

CHAPTER XIV.—LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

A.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—The results of an investigation into wholesale prices in Melbourne from 1871 to the end of September, 1912, were given in some detail in Labour Report No. 1. Since 1912, a monthly index-number has been published. Details of monthly figures are to be found in the Labour Reports and in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics issued by this Bureau.

2. **Index-Numbers.**—The index-numbers for eight groups of commodities and for all groups together are shown in the following table, with the prices in the year 1911 as base. The index-numbers are not comparable horizontally:—

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE.

(Base 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1906 ..	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907 ..	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908 ..	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909 ..	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910 ..	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,086
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,680	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,148	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,866	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,590
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,421	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428
1932 ..	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933 ..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,195	1,714	1,487	2,061	2,106	1,409
1934 ..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,018	1,471

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns but are not directly comparable horizontally. The index-numbers are reversible.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of eighty commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to ninety-two.\* The commodities taken into account are given in detail in each Labour Report, with the average prices for the year. The commodities included are chiefly basic foods and raw materials, so that the index is more akin to the "Economist" or "Statist" index-numbers in England than to the official index-numbers of the United States or of Canada. The prices are weighted according to the estimates of Australian consumption per head in the years 1901 to 1911. For this purpose data were incomplete, and consumption in the State of Victoria was used as the basis for a number of commodities. The prices for farm and station products have been taken from market reports, and those of other commodities from trade journals or from information supplied by representative firms.

3. **Revision of the Index.**—Changes that have taken place since 1912 have altered considerably the relative consumption of different commodities. New commodities which should be taken into account have come into use, and in a number of other respects, the index-number requires revision. It is, moreover, desirable to give index-numbers for different classes of commodities, for farm products and for manufactured goods, and again for imported commodities and for those produced in Australia. Revision on these lines is now proceeding, and results will be ready for publication in the near future.

## § 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

1. **Introduction.**—Reference must be made generally to the Labour Reports for explanations and full tables of retail price index-numbers. In Report No. 1 (1912) will be found a general description of method, which is summarized in succeeding issues. Report No. 9, Appendix I. (1919) contains an extensive memorandum on price indexes by the late Sir George H. Knibbs.

2. **Index-Numbers.**—There are several "series" of retail price index-numbers covering different ranges of commodities. They may be grouped as follows:—

(a) *Food and Groceries*, subdivided into groceries, dairy produce and meat.

Index-numbers are computed monthly for five representative towns in each State (the "30 towns"), for Canberra, and for a few other special towns. Index-numbers are computed annually in November for 200 towns, including those referred to above (see § 4, following). The same regimen of Food and Groceries is used throughout all the retail price indexes that follow.

(b) *Food and Housing*. Figures for rents are collected as at the middle of each quarter and combined with food prices to give a quarterly index of food and rent. For the 30 towns, there are two index-numbers, one taking into account the rents of houses of four and five rooms only ("B" Series) and the other rents of all houses ("A" Series)—the latter formerly used by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. The first is usually given with the period 1923–1927 as base, and the second with 1911 as base. For the 200 towns, four-roomed and five-roomed houses are used separately, and the base is 1911.

(c) *All Household Expenditure*. Since 1919, prices have been collected quarterly in the "30 towns" for other household expenditure in two groups, "Clothing" and "Miscellaneous", the latter including household utensils, fuel, light, tobacco and a number of other items. These prices are combined with food prices and rents (four and five-roomed houses) to give the "All-Items" ("C" Series) index of retail prices. The base is the period 1923 to 1927 (see § 3 following). This index has almost wholly replaced the "A" Series as regards wages regulated by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court.

For all these index-numbers full information is given in the Labour Reports. The latest available information is to be found in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics.

\* In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities is taken.

3. Food and Housing: Six Capital Cities.—(i) *Food and Groceries.* The index-numbers for the three groups comprising food and groceries are shown in the following table:—

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES.**

(Base: 1923-27 (= 1,000).)

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Sydney .. ..	523	553	646	1,062	984	876	852	800	825
Melbourne .. ..	517	523	610	1,063	913	791	758	713	748
Brisbane .. ..	530	569	603	1,014	844	778	738	699	727
Adelaide .. ..	532	570	679	1,066	937	789	761	731	767
Perth .. ..	670	753	728	1,116	961	836	804	757	807
Hobart .. ..	565	592	678	1,133	952	816	797	757	786
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	941	826	796	751	783

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii) *Housing.* In issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 19, the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under four rooms to seven rooms and over. Since 1925, houses of four and five rooms only have been taken into account in accordance with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians at Adelaide in 1924. The following table is on this basis, but the old index is still computed for the use of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court (*see Appendix*).

**INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING,(a) CAPITAL CITIES.**

(Base: 1923-27 (= 1,000).)

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Sydney .. ..	593	701	760	989	1,197	1,026	894	864	869
Melbourne .. ..	455	569	628	820	1,011	867	816	801	803
Brisbane .. ..	283	373	466	630	775	680	641	681	691
Adelaide .. ..	510	706	655	809	916	755	691	694	700
Perth .. ..	458	524	589	739	979	881	810	795	794
Hobart .. ..	405	452	518	881	914	901	868	860	865
Weighted Average (b) ..	497	612	662	862	1,047	901	817	804	810

(a) 4 and 5 roomed houses.

(b) For all capital cities.

(iii) *Food, Groceries, and Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses) combined.* The following table shows the index-numbers for food, groceries, and house rent (4 and 5-roomed houses) for each capital city, the weighted average cost for the six capitals in the five-yearly period 1923-1927 being taken as base (= 1,000):—

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.(a)—CAPITAL CITIES.**

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Sydney .. ..	548	606	687	1,036	1,059	929	867	822	840
Melbourne .. ..	495	539	616	977	948	818	778	742	769
Brisbane .. ..	442	506	554	877	819	743	704	690	713
Adelaide .. ..	524	618	671	975	929	777	730	716	742
Perth .. ..	594	672	679	932	968	852	805	768	802
Hobart .. ..	508	542	621	1,044	939	846	822	792	814
Weighted Average (b) ..	520	578	648	992	978	852	803	768	792

(a) 4 and 5 roomed houses.

(b) For all capital cities.

4. *Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.*—The tables previously given are now converted into money units by substituting 20s. od. for the base of 1,000. The figures for the last six quarters are added to the yearly figures. The figures show the

sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such quantities of the several commodities and such housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in the five-yearly base period 1923-1927:—

**RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1935 TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD HAVE COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN THE FIVE-YEARLY BASE PERIOD 1923-1927, IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.**

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).*</b>							
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1907 .. ..	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911 .. ..	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1914 .. ..	12 11	12 2	12 1	13 7	14 7	13 7	12 10
1921 .. ..	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1930 .. ..	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10
1931 .. ..	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1932 .. ..	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1933 .. ..	16 0	14 3	14 0	14 7	15 2	15 2	15 0
1934 .. ..	16 6	15 0	14 7	15 4	16 2	15 9	15 8
1934 { 1st Quarter	16 3	14 6	14 5	15 2	15 8	14 11	15 4
2nd    "	16 5	15 0	14 7	15 9	16 6	15 8	15 8
3rd    "	16 7	15 0	14 7	15 1	16 2	16 0	15 8
4th    "	16 9	15 4	14 7	15 4	16 2	16 3	15 11
1935 { 1st Quarter	16 6	15 6	14 11	15 5	16 3	15 11	15 11
2nd    "	16 6	15 7	14 11	15 7	16 7	15 10	15 11
<b>HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (WEIGHTED AVERAGE—4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).</b>							
1907 .. ..	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911 .. ..	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1914 .. ..	15 2	12 7	9 4	13 1	11 9	10 4	13 3
1921 .. ..	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1930 .. ..	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931 .. ..	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1932 .. ..	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1933 .. ..	17 3	16 0	13 7	13 11	15 11	17 2	16 1
1934 .. ..	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1934 { 1st Quarter	17 3	16 0	13 11	14 0	15 10	17 3	16 1
2nd    "	17 4	16 0	13 9	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
3rd    "	17 5	16 4	13 9	14 0	15 11	17 2	16 3
4th    "	17 6	16 4	13 11	14 1	15 10	17 5	16 4
1935 { 1st Quarter	17 7	16 10	14 2	14 7	15 9	17 8	16 7
2nd    "	17 7	16 11	14 5	14 8	15 9	17 9	16 8
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY) COMBINED.</b>							
1907 .. ..	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911 .. ..	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1914 .. ..	13 9	12 4	11 1	13 5	13 7	12 5	13 0
1921 .. ..	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1930 .. ..	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931 .. ..	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1932 .. ..	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1933 .. ..	16 5	14 10	13 10	14 4	15 4	15 10	15 4
1934 .. ..	16 10	15 5	14 3	14 10	16 1	16 3	15 10
1934 { 1st Quarter	16 7	15 0	14 2	14 9	15 9	15 9	15 7
2nd    "	16 9	15 4	14 3	15 1	16 3	16 3	15 10
3rd    "	16 10	15 6	14 3	14 8	16 1	16 5	15 11
4th    "	17 0	15 8	14 4	14 11	16 1	16 8	16 1
1935 { 1st Quarter	16 11	16 0	14 8	15 1	16 1	16 6	16 2
2nd    "	16 11	16 1	14 9	15 3	16 3	16 6	16 2

