

INTERCHANGE.

COMMERCE.

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was introduced by Resolution on 8th October, 1901, from which date the duties came into effect. The Tariff Act was assented to on 16th September, 1902. Extensive alterations of duties were made by Tariffs brought down on 8th August, 1907, and 3rd December, 1914. The present Tariff which also very materially altered previous duties came into operation on 25th March, 1920, and was assented to on 16th December, 1921. Amendments affecting a number of the duties of that Tariff have since been made. There are three scales of duties—British Preferential, Intermediate, and General. The first relates to goods which are the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, but its provisions may be applied wholly or in part to any of the British Dominions. The Intermediate Tariff may be applied to any part of the British Dominions, or to any foreign country.

Recorded Value of Imports and Exports. The recorded value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were charged *ad valorem*. The value of goods is taken to be the fair market value in the principal markets of the country whence the goods were exported, or the actual price paid or to be paid, if higher, plus 10 per cent. to cover the cost of insurance, freight, and other charges. When the invoice value of imported goods is shown in any currency other than British currency, the equivalent value in British currency is ascertained according to the commercial rates of exchange. The value of goods exported is taken to represent the value in the principal markets of the State in the ordinary commercial acceptance of the term.

Oversea
Imports and
Exports.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to oversea countries for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 are set forth hereunder :—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.*	Total.	Per Head of Population.
IMPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1916-17	25,427,527	47,312	25,474,839	18 2 8
1917-18	20,669,696	443,892	21,113,588	14 18 0
1918-19	35,026,311	..	35,026,311	24 7 4
1919-20	33,785,847	2,440	33,788,287	22 9 6
1920-21	57,607,798	979	57,608,777	37 14 0
1921-22	36,343,061	8,995	36,352,056	23 8 10
1922-23	46,724,379	4,721	46,729,100	29 7 8
1923-24	49,566,219	26,424	49,592,643	30 10 3
1924-25	49,747,319	4,542,371	54,289,690	32 15 3
1925-26†	50,285,140	47,705	50,332,845	29 17 9
EXPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1916-17	19,024,830	5,316	19,030,146	13 10 11
1917-18	18,715,252	2,001,436	20,716,688	14 12 4
1918-19	27,823,980	271,179	28,095,159	19 10 11
1919-20	42,117,153	1,007,787	43,124,940	28 13 9
1920-21	34,868,871	3,090	34,871,961	22 16 5
1921-22	34,633,478	10,704	34,644,182	22 6 10
1922-23	33,766,820	1,881	33,768,701	21 4 8
1923-24	29,611,749	799	29,612,548	18 4 5
1924-25	41,471,464	170,515	41,641,979	25 2 7
1925-26†	33,043,967	66,264	33,110,231	19 13 3

* Includes gold, silver, and bronze specie, and gold and silver bullion.

† The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The aggregate trade of the year 1926 (£83,443,076) represents a decrease in imports of £3,956,845, and also in exports of £8,531,748, as compared with the totals of the preceding year.

Percentage
of Common-
wealth Trade.

Victoria's portion of the value of Commonwealth trade for each of the last ten years is shown in the table which follows :—

Year.	Commonwealth Trade—			Victoria's Portion of Commonwealth Trade—		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
1916-17 ..	76,228,679	97,955,482	174,184,161	33·4	19·4	25·6
1917-18 ..	62,334,449	81,429,221	143,763,670	33·9	25·4	29·1
1918-19 ..	102,335,159	113,963,976	216,299,135	34·2	24·7	29·2
1919-20 ..	98,974,292	149,823,509	248,797,801	34·1	28·8	30·9
1920-21 ..	163,801,826	132,158,912	295,960,738	35·2	26·4	31·2
1921-22 ..	103,066,436	127,846,535	230,912,971	35·3	27·1	30·7
1922-23 ..	131,757,835	117,870,147	249,627,982	35·5	28·6	32·2
1923-24 ..	140,618,293	119,487,164	260,105,457	35·3	24·8	30·4
1924-25 ..	157,143,296	162,030,159	319,173,455	34·5	25·7	30·1
1925-26* ..	151,557,598	148,419,047	299,976,645	33·2	22·3	27·8

* The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

Principal
Imports.

The principal articles imported from overseas countries into Victoria during each of the last four years are shown below in the order in which they appear in the statistical classification. The number of divisions in this classification has been reduced from 23 to 21 since 1st July, 1922.

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEAS COUNTRIES INTO VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1922-23 TO 1925-26.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	156,217	63,171	45	166,382
Cheese	11,243	18,729	13,080	35,375
Fish—				
Preserved in Tins	256,514	317,182	332,298	335,419
All other	80,602	91,068	105,143	106,332
Meats	111,529	114,001	134,823	173,739
All other Animal Foodstuffs	9,014	13,538	10,877	11,405
Total, Class I.	625,119	617,689	596,266	828,652

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.	£	£	£	£
Caramel, Caramel Paste, Cocoa Butter, &c.	91,984	77,106	60,894	82,754
Cocoa and Chocolate	129,033	134,886	126,158	139,706
Coffee and Chicory	53,081	52,716	64,115	80,507
Confectionery	17,702	19,150	27,230	31,272
Fruits, Dried	55,157	46,676	39,465	41,262
Fruits, Fresh	2,523	7,054	1,725	533
Fruits &c., Preserved	17,509	20,942	29,079	43,192
Grain and Pulse—				
Rice	46,749	110,909	67,938	145,026
All other	75,951	73,473	17,998	152,223
Hops	17,796	6,942	3,533	5,788
Mustard	28,048	45,379	27,308	28,434
Nuts, Edible	126,778	133,008	143,250	182,808
Pickles and Sauces	12,899	12,699	14,281	16,389
Sago and Tapioca	32,431	40,484	29,824	17,866
Spices	59,013	52,632	90,319	75,061
Sugar (Cane)	23,565	42	184	77
Tea	903,814	1,197,546	1,298,213	1,128,547
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	71,683	102,686	96,987	121,704
Total, Class II.	1,765,716	2,134,330	2,138,501	2,293,149
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.				
Ale, Beer, and Porter, &c.	62,088	70,931	61,397	61,813
Spirits (Beverages)—				
Brandy	42,669	47,332	40,834	33,593
Gin	34,039	36,095	40,163	47,095
Whisky	251,411	246,370	253,434	325,066
Other	12,677	14,070	11,816	10,995
Wine (Fermented)—				
Sparkling	12,843	23,353	29,932	25,197
Other	8,634	11,839	10,940	12,710
Total, Class III.	424,361	449,990	448,516	516,469
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.				
Tobacco—				
Manufactured	17,604	20,309	19,217	24,197
Unmanufactured	613,146	909,543	564,650	447,619
Cigars	28,739	34,008	35,208	40,879
Cigarettes	46,943	59,930	81,405	123,919
Snuff	285	775	274	375
Total, Class IV.	706,717	1,024,565	700,754	636,989

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	£ 28,521	£ 98,256	£ 35,947	£ 72,523
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Gelatine and Glue of all kinds	21,422	18,254	19,655	17,255
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, and Horse)	330,322	347,471	363,093	336,118
Other	78,519	87,975	80,531	107,678
Wool	36,707	288,476	143,481	118,547
All other Animal Substances ..	49,641	48,236	51,760	52,899
Total, Class VI. ..	516,611	790,412	658,520	632,497
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUB- STANCES AND FIBRES.				
Fibres—				
Flax and Hemp	147,470	184,432	209,760	225,787
Kapok	102,535	91,544	100,290	106,971
All other	109,632	111,472	126,739	109,509
Gums and Resins	105,011	75,827	87,032	116,514
Grass or Straw, for hatmaking, furniture, mats, &c. ..	81,567	72,760	62,037	42,214
Pulp for Papermaking	38,140	24,790	55,493	70,412
Seeds	77,676	130,410	233,913	201,753
Tanning Substances	48,067	38,752	43,052	48,858
All other Vegetable Substances	38,564	41,379	44,774	45,084
Total, Class VII. ..	748,662	771,366	963,090	967,102
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
(a) <i>Apparel.</i>				
Apparel—				
Blouses, Skirts, Costumes, &c.	104,235	129,227	204,603	174,990
Boots and Shoes	136,357	154,278	215,225	175,927
Corsets	178,129	80,921	61,085	51,122
Furs and other Skins—Dressed	128,790	205,422	230,309	215,733
Gloves	357,582	274,831	298,978	259,445
Hats and Caps	177,201	180,839	206,039	278,183
Hosiery and Knitted Apparel (including Socks and Stock- ings)	913,258	700,730	769,953	727,421
Men's and Boys' Outer Garments	31,301	58,415	78,864	69,852
Shirts, Collars, Ties, &c. ..	62,783	38,973	43,650	22,821
Trimmings	603,745	479,487	502,730	468,312
Other	467,575	403,550	467,869	324,272

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES— <i>continued.</i>	£	£	£	£
(b) <i>Textiles.</i>				
Piece Goods—				
Canvas and Duck	512,699	367,628	340,823	389,821
Cotton and Linen	4,705,743	3,845,601	4,048,732	3,731,006
Silk	1,643,684	2,053,096	2,145,793	2,083,050
Woollen	2,033,674	1,554,839	1,380,020	962,761
Other	1,005,686	1,001,465	1,111,705	972,497
Floor Coverings—Carpets, Lino- leums, Mats, &c.	1,100,722	1,142,906	1,044,122	877,882
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	554,057	480,031	478,066	337,181
All other Textiles	509,349	493,894	527,934	516,574
(c) <i>Manufactured Fibres.</i>				
Bags and Sacks—				
Bran, Chaff, and Compressed Fodder	250,818	261,581	100,664	128,703
Corn and Flour	583,118	569,403	1,043,274	970,043
All other	120,084	93,969	227,294	155,825
Cordage and Twines (excluding Metal Cordage)	58,378	83,202	54,546	57,084
Yarns—				
Cotton	193,643	273,347	316,882	285,850
Wool	1,002,516	458,946	573,861	221,712
Other	153,299	111,106	233,863	234,892
Total, Class VIII.	17,588,426	15,497,687	16,706,884	14,692,959
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Oils (in bulk)—				
Kerosene	223,840	233,881	225,079	229,859
Lubricating (Mineral)	216,670	238,375	273,384	307,306
Petroleum Spirit	1,076,118	1,461,014	1,708,898	2,076,763
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	386,171	524,734	458,595	564,708
Total, Class IX.	1,902,799	2,458,004	2,665,956	3,178,636
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	227,489	239,872	230,283	241,218
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MIN- ERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	121,863	197,689	145,770	197,594

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
<i>(a) Machines and Machinery.</i>				
Electrical Machinery and Appliances—				
Cable and Wire, Covered..	436,983	364,683	391,088	396,787
N.E.I.	1,574,304	1,242,884	1,425,943	1,474,308
Implements and Machinery (Agricultural, Horticultural, and Viticultural).. .. .	179,182	235,994	278,405	237,658
All other Machines and Machinery	2,066,932	2,305,107	1,970,700	2,174,751
<i>(b) Metals and Metal Manufactures, other than Machinery.</i>				
Alloys	98,409	118,132	110,128	135,476
Gas Appliances	16,308	24,659	24,927	26,148
Iron and Steel—				
Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, Blooms, &c.	538,936	393,543	440,065	350,283
Girders, Beams, Channels, Joists, &c.	107,333	111,585	140,989	114,181
Pig and Scrap	106,892	70,389	89,318	62,513
Pipes and Tubes	371,931	401,886	338,372	375,795
Plate and Sheet	1,473,913	1,665,443	1,646,431	1,525,400
Railway and Tramway Material	138,278	87,787	15,479	22,019
Wire	390,535	298,057	325,305	269,992
Tools of Trade (not being Machines)	273,133	391,235	341,000	306,411
Vehicles—				
Motor Cycles, Tricycles, &c.	118,091	243,875	249,411	200,423
Bodies for Motor Cars, &c.	143,912	366,996	423,225	381,998
Chassis for Motor Cars, &c.	2,012,257	3,172,567	3,185,302	3,098,031
Other, and Parts.. .. .	471,381	684,870	597,382	735,031
All other Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	1,937,680	2,188,562	1,861,433	2,022,191
Total, Class XII. ..	12,456,390	14,368,254	13,854,903	13,909,396

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIII. — RUBBER AND LEATHER AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
(a) <i>Rubber and Rubber Manufactures.</i>				
Rubber, Crude, Powdered or Reclaimed	127,365	275,307	437,033	1,474,312
Rubber Manufactures	509,851	700,607	610,131	770,770
(b) <i>Leather and Manufactures of Leather and Substitutes therefor.</i>				
Patent and Enamelled	129,498	87,605	79,397	47,472
All other	186,487	117,424	106,375	105,045
Total, Class XIII.	953,201	1,180,943	1,232,936	2,397,599
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED.				
Timber—				
Dressed	890,897	917,646	707,636	763,072
Undressed	1,056,153	1,511,625	1,013,969	1,314,271
Wood and Wicker Manufactures, including Furniture	184,638	229,252	220,174	192,789
Total, Class XIV.	2,131,688	2,658,523	1,941,779	2,270,132
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE.				
Cement (Portland)	42,770	11,533	24,075	13,020
Earthenware, China, &c.	224,714	275,206	276,156	246,801
Glass and Glassware	365,208	384,640	388,302	392,358
All other Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass, and Stoneware.	69,780	97,422	83,981	85,477
Total, Class XV.	702,472	768,801	772,514	737,656

