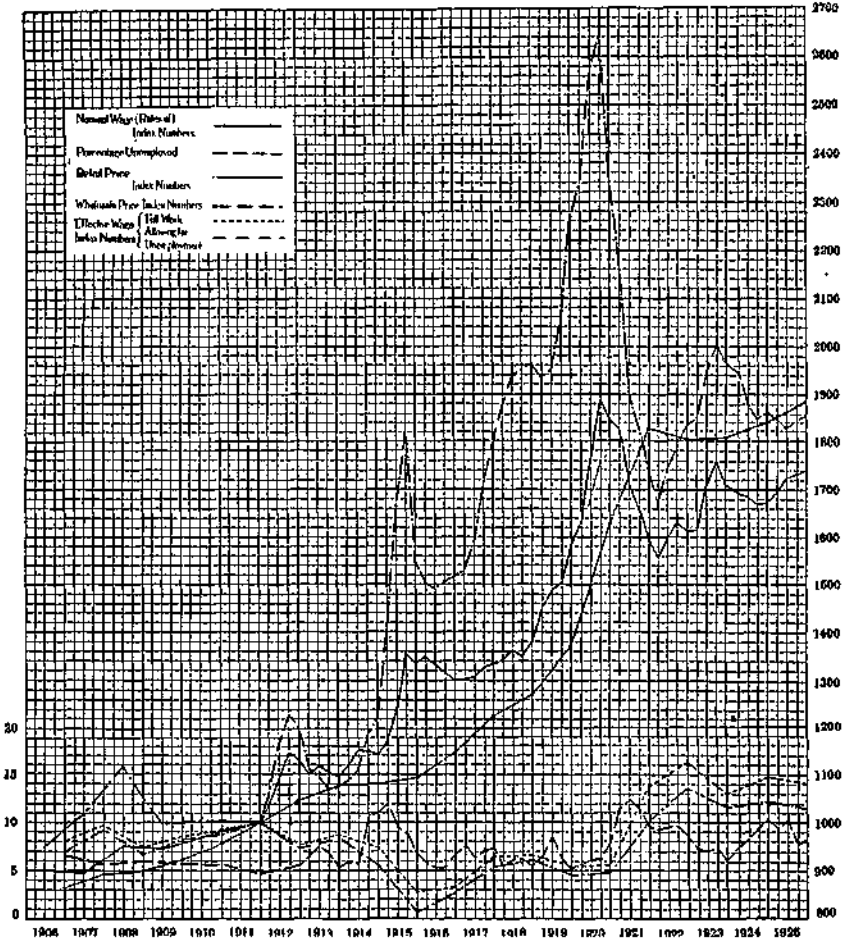
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**Retail and Wholesale Prices and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-Numbers,
and Percentage of Unemployed 1906 to 1925.**



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