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BY

S. R. CARVER,
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the forty-second of the series and deals chiefly with 1953, in addition to providing comparisons for previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1954.

The Report follows in the main 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 and Hours; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes); and 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, etc., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report:—

Groups of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmills, Timber-works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarrying, &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.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the work done in the preparation of this Report by Mr. F. Stewart, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Prices Branch, Mr. G. F. Cordy, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Employment and Labour Branch, and the staff under their control.

S. R. CARVER,
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
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SYNOPSIS.

	Page.
CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.	
§ 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices	1
§ 2. Nature and Purpose of Retail Price Indexes—	
1. General	2
2. Essential Features	3
3. The List of Items	3
4. Purpose of Retail Price Indexes	3
5. Effects of Abnormal Conditions on Indexes	3
§ 3. Previous Retail Price Indexes—	
1. General	4
2. The "Court" Index	5
§ 4. The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year)—	
1. Origin of the Interim Retail Price Index	5
2. Definition of the Interim Retail Price Index	8
3. Differences between the Structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and the "C" Series Retail Price Index	8
4. Comparison of Trends of the Interim Retail Price Index with Trends of the "C" Series Retail Price Index	10
§ 5. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index Numbers—	
1. General	11
2. The "C" Series Retail Price Index	12
3. The Interim Retail Price Index	12
§ 6. The "C" Series Retail Price Index : 1914 to 1954—	
1. Construction	13
2. Significant Dates	14
3. "C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1954	15
§ 7. International Comparisons : Retail Price Index Numbers	17

CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.	
§ 1. General	20
§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index—	
1. Price Quotations	20
2. Commodities and Grouping	20
3. Method of Construction	20
4. Index Numbers, 1928 to 1954	22
§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index—	
1. General	22
2. Index Numbers, 1861 to 1953	23
§ 4. International Comparisons : Wholesale Price Index Numbers	24

CHAPTER III.—WAGES AND HOURS.	
§ 1. Arbitration and Wages Board Acts and Associated Legislation—	
1. General	26
2. Laws Regulating Industrial Matters	26
3. Methods of Administration—	
(i) Commonwealth	26
(ii) States	29
4. Awards, Determinations and Agreements in Force	30
5. New Legislation and Special Reports	30

CHAPTER III.—WAGES AND HOURS—continued.**§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour—**

1. General	32
2. Adult Male Weekly Wages—States, 1891 to 1953	34
3. Adult Male Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1891 to 1953	34
4. Adult Female Weekly Wages—States, 1914 to 1953	36
5. Adult Female Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1914 to 1953	37
6. Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1953	37
7. Adult Male Hourly Wages—States, 1914 to 1953	40
8. Adult Female Hourly Wages—States, 1914 to 1953	41
9. Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour—Adult Males, States, 1914 to 1953	42
10. Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour—Adult Females, States, 1914 to 1953	42
11. Nominal and Effective Wages	43
12. Productive Activity	45
13. Average Weekly Wage Earnings	45

§ 3. Standard Hours of Work—

1. General	47
2. The 44-hour Week	47
3. The 40-hour Week	48

§ 4. The Basic Wage and Child Endowment in Australia—

1. The Basic Wage	48
2. The Commonwealth Basic Wage—	
(i) Early Judgments	49
(ii) Basic Wage Inquiries, 1930-31, 1932, 1933	50
(iii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934	51
(iv) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937	51
(v) Judgment, December, 1939	52
(vi) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940	52
(vii) "Interim" Basic Wage Inquiry, 1946	52
(viii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949-50	53
(ix) Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53	54
(x) Rates Operative, Principal Towns	57
3. Basic Wage Rates for Females	58
4. Australian Territories	64
5. State Basic Wages	69
6. Child Endowment	81

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.**§ 1. Employment—**

1. General	83
2. Total Occupied Persons—	
(i) Australia, 1933 to 1947	83
(ii) States, July, 1939 and June, 1947	85
3. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment—	
(i) Australia, Industrial Groups, 1939 to 1954	86
(ii) States, 1933 to 1954	87
(iii) Factories, by Main Classes, 1939 to 1953	90
(iv) Government Employees, 1939 and 1950 to 1954	91

§ 2. Unemployment 92**§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service 93****§ 4. State Labour Exchanges 95****§ 5. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits—**

1. General	95
2. Maximum Rates of Benefits and Income	95
3. Means Test	96
4. Waiting Period	96
5. Special Benefit	96
6. Rehabilitation	96
7. Unemployment Benefits	97

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT—continued.

§ 6. Industrial Disputes—	
1. General	97
2. Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1953	98
3. Industrial Disputes, 1939 and 1949 to 1953	101
4. Duration of Industrial Disputes	103
5. Causes of Industrial Disputes	105
6. Results of Industrial Disputes	108
7. Methods of Settlement	108
§ 7. Industrial Accidents—	
1. General	111
2. Mining Accidents, 1953	111
§ 8. Workers' Compensation Legislation	113

CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia—	
1. General	122
2. Trade Unions—Number and Membership, 1939 and 1950 to 1953	122
3. Trade Unions—Industrial Groups, 1939 and 1950 to 1953	123
4. Trade Unions—Numbers of Members and Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners—	
(i) General	124
(ii) States, 1953	124
(iii) Australia, 1939 and 1950 to 1953	124
5. Trade Unions—Classification according to Number of Members, 1939 and 1950 to 1953	125
6. Interstate or Federated Trade Unions, 1939 and 1950 to 1953	125
7. Central Labour Organizations, 1939 and 1950 to 1953	126
8. Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act	127
§ 2. International Labour Organization—	
1. General	127
2. The International Labour Conference	128
3. Governing Body	128
4. General Conferences	128

APPENDIX.

Section	I. Average Retail Prices of Chief Food and Groceries Items, each Capital City, monthly, 1953	129
"	II. Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities: Australia and Other Countries, 1953	135
"	III. "Court" Index (Third Series), September Quarter, 1952 to September Quarter, 1953	138
"	IV. List of Items Priced for Interim Retail Price Index	139
"	V. Minimum Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour for Adult Male Workers, 31st December, 1953	142
"	VI. Minimum Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour for Adult Female Workers, 31st December, 1953	156
"	VII. Weekly Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour: Australia, Great Britain and Northern Ireland and New Zealand	159
"	VIII. Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration Basic Wage Rates, 1923 to 1953	162
"	IX. Comparative Index Numbers (1911 Base), Six Capital Cities, 1911 to June Quarter, 1954—Retail Prices and Wages	165

INDEX	167
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GRAPHS.

1. Wholesale and Retail Prices: Nominal and Effective or Real Wages—Index Numbers, Australia, 1911 to 1954	25
2. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment, Australia, 1939 and 1944 to 1954, by main Industrial Groups	88
3. Industrial Disputes: Working Days Lost in Industrial Groups, Australia, 1939 and 1943 to 1953	100
4. Industrial Disputes: Working Days Lost, Australia, 1913 to 1953	102