\* Reduced to 44 Commodities from 3rd Quarter, 1932.

### § 3. Variations in the Cost of Food, Groceries, Rent, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Expenditure. ("C" Series.)

1. **General.**—The index-numbers in § 2 show the variations in the cost of food, groceries and house rent. The expenditure on these items covers approximately 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of the ordinary household. The balance is expended on clothing, boots, fuel, light, and such miscellaneous items as renewals of furniture, furnishings, drapery, crockery, lodge dues, trade union dues, recreation, newspapers, etc. The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage in 1920 recommended in its report that a method should be adopted of ascertaining from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in its relation to the total household expenditure. The Government adopted the recommendation, and the duty of carrying out the necessary investigations was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, which adopted the methods hereunder described.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—After careful investigation it was decided to adopt for food, groceries, and house rent, the commodities, method, and weighting used by this Bureau. The commodities and quantities adopted for food and groceries conform very closely to those given in the Indicator Lists of the Commission. With regard to rent, the Commission adopted a certain type of five-roomed house as its standard for determining the amount allowed for housing. The investigations made by this Bureau are not confined to a particular type of house, but the average rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms are taken. The results can be used with safety to show the variations in the type of house described by the Commission.

The investigations of this Bureau advisedly had been confined to food, groceries, and house rent, and it was necessary, therefore, to make investigations into the cost of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and life of articles, and this has been utilized in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to Miscellaneous Expenditure, which covers a very wide field, inquiries were made as to variations in cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, etc., also in respect of other items included in the Indicator Lists for Miscellaneous Expenditure, and the aggregate expenditure on these items has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

3. **Period Selected as Base.**—For the new series of index-numbers, November, 1914, was adopted as base, owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. Prior to and including the 4th Quarter, 1929, the index-numbers were computed to this base, but in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Statisticians to adopt a post-war period as base, the index-numbers since 1st Quarter, 1930, have been computed to the five-yearly period—1923–1927—as base (= 1,000), and the figures for past years have been re-computed to the same base.\*

This series has now assumed importance owing to its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, from the 1st May, 1934, for the fixation and adjustment of wages regulated by the Court.

Similar index-numbers indicating the separate movement of the Clothing and Miscellaneous items will be found in the annual Labour Reports.

4. **New Regimens.**—From the 1st Quarter of 1935 a revised regimen was introduced for the Clothing and Miscellaneous sections of this Index, and was "grafted" to the old so as to make no appreciable break in the continuity of the new index-numbers with those derived from the old regimen. A new regimen for the Food and Groceries section of this Index was adopted from the 3rd Quarter of 1932. Both these regimens are published in full in Labour Report, No. 25, 1934.

5. **Variations in Cost in the Principal Towns.**—The following table gives the combined index (generally known as the "All-Items" index) for all household expenditure, for the thirty-two towns in respect of which the tabulation is made:—

\* These Indexes may be converted to the 1914 base by multiplying them by 1·4556.

## THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX.

("C" Series.)

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.—TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE—(FOOD, GROCERIES, HOUSING—4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY, CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE) WITH WEIGHTED AVERAGE FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES DURING THE FIVE-YEARLY PERIOD 1923-1927 AS BASE (= 1,000).

State and Town.	Nov- ember, 1921.	Year 1927.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.	Year 1930.	Year 1931.	Year 1932.	Year 1933.	Year 1934.	1935.	
										1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>											
Sydney ..	1,046	1,029	1,042	1,073	1,026	922	867	832	842	840	844
Newcastle ..	1,041	1,015	1,014	1,028	991	888	840	819	834	845	852
Broken Hill ..	975	1,000	997	1,018	973	882	834	806	819	822	818
Goulburn ..	1,033	1,062	1,074	1,108	1,039	922	877	843	852	861	854
Bathurst ..	947	952	964	979	959	867	820	801	807	801	813
Weighted Average ..	1,042	1,027	1,038	1,067	1,022	918	863	830	841	840	844
<b>VICTORIA—</b>											
Melbourne ..	1,003	990	992	1,017	956	846	813	789	801	820	820
Ballarat ..	992	922	929	957	909	808	776	760	781	795	797
Bendigo ..	1,002	940	936	969	926	833	808	789	811	813	824
Geelong ..	1,019	985	973	980	917	822	794	772	782	819	822
Warrnambool ..	1,034	945	941	960	939	860	838	812	826	849	850
Weighted Average ..	1,003	985	987	1,011	951	843	811	787	801	819	820
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>											
Brisbane ..	923	922	917	923	859	798	764	751	762	773	776
Toowoomba ..	949	914	906	916	835	816	788	778	785	789	790
Rockhampton ..	972	929	903	904	868	806	779	752	759	764	770
Charters Towers ..	1,025	918	925	939	883	827	791	762	759	771	778
Warwick ..	994	946	914	931	882	815	777	757	761	768	760
Weighted Average ..	941	923	915	922	863	801	768	753	764	774	776
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>											
Adelaide ..	989	1,018	1,027	1,037	952	837	802	789	806	814	819
Kadina, etc. ..	998	932	927	943	885	801	772	747	758	758	759
Port Pirie ..	1,025	970	960	980	927	834	791	762	778	784	789
Mount Gambier ..	1,029	945	948	953	918	831	816	800	800	802	804
Peterborough ..	948	1,023	1,017	1,043	980	884	848	832	832	839	833
Weighted Average ..	992	1,012	1,019	1,030	948	836	801	787	804	811	816
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>											
Perth, etc. ..	1,008	984	1,012	1,026	977	885	840	811	830	833	837
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	1,048	984	995	1,032	986	937	940	937	975	1,003	1,011
Northam ..	1,030	988	1,003	1,022	969	878	844	814	825	821	831
Bunbury ..	1,045	963	963	978	966	877	842	824	843	859	870
Geraldton ..	1,056	1,010	1,029	1,051	1,029	951	904	851	866	879	887
Weighted Average ..	1,020	985	1,009	1,026	979	891	852	825	842	846	851
<b>TASMANIA—</b>											
Hobart ..	1,070	998	980	1,000	956	875	844	825	837	846	850
Launceston ..	1,067	953	957	967	949	865	832	817	828	834	834
Burnie ..	1,003	936	941	966	918	837	811	775	780	786	790
Devonport ..	904	925	909	948	920	841	800	773	787	803	795
Queenstown ..	1,031	932	934	972	949	881	855	867	876	877	878
Weighted Average ..	1,057	977	966	986	951	869	838	820	831	840	842
Weighted Average for 30 Towns ..	1,013	997	1,003	1,026	971	870	829	803	816	824	827
Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities ..	1,013	1,002	1,009	1,033	975	873	830	804	817	824	827
Townsville (Q.) (a) ..	..	1,050	1,023	1,026	966	914	878	850	851	849	850
Port Augusta (S.A.) (a) ..	1,035	1,037	1,050	1,061	1,026	914	853	814	822	821	813

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.