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.	£	£	£	£
(a) <i>Paper—</i>				
Cardboard and other Paper				
Boards	71,883	72,068	77,261	74,964
Printing	794,612	916,165	1,021,762	1,064,736
Wrapping of all Colours ..	144,934	137,804	112,125	111,631
Writing and Typewriting ..	270,497	176,875	215,632	197,673
All other	176,648	215,513	197,954	188,617
(b) <i>Stationery and Paper Manufactures—</i>				
Books (Printed), Directories, &c.	337,080	342,391	358,476	420,468
All other	384,870	435,334	373,368	391,489
Total, Class XVI. ..	2,180,524	2,296,150	2,356,578	2,449,578
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Fancy Goods	437,431	407,027	441,115	429,194
Jewellery, including Cameos, &c	274,294	274,354	263,389	227,531
Watches, Clocks, Chronometers, &c.	138,473	225,507	201,101	199,504
Total, Class XVII.	850,198	906,888	905,605	856,229
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.				
Surgical and Dental Instruments, &c.	101,449	99,998	105,487	106,797
Talking Machines—Phonographs, &c.	48,106	95,239	153,715	188,574
All other Optical and Scientific Instruments	124,312	141,501	157,961	145,652
Total, Class XVIII. ..	273,867	336,738	417,163	441,023
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Cream of Tartar	84,219	55,809	68,460	68,287
Dyes	132,923	110,493	102,053	85,103
Fertilizers	288,600	339,852	349,538	344,550
Oils, Essential (Non-spirituous) ..	31,597	28,604	39,345	42,028

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS—<i>continued.</i>	£	£	£	£
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	78,975	78,785	87,410	96,164
Proprietary Medicines	37,922	59,613	60,828	57,787
Sodium Salts	179,646	130,224	151,438	135,678
Sulphur (Brimstone)	74,325	116,806	106,983	148,090
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	465,978	469,011	504,364	523,781
Total, Class XIX.	1,374,185	1,389,197	1,470,419	1,501,468
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Arms, ammunition, and explosives	270,285	239,443	254,918	376,589
Brushware	99,574	113,296	109,394	110,397
Matches and Vestas	71,024	82,138	74,781	65,789
Musical Instruments, &c.—				
Pianos and Parts	168,159	389,324	397,888	307,678
Other and Parts	62,582	76,230	60,713	62,834
Soap	24,513	20,617	25,607	28,195
All other Articles	449,433	459,817	581,634	512,789
Total, Class XX.	1,145,570	1,380,865	1,504,935	1,464,271
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	393	4,999	4,532,991	29,944
Silver	3,442	21,397	9,329	17,734
Bronze—Specie	886	28	51	27
Total, Class XXI.	4,721	26,424	4,542,371	47,705
Grand Total	46,729,100	49,592,643	54,289,690	50,332,845

The articles imported were mainly manufactured goods. Apparel, textiles, manufactured fibres, machinery, and manufactures of metal amounted to 59½ per cent. of the total value of imports in the last five years. Excluding gold and bullion, &c., the imports for 1926 showed an increase of £537,821, as compared with the previous year. The items showing the largest increases were as follows:—Rubber, £1,197,918; oils, fats, and waxes, £512,680; timber (undressed), £300,302; and butter, £166,337. The chief decreases were in the following:—Textiles, £1,206,423; manufactured fibres, £496,275; apparel, £311,227; and tea, £169,665.

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from Victoria during each of the last four years are shown hereunder in 21 divisions, in accordance with the statistical classification:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES FROM VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1922-23 TO 1925-26.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	3,190,805	2,751,312	4,051,632	2,542,626
Cheese	22,955	31,071	65,130	14,406
Meats—				
Bacon and Hams	23,491	22,352	17,055	18,206
Preserved by Cold Process—				
Beef	41,890	22,944	61,829	59,465
Lamb	1,493,156	656,438	905,743	1,263,511
Mutton	880,472	13,757	95,022	145,261
Rabbits and Hares	10,176	8,477	5,196	53,423
Preserved in Tins	48,750	9,409	33,011	65,639
Other	125,022	28,267	58,581	199,320
Milk and Cream	1,198,708	1,040,183	1,620,068	1,433,925
All other Animal Foodstuffs	6,315	3,323	6,193	28,038
Total, Class I.	7,041,740	4,587,533	6,919,460	5,823,820
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Biscuits	52,036	59,413	61,807	100,761
Fruits, Dried	810,103	826,028	1,327,734	961,587
Fruits, Fresh	182,414	131,323	256,478	307,412
Fruits and Vegetables—Preserved				
Grain and Pulse—				
Unprepared—				
Wheat	2,498,066	3,922,823	10,413,976	3,132,983
Other	93,607	84,127	93,014	23,031
Prepared—				
Flour (Wheaten)	2,024,921	2,175,854	2,408,542	2,177,935
Other	32,144	43,245	75,373	32,326
Jams and Fruit Jellies	26,968	24,467	16,840	18,310
Tea	58,365	47,328	53,931	40,232
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	95,490	198,863	175,965	128,730
Total, Class II.	5,955,102	7,767,940	15,151,158	7,143,468

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.. ..	£ 39,726	£ 48,862	£ 55,119	£ 100,377
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.. ..	528,616	286,581	286,122	153,838
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	38,351	22,244	61,421	24,961
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, Horse) ..	46,781	78,915	164,890	121,322
Rabbit and Hare	237,853	282,266	349,956	579,000
Sheep	1,241,533	1,214,069	1,523,606	1,340,173
Other	36,405	129,607	119,789	233,468
Wool—				
Greasy	12,231,285	11,578,094	12,858,063	13,552,856
Scoured and Washed	3,469,056	1,255,769	1,459,918	1,533,187
Tops	415,630	233,838	128,397	316,757
All other Animal Substances ..	19,253	20,786	20,864	21,878
Total, Class VI. ..	17,697,796	14,793,344	16,625,483	17,698,641
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES AND FIBRES ..	47,511	45,079	48,652	50,068
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; AND (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
Boots and Shoes	6,656	3,662	2,455	2,363
All other Apparel	75,257	36,053	38,505	31,347
All other Textiles, including Bags, Cordage, Yarns, &c. ..	173,285	91,042	109,052	76,203
Total, Class VIII. ..	255,198	130,757	150,012	109,913
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Tallow—Unrefined	451,405	188,767	441,986	399,783
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes ..	40,264	78,237	152,711	110,590
Total, Class IX. ..	491,669	267,004	594,697	510,373

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	£ 6,550	£ 4,999	£ 6,784	£ 3,869
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	77,300	24,374	50,293	21,365
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
(a) <i>Machines and Machinery</i> — Machines and Machinery	148,574	239,580	237,846	136,484
(b) <i>Metal and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery</i> —				
Iron and Steel	16,613	9,624	6,526	14,865
Lead—Pig and in Matte	1,295	450	2,292	1,827
Tin Ingots	137,531	68,944	19,722	55,532
Zinc—Bars, Blocks, &c.	50,689	51,965	296	194
All other Metals and Manufactures thereof	95,970	122,644	157,558	226,713
Total, Class XII.	450,672	493,207	424,240	435,615
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF, AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
Indiarubber and Manufactures	120,673	123,476	93,132	85,559
Leather and Manufactures	305,744	295,350	253,232	180,397
Total, Class XIII.	426,417	418,826	346,364	265,956
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED	29,867	19,236	30,180	25,950
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE	14,356	14,705	15,536	13,823
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.				
Paper	11,389	20,224	27,690	23,871
Stationery	67,368	113,450	58,649	39,335
Total, Class XVI.	78,757	133,674	86,339	63,206

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1922-23 TO 1925-26—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.	£	£	£	£
Precious Stones, Unset; Pearls, Cameos, &c.	6,029	4,401	11,312	6,713
All other Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods ..	17,161	15,298	17,396	17,761
Total, Class XVII. ..	23,190	19,699	28,708	24,474
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS..	36,218	49,987	56,031	63,598
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Fertilizers—				
Ammonium Sulphate ..	28,395	4,971	10,088	10,230
Other	9,434	6,160	6,105	7,208
Oil—Eucalyptus	26,083	53,836	62,252	61,742
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	155,722	108,228	130,248	110,112
Total, Class XIX. ..	219,634	173,195	208,693	189,292
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Soap	208,957	189,866	221,165	204,163
All other Articles	99,193	120,637	105,007	117,197
Total, Class XX. ..	308,150	310,503	326,172	321,360
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	805	299	170,515	60,466
Silver	1,076	500	..	5,798
Total, Class XXI. ..	1,881	799	170,515	66,264
Australian produce	33,148,563	29,088,613	41,066,355	32,652,454
Other produce	620,138	523,935	575,624	457,777
Grand Total	33,768,701	29,612,548	41,641,979	33,110,231

The export trade consists largely of agricultural and pastoral products. The value of wool, wheat, flour, and butter exported during the last five years amounted to about 70 per cent. of the total exports for that period. There was a decrease of £8,531,748 in the exports of 1926, as compared with the previous year. The articles which accounted for the chief decreases were:—Wheat, £7,280,993; butter, £1,509,006, and fruits (all kinds), £362,550. Wool and meats exported showed increases of £956,422 and £628,388 respectively.

Imports from
and exports to
principal
countries.

The value of Victorian trade with various oversea countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case, during the year ended 30th June, 1926, are given below. In the tables which follow the imports have been assigned to the country of origin owing to the Customs Department having discontinued recording the country of shipment.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES, 1925-26.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria of the Produce of the Country mentioned.	Value of Exports from Victoria to the Country mentioned.	Excess of Imports (-) Exports (+).
	£	£	£
BRITISH.			
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	22,114,491	14,082,376	- 8,032,115
Canada	1,198,117	84,663	- 1,113,454
Ceylon	553,090	174,093	- 378,997
Hong Kong	256	156,221	+ 155,965
India	2,083,826	382,279	- 1,701,547
Irish Free State	1,374	40,484	+ 39,110
Malaya (British)	1,260,622	1,160,853	- 99,769
New Zealand	1,111,846	1,578,250	+ 466,404
Pacific Islands	276,295	71,265	- 205,030
South African Union	238,070	365,605	+ 127,535
Other British Possessions	195,560	110,945	- 84,615
FOREIGN.			
Belgium	317,461	494,392	+ 176,931
China	231,080	141,730	- 89,350
Czecho-Slovakia	138,476	7,176	- 131,300
Egypt	3,694	661,974	+ 658,280
Finland	18,486	73,173	+ 54,687
France	1,599,725	3,855,842	+ 2,256,117
Germany	1,106,558	725,505	- 381,053
Italy	640,003	1,042,467	+ 402,464
Japan	1,360,648	2,343,215	+ 982,567
Netherlands	325,995	37,280	- 288,715
Netherlands East Indies	1,748,122	1,117,295	- 630,827
Norway	548,192	83,198	- 464,994
Persia	230,329	..	- 230,329
Peru	145	180,354	+ 180,209
Philippine Islands	127,199	25,923	- 101,276
Sweden	636,148	27,505	- 608,643
Switzerland	817,714	2,371	- 815,343
United States of America	10,863,215	3,934,531	- 6,928,684
Other Foreign Countries	586,108	149,266	- 436,842
Total	50,332,845	33,110,231	- 17,222,614

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder:—

**IMPORTS (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)
FROM PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, AND EXPORTS DIRECT
THERE TO, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.**

