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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the thirty-fourth of the series and deals chiefly with 1944 and previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1945.

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 Chapter IV. brief reference is made in Section 3 to the Commonwealth Employment Service and in Section 5 to the Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

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 information specially for the purposes of this Report, and my thanks are 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, and to the staff under his control, for the care and attention given to the compilation of this Report.

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Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., June, 1946.

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