\* Figures for the country towns are only available from 1921, and the following are the corresponding index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities for November, 1914, and November, 1920:—

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
November, 1914 ..	712	671	611	699	707	687	687
November, 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,156

6. **Relative Household Expenditure.**—The following table shows for the thirty-two towns covered by this Series of index-numbers the relative amount spent on each of the groups of total household expenditure :—

**TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.—THE " ALL ITEMS " INDEX (" C " SERIES). INDEX-NUMBERS, 32 TOWNS, SHOWING RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD, GROCERIES, HOUSING (4 and 5 Rooms), CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE, WITH WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXPENDITURE FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES DURING THE FIVE-YEARLY PERIOD 1923-1927 AS BASE (= 1,000).**

Town.	1933.					1934.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 & 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>										
Sydney .. ..	399	184	171	168	832	319	185	172	166	842
Newcastle .. ..	390	165	189	156	819	322	168	187	157	834
Broken Hill .. ..	340	134	164	168	806	354	137	160	168	819
Goulburn .. ..	303	173	218	149	843	315	174	215	148	852
Bathurst .. ..	301	160	184	150	801	310	166	184	147	807
Weighted Average ..	310	180	173	167	830	320	182	174	165	841
<b>VICTORIA—</b>										
Melbourne .. ..	276	170	187	156	789	289	172	185	155	801
Ballarat .. ..	283	133	193	149	760	299	139	194	149	781
Bendigo .. ..	283	136	216	154	789	303	140	214	154	811
Geelong .. ..	285	153	183	151	772	294	157	181	150	782
Warrnambool .. ..	288	169	214	141	812	303	170	212	141	826
Weighted Average ..	276	167	188	156	787	290	169	187	155	801
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>										
Brisbane .. ..	270	145	182	154	751	281	147	181	153	762
Toowoomba .. ..	262	151	210	155	778	268	156	207	154	785
Rockhampton .. ..	290	121	191	150	752	296	126	188	149	759
Charlton Towers ..	310	110	176	166	762	312	109	173	165	759
Warwick .. ..	280	130	194	153	757	283	133	193	152	761
Weighted Average ..	273	141	185	154	753	282	145	184	153	764
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Adelaide .. ..	283	148	191	167	789	296	149	195	166	806
Kadina, etc. .. ..	310	80	196	161	747	325	82	191	160	758
Port Pirie .. ..	290	128	183	161	762	307	127	183	161	778
Mount Gambier ..	286	130	221	163	800	288	132	218	162	800
Peterborough .. ..	299	151	219	163	832	308	139	222	163	832
Weighted Average ..	284	144	192	167	787	298	145	195	166	804
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Perth, etc. .. ..	292	169	189	161	811	312	169	188	161	830
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	362	174	238	163	937	381	192	238	164	975
Northam .. ..	312	167	182	153	814	328	166	177	154	825
Bunbury .. ..	307	164	201	152	824	327	165	199	152	843
Geraldton .. ..	294	200	192	165	851	316	197	189	164	866
Weighted Average ..	300	170	194	161	825	318	171	192	161	842
<b>TASMANIA—</b>										
Hobart .. ..	293	183	203	146	825	304	184	203	146	837
Launceston .. ..	285	164	221	147	817	296	164	221	147	828
Burnie .. ..	295	144	195	141	775	307	139	193	141	780
Devonport .. ..	296	144	192	141	773	307	145	195	140	787
Queenstown .. ..	337	149	244	137	867	348	150	241	137	876
Weighted Average ..	292	173	209	146	820	303	173	209	146	831
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. ..	291	167	184	161	803	304	169	183	160	816
Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities .. ..	290	171	181	162	804	303	172	181	161	817
TOWNSVILLE (Q.) (a) ..	312	170	207	161	850	318	171	202	160	851
PORT AUGUSTA (S.A.) (a) ..	317	129	206	162	814	331	128	202	161	822

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.

### § 4. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. **General.**—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, into retail price index-numbers in 70 additional towns. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number of additional towns was further increased to 170, and it is intended to institute inquiries in November in each year, thus making information available annually for 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where a description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the succeeding yearly investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. **Detailed Results, 1932 to 1934.**—The base of the table is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911, and is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the element of rent in the base itself differs from that contained in this table, but the index-numbers are comparable throughout.

Column A shows the relative cost of food in the various towns; Column B the relative cost of food and rent of four-roomed houses; and Column C the relative cost of food and rent of five-roomed houses. The difference between Columns B and A, and C and A, represents in each case the relative costs of four-roomed and five-roomed houses for each town. In comparing rents for various towns, therefore, these differences must first be ascertained in order to make the necessary allowance for the differences due to food as between towns. The last-mentioned factor may be ascertained from Column A.

#### INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES, AND OF FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, COMPARED WITH THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT FOR ALL HOUSES IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES IN 1911 AS BASE (= 1,000).

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES —</b>									
Albury .. .. .	811	1,290	1,340	788	1,263	1,340	836	1,280	1,364
Armidale .. .. .	854	1,212	1,295	768	1,122	1,209	817	1,169	1,247
Ballina .. .. .	870	1,227	1,339	850	1,177	1,282	846	1,175	1,280
Bathurst .. .. .	826	1,174	1,234	816	1,180	1,233	852	1,217	1,270
Bega .. .. .	890	1,241	1,311	832	1,183	1,247	866	1,217	1,281
Berry .. .. .	893	1,209	1,282	857	1,173	1,252	906	1,222	1,301
Blackheath .. .. .	869	1,238	1,340	843	1,209	1,258	896	1,265	1,295
Bourke .. .. .	878	1,230	1,338	879	1,208	1,339	892	1,221	1,352
Bowral .. .. .	872	1,247	1,333	846	1,202	1,298	876	1,229	1,337
Broken Hill .. .. .	938	1,257	1,385	920	1,253	1,362	973	1,313	1,418



INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
NEW SOUTH WALES— <i>continued.</i>									
Casino .. .. .	832	1,240	1,358	817	1,225	1,344	832	1,240	1,359
Cessnock .. .. .	817	1,120	1,202	799	1,063	1,102	834	1,103	1,146
Cobar .. .. .	944	1,160	1,229	1,060	1,228	1,297	1,028	1,217	1,278
Cooma .. .. .	957	1,230	1,401	900	1,203	1,335	881	1,204	1,342
Coonamble .. .. .	895	1,175	1,269	888	1,173	1,248	927	1,254	1,328
Cootamundra .. .. .	846	1,289	1,369	770	1,175	1,291	831	1,246	1,366
Corrimal .. .. .	863	1,324	1,324	808	1,200	1,269	861	1,253	1,321
Cowra .. .. .	851	1,191	1,306	784	1,210	1,278	851	1,313	1,408
Cromulla .. .. .	806	1,327	1,422	831	1,247	1,340	877	1,286	1,418
Deniliquin .. .. .	846	1,181	1,278	867	1,198	1,324	910	1,256	1,401
Dubbo .. .. .	752	1,258	1,380	722	1,218	1,256	812	1,311	1,372
Forbes .. .. .	851	1,309	1,393	829	1,272	1,413	866	1,289	1,494
Gilgandra .. .. .	838	1,134	1,200	824	1,120	1,186	891	1,220	1,253
Glen Innes .. .. .	814	1,176	1,274	798	1,160	1,245	807	1,162	1,288
Goulburn .. .. .	856	1,297	1,344	811	1,241	1,294	868	1,306	1,345
Grafton .. .. .	806	1,234	1,378	790	1,218	1,363	823	1,281	1,440
Grenfell .. .. .	848	1,234	1,336	813	1,208	1,340	849	1,293	1,411
Griffith .. .. .	896	1,092	1,883	901	1,663	1,826	956	1,697	1,884
Gulgong .. .. .	836	1,134	1,225	705	1,040	1,116	823	1,100	1,152
Gunnedah .. .. .	799	1,159	1,283	771	1,140	1,267	816	1,177	1,343
Hay .. .. .	938	1,270	1,416	912	1,260	1,436	945	1,293	1,460
Inverell .. .. .	871	1,309	1,410	811	1,236	1,301	851	1,306	1,382
Junee .. .. .	832	1,316	1,441	814	1,265	1,393	861	1,371	1,499
Katoomba .. .. .	873	1,429	1,512	854	1,350	1,448	877	1,421	1,525
Kempsey .. .. .	829	1,182	1,306	821	1,236	1,333	853	1,238	1,357
Kiama .. .. .	892	1,182	1,353	862	1,152	1,329	935	1,225	1,421
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	811	1,102	1,177	792	1,046	1,143	861	1,107	1,192
Leeton .. .. .	909	1,496	1,593	854	1,413	1,512	893	1,489	1,620
Lismore .. .. .	831	1,247	1,393	814	1,249	1,421	823	1,300	1,455
Lithgow .. .. .	858	1,186	1,225	812	1,156	1,162	899	1,216	1,224
Maitland .. .. .	808	1,141	1,240	770	1,058	1,247	830	1,128	1,193
Moree .. .. .	941	1,467	1,521	880	1,406	1,505	925	1,476	1,579
Moss Vale .. .. .	844	1,187	1,323	824	1,173	1,260	856	1,246	1,330
Mudgee .. .. .	803	1,197	1,329	720	1,122	1,240	814	1,273	1,339
Narrabri .. .. .	866	1,238	1,324	811	1,206	1,245	885	1,321	1,364
Narrandera .. .. .	916	1,376	1,486	844	1,304	1,409	893	1,406	1,499
Newcastle .. .. .	852	1,230	1,348	845	1,223	1,335	894	1,284	1,397
Nowra .. .. .	917	1,246	1,391	875	1,267	1,358	885	1,319	1,420
Orange .. .. .	792	1,192	1,297	790	1,200	1,354	814	1,219	1,361
Parkes .. .. .	855	1,239	1,323	824	1,182	1,275	847	1,220	1,350
Penrith .. .. .	820	1,119	1,251	782	1,065	1,186	829	1,132	1,209
Port Kembla .. .. .	850	1,267	1,340	839	1,256	1,313	901	1,276	1,374
Portland .. .. .	850	1,114	1,179	846	1,110	1,175	885	1,148	1,214
Queanbeyan .. .. .	883	1,155	1,242	838	1,117	1,196	895	1,205	1,275
Quirindi .. .. .	883	1,157	1,283	878	1,208	1,314	900	1,242	1,351
Richmond .. .. .	844	1,239	1,305	802	1,196	1,262	884	1,298	1,344
Scone .. .. .	846	1,274	1,350	808	1,235	1,312	852	1,293	1,380
Singleton .. .. .	871	1,196	1,302	795	1,131	1,221	821	1,174	1,224
Sydney .. .. .	865	1,307	1,385	826	1,260	1,346	880	1,316	1,413
Tamworth .. .. .	809	1,169	1,258	780	1,142	1,227	826	1,188	1,303
Taree .. .. .	841	1,283	1,393	787	1,230	1,331	827	1,296	1,432
Temora .. .. .	850	1,343	1,444	803	1,297	1,397	845	1,328	1,416
Tenterfield .. .. .	825	1,160	1,251	775	1,120	1,211	813	1,177	1,237
Tumut .. .. .	846	1,307	1,439	834	1,311	1,402	853	1,324	1,422
Ulmarra .. .. .	894	1,355	1,421	815	1,210	1,342	872	1,267	1,398

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
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<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i></b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Wagga Wagga .. .. .	825	1,315	1,403	793	1,247	1,423	839	1,342	1,500
Walcha .. .. .	867	1,198	1,293	841	1,170	1,279	880	1,238	1,294
Wellington .. .. .	815	1,114	1,223	794	1,104	1,202	875	1,237	1,283
Weston .. .. .	811	1,103	1,155	804	1,095	1,148	834	1,126	1,170
Windsor .. .. .	855	1,282	1,381	822	1,250	1,348	830	1,274	1,356
Wollongong .. .. .	799	1,241	1,326	795	1,254	1,311	850	1,307	1,419
Wyalong .. .. .	849	1,156	1,217	843	1,166	1,205	858	1,187	1,253
Yass .. .. .	826	1,187	1,262	798	1,143	1,242	856	1,250	1,292
Young .. .. .	852	1,313	1,376	816	1,224	1,319	898	1,310	1,367
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) .. .. .	861	1,286	1,370	827	1,244	1,334	878	1,303	1,401
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Ararat .. .. .	813	1,142	1,302	819	1,138	1,266	872	1,202	1,333
Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	773	1,108	1,260	775	1,119	1,254	830	1,175	1,247
Bairnsdale .. .. .	860	1,135	1,289	882	1,124	1,247	891	1,161	1,339
Ballarat .. .. .	769	1,064	1,213	771	1,074	1,227	818	1,129	1,204
Beechworth .. .. .	867	1,163	1,229	826	1,122	1,175	856	1,152	1,191
Benalla .. .. .	836	1,189	1,290	799	1,125	1,298	874	1,200	1,384
Bendigo .. .. .	786	1,097	1,206	765	1,072	1,200	830	1,154	1,274
Camperdown .. .. .	806	1,217	1,319	806	1,197	1,333	857	1,236	1,382
Casterton .. .. .	847	1,209	1,288	834	1,196	1,261	879	1,261	1,340
Castlemaine .. .. .	801	1,073	1,157	787	1,082	1,178	816	1,104	1,198
Colac .. .. .	803	1,237	1,367	801	1,216	1,317	856	1,274	1,371
Creswick .. .. .	827	958	985	782	914	966	831	989	1,041
Daylesford .. .. .	811	1,021	1,119	806	1,016	1,094	831	1,041	1,118
Dunolly .. .. .	812	973	1,013	780	960	1,006	836	1,047	1,083
Echuca .. .. .	779	1,079	1,199	785	1,035	1,210	826	1,135	1,283
Euroa .. .. .	828	1,161	1,237	810	1,113	1,170	846	1,142	1,251
Geelong .. .. .	783	1,140	1,307	771	1,124	1,298	798	1,172	1,332
Hamilton .. .. .	840	1,255	1,376	803	1,189	1,318	847	1,218	1,304
Healesville .. .. .	799	1,089	1,141	804	1,070	1,146	861	1,124	1,210
Horsham .. .. .	849	1,176	1,308	807	1,155	1,267	843	1,231	1,301
Kerang .. .. .	807	1,201	1,267	793	1,187	1,253	862	1,250	1,298
Koroit .. .. .	851	1,114	1,180	808	1,071	1,130	838	1,114	1,167
Korumburra .. .. .	778	1,099	1,242	776	1,089	1,252	823	1,142	1,274
Kyneton .. .. .	780	1,069	1,104	743	1,035	1,146	797	1,088	1,227
Lilydale .. .. .	833	1,183	1,280	826	1,158	1,240	858	1,180	1,252
Maffra .. .. .	812	1,185	1,259	801	1,172	1,252	826	1,150	1,247
Maldon .. .. .	833	945	998	832	944	1,017	871	1,003	1,068
Maryborough .. .. .	775	1,006	1,101	770	1,025	1,095	826	1,087	1,206
Melbourne .. .. .	754	1,160	1,282	759	1,163	1,287	798	1,207	1,340
Mildura .. .. .	879	1,398	1,526	887	1,419	1,555	917	1,483	1,650
Morwell .. .. .	802	1,237	1,296	839	1,260	1,352	865	1,287	1,379
Nhill .. .. .	866	1,166	1,307	840	1,143	1,256	898	1,214	1,326
Orbost .. .. .	874	1,229	1,331	877	1,219	1,333	857	1,149	1,305
Portland .. .. .	833	1,169	1,241	831	1,160	1,226	847	1,136	1,209
Port Fairy .. .. .	849	1,108	1,224	801	1,091	1,196	824	1,127	1,252
St. Arnaud .. .. .	869	1,212	1,290	847	1,164	1,278	897	1,223	1,348
Sale .. .. .	802	1,121	1,256	826	1,169	1,253	826	1,217	1,302
Seymour .. .. .	873	1,202	1,301	824	1,153	1,258	893	1,216	1,324
Shepparton .. .. .	792	1,186	1,313	777	1,156	1,300	847	1,238	1,390
Stawell .. .. .	865	1,142	1,244	844	1,103	1,228	907	1,157	1,270