Country.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	Imports of Products or Manufactures of—				
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom*	18,835,097	24,657,303	22,923,002	23,867,972	22,114,491
Canada	1,219,609	1,741,814	1,543,897	1,022,400	1,198,117
India and Ceylon	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,835	2,580,414	2,636,916
Malaya (British)	412,976	124,171	240,800	379,777	1,60,622
New Zealand	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,647	1,057,004	1,111,846
South African Union	161,169	213,987	193,010	4,584,675	238,070
Other British Possessions	399,534	411,771	481,717	454,981	473,485
Belgium	393,146	324,480	331,223	348,799	317,461
China	320,121	313,178	293,412	265,830	231,080
Egypt	1,188	10,211	9,746	61,111	3,694
France	1,140,223	1,306,191	1,860,115	1,886,800	1,599,725
Germany	66,296	295,126	582,664	939,872	1,106,558
Italy	423,742	513,153	543,580	685,168	640,003
Japan	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,473	1,310,104	1,360,648
Netherlands	205,662	220,133	209,478	257,474	325,995
Netherlands East Indies	927,041	1,427,037	1,577,364	1,769,793	1,748,122
Norway	386,566	850,698	682,207	696,126	548,192
Philippine Islands	72,696	66,796	75,631	77,700	127,199
Sweden	372,347	625,236	799,895	520,071	636,148
Switzerland	808,288	946,282	1,029,798	1,008,153	817,714
United States of America	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,220,595	9,806,692	10,863,215
Other Foreign Countries	378,481	557,481	637,574	783,564	973,544
Total	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,643	54,289,690	50,332,845
	Exports to—				
United Kingdom*	16,308,839	19,163,057	12,852,761	18,781,126	14,082,376
Canada	93,341	94,236	74,553	63,395	84,663
India and Ceylon	1,535,548	253,172	312,334	635,364	556,372
Malaya (British)	842,251	627,207	817,368	819,192	1,160,853
New Zealand	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,406,618	1,589,996	1,578,250
South African Union	680,118	647,742	621,908	1,004,077	365,605
Other British Possessions	327,372	343,211	429,573	428,703	378,915
Belgium	590,352	358,102	692,233	970,792	494,392
China	125,984	48,643	362,187	145,171	141,730
Egypt	1,361,936	514,029	760,376	944,210	661,974
France	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079	5,205,757	3,855,842
Germany	399,635	295,279	652,787	1,043,907	725,505
Italy	1,673,832	1,221,882	1,357,588	2,575,374	1,042,467
Japan	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,192	1,825,592	2,343,215
Netherlands	91,150	11,863	248,018	340,228	37,280
Netherlands East Indies	1,117,009	1,127,099	914,308	1,348,037	1,117,295
Norway	285,634	42,773	31,321	17,015	83,198
Philippine Islands	96,413	80,239	53,146	35,649	25,923
Sweden	8,351	49,836	72,936	67,885	27,505
Switzerland	4,815	1,691	3,348	517	2,371
United States of America	2,342,628	2,673,354	2,086,626	3,208,312	3,934,531
Other Foreign Countries	610,642	181,586	240,183	591,180	409,969
Total	34,644,182	33,768,701	29,612,548	41,641,979	33,110,231

*Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 1924-25 and 1925-26.

Nearly 43 per cent. of the total value of the exports in 1926 were sent to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whilst 44 per cent. of the imports were their products or manufactures. The chief articles of United Kingdom origin imported in the last five years, and the principal articles exported direct thereto in the same period were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.*	1926.*
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United Kingdom origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Whisky	159,782	251,372	245,891	253,091	324,532
Apparel and Attire	710,294	1,179,643	895,478	1,100,614	864,723
Trimmings and Ornaments	121,822	151,093	144,185	156,359	143,810
Piece Goods—					
Cotton and Linen	2,528,758	4,261,605	3,451,274	3,627,899	3,275,167
Woolen	1,316,445	1,983,388	1,423,628	1,251,429	850,302
Silk	267,785	213,897	237,915	303,075	338,884
Canvas and Duck	256,418	425,078	328,021	323,881	342,110
Velvets, and Lace for Attire	232,130	209,025	250,168	256,746	136,547
Other	309,445	383,200	335,273	355,205	357,441
Floor Coverings	656,745	1,042,462	1,078,911	1,000,075	838,998
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	334,250	479,620	407,719	408,052	293,138
Yarns	796,881	1,300,772	788,226	1,049,626	635,240
Machines and Machinery	1,984,705	2,436,253	2,164,259	2,192,286	2,083,474
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Iron and Steel	1,366,898	2,703,326	2,723,455	2,748,131	2,401,098
Vehicles and Parts	374,956	538,581	839,172	1,065,681	1,284,278
Other	1,202,051	1,683,200	1,773,682	1,534,781	1,544,597
Rubber and Rubber Goods	121,266	187,205	160,164	206,834	280,703
Paper	428,767	690,860	1,001,360	1,195,431	1,122,409
Books	260,678	301,330	308,337	321,068	381,442
Dyes	118,514	109,490	99,044	92,909	73,915
All other Articles	5,287,407	4,125,903	4,266,480	4,442,801	4,525,683
Total	18,835,097	24,657,303	22,923,002	23,867,972	22,114,491
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>					
Butter	2,439,098	2,586,722	2,055,754	3,442,588	1,934,801
Meats—					
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	1,088,846	2,403,593	679,607	1,075,566	1,417,784
Rabbits and Hares	35,210	9,689	8,049	4,526	52,177
Preserved in tins	11,603	26,934	2,979	17,767	52,636
Milk and Cream	420,229	50,025	8,870	111,667	31,922
Fruits—all kinds	1,146,743	882,536	1,038,037	1,588,458	1,242,905
Wheat and Flour	3,692,630	1,172,682	1,725,689	4,536,944	1,301,460
Hides and Skins	443,224	785,385	1,031,611	1,124,305	1,159,554
Wool	6,078,549	10,087,573	5,297,501	5,978,351	6,061,382
Tallow, unrefined	130,010	227,968	35,300	131,626	128,918
Tin Ingots	118,621	135,688	63,286	17,565	39,075
Leather, &c.	113,063	140,480	113,422	90,140	37,699
All other Articles	591,073	700,782	792,656	666,293	622,123
Total	16,308,899	19,163,057	12,852,761	18,781,126	14,082,376

* The figures for 1924-25 and 1925-26 relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The value of the trade with India and Ceylon was £3,193,288 in 1926, and was less than in the previous year by £22,490. There was an increase in imports of £56,502, and a decrease in exports of £78,992. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH INDIA AND CEYLON, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Indian and Cingalese origin).</i>					
Cocoa Beans	8,993	8,223	11,608	14,323	11,822
Coffee	19,942	22,466	15,953	21,672	19,618
Rice	129,853	94,714	97,672	55,451	131,802
Nuts	42,667	27,816	38,427	38,337	35,869
Tea	355,716	384,958	522,342	479,011	572,558
Hides and Skins	49,786	35,680	17,958	14,646	7,069
Fibres	25,135	32,475	38,590	45,246	39,442
Gums and Resins	28,873	43,163	21,123	36,701	29,788
Seeds	9,147	2,802	25,193	120,271	76,556
Hessians	98,325	146,736	139,461	223,469	247,893
Floor Coverings	8,631	23,382	14,102	10,548	9,814
Bags and Sacks	911,099	952,611	924,498	1,367,838	1,249,427
Oils in Bulk	4,394	6,386	6,978	8,352	10,829
Waxes	5,896	2,769	1,816	3,647	6,895
Rubber, &c.	2,216	2,524	12,854	40,560	65,452
All other Articles	81,677	88,202	120,260	106,277	122,082
Total	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,835	2,580,414	2,636,916
<i>Exported from Victoria to India and Ceylon.</i>					
Butter	7,107	15,215	17,562	10,842	12,463
Meats	8,137	20,492	5,239	14,702	9,026
Milk and Cream	67,690	45,727	25,488	159,010	215,103
Biscuits	4,594	4,914	4,475	5,872	6,888
Hay and Chaff	4,175	4,248	2,472	10,326	10,294
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	8,425	9,107	1,452	2,537	2,546
Wheat, Flour, and Oatmeal	1,282,040	52,800	81,952	121,759	130,207
Jams and Jellies	7,180	3,755	3,656	2,828	5,612
Horses	7,430	19,739	5,606	12,010	12,012
Wool	42,559	11,485	111,817	103,884	14,790
Tallow	23,191	25,966	14,272	33,377	29,611
Leather, &c.	3,610	2,758	2,469	3,228	3,168
Soap	2,740	5,234	5,477	4,949	6,830
Specie and Bullion .. .. .	.. .. .	453	.. .. .	108,639	53,804
All other Articles	66,670	31,279	30,397	41,261	44,018
Total	1,535,548	253,172	312,334	635,364	556,372

The value of the trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £2,690,096. The exports thereto amounted to £1,578,250, and represented 4·8 per cent. of the total oversea exports. The principal articles of trade during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF CHIEF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DIRECT TO
THAT COUNTRY, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of New Zealand origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Butter	16,020	153,184	61,807	9	166,371
Fish	38,940	33,809	33,894	39,360	32,872
Milk and Cream .. .. .	.. .. .	1,782	.. .. .	2,551	3,021
Meats	5,961	7,081	24,727	16,437	17,435
Hops	7,430	10,316	4,927	1,510	5,002
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	7,447	11,006	45,882	7,722	15,597
Hides and Skins	262,158	319,660	351,750	328,150	315,788
Wool	2,454	36,700	284,099	142,317	25,011
Flax and Hemp	106,843	47,459	70,380	78,595	67,183
Oakum and Tow	18,736	22,820	13,523	36,214	25,687
Seeds	29,380	31,558	35,161	63,246	55,193
Timber	278,737	251,715	180,865	262,561	273,792
All other Articles	63,625	78,618	90,632	78,332	168,894
Total	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,647	1,057,004	1,111,846
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>					
Fruits, all kinds	142,637	130,071	119,499	189,486	166,101
Grain and Pulse—					
Wheat	2	.. .. .	142,611	108,379	435,943
Flour .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	495	30,117	86,861
Barley .. .. .	.. .. .	920	4,091	4,854	2,634
Oats	3,142	1,995	32,592	26,429	6,141
Rice and Rice Meal	19,147	9,213	17,826	17,645	14,427
Tea	36,681	57,111	45,889	51,009	39,761
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors	15,752	17,760	14,667	18,980	22,559
Tobacco manufactured	344,850	525,954	281,799	284,727	151,757
Apparel	254,407	47,008	19,611	13,734	14,223
Piece Goods	91,943	97,971	30,771	34,508	24,233
Oils	24,789	11,839	49,707	114,750	79,733
Machines and Machinery	45,721	41,912	42,643	76,003	46,058
Metal manufactures	43,196	57,723	62,179	62,873	57,652
Rubber manufactures	133,614	101,007	121,550	92,150	84,601
Leather, &c.	54,130	40,392	37,840	30,046	16,456
Books	33,137	22,755	23,213	21,070	15,159
Drugs and Chemicals	65,832	69,856	45,067	40,935	26,006
Photographic goods and materials	23,823	28,760	36,456	41,780	49,117
All other Articles	340,872	234,991	273,132	330,496	238,828
Australian produce	1,130,190	1,142,893	1,120,998	1,230,261	1,336,532
Other produce	543,594	354,345	285,620	359,735	241,718
Total	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,406,618	1,589,996	1,578,250

The trade with Belgium was suspended in 1918 and 1919, and has not yet recovered its pre-war proportion, which was 3 per cent. of the total oversea trade of Victoria.

The principal articles of trade with Belgium in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH
BELGIUM, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Belgian origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Piece Goods	23,281	24,275	25,552	30,991	30,601
Copper	8,556	6,554	6,110	3,377	2,873
Iron and Steel	153,961	3,817	13,735	18,707	14,001
Vehicles	9,695	14,462	38,274	29,875	19,198
Glass and Glassware	64,030	115,840	125,575	126,015	123,844
Paper	29,735	33,153	33,969	34,627	25,886
Cameos and Precious Stones	21,136	41,133	17,044	15,036	6,425
All other Articles	82,752	85,246	70,964	90,171	94,633
Total	393,146	324,480	331,223	348,799	317,461
<i>Exported from Victoria to Belgium.</i>					
Wheat	81,905	..	22,177	434,464	53,688
Hides and Skins	42,673	53,683	102,276	45,309	53,928
Wool	316,178	248,366	501,125	417,542	358,462
Ores	11,674	140	525	2,585	940
Tallow	10,657	18,536	4,990	19,755	17,838
Cameos and Precious Stones	114	463	957	2,198	1,189
All other Articles	127,151	36,914	60,183	48,939	8,347
Total	590,352	358,102	692,233	970,792	494,392

Trade with
Netherlands
East Indies.

