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by

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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the thirty-third of the series and deals chiefly with 1943 and previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1944.

The Report follows the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five Chapters, viz., Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes), and Associations (Labour Organizations). The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

In tabulating the results of investigations, as to rates of wage, labour organizations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report:—

Groups of Industries and Occupations.

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

Secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail traders, house agents, and others have readily supplied much special information for the purposes of this Report, and an expression of thanks is tendered to all who have thus assisted.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made of the continued assistance given by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices.

Special acknowledgment is made to Mr. H. G. Downing, the officer in charge of Labour Statistics in this Bureau, for the care and attention which he has bestowed on the compilation of this Report and to the staff under his control for their many special services.

Owing to war-time circumstances some matter which appeared in previous issues has been omitted and publication of the Report has been delayed beyond the normal date. Opportunity has been taken in this issue, however, to revise substantially Chapter I. dealing with Retail Price Indexes in order to provide, in print, answers to many questions frequently encountered in correspondence and public discussion. A supplement dealing with special problems of the "C" Series Retail Price Index in war-time will be published separately. A table has been inserted showing the automatic adjustment scales applied by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in respect of basic wage rates. A special section has been inserted summarizing decisions as to the basic wage rates for females, particularly during the war period.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., June, 1945.

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