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
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	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>Victoria—continued.</b>									
Swan Hill .. ..	812	1,338	1,536	782	1,292	1,473	877	1,387	1,568
Terang .. ..	876	1,200	1,338	840	1,163	1,284	863	1,218	1,368
Traralgon .. ..	780	1,153	1,277	773	1,111	1,256	828	1,187	1,348
Wangaratta .. ..	814	1,268	1,380	824	1,267	1,378	828	1,293	1,401
Warracknabeal ..	827	1,130	1,251	790	1,109	1,199	830	1,157	1,258
Warragul .. ..	760	1,286	1,454	751	1,285	1,451	831	1,232	1,397
Warrnambool .. ..	812	1,207	1,369	779	1,173	1,341	799	1,334	1,501
Wonthaggi .. ..	773	1,155	1,227	776	1,105	1,212	836	1,165	1,262
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	765	1,156	1,279	767	1,155	1,280	805	1,203	1,334
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Ayr .. ..	873	1,317	1,439	846	1,293	1,416	862	1,314	1,446
Barcaldine .. ..	911	1,283	1,346	874	1,249	1,368	928	1,305	1,327
Bowen .. ..	932	1,283	1,384	860	1,215	1,287	935	1,284	1,363
Brisbane .. ..	748	1,050	1,151	733	1,071	1,161	765	1,112	1,196
Bundaberg .. ..	817	1,105	1,160	761	1,039	1,085	793	1,052	1,118
Cairns .. ..	888	1,360	1,575	857	1,370	1,548	881	1,424	1,598
Charleville .. ..	904	1,326	1,474	894	1,324	1,438	928	1,339	1,511
Charters Towers ..	900	1,137	1,232	820	1,070	1,136	845	1,086	1,170
Chillagoe .. ..	1,126	1,330	1,383	960	1,157	1,210	961	1,159	1,211
Cloncurry .. ..	1,045	1,462	1,624	955	1,340	1,429	979	1,348	1,461
Cooktown .. ..	972	1,170	1,236	934	1,079	1,131	968	1,113	1,166
Cunnamulla .. ..	911	1,306	1,393	906	1,301	1,433	941	1,336	1,468
Dalby .. ..	799	1,161	1,263	783	1,141	1,253	800	1,169	1,261
Gayndah .. ..	859	1,135	1,241	803	1,073	1,132	834	1,110	1,215
Gladstone .. ..	837	1,151	1,247	783	1,112	1,204	812	1,155	1,260
Goondiwindi .. ..	863	1,258	1,324	836	1,230	1,318	864	1,290	1,399
Gympie .. ..	790	1,117	1,212	776	1,107	1,220	814	1,139	1,268
Hughenden .. ..	979	1,374	1,486	953	1,361	1,446	938	1,346	1,431
Innisfail .. ..	969	1,525	1,680	898	1,450	1,582	955	1,491	1,624
Ipswich .. ..	769	980	1,110	767	990	1,109	785	1,002	1,120
Longreach .. ..	962	1,282	1,405	914	1,226	1,356	970	1,314	1,452
Mackay .. ..	850	1,222	1,331	813	1,208	1,339	850	1,267	1,416
Maryborough .. ..	815	1,144	1,254	754	1,083	1,192	761	1,090	1,200
Mount Morgan ..	877	1,044	1,092	833	1,017	1,026	875	1,059	1,072
Nambour .. ..	794	1,092	1,200	761	1,065	1,158	808	1,098	1,177
Rockhampton .. ..	816	1,120	1,162	772	1,074	1,119	805	1,113	1,165
Roma .. ..	850	1,179	1,298	848	1,085	1,212	866	1,116	1,208
Stanthorpe .. ..	879	1,281	1,359	807	1,162	1,228	816	1,172	1,237
Toowoomba .. ..	734	1,103	1,133	709	1,103	1,128	732	1,111	1,169
Townsville .. ..	868	1,283	1,358	827	1,228	1,315	860	1,257	1,364
Warwick .. ..	788	1,095	1,153	759	1,052	1,131	759	1,057	1,171
Winton .. ..	1,010	1,306	1,438	953	1,216	1,368	968	1,244	1,395
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	790	1,102	1,196	763	1,096	1,182	787	1,127	1,214
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. ..	754	1,079	1,227	772	1,107	1,249	815	1,159	1,290
Freeling .. ..	773	1,036	1,102	770	1,033	1,099	809	1,072	1,138
Gawler .. ..	782	1,053	1,134	771	1,017	1,096	818	1,073	1,182
Kadina, etc. .. ..	840	1,024	1,091	840	1,022	1,094	894	1,076	1,159
Kapunda .. ..	803	1,031	1,092	756	958	1,052	803	981	1,079

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—<i>continued.</i></b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Kooringa .. .. .	851	1,084	1,180	812	1,141	1,207	832	1,128	1,244
Millicent .. .. .	801	1,087	1,200	797	1,071	1,174	849	1,162	1,244
Mount Gambier .. .. .	783	1,045	1,174	765	1,022	1,158	791	1,065	1,204
Murray Bridge .. .. .	723	976	1,055	747	988	1,122	771	1,004	1,123
Peterborough .. .. .	808	1,155	1,256	811	1,180	1,250	848	1,212	1,289
Port Augusta .. .. .	883	1,185	1,311	868	1,159	1,283	910	1,202	1,326
Port Pirie .. .. .	802	1,122	1,231	777	1,084	1,106	856	1,162	1,275
Quorn .. .. .	828	1,111	1,173	819	1,115	1,194	844	1,160	1,229
Renmark .. .. .	946	1,341	1,472	885	1,280	1,345	956	1,334	1,396
Victor Harbour .. .. .	825	1,273	1,418	801	1,169	1,222	833	1,162	1,281
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. .. .	765	1,081	1,219	777	1,100	1,234	820	1,154	1,280
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Albany .. .. .	858	1,179	1,213	834	1,132	1,224	917	1,238	1,354
Beverley .. .. .	910	1,239	1,348	893	1,268	1,382	920	1,336	1,413
Bridgetown .. .. .	905	1,234	1,332	925	1,226	1,319	967	1,278	1,395
Broome .. .. .	1,243	1,704	1,901	1,217	1,678	1,875	1,217	1,677	1,875
Bunbury .. .. .	852	1,267	1,330	822	1,239	1,307	889	1,294	1,399
Carnarvon .. .. .	1,062	1,511	1,605	1,023	1,477	1,587	1,062	1,491	1,621
Collie .. .. .	825	1,189	1,285	762	1,108	1,236	908	1,247	1,329
Geraldton .. .. .	838	1,347	1,480	804	1,288	1,421	880	1,361	1,497
Greenbushes .. .. .	958	1,123	1,156	908	1,073	1,112	973	1,121	1,190
Kalgoorlie and Boulder .. .. .	997	1,453	1,554	975	1,466	1,544	1,047	1,570	1,659
Katanning .. .. .	846	1,200	1,324	810	1,132	1,256	889	1,193	1,305
Leonora and Gwalia .. .. .	1,079	1,343	1,395	1,083	1,346	1,442	1,142	1,405	1,464
Meekatharra .. .. .	1,102	1,562	1,760	1,080	1,541	1,738	1,103	1,585	1,739
Narrogin .. .. .	862	1,326	1,401	845	1,249	1,379	919	1,367	1,521
Northam .. .. .	852	1,251	1,379	833	1,237	1,346	890	1,295	1,399
Perth and Fremantle .. .. .	800	1,202	1,296	779	1,174	1,273	856	1,254	1,344
Wagin .. .. .	914	1,169	1,243	857	1,112	1,186	860	1,145	1,222
York .. .. .	817	1,146	1,225	807	1,123	1,176	844	1,180	1,233
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) .. .. .	832	1,235	1,330	810	1,209	1,308	878	1,281	1,374
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Beaconsfield .. .. .	795	914	953	784	902	942	843	988	1,054
Burnie .. .. .	843	1,212	1,299	787	1,155	1,239	864	1,222	1,318
Campbelltown .. .. .	855	1,091	1,151	820	1,029	1,087	858	1,100	1,154
Deloraine .. .. .	820	1,143	1,222	796	1,119	1,188	830	1,159	1,185
Devonport .. .. .	833	1,251	1,307	803	1,212	1,274	879	1,296	1,354
Franklin .. .. .	900	1,137	1,229	860	1,097	1,156	936	1,173	1,232
Hobart .. .. .	809	1,251	1,379	797	1,237	1,370	856	1,300	1,435
Launceston .. .. .	789	1,181	1,290	760	1,163	1,271	827	1,219	1,343
New Norfolk .. .. .	856	1,171	1,224	825	1,141	1,167	866	1,182	1,234
Queenstown .. .. .	942	1,304	1,393	916	1,311	1,357	961	1,356	1,415
Scottsdale .. .. .	808	1,071	1,163	767	1,030	1,123	811	1,047	1,159
Ulverstone .. .. .	866	1,142	1,228	811	1,052	1,126	858	1,126	1,220
Zeehan .. .. .	994	1,192	1,225	987	1,185	1,217	1,017	1,214	1,247
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. .. .	817	1,220	1,330	796	1,200	1,310	855	1,261	1,379
<b>Federal Capital Territory(a)</b>									
Canberra .. .. .	899	1,459	1,573	902	1,465	1,574	964	1,530	1,638
<b>Weighted Averages—</b>									
Australia (200 Towns) .. .. .	811	1,200	1,304	794	1,182	1,288	840	1,236	1,345
Thirty Towns .. .. .	805	1,199	1,304	790	1,185	1,292	837	1,239	1,349
Six Capitals .. .. .	800	1,202	1,307	786	1,188	1,295	834	1,241	1,352