The Netherlands East Indies accounted for 3·4 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in 1926. The chief articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925	1926.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Netherlands East Indies origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Coffee and Chicory	13,073	16,500	21,083	23,615	32,757
Sago and Tapioca	11,856	3,378	18,057	6,751	4,555
Spices	7,025	5,692	8,665	9,292	9,559
Sugar	8,969	23,391	22		
Tea	263,771	487,542	608,300	777,466	532,442
Tobacco—unmanufactured	36,454	50,395	50,330	13,851	27,780
Hides and Skins	5,892	3,959	1,037	2,191	2,852
Fibres	96,481	144,426	126,270	130,368	135,274
Seeds	3,276	16,569	8,038	19,600	16,567
Oils	427,892	614,414	678,669	718,147	846,966
Rubber, crude	20,159	21,403	18,178	33,920	99,053
All other Articles	32,393	38,918	38,715	34,292	40,317
Total	927,041	1,427,087	1,577,364	1,769,793	1,748,122
<i>Exported from Victoria to the Netherlands East Indies.</i>					
Butter	411,388	459,033	413,620	413,730	451,169
Meats	19,348	16,185	18,803	14,131	17,722
Milk and Cream	155,206	137,666	90,624	448,123	93,233
Biscuits	27,180	26,626	29,806	40,419	74,608
Fruits, and fruit juices	9,214	25,234	25,114	22,155	28,230
Grain and Pulse	335,458	343,103	248,496	308,051	360,590
Machines and Machinery	8,551	2,004	15,561	2,293	2,378
Leather, &c.	50,977	46,139	48,631	48,151	39,474
Ammonium Sulphate	7,178			9,733	4,640
All other Articles	92,509	71,109	23,653	41,241	45,251
Total	1,117,009	1,127,099	914,308	1,348,037	1,117,295

In 1926 the value of the trade with France was £5,455,567, or 6·5 per cent. of the oversea total. Details of the exports to France and of the goods of French origin received in the past five years are given in the appended table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH FRANCE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of French origin.)</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Brandy	41,515	42,287	47,169	40,038	32,701
Wine	9,671	15,375	27,753	33,593	28,716
Apparel—					
Trimmings and Ornaments	136,059	194,191	163,993	139,077	124,613
Gloves	25,554	23,152	27,525	28,571	31,249
Other	79,448	99,299	150,677	231,896	203,560
Piece Goods	462,112	466,907	781,405	722,235	611,104
Oils	6,933	9,739	14,181	11,529	14,594
Motor Cars and Parts	92,529	130,906	186,912	162,254	94,046
Rubber Manufactures	41,118	56,814	57,114	61,980	63,185
Pipes (smoking)	17,136	24,935	23,418	22,652	13,044
Cream of Tartar	39,851	39,816	24,029	22,385	23,797
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	16,492	18,429	19,626	24,983	23,538
All other Articles	171,805	239,341	336,313	385,287	335,578
Total	1,140,223	1,396,191	1,830,115	1,886,480	1,599,725
<i>Exported from Victoria to France.</i>					
Butter	59,961	16,863	26,172	14,717	1,835
Wheat and Flour	433,992	125,747	179,041	2,175,197	6,274
Hides and Skins	186,788	372,094	408,672	532,139	536,182
Wool	1,252,317	1,809,489	2,148,671	2,453,911	3,279,225
Zinc Bars, &c. .. .. .	.. .. .	36,600	21,300	.. .. .	.. .. .
Tallow (unrefined)	8,027	3,188	999	11,393	3,032
All other Articles	23,924	10,440	16,224	18,400	29,294
Total	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079	5,205,757	3,855,842

The trade with Germany, which amounted to 8·4 per cent. of the total with oversea countries in 1913, was discontinued early in the year 1914-15 owing to the outbreak of war and the passing of the *Trading with the Enemy Act* 1914. The embargo against exports to Germany was removed on 2nd

December, 1920. The importation of German goods, except by permits granted by the Minister for Trade and Customs, was not permitted until 1st August, 1922. For restrictions under Industries Preservation Act, see page 414 of *Victorian Year-Book*, 1923-24.

The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH GERMANY, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of German origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel—					
Gloves .. .. .	..	7,437	48,907	143,177	120,339
Other	4	14,545	45,787	75,264	109,893
Piece Goods .. .. .	..	8,499	42,187	56,899	71,021
Machines and Machinery ..	59,227	89,948	88,680	98,254	133,545
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Vehicles	33	47,172	33,912	17,087	8,752
Platedware and Cutlery ..	..	3,427	6,095	19,298	24,305
Other	977	12,759	25,425	57,766	132,698
Toys .. .. .	..	11,398	20,213	48,891	47,114
Timepieces .. .. .	..	1,299	12,238	30,202	37,077
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	116	11,385	24,645	21,549	26,565
Drugs, Chemicals, and Fertilizers	5,333	13,497	19,641	31,961	46,096
Musical Instruments	29	39,850	116,390	178,824	112,659
All other Articles	577	33,910	98,544	160,200	236,494
Total	66,296	295,126	582,664	939,372	1,106,558
<i>Exported from Victoria to Germany.</i>					
Sausage Casings	1,589	496	2,339	1,789	15,315
Fruits (all kinds)	2	..	3,692	20,351	35,483
Wheat and Flour	157,195	9	10,930	512,410	54,481
Wool	199,292	195,397	544,020	315,892	507,601
Hides and Skins	7,273	11,933	39,569	111,112	60,405
Silver Lead Concentrates ..	23,208	30,136	..	..	..
Tallow	3,870	12,436	5,739	26,279	..
Casein .. .. .	..	18,685	12,575	16,773	8,501
Eucalyptus Oil	2,110	1,241	5,791	7,719	10,314
All other Articles	5,096	24,946	28,132	31,582	33,405
Total	399,635	295,279	652,787	1,043,907	725,505

The value of Japanese goods received in 1925-26 represented only 2·7 per cent. of the total oversea imports, as compared with 8·8 per cent. in 1918-19. The exports to Japan during 1925-26 were £517,623 greater than in the previous year, and was accounted for by the larger shipment of wheat. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH JAPAN, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Japanese origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Grass or Straw, &c.	310	15,765	15,497	11,016	6,302
Hosiery and Knitted Articles	25,976	27,021	19,029	21,405	6,643
Shirts, Collars, Pyjamas, &c.	943	1,818	2,039	2,933	180
Socks and Stockings	4,874	5,194	4,038	5,439	9,477
Buttons, Buckles, &c.	12,065	21,048	12,761	15,388	21,485
Cosies, Cushions, &c.	1,100	1,831	1,557	893	679
Piece Goods—Silk	622,213	605,809	663,628	782,184	762,429
" " Cotton and Linen	64,912	175,976	159,853	211,441	222,444
" " Other	3,053	7,057	14,065	6,347	24,171
Oils	13,685	14,344	6,261	5,914	5,197
Electrical Machinery and Appliances	3,847	6,951	6,798	3,787	410
Timber	7,409	18,658	13,159	35,736	34,768
China-ware	26,433	26,701	20,622	18,235	26,156
Glass and Glassware	28,733	26,949	21,895	15,822	19,590
Fancy Goods	20,879	46,328	29,668	22,153	25,809
Sulphur—Brimstone	1,333	..	..	..	..
All other Articles	222,673	202,396	148,603	151,361	194,908
Total	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,473	1,310,104	1,360,648
<i>Exported from Victoria to Japan.</i>					
Butter	4,734	2,197	3,644	939	564
Milk and Cream	72,443	481,161	328,343	162,462	105,630
Grain and Pulse	1,522,437	511,919	958,554	323,666	1,054,784
Wool	636,404	1,050,369	1,416,989	1,259,470	1,094,858
Tallow (unrefined)	56,015	40,525	55,933	30,318	45,895
Casein	22,715	13,406	20,800	16,543	23,070
Fertilizers	20,034	26,495	5,412	1,130	8,115
All other Articles	164,652	19,889	31,517	31,064	10,299
Total	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,192	1,825,592	2,343,215

The value of the trade with the United States in 1926 was £14,797,746, or 17·7 per cent. of the value of the Victorian oversea trade. As compared with the year 1925 the value of this trade was greater by £1,782,242, there having been an increase

in imports of £1,056,523, and also in exports of £725,719. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED STATES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United States origin).</i>					
Sausage Casings	59,794	76,851	49,150	65,169	107,008
Tobacco, &c.	672,857	555,589	834,916	541,201	423,658
Gums and Resins	15,202	12,296	13,662	22,619	34,170
Apparel—					
Socks and Stockings	146,950	171,004	131,411	83,279	114,922
Gloves	61,559	65,336	48,754	17,532	10,215
Other	155,736	267,147	240,032	204,042	156,048
Textiles—					
Piece Goods	231,426	307,954	244,158	176,594	274,545
Other	56,659	82,667	88,811	75,560	74,212
Manufactured Fibres and Yarns	11,333	28,324	61,869	59,471	84,244
Oils	790,096	1,025,939	1,435,465	1,603,232	1,855,776
Machines and Machinery	1,186,239	1,338,136	1,525,756	1,276,774	1,583,024
Metals and metal manufactures—					
Vehicles and parts	474,371	1,095,199	2,550,731	2,602,346	2,564,476
Iron and Steel	188,598	266,554	177,819	179,838	175,252
Tools of Trade	96,095	127,021	213,312	166,647	138,403
Other	346,444	354,493	520,553	378,403	422,218
Rubber, &c.	70,584	158,889	344,156	268,563	338,134
Leather, &c.	121,825	222,271	118,581	90,329	64,668
Timber	264,011	698,791	1,169,650	638,514	929,071
Paper	108,081	95,971	99,828	79,734	76,374
Stationery	65,556	111,315	126,360	121,694	122,540
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	75,553	87,610	117,102	72,649	84,380
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	85,186	133,469	142,570	155,350	143,475
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	12,328	28,441	33,010	32,518	70,292
Instruments—Musical	95,431	116,850	256,625	198,859	192,191
All other Articles	743,641	578,844	676,316	700,695	817,922
Total	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,220,595	9,806,692	10,863,215
<i>Exported from Victoria to the United States.</i>					
Sausage Casings	95,105	78,672	16,537	45,049	159,187
Hides and Skins	76,485	351,732	90,259	281,777	427,036
Wool	1,969,796	2,151,892	1,906,917	2,808,723	3,193,089
Tallow		8,443			21,690
Platinum—Bars, Blocks, &c.	21,639	374	4,911	16,256	50,914
Eucalyptus Oil	9,051	11,773	15,889	16,489	13,713
All other Articles	170,552	72,468	52,113	40,518	68,902
Total	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626	3,208,812	3,934,531

Destination of principal articles exported. Wool, wheat and flour, butter, skins, meats, and fruits (all kinds), were the six principal articles exported from Victoria in 1926—their value being equal to 87 per

cent. of the total exports. The countries which received these products are shown in the following statement:—

DESTINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED
IN 1925-26.

Destination.	Wool.	Wheat and Flour.	Butter.	Skins.	Meats.	Fruits (all kinds.)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6,061,382	1,301,400	1,934,801	1,159,554	1,546,616	1,242,905
Canada ..	36,623	..	4,485	5,277	7,012	10,873
Hong Kong ..	..	123,696	2,585	150	1,787	1,584
India and Ceylon ..	14,790	130,199	12,463	..	9,026	4,924
Irish Free State ..	..	40,473	..	..	..	..
Malaya (British) ..	..	150,374	63,363	..	11,788	2,156
Mauritius ..	..	53,011	9,495	..	551	10
New Zealand ..	8,139	522,804	20	2,463	923	166,101
South African Union ..	1,178	223,004	600	..	1,262	3,309
Other British Countries ..	..	31,583	462	..	11,477	2,448
Africa, Portuguese East ..	..	53,721	431	..	..	25
Belgium ..	358,462	53,688	287	53,928	4,285	..
China ..	..	477	29,366	627	405	1,717
Egypt ..	..	626,271	16,686	..	12,926	2,125
Finland ..	71,459	..	..	1,714	..	..
France ..	3,279,225	6,274	1,835	536,182	..	..
Germany ..	507,601	54,481	7,806	60,405	15,315	35,483
Greece ..	..	..	1,056	..	10	38
Italy ..	725,313	213,434	..	11,618	3,023	78
Japan ..	1,094,858	1,054,393	564	886	1,129	106
Netherlands ..	13,796	2,184	..	10,544	..	631
Netherlands East Indies ..	..	358,988	451,169	..	17,722	10,328
Norway ..	5,427	74,351	..	..	..	..
Peru ..	..	180,354	..	..	..	..
Philippine Islands ..	2,351	11,005	460	..	186	..
Sweden ..	20,069	..	..	2,982	..	..
United States of America ..	3,193,089	..	..	427,036	159,355	2,450
Other Foreign Countries ..	9,038	34,753	4,692	597	27	2,369
Total ..	15,402,800	5,310,918	2,542,526	2,273,963	1,804,825	1,489,160

The following statement shows the oversea trade and the gross revenue collected, at Victorian ports and inland stations, during the year 1925-26:—

OVERSEA TRADE AND GROSS REVENUE COLLECTED AT
VICTORIAN PORTS AND INLAND STATIONS, 1925-26.

Ports.	Oversea Trade.			Gross Revenue Collected.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Customs.	Excise.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Melbourne ..	48,972,917	28,928,146	77,901,063	8,545,505	2,849,549	11,395,054
Geelong ..	1,218,449	2,560,718	3,779,167	251,748	16,001	267,749
Portland ..	104,830	588,865	693,695	2,692	..	2,692
Warrnambool ..	36,649	1,032,502	1,069,151	7,344	602	7,946
Inland stations ..	..	..	..	..	34,277	34,277
Total ..	50,332,845	33,110,231	83,443,076	8,807,289	2,900,429	11,707,718

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables refers to vessels trading with other States and overseas countries; the tonnage quoted is net. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration. In the particulars of the shipping at Victorian ports (page 429) and at the port of Melbourne (page 433) coastal shipping is included.

The number of vessels entered and cleared, and their total tonnage in each of the last five years were as follows:—

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	2,442	2,634	2,666	2,577	2,470
Tons	5,506,127	6,611,352	6,782,495	6,807,357	6,485,561
Average tonnage ..	2,255	2,510	2,544	2,642	2,626
Crews	148,879	*	*	*	*
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	2,436	2,634	2,676	2,605	2,447
Tons	5,518,393	6,618,968	6,749,873	6,876,355	6,494,779
Average tonnage ..	2,265	2,513	2,522	2,640	2,654
Crews	148,644	*	*	*	*

* Not available.

The figures in the above table for the year 1926 show a decrease in the tonnage of vessels as compared with each of the preceding three years. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1926, steamers numbered 2,443 of the vessels entered, and 2,418 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 6,462,140 and 6,472,092 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1926 included 33 vessels in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 85,712, whilst the outward shipping included 320 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 602,357.

The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1925-26 are set out in the following statement:—

Shipping with principal countries.

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1925-26.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.
Australian States	1,728	3,392,842	15	1,281	1,848	3,984,944	17	5,094
Great Britain	187	1,265,938	1	1,340	167	1,177,240	2	4,125
New Zealand	62	114,415	2	295	64	121,523	4	495
India	19	71,963	..	..	10	37,412	..	..
Straits Settlements	32	99,547	..	..	33	101,757	..	..
Other British	69	206,481	1	1,885	64	187,835	1	1,106
Total British Countries	2,097	5,151,186	19	4,801	2,186	5,610,711	24	10,820
Japan	50	170,997	..	..	58	197,992	..	..
Dutch East Indies	27	86,910	..	..	30	96,019	1	3,319
United States	146	558,882	..	..	42	162,910	..	..
Other Foreign	123	494,165	8	18,620	102	404,460	4	8,548
Total Foreign Countries	346	1,310,954	8	18,620	232	861,381	5	11,867
Total	2,443	6,462,140	27	23,421	2,418	6,472,092	29	22,687

Nationality of vessels.

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports for the year 1925-26 was as shown hereunder:—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1925-26.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,531	2,176,890	1,503	2,155,687
Great Britain	555	3,057,541	567	3,124,195
Canadian	30	107,972	28	99,913
Hong Kong	11	27,719	11	27,719
New Zealand	57	106,250	59	108,034
South African	2	5,166	2	5,166
Other British	4	11,546	5	13,606
Total British	2,190	5,493,084	2,175	5,534,320
Foreign—				
Danish	14	45,978	13	43,343
Finnish	5	9,444	4	7,470
French	7	34,030	8	37,232
German	32	110,820	36	118,898
Netherlands	31	116,428	30	114,381
Italian	26	105,142	26	107,026
Japanese	54	187,339	54	185,248
Norwegian	41	135,041	38	128,368
Swedish	28	84,489	27	81,344
United States	38	154,742	33	131,662
Other Foreign	4	9,024	3	5,487
Total Foreign	280	992,477	272	960,459
Total	2,470	6,485,561	2,447	6,494,779

Shipping
entered at
Victorian
Ports.

Particulars of shipping—oversea, interstate, and coast-wise—which entered at each port of Victoria are given in the following statement for the year ended 30th June, 1926 :—

VESSELS ENTERED AT EACH OF THE VICTORIAN PORTS, 1925-26.

Direction.	Melbourne.		Cunning- hame (Lakes Entrance).		Geelong.		Portland.		Warnam- bool.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Oversea—										
Steam ..	679	2,948,453	..	..	25	79,328	9	38,199	2	3,318
Sailing ..	12	22,140	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State—										
Steam ..	1,614	3,189,273	..	..	101	183,491	2	9,296	11	10,782
Sailing ..	15	1,281	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oversea <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	17	54,557	..	..	34	127,702	4	18,227	..	..
Inter-State <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	31	77,802	..	..	7	12,437	..	..	7	27,618
Local (within the State)—										
Steam ..	1,238	352,189	40	3,920	469	184,892	77	31,682	138	34,429
Sailing ..	202	8,175	..	..	33	8,937	..	..	..	..
Total—										
Steam ..	3,579	6,622,274	40	3,920	636	587,850	92	97,404	158	76,147
Sailing ..	229	31,596	..	..	33	8,937	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	3,808	6,653,870	40	3,920	669	596,787	92	97,404	158	76,147

NOTE.—“Ports” mean Victorian ports.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The number of vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1925, their net tonnage, and the ports of registration are given in the statement which follows :—

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1925.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne ..	214	138,379	133	30,975	347	169,354
Geelong ..	2	419	2	29	4	448
Port Fairy ..	3	621	..	..	3	621
Total ..	219	139,419	135	31,004	354	170,423

During 1925 there were added to the register 9 steamers with net tonnage of 5,588, and 6 sailing vessels with a tonnage of 115; whilst 5 steamers having net tonnage of 4,048, and 2 sailing vessels having tonnage of 233, were taken off the register.

The Williamstown City Council owns one steamer, which is engaged in the transport of passengers between Port Melbourne and Williamstown. It is licensed to carry 342 passengers. During the year 1925-26 the approximate number of passengers carried was 198,000, whilst the total revenue and expenditure amounted to £5,657 and £8,829 respectively. There were 6 persons employed, and the total mileage was 21,300.

Cargo shipped and discharged. Statistics relating to the tonnage of cargo shipped and discharged in Victoria during the year ended 30th June, 1926, have now been tabulated, as shown hereunder. The first table gives the tonnage of interstate and oversea cargo handled at each port in the State, and the second tabulation shows only the tonnage of oversea cargo shipped and discharged in Victoria according to the nationality of the vessels carrying.

**TONNAGE OF INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA CARGO SHIPPED
AND DISCHARGED AT EACH PORT DURING
THE YEAR 1925-26.**

Port.	Discharged.		Shipped.	
	Interstate.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Oversea.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Melbourne	1,678,712	1,652,476	597,377	659,722
Geelong	150,018	56,038	11,665	87,939
Portland .. .. .	..	8,495	..	5,835
Warrnambool	16,951	930	1,241	3,540
Total	1,845,681	1,717,939	610,283	757,036

**TONNAGE OF OVERSEA CARGO SHIPPED AND DISCHARGED
IN VICTORIA DURING THE YEAR 1925-26, ACCORDING
TO THE NATIONALITY OF THE VESSELS
IN WHICH SUCH CARGO WAS CARRIED.**

Nationality of Vessels Carrying Cargo.	Tonnage.	
	Discharged.	Shipped.
Australian	107,702	46,310
Great Britain	996,866	377,245
Canadian	46,293	23,482
Hong Kong	3,884	4,537
New Zealand	48,962	90,348
South African	8,510	622
Other British	10,873	1,380
Total British	1,223,090	543,924
Danish	53,732	..
Finnish	18,451	1,500
French	8,756	792
German	55,877	18,920
Holland	29,701	38,138
Italian	23,616	20,237
Japanese	59,590	66,790
Norwegian	121,454	29,524
Swedish	69,506	22,307
United States of America	49,160	11,746
Other Foreign	5,006	3,158
Total Foreign	494,849	213,112
Grand Total	1,717,939	757,036

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Port of Melbourne. The port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, which has 10·8 miles of wharfs, piers, and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock, and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharfs is 66 acres, of which 26 acres are under sheds. The constitution of the Trust and the revenue and expenditure are shown in part "Municipal Statistics."

Port Improvement. An additional railway pier at Port Melbourne (called Prince's Pier) was completed in 1915, its length being 1,902 feet, and its width 186 feet. The total cost of the pier and super-structures was £215,792. Dredging has been completed to 37 feet, to provide for four berths for vessels drawing 35 feet. Two shelter sheds are provided, which are connected with vessels by movable gangways bridging the railway lines. Passengers are thus enabled to board and disembark from vessels clear of the railway traffic.

Another modern pier is being constructed on the site of the old railway pier at Port Melbourne, to be called "Station Pier." This new structure will be similar in design to the Prince's Pier, and will have a length of 2,200 feet, and a width of 195 feet which will allow of the installation of electric travelling cranes on both sides of the pier when required. Two of these cranes have been already erected on the west side. The pier will ultimately provide four berths for oversea steamers with a depth of 37 feet below low water, at an estimated cost (including dredging) of £492,880. The construction of two inner berths, as a provision for bay excursion steamers, has been completed. The expenditure on this work to 31st December, 1925, amounted to £253,889.

The channel leading to the piers at Port Melbourne and Williamstown is 600 feet wide, and dredging is in progress to provide a depth of 37 feet at low water. The first stage of providing a depth of 34 feet has been completed, and a channel with this depth is now open for the full width of 600 feet.

The construction of the new Central Pier at the Victoria Dock was completed in 1916. A bed for the centre roadway on this pier was formed by the insertion of reinforced concrete plates on which wood blocks have been laid. The expenditure on the pier to 31st December, 1925, including the erection of six cargo sheds, was £201,209.

The widening of the swinging basin on the south side of the river, and the erection of a timber wharf around the basin, have been completed. This work makes the width of the river at the basin 700 feet for a length of 1,000 feet. The river below the swinging basin as far as the Coode Canal, viz., for 4,480 feet, is being widened by 100 feet; 3,490 feet has been completed, leaving 990 feet still to be put in hand. The works being carried out in this connexion are:—Construction of reinforced concrete sheet piling, erection of wharf in front of sheet piling, demolition of the old wharf and sheet piling, and dredging to a depth of 27 feet. The swinging basin has been dredged to 27 feet O.L.W. The cost of these works to 31st December, 1925, was £321,484; the estimated total cost was £375,000.

The material dredged and disposed of during 1925
Dredging. amounted to 3,437,917 barge yards, viz., 1,460,336 barge yards from the Bay within the Harbor Trust boundary, and 1,977,581 barge yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 44,604,222, and the Bay dredgings to 39,956,800 barge yards, making a total of 84,561,022 barge yards. Of the dredgings 64,955,066 barge yards were deposited in deep water and 19,605,956 barge yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1925 was 14·16d. per barge yard.

There is a berthing space of 50,453 feet, the whole of
Berthing Accommodation. which has a good depth of water—7,610 feet at Williamstown, 7,444 feet at Port Melbourne, 20,524 feet in the River Yarra, 11,262 feet in the Victoria Dock, and 3,613 in the Maribyrnong River.

In the year 1925 vessels to the number of 4,241, comprising 3,580 steamers, 5 ships, 4 barques, 257 ketches, 84 schooners, and 311 lighters, with registered gross tonnage aggregating 11,558,322, berthed within the port. The tonnage of imports in 1925 was 3,413,511, and that of exports, 1,481,078. These figures include New Zealand and Interstate tonnage, which amounted to 1,863,284 in the case of imports, and 558,082 in the case of exports. Coal forms a great part of the Interstate imports. Exclusive of transshipments, 1,241,202 tons of coal were imported in 1925.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Rates of postage.

The following are the principal postal charges within the Commonwealth, as from 1st October, 1923:—

Letters	1½d. per ounce
Letter-cards	Single, 1½d. each
Post-cards	Single, 1d. each
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	1d. per 4 ounces
Books printed in Australia	1d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia	1d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia	each 1d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia	each 1d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia	each 1d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia	each 1d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters to all places within the British Empire is the same as applies to places within the Commonwealth, viz., 1½d. per ounce. To the United States of America and all foreign countries the rate of postage is 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce.

The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 2s. 6d. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. 3d. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters which is available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is now 7½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 12s. 6d. Week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. These messages are also available to Canada at a charge of 5½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 9s. 7d. per message. A new service *viâ* either "Pacific" or "Eastern" has been instituted, and is known as "Daily Letter Telegram." The rate to the United Kingdom is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. per message. Messages by this service are accepted any day except Sunday, and are subject to a normal delay of 48 hours.

Postal Returns.

The following table shows the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted in Victoria, whether for delivery inside the Commonwealth or to oversea countries. The recording of the numbers of letters, &c., received from other States

has been discontinued, only those received in Victoria from outside the Commonwealth being given:—

POSTAL RETURNS: 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Service.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	149,921,631	157,552,117	169,736,677	177,065,374	182,858,200
Outside the Commonwealth	4,743,414	5,246,566	7,253,801	8,323,470	9,660,600
Total	154,665,045	162,798,683	176,990,478	185,388,844	192,518,800
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	13,946,384	14,102,942	16,263,751	18,485,872	19,311,500

REGISTERED LETTERS AND ARTICLES.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,529,748	1,566,130	1,689,094	1,706,602	1,714,752
Outside the Commonwealth	77,182	81,966	91,757	112,499	111,905
Total	1,606,930	1,648,096	1,780,851	1,819,101	1,826,657
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	119,567	132,574	131,560	125,321	162,796

NEWSPAPERS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	27,631,937	33,120,157	35,042,439	37,936,920	38,865,700
Outside the Commonwealth	1,264,932	1,368,343	1,413,324	2,085,108	2,826,000
Total	28,896,869	34,488,500	36,455,763	40,022,028	41,691,700
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	2,396,421	2,775,606	3,785,421	4,756,226	4,860,700

PACKETS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	10,386,880	11,947,310	12,831,486	15,332,190	17,437,100
Outside the Commonwealth	344,987	310,219	333,601	413,053	423,100
Total	10,731,867	12,257,529	13,165,087	15,795,243	17,860,200
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	642,793	588,805	796,493	1,068,803	1,206,400

PARCELS.					
Posted for delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,909,355	2,072,153	2,007,259	2,324,398	2,320,200
Outside the Commonwealth	48,211	53,504	69,783	44,595	46,600
Total	1,957,566	2,125,657	2,077,042	2,368,993	2,366,800
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	90,154	122,929	122,566	128,506	135,000

The number of letters and other postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria during the year ended 30th June, 1926, was as follows:—

Dead Letters,
&c.