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B or C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus for November, 1933, the index-number for food and groceries in Albany (column A) is 834. Subtracting this from 1,132 (column B) gives a difference of 298, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,224 (column C) gives a difference of 390, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns.

### B.—WAGES.

#### § 1. Operations under Wages Board and Industrial Arbitration Acts.

1. **General.**—Particulars of the operations of Wages Boards and Industrial and Arbitration Courts under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours, and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913, and reviews to the end of each annual period appear in Labour Reports and Quarterly Summaries.

2. **Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.**—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1929 to 1934 :—

#### AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

State.	1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.
New South Wales .. .. .	31	16	46	40	38	25	30	24	55	22
Victoria .. .. .	83	..	204	..	103	..	138	..	90	..
Queensland .. .. .	14	44	48	28	21	4	55	21	32	25
South Australia .. .. .	17	1	64	15	18	8	16	1	19	3
Western Australia .. .. .	8	38	7	10	5	4	10	9	12	11
Tasmania .. .. .	10	1	31	3	11	3	9	3	7	1
Commonwealth Court .. .. .	17	10	11	16	21	9	8	6	24	4
Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator .. .. .	5	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Total .. .. .	185	110	412	112	218	53	267	64	239	66

3. **Boards Authorized, Awards, etc., in Force.**—(i) *Totals for Australia.* The following table gives particulars at the dates specified for all States of Boards authorized, and including operations under the Commonwealth and State Arbitration Acts, of the number of awards, determinations, and industrial agreements in force :—

#### BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards which have made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913 .. .. .	505	387(b)	575(c)	401
31st December, 1920 .. .. .	475	440	1,041	972
31st December, 1925 .. .. .	575	524	1,181	607
31st December, 1930 .. .. .	644	582	1,285	601
31st December, 1931 .. .. .	651	583	1,317	614
31st December, 1932 .. .. .	657	591	1,337	625
31st December, 1933 .. .. .	657	583	1,363	653
31st December, 1934 .. .. .	657	583	1,403	689

(a) Including awards made by Arbitration Courts and the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator. (b) Owing to the fact that a number of awards under the New South Wales Industrial Disputes Act (1908) were still in force, the Boards constituted for such industries under the Industrial Arbitration Act (1912) had not made any awards. (c) Excluding awards or determinations which expired in New South Wales (under the Act of 1908) on 31st December, 1913.

Considerable expansion of the principle of the fixation of a legal minimum rate of wage and of working conditions took place during the period under review. At the end of 1934, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 828 and 288 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

(ii) *Summary for States.* The following table gives particulars for each State and the Commonwealth of the number of Boards authorized, etc., for the years specified :—

**BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913 AND 1934.**

Particulars.	At 31st Dec.	Commonwealth.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
		Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.							
<i>Industrial and Wages—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1934 .. ..	..	..	(a) 319	189	2	75	19	53	657
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1934 .. ..	..	..	279	167	2	65	17	53	583
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 .. ..	17	..	265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1934 .. ..	164	44	519	173	280	76	93	54	1,403
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 .. ..	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1934 .. ..	156	..	151	..	169	33	170	10	689
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1934 .. ..	..	..	108	117	35	90	36	70	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1934 .. ..	..	..	37	68	21	26	15	38	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	1934 .. ..	..	..	39	36	30	32	29	29	..

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and at the end of 1934, 289 Committees were in force.

## § 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. *General.*—The collection of information respecting the current rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries was first undertaken by the Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. The particulars are obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements under Commonwealth and State Industrial Acts, and therefore are the minimum rates prescribed. They refer generally to the capital city in each State, but in industries which obviously are not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, agriculture, etc., the rates in the more important centres are taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement is in force, particulars are taken of the ruling union or predominant rate. During recent years the number of predominant rates of wage included in the tabulations has been reduced considerably, since most of the industries and occupations are now covered by awards, determinations, or industrial agreements.

The index-numbers for male adult workers are computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000), in order that comparisons might more readily be made between these index-numbers and the retail price index-numbers (food, groceries and rent—all houses) which are also computed to the year 1911 as base. In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

\* The registration of industrial agreements is not provided for under the Victorian Act, but such agreements may be registered and filed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and are operative within the State.

An extensive tabular presentation of the minimum rates of wage for adult male and female workers in the main occupations in the capital city of each State is given each year in the Appendix to the Labour Report.

2. **Weekly Rates of Wage, 1930 to 1934.**—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to is taken for each industrial group. These averages are weighted in accordance with census results to give the average of all occupations for the States and for Australia.

(ii) *Adult Males—States.* The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified :—

**WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia in 1911 (51s. 3d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (a)
No. of Occupations included ..	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948

**RATES OF WAGE.**

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1930 ..	99 1	96 11	92 5	92 8	99 7	92 1	96 9
31st December, 1931 ..	93 5	82 2	89 0	75 0	84 1	79 9	86 10
31st December, 1932 ..	84 11	77 10	88 5	72 7	81 9	78 1	81 10
31st December, 1933 ..	81 11	77 0	88 1	73 5	81 4	78 0	80 6
31st March, 1934 ..	81 11	77 0	88 1	73 6	81 3	78 1	80 7
30th June, 1934 ..	83 1	78 3	88 7	74 10	82 6	79 0	81 7
30th September, 1934 ..	83 2	78 4	88 9	75 0	84 0	79 1	81 10
31st December, 1934 ..	83 2	78 8	88 9	75 6	84 1	79 7	82 0

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

31st December, 1930 ..	1,933	1,891	1,803	1,807	1,943	1,797	1,887
31st December, 1931 ..	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
31st December, 1932 ..	1,657	1,518	1,726	1,416	1,595	1,523	1,597
31st December, 1933 ..	1,598	1,502	1,718	1,433	1,587	1,522	1,570
31st March, 1934 ..	1,598	1,503	1,718	1,435	1,586	1,524	1,572
30th June, 1934 ..	1,622	1,527	1,729	1,460	1,610	1,541	1,592
30th September, 1934 ..	1,623	1,528	1,731	1,464	1,639	1,543	1,596
31st December, 1934 ..	1,623	1,534	1,732	1,473	1,640	1,552	1,599

(a) Weighted average.

Wages declined sharply in all States during the four years 1930 to 1933, the average rates at the 31st December of the latter year being approximately 20 per cent. less than those ruling at the end of 1929. Varying increases were granted in each of the States during 1934, and as the result the weighted average nominal rate for Australia increased by 1s. 6d. per week. At the 31st December, 1934, rates were highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the third quarter of 1929, viz., 101s. 5d. per week.

(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the average weekly rates of wage and index-numbers in each industrial group, and for all groups at the periods specified.

**WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and for all industrial groups, based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (51s. 3d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout :—

Industrial Group.		Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—							
		31st Dec., 1930.	31st Dec., 1931.	31st Dec., 1932.	31st Dec., 1933.	31st March, 1934.	30th June, 1934.	30th Sept., 1934.	31st Dec., 1934.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage	s. d. 100/3	s. d. 85/7	s. d. 83/4	s. d. 82/8	s. d. 82/8	s. d. 85/0	s. d. 85/1	s. d. 85/4
	Index-No.	1,956	1,669	1,627	1,613	1,612	1,659	1,661	1,664
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage	99/1	86/3	81/6	81/4	81/7	82/11	83/0	83/2
	Index-No.	1,933	1,683	1,589	1,587	1,591	1,618	1,620	1,623
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage	97/1	88/6	84/2	83/3	83/1	83/5	83/6	83/8
	Index-No.	1,894	1,727	1,642	1,625	1,621	1,627	1,629	1,633
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage	99/5	83/11	77/3	76/7	76/0	78/0	78/1	79/11
	Index-No.	1,940	1,638	1,507	1,494	1,482	1,522	1,523	1,559
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage	116/5	102/0	98/3	97/6	97/6	99/5	99/6	99/6
	Index-No.	2,271	1,991	1,918	1,902	1,902	1,940	1,941	1,942
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage	97/10	85/4	80/7	79/5	79/5	81/1	81/2	81/4
	Index-No.	1,909	1,664	1,572	1,549	1,549	1,582	1,583	1,587
VII. Building	Wage	109/8	98/9	93/11	92/3	92/3	93/2	93/3	93/8
	Index-No.	2,139	1,926	1,833	1,800	1,800	1,818	1,819	1,828
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage	107/10	102/5	98/2	97/0	97/1	97/3	97/7	97/7
	Index-No.	2,104	1,999	1,916	1,893	1,894	1,897	1,904	1,904
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage	100/2	86/7	80/11	80/4	80/5	80/8	82/8	82/8
	Index-No.	1,955	1,690	1,579	1,567	1,570	1,575	1,613	1,613
X. Other Land Transport	Wage	92/10	83/11	78/3	76/9	76/11	77/9	77/10	78/9
	Index-No.	1,812	1,638	1,527	1,497	1,500	1,517	1,519	1,537
XI. Shipping, etc. (a)	Wage	99/6	81/10	79/6	80/9	80/10	84/8	84/8	84/8
	Index-No.	1,941	1,596	1,552	1,575	1,577	1,652	1,652	1,652
XII. Agricultural, etc. (b)	Wage	87/5	80/3	74/9	71/11	71/11	73/4	73/4	73/4
	Index-No.	1,706	1,566	1,458	1,404	1,404	1,431	1,431	1,431
XIII. Domestic, etc. (b)	Wage	91/3	85/3	76/5	74/10	74/10	75/7	75/9	75/9
	Index-No.	1,780	1,663	1,492	1,460	1,461	1,475	1,478	1,478
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage	93/7	83/11	78/11	77/5	77/6	78/4	78/5	78/7
	Index-No.	1,826	1,637	1,540	1,511	1,511	1,528	1,530	1,532
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage	96/9	86/10	81/10	80/6	80/7	81/7	81/10	82/0
	Index-No.	1,887	1,694	1,597	1,570	1,572	1,592	1,596	1,599

(a) Including the value of victualling and accommodation where supplied. (b) Including the value of board and lodging where supplied. (c) Weighted average.

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1934, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 99s. 6d. per week, followed by Groups VIII. (Mining), 97s. 7d. per week; VII. (Building), 93s. 8d. per week; I. (Wood Furniture, etc.), 85s. 4d. per week; XI. (Shipping, etc.), 84s. 8d. per week; and III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 83s. 8d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 73s. 4d. per week. During the year rates of wage increased in all groups, the greatest increases occurring in the following :—Shipping, etc., 3s. 11d. per week; Clothing, Boots, etc., 3s. 4d. per week; Wood, Furniture, etc., 2s. 8d. per week; Railways, etc., 2s. 4d. per week; Books, Printing, etc., 2s. 0d. per week; and Other Land Transport, 2s. 0d. per week. The increase during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 1s. 6d. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1929, the highest point recorded for that date in any year, wages at the end of the year 1934 showed a decrease of 19s. 2d. per week.



(iv) *Adult Females—States.* The following table shows the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified.

**WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (27s. 2d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout :—

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.(a)
No. of Occupations Included ..	85	87	37	47	24	28	308

**RATES OF WAGE.**

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1930 ..	53 8	53 6	52 11	51 2	60 1	53 8	53 7
31st December, 1931 ..	49 8	45 10	47 11	43 11	51 7	45 8	47 5
31st December, 1932 ..	44 8	43 0	46 9	40 11	49 7	43 4	44 2
31st December, 1933 ..	43 2	42 9	46 9	41 0	48 4	43 1	43 5
31st March, 1934 ..	43 0	42 6	46 6	40 10	48 4	43 1	43 4
30th June, 1934 ..	44 3	43 9	47 8	43 3	48 4	44 1	44 6
30th September, 1934 ..	44 3	43 9	47 8	43 3	49 1	44 1	44 7
31st December, 1934 ..	44 3	43 9	47 8	43 3	49 1	44 1	44 7

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

31st December, 1930 ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
31st December, 1931 ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
31st December, 1932 ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
31st December, 1933 ..	1,589	1,573	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,587	1,599
31st March, 1934 ..	1,583	1,566	1,712	1,501	1,778	1,587	1,593
30th June, 1934 ..	1,628	1,609	1,736	1,592	1,778	1,623	1,639
30th September, 1934 ..	1,628	1,609	1,736	1,592	1,809	1,623	1,640
31st December, 1934 ..	1,628	1,609	1,736	1,592	1,809	1,623	1,640

(a) Weighted average.

Female rates followed the same downward course as male rates from 1930 to 1933. The weekly average nominal wage for Australia fell from 54s. 1d. in 1929 to 43s. 5d. in 1933, a decline of 10s. 8d., or 19 per cent. As with the rates for males increases were recorded in all States during 1934, and the weighted average rate for Australia advanced by 1s. 2d. per week.

(v) *Adult Females—Industrial Groups.* The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined.

**WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each Industrial Group and all Industrial Groups, based on the average wage for all groups at 30th April, 1914 (27s. 2d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout :—

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V., and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, etc.(a)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups. (b)
<b>RATES OF WAGE.</b>						
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
31st December, 1930	48 4	54 2	52 7	54 2	52 10	53 7
31st December, 1931	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
31st December, 1932	41 0	42 4	44 2	46 2	47 0	44 2
31st December, 1933	40 6	41 11	43 5	43 4	45 11	43 5
31st March, 1934	40 6	41 6	43 6	45 5	45 11	43 4
30th June, 1934	40 8	43 8	44 2	45 10	47 2	44 6
30th September, 1934	40 8	43 9	44 2	45 11	47 2	44 7
31st December, 1934	40 8	43 9	44 2	45 11	47 2	44 7
<b>INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>						
31st December, 1930	1,777	1,994	1,934	1,994	1,945	1,971
31st December, 1931	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
31st December, 1932	1,508	1,559	1,625	1,700	1,730	1,624
31st December, 1933	1,491	1,542	1,599	1,594	1,691	1,599
31st March, 1934	1,491	1,529	1,600	1,671	1,691	1,593
30th June, 1934	1,497	1,608	1,626	1,687	1,737	1,639
30th September, 1934	1,497	1,609	1,626	1,689	1,737	1,640
31st December, 1934	1,497	1,609	1,626	1,689	1,737	1,640

(a) Including the value of board and lodging, where supplied. (b) Weighted average.