1. Returned direct to the sender or delivered—				
(a) Letters, lettercards and postcards addressed—				
(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	341,682
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	10,093
Total	..	..	..	351,775
(b) Packets and circulars addressed—				
(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	202,569
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	2,127
Total	..	..	..	204,687
2. Destroyed in accordance with the Act—				
(a) Letters, lettercards and postcards addressed—				
(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	82,967
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	3,771
Total	..	..	..	86,738
(b) Packets and circulars addressed—				
(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	13,998
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	78,791
Total	..	..	..	92,789
3. Returned as unclaimed to other States* and countries—				
(a) Letters, lettercards and postcards—				
(i) To other States	..	..	..	3,603
(ii) To other countries	..	..	..	35,367
Total	..	..	..	38,970
(b) Packets and circulars—				
(i) To other States	..	..	..	2,256
(ii) To other countries	..	..	..	28,469
Total	..	..	..	30,725

* Undelivered mail matter (Interstate) is now returned direct from the Dead Letter Office in the State which mail is addressed to, and not as hitherto returned to Dead Letter Office, in State of origin for return to sender.

Money and valuables to the amount of £48,327 were found in postal articles sent to the Dead Letter Office as undeliverable. Postal articles (16,824) were posted without address, and of that number 164 contained money and valuables to the extent of £1,960.

The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in Victoria in each of the last five years :—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heading.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Number of Money Order Offices open	573	582	616	640	661
Money Orders issued—					
Inland ..	{ Number .. 389,926 Amount £ 2,103,788	{ Number .. 422,505 Amount £ 2,119,437	{ Number .. 426,716 Amount £ 2,238,532	{ Number .. 441,152 Amount £ 2,338,892	{ Number .. 459,172 Amount £ 2,424,299
Inter-State	{ Number .. 65,461 Amount £ 370,498	{ Number .. 74,021 Amount £ 429,524	{ Number .. 78,676 Amount £ 464,133	{ Number .. 82,854 Amount £ 498,011	{ Number .. 84,568 Amount £ 511,899
International	{ Number .. 59,046 Amount £ 210,161	{ Number .. 65,560 Amount £ 222,570	{ Number .. 73,537 Amount £ 260,011	{ Number .. 73,966 Amount £ 250,643	{ Number .. 76,101 Amount £ 256,432
Total	{ Number .. 514,433 Amount £ 2,684,447	{ Number .. 562,086 Amount £ 2,771,531	{ Number .. 578,929 Amount £ 2,962,676	{ Number .. 597,972 Amount £ 3,087,546	{ Number .. 619,841 Amount £ 3,192,630
Money Orders Paid—					
Inland ..	{ Number .. 388,795 Amount £ 2,110,891	{ Number .. 400,109 Amount £ 2,118,513	{ Number .. 417,165 Amount £ 2,236,254	{ Number .. 444,721 Amount £ 2,346,425	{ Number .. 463,582 Amount £ 2,431,019
Inter-State	{ Number .. 124,343 Amount £ 663,754	{ Number .. 125,990 Amount £ 666,065	{ Number .. 132,281 Amount £ 673,527	{ Number .. 138,514 Amount £ 712,855	{ Number .. 139,044 Amount £ 736,803
International	{ Number .. 32,465 Amount £ 123,089	{ Number .. 32,322 Amount £ 124,938	{ Number .. 35,660 Amount £ 144,850	{ Number .. 37,100 Amount £ 149,429	{ Number .. 36,556 Amount £ 139,566
Total	{ Number .. 545,603 Amount £ 2,897,734	{ Number .. 558,421 Amount £ 2,909,516	{ Number .. 585,106 Amount £ 3,054,631	{ Number .. 620,335 Amount £ 3,208,709	{ Number .. 639,182 Amount £ 3,307,388
Postal Notes—					
Sold ..	{ Number .. 3,774,184 Amount £ 1,180,819	{ Number .. 4,013,977 Amount £ 1,240,935	{ Number .. 4,448,002 Amount £ 1,388,015	{ Number .. 4,346,270 Amount £ 1,447,297	{ Number .. 4,619,497 Amount £ 1,572,587
Inland, Issued and Paid	{ Number .. 2,340,742 Amount £ 834,474	{ Number .. 2,456,462 Amount £ 879,054	{ Number .. 2,618,976 Amount £ 930,079	{ Number .. 2,706,744 Amount £ 998,214	{ Number .. 2,935,129 Amount £ 1,049,904
Victorian—Paid in other States	{ Number .. 1,433,442 Amount £ 346,345	{ Number .. 1,531,548 Amount £ 357,147	{ Number .. 1,804,695 Amount £ 420,519	{ Number .. 1,532,740 Amount £ 444,328	{ Number .. 1,684,368 Amount £ 522,683
Of other States—Paid in Victoria	{ Number .. 346,345 Amount £ 129,707	{ Number .. 357,147 Amount £ 134,432	{ Number .. 420,519 Amount £ 135,889	{ Number .. 444,328 Amount £ 142,718	{ Number .. 522,683 Amount £ 151,553

Of the orders issued in 1925-26, 7,217 for £27,145 were payable in New Zealand, and 53,628 for £154,678 were payable in the United Kingdom. The orders paid included 20,196 for £66,080 issued in New Zealand, and 11,132 for £51,159 issued in the United Kingdom.

There are 2,300 telegraph offices in the State, 136 of which are attached to the railway service. The number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and the number received by them, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

Telegraphs and Telegrams.

TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED, 1921-22
TO 1925-26.

Heading.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland ..	2,593,954	2,687,030	2,813,300	2,910,978	4,244,806*
Inter-State ..	1,177,108	1,227,522	1,297,652	1,336,764	
International ..	169,105	180,311	197,290	214,048	230,408
Total ..	3,940,167	4,094,863	4,308,242	4,461,790	4,475,214
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State ..	1,215,826	1,228,851	1,302,006	1,302,067	4,198,437†
International ..	161,345	175,429	205,568	216,734	221,879
Total ..	1,377,171	1,404,280	1,507,574	1,518,801	4,420,316

* Signifies "Within the Commonwealth."

† Includes "Inland" which was not previously shown.

Telephones. Prior to 1st July, 1924, the connexion of one subscriber to a telephone office constituted an exchange, but the rule since followed is that at least two subscribers' lines (or a subscriber's line and one public telephone line) must be connected before an office becomes an exchange. There were 1,426 telephone exchanges on 30th June, 1926, as compared with 1,264 in the previous year. The actual number of subscribers' lines on the date mentioned was 93,215, with 127,000 instruments connected which represented 7.49 to every 100 persons in the State. Telephone bureaux for the use of the public are placed in prominent positions in or near public buildings, post offices, railway stations, &c. The number of these on 30th June, 1926, was 1,914.

Details of wireless licences issued in Victoria for the year ended 30th June, 1926, are shown hereunder. The wireless licences issued to broadcast listeners in Victoria represented 50 per cent. of the total for Australia.

WIRELESS LICENCES ISSUED IN VICTORIA, 1925-26.

Class of Licence.	Number.
Coast	1
Ship	59
Broadcasting A	2
Broadcasting B	1
Broadcast Listeners—	
Ordinary	63,494
Special	49
Temporary	25
Experimental—	
Transmitting and Receiving	114
Receiving only	133
Dealers' Listening	797

Post Office
revenue and
expenditure.

Particulars concerning the revenue and expenditure of the Post and Telegraph Department in Victoria for the years 1920-21 to 1924-25 are contained in the following table:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT IN VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Particulars.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
<i>Revenue.</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Postage	1,190,299	1,362,344	1,417,267	1,256,509	1,230,787
Money Order Commission	39,428	40,839	42,837	46,454	49,175
Foundage on Postal Notes	7,768	8,519	8,908	9,778	10,598
Private Boxes and Bags	64,485	84,722	78,637	118,269	112,478
Miscellaneous					
Total Postal	1,301,980	1,496,424	1,547,649	1,431,010	1,402,988
Telegraph	283,420	293,688	303,992	*311,621	335,640
Telephones	687,819	768,860	846,610	943,595	1,033,242
Grand Total†	2,272,719	2,558,972	2,698,251	2,686,226	2,771,870
<i>Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries and Contingencies—					
Salaries	1,033,176	1,086,733	1,198,594	1,270,996	1,438,088
Conveyance of Mails	166,259	239,094	205,687	220,780	239,415
Contingencies	412,034	459,275	369,157	427,111	501,435
Miscellaneous	13,392	23,568	21,697	17,607	21,844
Pensions and Retiring Allowances	38,320	42,398	45,309	46,840	49,476
Rents, Repairs, Maintenance, Fittings, &c.	18,794	23,318	25,279	32,928	31,001
Supervision of Public Works	138	292	344	403	382
Proportion of Audit Expenses	2,326	2,513	2,995	3,014	2,999
Unforeseen Expenditure	9	20	26	15	53
New Works—					
Telegraph and Telephone	212,599	530,903	559,128	918,824	1,030,482
New Buildings, &c.	7,973	19,329	26,219	98,197	109,951
Interest on Transferred Properties ..	45,964	46,490	42,493	43,194	43,241
Total Expenditure‡	1,950,984	2,473,933	2,496,838	3,079,909	3,468,367

* Excluding Radio receipts.

† Actual collections.

‡ Actual payments, including loan expenditure, as follows.—£436 in 1920-21, £260,807 in 1921-22, £416,901 in 1922-23, £787,323 in 1923-24, and £1,140,433 in 1924-25.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian
Railways,
length and
cost.

All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are with the two exceptions referred to on page 448, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, the Geelong Road Motor Service, and the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways—all of which are under the control of the Railways Commissioners. The operations of the tramways mentioned are also shown separately on page 446. The usual motive power is steam, but electric traction is used on the suburban lines

(with the exception of a portion of the Outer Circle line), and on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of tramways referred to above. The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·9 miles of single lines, of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in., and 2·41 miles (2·21 miles double and ·20 mile single) of electric street tramway, of which the gauge is 4 ft. $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. The following table shows the length of double and single lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years :—

**RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION,
1921-22 to 1925-26.**

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Length of Lines opened to 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	332·04	336·25	338·35	338·38	338·38
Single Lines (miles)	4,040·85	4,052·46	4,151·63	4,200·60	4,344·25
Total	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04	4,538·98	4,682·63
Cost of Construction	£ 40,408,014	£ 40,743,821	£ 41,409,905	£ 41,967,054	£ 43,102,954
Average Cost per mile	9,242	9,284	9,223	9,259	9,205

In addition to the lines embraced in this table the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1926 :—

4 ft. $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. Gauge.	Miles.
Black Rock to Beaumaris (electric street tramway) ..	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
*Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing	38
Goroke to Morea	9
Marnoo to Wallaloo	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	55 $\frac{3}{4}$

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	Miles.
*Euston to Benanee and beyond	30
*Mildura to Gol Gol	24
*Yarrawonga to Oaklands	37
Bowser to Peechelba	11
La La Siding to Big Pat's Creek	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	104 $\frac{1}{2}$

*Under Border Railways Act No. 3194.

Electrification
of suburban
lines.

Parliament sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways in the year 1912, and the whole suburban system is now conducted under electric traction, with the exception of a small section of the Outer Circle line (between East Camberwell and Deepdene). During the year 1925-26 the lines from Ringwood to Ferntree Gully, and Croydon to Lilydale were completed. Although there was an increase in passenger journeys during 1925-26, a considerable amount of traffic has been lost as a result of the construction of new tramways and the conversion of certain of the cable tramways to electric traction, combined with the through routing of trams to the metropolis on services which previously necessitated a break of journey; whilst the business has been further adversely affected by the increase in the use of privately-owned motor cars. The suburban railway business would have suffered to a greater extent if the superior facilities now available did not exist, viz. :— quick transit, greater frequency of trains, together with the cleanliness and comfort which characterize electric traction.

The original project of establishing an electrification scheme has developed in another highly important direction, viz., the supply of power for industrial purposes. The revenue from this source in 1925-26 was £145,026.

The total expenditure debited to the Electrification Capital Account to 30th June, 1926, was £6,360,933.

Cost of
railways and
equipment.

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT, 1922 TO 1926.

30th June—				£
1922	..	..	..	63,186,759
1923	..	..	..	64,938,085
1924	..	..	..	66,212,984
1925	..	..	..	67,470,720
1926	..	..	..	69,181,724

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1926, £4,029,214 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£65,152,510) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £67,540,000, on which the annual interest payable is £3,175,000, or at the average rate of 4·702 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £2,208,505—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926, was 4·702 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 4·875 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred to 30th June, 1926, in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £353,407, and, for surveys of lines not constructed, £415,318. Both of these items are included in the totals shown above. The cost of lines in course of construction (£201,422) is, however, excluded.

**Railway
traffic.**

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1921, are given in the following table:—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Miles Constructed ..	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04	4,538·98	4,682·63
„ Dismantled ..	36·13	36·14	36·14	36·14	36·14
„ Closed to Traffic	11·83	11·62	11·62	11·62	11·62
„ Open for Traffic	4,324·43	4,340·95	4,442·28	4,491·22	4,634·87
Train Mileage* ..	15,829,605	16,323,481	17,245,219	18,172,188	18,267,000
Passenger Journeys..	149,223,529	163,120,037	175,030,787	173,656,504	175,354,111†
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ..	7,491,031	7,517,216	8,309,543	8,959,556	8,728,496

* Excluding Departmental, Assistant, and Light Mileage for the years shown.

† Including 17,504 of the Geelong Road Motor Service.

The mileage given in preceding tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1926, was 5,001·89 miles of main tracks and 999·08 miles of sidings.

The number of passengers carried in 1925-26 (175,354,111) was the highest on record. Compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 1,980,815 in metropolitan-suburban passenger journeys, whilst the country passengers showed a decrease of 300,712. The increase in the former was mainly due to the visit of the American Fleet, and the decline in the latter is attributed to the competition of privately-owned motor cars. The Geelong Road Motor Service commenced on 30th November, 1925, and was responsible up to 30th June, 1926, for 17,504 passenger journeys, and these have been omitted in the above comparisons. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 231,060 less than in 1924-25. The items of goods carried in 1925-26 showing greatest tonnage were stone, gravel, and sand, 1,895,851 tons; wheat, 796,242 tons; and firewood, 711,697 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 599,591 tons, and comprised 33,234 horses, 537,101 cattle, 8,215,683 sheep, and 433,775 pigs.

Flinders-street Station Traffic. A barrier tally of passengers leaving and entering the three metropolitan stations was taken under normal conditions early in December, 1924. The average daily number of passengers who travelled to and from Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge—which are connected and may be considered as one station—was 282,851, while the highest daily figure recorded for both stations combined was 299,019. In the following table is given an approximation to the average number of passengers who travelled daily to and from the three metropolitan stations in certain specified years from 1909 to 1924 :—

Year.	Average Number of Passengers per Week-day at Stations—				
	Flinders-street.	Prince's-bridge.	Total for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge.	Spencer-street (Suburban only).	Total for Three Stations.
1909 ..	129,449	20,099	149,548	14,546	164,094
1911 ..	145,257	20,740	165,997	20,670	186,667
1914 ..	182,870	27,403	210,273	21,636	231,909
1918 ..	161,363	26,033	187,396	21,836	209,232
1922 ..	209,181	31,958	241,139	44,469	285,608
1924 ..	238,303	44,548	282,851	42,564	325,415

The figures for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge include both suburban and country travellers, but only suburban passengers are included in the numbers for Spencer-street.

The number of trains handled on an ordinary week-day at Flinders-street is approximately 2,800, and at Prince's-bridge 400.

Railway
receipts and
expenditure.

The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts—					
Passenger, &c., Business—					
Passenger Fares	4,880,595	5,160,256	5,396,088	5,450,444	5,497,109*
Parcels, &c. . .	458,914	473,007	486,397	501,109	513,842
Other . . .	102,886	97,136	97,548	99,448	132,109
Goods, &c., Business—					
Goods . . .	4,164,645	4,178,192	4,534,931	5,070,969	4,777,686
Live Stock . .	528,836	653,229	523,406	550,060	636,326
Minerals . . .	121,575	121,771	146,189	154,493	151,439
Miscellaneous—					
Dining Car and Refreshment Services . . .	294,046	308,116	345,161	407,848	439,543
Sale of Electrical Power . . .	92,540	179,033	225,452	218,797	145,026
Rentals . . .	103,744	117,673	119,300	124,883	156,546
Other . . .	110,072	125,369	151,515	252,232	293,940
Total . . .	10,857,853	11,413,782	12,025,987	12,830,283	12,743,566
Working Expenses—					
Way and Works . .	1,718,955	1,770,997	1,873,563	1,976,968	1,941,699
Rolling-stock . .	3,183,084	3,093,780	3,231,168	3,512,573	3,604,566
Transportation . .	2,664,486	2,685,068	2,880,700	3,121,115	2,731,452†
Electrical Engineering Branch . . .	264,825	406,870	538,547	564,264	466,770
Pensions and Gratuities . . .	194,581	203,470	206,366	215,087	219,396
Payment to the Superannuation Fund . . .	..	..	..	..	18,712
Other . . .	261,215	282,029	252,536	314,448	850,645
Total . . .	8,287,146	8,442,214	8,982,880	9,704,455	9,833,240
Net Receipts . . .	2,570,707	2,971,568	3,043,107	3,125,828	2,910,326
Percentage of Expenses to Receipts	76·32	73·97	74·70	75·64	77·2

* Including Geelong Road Motor Service, £3,911.

† Including Geelong Road Motor Service, £3,930.

The receipts for 1925-26 were £86,717 less than those received in 1924-25. Passenger business increased by £92,059, but there was a

decrease of £210,071 in goods, &c., business, which was the result of the unfavorable season and the consequent falling off in the wheat traffic.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement:—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET REVENUE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Interest, &c.	Net Revenue.	Surplus(+) or Deficit(-)
	£	£	£
1921-22	2,589,816	2,570,707	- 19,109
1922-23	2,951,385	2,971,568	+ 20,183
1923-24	3,015,455	3,043,107	+ 27,652*
1924-25	3,099,885	3,125,828	+ 25,943
1925-26	3,092,695	2,910,326	- 182,369

* This is subject to a deduction of £136,417, which has been written off. After making this deduction there is a deficit of £108,765. The former amount (£136,417) represents the losses on non-paying lines for which credit was taken in revenue accounts of previous years, but which was not paid by the Government to the Railways Commissioners.

Railway earnings and expenses per mile open.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per average mile of railway worked for each of the last five years were as follows:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER AVERAGE MILE OPEN, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heading.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	4,287	4,304	4,377	4,455	4,536
Gross Earnings per Mile	£ 2,533	£ 2,652	£ 2,747	£ 2,880	£ 2,809
Expenses per Mile	1,933	1,961	2,052	2,178	2,168
Net Profits per Mile	600	691	695	702	641

This table does not take account of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

Railway Rolling-stock. Particulars of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1926, are shown in the next statement :—

RAILWAY ROLLING-STOCK AT 30TH JUNE, 1926.

Vehicles.	Broad-Gauge.	Narrow-Gauge.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Locomotives—			
Steam	668	19	687
Electric	2	..	2
Steam Cranes	15	..	15
Rail Motors	45	..	45
Steam Coaching Stock	1,833	55	1,888
Electric Coaching Stock	844	..	844
Electric Tramway Stock	36	..	36
Goods Waggons	18,841	242	19,083
Service Stock	800	1	801

The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £12,763,635, of the narrow-gauge stock £117,457, and of the electric street tramway stock £101,822.

Railway staff. The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (excluding travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last five financial years were as set forth below :—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.			Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year.
	Permanent.	Supernumerary.	Total.	
1921-22 ..	19,273	7,688	26,961	£ 6,388,508
1922-23 ..	19,450	7,295	26,745	6,293,720
1923-24 ..	19,057	8,562	27,619	6,651,251
1924-25 ..	18,798	10,354	29,152	6,969,519
1925-26 ..	19,091	9,834	28,925	7,273,485

St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways. The results of operating the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways for 1925-26 are detailed in the following statement. As these tramways are controlled by the Railways Commissioners, particulars relating to them have been included in all the preceding railway tables.

ELECTRIC STREET TRAMWAYS, 1925-26.
(Under the control of the Railways Commissioners.)

Heading.	St. Kilda-Brighton Electric Tramway.	Sandringham- Black Rock Electric Tramway.
Average Mileage of Tramway Worked ..	5.18	2.41
Car Mileage	564,085	127,368
Number of Passengers Carried	5,910,741	1,371,558
	£	£
Gross Revenue	56,533	12,061
Working Expenses	48,534	13,233
Interest Charges	9,277	5,514
Net Result	Loss 1,278	Loss 6,686
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1926—		
Construction of Line	124,059	70,103
Rolling-stock	72,248	29,574

The following table shows the number of persons killed or injured in railway accidents and the amount paid in compensation, damages, &c., for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26:—

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS, 1924-25 and 1925-26.

Nature of Accident.	1924-25.		1925-26.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Train Accidents—				
Passengers .. .. .	..	..	3	153
Employees .. .. .	..	1	..	..
Accidents on Line (other than Train Accidents)—				
Passengers	7	133	8	186
Employees	5	103	11	89
Other Persons .. .. .	..	..	1	2
Shunting Accidents—				
Employees	5	44	7	33
Other Persons .. .. .	..	5	..	1
Employees proceeding to and from Duty	3	2	2	1
Accidents to Persons at Crossings ..	12	3	28	25
Trespassers	15	3	18	8
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	4	..	..
Total	47	298	78	498
Compensation, Damages, etc., Paid	£27,100		£24,975	

The form of the above return is in accordance with a decision of the Interstate Conference of Railways Commissioners. For particulars relating to previous years, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1923-24, page 435.

Freights on
Victorian
railways.

A statement of freights, operative on 1st October, 1926, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50	100	150	200	250	300	350							
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.							
	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.							
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.							
Rate per Ton.														
Agricultural Produce, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.*	6	8	10	3	12	2	13	7	14	7	15	7	16	9
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese (boxed, minimum, 1 ton), and Eggs	12	9	23	10	31	10	40	0	45	8	51	2	56	11
Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton)	14	2	26	4	35	3	44	5	50	8	56	10	63	2
Milk, in 4-ton lots	11	2	20	2	26	6	32	8	37	2	41	11	46	6
Fresh Fruit	8	6	15	2	19	10	24	7	27	11	31	6	35	0
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 8 or 12 tons	12	5	22	5	29	5	36	3	41	4	46	7	51	8
Poultry (living)	17	9	32	11	44	1	55	6	63	5	71	1	78	11
Wool (greasy)	25	9	50	3	64	9	73	9	83	6	92	9	102	3
Binder Twine, in truck loads of 8 tons	21	9	42	0	61	3	75	9	90	6	97	6	104	6
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine	27	0	52	3	78	3	97	3	116	6	129	0	142	8
Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	12	5	22	5	29	5	36	3	41	4	46	7	51	8
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 and 8 tons	17	5	33	7	49	0	60	7	72	5	78	0	83	7
Wire Netting, in truck loads of 9½ tons, 11 tons 8 cwt., and 14½ tons	6	6	11	5	15	9	18	5	21	6	23	10	26	1
Manures, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	3	8	5	7	7	0	8	3	9	8	11	0	11	7
Rate per Truck.														
Live Stock (other than pigs)	60	6	116	6	136	6	179	6	224	0	267	0	311	0
Pigs	54	8	105	1	123	1	161	9	201	10	240	6	280	1

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, Compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Pig Feed, and Malt; also Wine and Fruit, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export. The minimum loadings for Chaff, Hay and Straw, and Pig Feed are as follows:—

Commodities.	Per 10, 11, or 12-ton Truck.	Per 16-ton Truck.
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay and Straw	6	8
Chaff	7	10
Pig Feed	8	12

Fares on
Victorian
railways.

A summary of passenger fares, operative on 1st October, 1926, has been obtained from the Railway Department, and is given below.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.*	
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
50	10 3	6 10	17 1	11 5
100	19 10	13 3	33 2	22 2
150	29 5	19 7	49 3	32 10
200	39 8	26 5	66 4	44 2
250	49 6	33 1	82 8	55 2
300	55 5	36 11	92 8	61 8
350	61 4	40 10	102 2	68 2

*Tickets issued only at week-ends and on dates specially advertised.

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2½d. per mile for first class return and 1½d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 1st October to the 30th April each year return tourist tickets are issued to various, holiday resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

Municipal railway. A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1925, cost £37,459 for construction and equipment. For the year 1925 the gross receipts were £8,933 and the working expenses including interest £7,559. The train mileage for the same year was 9,652, the number of passenger-journeys was 16,901, and the tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 25,445.

Private railway. Another railway in Victoria, not belonging to the State system, is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, it is engaged in the general business of transportation of passengers and goods. Up to 30th June, 1926, the cost of construction was £79,954, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses (exclusive of depreciation and interest on capital) were £8,718 and £9,605 respectively. The above construction and maintenance cost includes the cost of about 8 miles of

steel tramway continuation beyond Powelltown. This tramway is used for haulage of the logs of the company to which the line belongs and of sawn timber of other sawmillers, but not for passenger traffic. The freights on the extension line are included in the above receipts. The train mileage for the year between Powelltown and Yarra Junction was 16,810, and the passenger-journeys numbered 23,657.

TRAMWAYS.

**Victorian
tramways
(excl.
Railways).**

The various tramway systems in the State comprise 38,583 miles of cable lines, double track, and 121,752 miles of electric lines, of which 82,133 miles are double, and 39,619 miles single track.

The electric street tramways, St. Kilda to Brighton and Sandringham to Black Rock, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, are not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading "Railways," page 446, and "All Victorian Tramways," page 454.

The subjoined table contains particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria (with the above exceptions) for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

(Exclusive of St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways).

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1921-22	100·016	44·148	22,369,483	226,738,318	£ 1,943,805	£ 1,472,296	1,470	4,586
1922-23	105·791	41·340	22,775,563	234,588,628	1,999,633	1,492,031	1,465	5,070
1923-24	105·360	41·499	23,242,072	229,771,075	1,956,904	1,641,339	1,502	5,887
1924-25	111·686	40·562	25,052,876	236,899,796	2,019,391	1,737,317	1,571	5,986
1925-26	120·716	39·619	24,424,938	235,350,941	2,128,689	1,745,528	1,444	5,989

On 7th January, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act, which is administered by a Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Board assumed control of the Melbourne Cable Tramways on 1st November, 1919.

On 2nd February, 1920, the Electric Tramway systems of the following Trusts were vested in the Board:—Prahlan and Malvern Tramways; Hawthorn Tramways; Melbourne, Brunswick and Coburg Tramways; Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways; and Footscray Tramways; also the Cable Tramway of the Northcote

Council. The Essendon Electric Tramways were taken over on 1st August, 1922.

The Board is empowered to borrow up to £4,000,000 by the issue of stock or debentures secured upon its revenues and undertakings, this being in addition to the transferred liabilities attaching to the tramways vested in it. Power is given to have an overdraft not exceeding £200,000. The Board has exercised its power to borrow to the extent of £2,950,000.

The Board has prepared a general scheme for the future development of tramways in the metropolis, which has been approved by the Railways Standing Committee. The scheme includes provision for the construction of about 100 single track miles of electric tramway, but, before the Board can actually construct any of such tramways, a "Special construction scheme" dealing with the proposed route must be approved by the Railways Standing Committee and authorized by Parliament. Authority has, however, been given to the Board to construct certain tramways already approved by the Governor in Council or Parliament, without further formality.

The Act provides that the Board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue each year a sum equivalent to the Government's contributions to the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and certain specified municipalities pursuant to the *Licensing Act* 1916. (The payments under this obligation for the year ended 30th June, 1926, amounted to £104,393). The surplus on the operations of any year, after transferring not less than 4 per cent. nor more than 6 per cent. of the capital cost of the undertaking to Reserve Funds and carrying to the credit of the succeeding year such sum, not exceeding £10,000, as the Board thinks fit, is to be distributed amongst 29 constituent Metropolitan Councils in accordance with a scheme of distribution to be adopted by the Board. Any sum received by a municipality in pursuance of this arrangement is to be applied only to such purposes as the Governor in Council shall approve. No distribution to the Municipalities has been made since 30th June, 1920.

Pursuant to the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act* 1923, municipal councils may require the Board to submit a special construction scheme to the Railways Standing Committee dealing with any route included in the general scheme. In the event of such route being approved by the Committee, and its construction being authorized by Parliament, the Board shall construct the line under a guarantee against loss on operation from the council or councils concerned for a period of five years. The council or councils shall pay each year from the Municipal fund any losses in respect of which a guarantee has been given, and a council may, if not forbidden by the ratepayers, recoup itself by the levy of a "tramway betterment rate" over the whole or a portion of the district served.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1925-26.

Tramway.	Miles of Track Open—		Tram Mileage.	Passengers Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.*	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling Stock.	Number of Persons Employed.
	Double.	Single.						
Cable—								
Melbourne	34·083	..	11,886,788	121,967,729	£ 1,002,392	£ 814,367	953	2,436
Northcote	4·500	..	507,123	5,914,386	39,061	32,735	32	84
Total Cable	38·583	..	12,393,911	127,882,115	1,041,453	847,102	985	2,520
Electric—								
Prahran and Malvern	45·016	2·204	5,475,601	55,468,726	538,732	433,015	208	1,676
Hawthorn	10·849	2·330	1,466,611	13,790,121	148,504	115,978	46	408
Coburg	5·795	1·786	1,207,201	11,060,239	109,125	85,269	40	322
Preston	2·782	4·043	923,403	5,919,669	66,241	65,223	19	269
Footscray	2·547	1·920	321,799	3,600,394	30,245	27,347	12	99
Essendon	9·764	2·946	1,263,113	9,178,789	110,714	89,346	55	468
Total Electric	76·753	15·229	10,657,728	99,017,938	1,003,561	816,178	380	3,242
Grand Total (Tramways)	115·336	15·229	23,051,639	226,900,053	2,045,014	1,663,280	1,365	5,762
Motor Omnibuses	Route Mileage.							
	19·659		1,449,719	7,164,095	97,220	112,289	56	239

* Gross revenue for tramways amounted to £2,055,623, and for motor omnibuses to £97,304.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways. The following table contains detailed particulars of the operations of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board for the year 1925-26:—

Interchange.

In addition to traffic receipts (£2,142,234), there was revenue from advertising, rents, &c., of £6,960 from cable tramways, £3,649 from electric tramways, and £84 from motor buses, making a gross revenue for the year of £2,152,928.

The gross surplus on the year's operations, including motor omnibuses, was £377,360. Out of this had to be paid interest on loans, rates, &c., leaving available for appropriation an amount of £128,439. As this sum was insufficient to meet the statutory payments to Consolidated Revenue and Tramway Reserves required by Acts of Parliament, the sum of £242,477 had to be transferred from the General Reserve Account to meet the deficit. After this had been done the following appropriations were made:—Consolidated Revenue, £104,393; General Reserve Account, £218,650; Fire Insurance Reserve Account, £1,500; and Loans Redemption and Sinking Fund Accounts, £46,373.

Up to 30th June, 1926, the capital cost of the tramways vested in the Tramways Board, including stores on hand, amounted to £6,553,137, of which £2,122,806 was expended on cable, £4,314,291 on electric tramways, and £116,040 on motor omnibuses.

In the next statement interesting comparisons are made between the cable, electric and bus systems, the receipts per mile, the cost of working, &c., being shown for the year 1925-26:—

System.	Average Traffic Receipts.			Percentage of Working Expenses to Total Revenue.	Working Expenses per Tram Mile including Power Cost.	Average Distance per Penny.
	Per Tram Mile.	Per Mile of Single Track.	Per Passenger.			
	d.	£	d.		d.	Miles.
Cable ..	20·167	13,496	1·954	80·79	16·404	·940
Electric ..	22·599	5,948	2·431	81·03	18·380	·900
Bus	16·095	2,472	3·257	115·40	18·589	·835

Metropolitan
Tramways
Traffic, last
five years.

Particulars in relation to the traffic of the metropolitan tramways for each of the last five years are given in the following statement :—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1921-22
TO 1925-26.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Passenger Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
					£	£		
1921-22	96·021	21·26	21,208,879	218,450,712	1,857,469	1,406,127	1,402	4,399
1922-23	100·396	17·642	21,584,652	226,631,546	1,911,278	1,427,955	1,397	4,875
1923-24	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673
1924-25	106·306	16·172	23,712,432	228,752,078	1,935,098	1,661,274	1,493	5,764
1925-26	115·336	15·229	23,051,639	226,900,053	2,045,014	1,663,280	1,365	5,762

The towns, other than the metropolis, having tramway systems are :—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines (1·42 double and 12·43 single track); Bendigo, with 8·79 miles of electric lines (1·79 double and 7·00 single track); and Geelong, with 7·13 miles of electric lines (2·17 double and 4·96 single track).

The traffic particulars of these lines for each of the last five years are summarized below :—

COUNTRY TRAMWAYS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.		Tram Mileage.	Passenger Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
					£	£		
1921-22	3·995	22·888	1,160,604	8,287,606	86,336	66,169	68	187
1922-23	5·395	23·698	1,190,911	7,957,082	88,355	64,076	68	196
1923-24	5·395	23·698	1,257,187	7,879,005	86,616	74,343	69	214
1924-25	5·380	24·390	1,340,444	8,147,718	84,293	76,043	78	222
1925-26	5·380	24·390	1,373,299	8,450,888	83,676	82,248	79	227

A summary of the operations for the past two years relating to the foregoing tramway systems and the electric tramways under the control of the Railways Commissioners is appended:—

ALL VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1924-25 AND 1925-26.

Heading.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Route Mileage Open—Double .. miles	119·076	128·106
Single .. miles	40·762	39·819
Total .. miles	159·838	167·925
Cost of Construction and Equipment £	6,157,522	6,689,627
Interest Payable on Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment .. £	174,582	242,265
Gross Revenue—		
Traffic Receipts £	2,103,645	{ 2,196,083
Other £		{ 13,228
Total Revenue £	2,103,645	2,209,311
Working Expenses £	1,796,958	1,807,295
Net Earnings £	306,687	402,016
Net Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses and Interest .. £	Profit 132,105	Profit 159,751
Tram Miles Run miles	25,743,058	25,116,391
Passenger Journeys No.	244,112,158	242,633,240
Staff Employed—		
Salaried No.	671	717
Wages No.	5,449	5,409
Total Staff No.	6,120	6,126
Rolling Stock No.	1,607	1,480

LICENSED VEHICLES.

The licensing of vehicles plying, kept, or let out for hire within the city of Melbourne or for a distance of 8 miles beyond the city boundaries is controlled by the Melbourne City Council. The appended statement contains details of vehicles and drivers licensed annually during the last five years:—

Licensed
vehicles in
Melbourne.

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1921 TO 1925.

Heading.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs, Drags (4 wheel)	470	423	391	410	286
„ (Hansoms)	157	135	114	95	61
Motor Cars	480	483	644	882	842
„ Omnibuses .. ..	..	3	19	72	170
„ Chars-a-bancs	37	60	109	331	85
Total	1,144	1,104	1,277	1,790	1,444
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	3,253	3,322	3,257	3,182	3,226

Motor vehicles licensed.

The Melbourne City Council issues only one kind of licence for all motor vehicles plying for hire. In the above table motor cars embrace all motor vehicles registered with a seating capacity of under 10 seats. The particulars of all motor vehicles licensed for hire for the period 1st January to 31st December 1926, are as follows:—1,210 motor vehicles, of which 265 vehicles had a seating capacity of 10 seats and over, and 945 of under 10 seats. Information regarding passenger traffic of motor vehicles is not yet available. With a view to tabulation action has now been taken to obtain particulars relating to motor omnibuses licensed under Act No. 3378. Under the prescribed regulations owners are required to furnish the statistics at the close of the calendar year.

Motor vehicle Registrations.

The use of motor cars and motor vehicles in Victoria is regulated by the Motor Car Act No. 2702, the Highways and Vehicles Act No. 3379, and the Motor Omnibus Act No. 3378.

Under the provisions of these Acts, every motor car, motor omnibus, and motor cycle must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registration renewed annually. The annual registration fee is calculated on the power-weight unit—the charge ranging from 3s. per power-weight unit for ordinary motor cars to 3s. 9d. per power-weight unit for motor vehicles used for hire or for carrying goods in the course of trade if fitted with pneumatic tires, or to 5s. per unit if fitted with non-pneumatic tires. The minimum fee for any motor car other than a motor cycle is £3. Motor omnibuses are charged a flat rate of £5, plus additional fees ranging from £1 10s. to £4 10s. per passenger seat, if running on certain defined routes in the Melbourne district.

During the year 1925-26 there were registered 83,622 motor cars, 193 trailers, 148 traction engines, 19,929 motor cycles, 6,713 sidecars, and 142 omnibuses.

No person may drive a motor car or motor cycle upon any public highway without having been licensed. On 30th June, 1926, the number of drivers of motor cars and motor cycles licensed by the Chief Commissioner of Police was 126,369. There were also 215 dealers registered.

The total revenue received by the Police Department during 1925-26 from motor-vehicle registrations, &c., amounted to £643,333, as follows:—Cars, trailers, and traction engines, £579,459; omnibuses, £4,458; motor cycles and sidecars, £23,285; dealers, £1,075; drivers' and riders' licences, £31,592; and transfers, duplicates, &c., £3,464.

Traffic Accidents. The Police Department tabulated a return of the accidents known to the police which occurred in the public streets of Victoria for the calendar year 1925. Details are as follows:—

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN VICTORIA, 1925.

Cause of Accident.	Killed.	Injured.
	No.	No.
Vehicles—		
Tram	30	253
Train	34	30
Motor	189	2,008
Bicycle	6	72
Other Vehicles (including improper riding, &c.)	36	260
Horses	6	65
Totals	301	2,688
Ages of persons killed or injured—		
Under 10 years	35	191
10 to 14 years	11	98
Over 14 years	255	2,399