During the year 1934 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups showed an increase as compared with those of the previous year, the greatest increases occurring in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 2s. 7d. per week and Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 1s. 10d. per week. The weighted average for all groups increased by 1s. 2d. per week.

3. **Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1930 to 1934.**—(i) *General.* The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs relate to the minimum payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in many instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. In order to secure what may be for some other purposes a more adequate standard of comparison, it is desirable to reduce the comparison to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour. Particulars are given in the following table classified according to States, for male and female occupations separately, at the end of the years 1930 to 1934. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage; (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work; and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes

the value of board and lodging where supplied in land occupations, and the value of victualling in marine occupations, whereas the number of working hours and the hourly wage relate to all industrial groups other than Groups XI. (Shipping) and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour in the agricultural and dairying industry are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, hence the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

The general effect of reducing the rates of wage to a common basis (i.e., per hour) is to eliminate on comparison any apparent difference between the several States which may be due to unequal working time.

(ii) *Adult Males and Females.* Particulars of the weekly and hourly wages and hours of labour for adult males and females for the last five years are given in the table hereunder :—

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.—ADULT WORKERS.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage (a) ..	99/1	96/11	92/5	92/8	99/7	92/1	96/9
	Working Hours (b) ..	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2½	2/1½	2/1½	2/0	2/2½	1/11½	2/1½
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage (a) ..	93/5	82/2	89/0	75/0	84/1	79/9	86/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2½	1/9½	2/0½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/11½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage (a) ..	84/11	77/10	88/5	72/7	81/9	78/1	81/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11½	1/8½	2/0½	1/7	1/10	1/8½	1/10
31st Dec., 1933	Weekly Wage (a) ..	81/11	77/0	88/1	73/5	81/4	78/0	80/6
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11	1/8	2/0½	1/7½	1/10	1/8½	1/9½
31st Dec., 1934	Weekly Wage (a) ..	83/2	78/8	88/9	75/6	84/1	79/7	82/0
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1/11½	1/8½	2/0½	1/7½	1/10½	1/8½	1/10½

FEMALE WORKERS.

31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage ..	53/8	53/6	52/11	51/2	60/1	53/8	53/7
	Working Hours ..	45.85	45.44	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	45.48
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2	1/2	1/2½	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage ..	49/8	45/10	47/11	43/11	51/7	45/8	47/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1½	1/0	1/1	0/11½	1/1½	1/0	1/0½
31st Dec., 1932	Weekly Wage ..	44/8	43/0	46/9	40/11	49/7	43/4	44/2
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/1	0/11½	0/11½
31st Dec., 1933	Weekly Wage ..	43/2	42/9	46/9	41/0	48/4	43/2	43/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.03	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.81
	Hourly Wage ..	0/11½	0/11½	1/0½	0/10½	1/0½	0/11½	0/11½
31st Dec., 1934	Weekly Wage ..	44/3	43/9	47/8	43/3	49/1	44/1	44/7
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.03	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.81
	Hourly Wage ..	1/0	0/11½	1/1	0/11½	1/1	0/11½	1/0

(a) Weighted average weekly rate in all industrial groups combined. (b) Weighted average working hours per week, and computed hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in industrial groups XI. and XII.

(iii) *Index-Numbers.* The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924 to 1928 was towards a slight reduction in hours of labour, particularly in Queensland and New South Wales, where a 44-hour week became operative on 1st July, 1925, and on 4th January, 1926, respectively. Further decreases were recorded in the hours of work per week for male employees during 1927 in all States excepting Queensland, where hours remained stationary. The decline in the other States was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group II. (Engineering, etc.) from 48 to 44 hours per week, as awarded by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The decline in the weekly hours in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania in 1928 was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.). During 1929 the hours of work per week for timber workers in certain States were increased by the Commonwealth Court, with the result that the weighted average hours for Australia were slightly increased. The repeal of the Acts in New South Wales and Queensland providing for a 44-hour week tended to increase the average number of hours of labour per week in those States during the year 1930, while the restoration of this measure in New South Wales during 1931 and in Queensland during 1933 was mainly responsible for the reduction in hours since 1930. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table :—

### WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT WORKERS.

NOTE.—Weighted average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

(Weekly Rates\*—M = 55/1 ; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2 ; F = 0/6½.)

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,797	1,758	1,677	1,681	1,807	1,671	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,912	1,813	1,846	1,724	1,922	1,708	1,851
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,695	1,490	1,615	1,360	1,526	1,447	1,575
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,541	1,411	1,605	1,317	1,483	1,416	1,485
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,701	1,451	1,748	1,355	1,584	1,464	1,584
31st Dec., 1933	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,486	1,396	1,598	1,332	1,476	1,415	1,460
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,655	1,438	1,775	1,372	1,571	1,463	1,567
31st Dec., 1934	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,509	1,427	1,610	1,369	1,525	1,443	1,487
	{ Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,676	1,484	1,782	1,410	1,624	1,494	1,594
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,113	2,127	2,172	2,011	2,383	2,105	2,128
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
	{ Hourly Wage ..	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
31st Dec., 1932	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,644	1,583	1,720	1,505	1,826	1,595	1,624
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,837	1,711	1,863	1,605	1,967	1,700	1,777
31st Dec., 1933	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,589	1,573	1,720	1,510	1,778	1,587	1,599
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,776	1,700	1,919	1,611	1,916	1,691	1,752
31st Dec., 1934	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,628	1,609	1,736	1,592	1,809	1,623	1,640
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,819	1,788	1,956	1,699	1,947	1,730	1,797

(a) See footnote to following table.

\* Approximate only—the Indexes being calculated from the exact rates.

4. **Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1930 to 1934.

**HOURS OF LABOUR.—WEEKLY INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average hours of labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (48.93) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout. Overtime is excluded.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
31st Dec., 1930	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Index-numbers ..	933	958	908	957	931	962	940
31st Dec., 1931	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Index-numbers ..	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
31st Dec., 1932	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.19	46.86	44.99	46.83	45.51	46.75	45.49
	Index-numbers ..	903	958	919	957	930	955	930
31st Dec., 1933	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Index-numbers ..	904	957	899	957	930	956	927
31st Dec., 1934	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.23	46.82	44.00	46.83	45.51	46.77	45.36
	Index-numbers ..	904	957	899	957	930	956	927

(a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), in which working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals.

5. **Nominal and Real Wages, 1901 to 1934.**—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates necessarily are taken for places other than the capital cities. For the year 1914 and subsequent years the index-numbers in the following table are based on the average wage for the four quarters of each year :—

**NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.**

(WEIGHTED AVERAGE WAGE FOR AUSTRALIA IN 1911 = 1,000.)

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1934.												
New South Wales	158	874	858	1,003	1,093	1,862	1,974	2,003	2,012	1,983	1,851	1,734	1,638	1,617
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,062	1,803	1,951	1,956	1,964	1,937	1,683	1,552	1,502	1,523
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,035	1,879	1,953	1,971	1,976	1,898	1,769	1,731	1,720	1,727
South Australia	134	567	819	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,869	1,884	1,891	1,857	1,580	1,434	1,423	1,458
Western Australia	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,925	1,938	1,960	1,955	1,745	1,611	1,584	1,619
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,027	1,745	1,835	1,825	1,840	1,829	1,625	1,533	1,519	1,540
Australia (a)	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,081	1,827	1,946	1,963	1,972	1,939	1,752	1,639	1,584	1,590

(a) Weighted average.

During the period from 1911 to the end of the year 1929 the average weekly rate of wage increased in New South Wales and Victoria, 100 per cent. ; in Queensland, 98 per cent. ; in South Australia, 87 per cent. ; in Western Australia, 70 per cent. ; and in Tasmania, 130 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 97 per cent. Comparing the yearly average rates for 1929 and 1934 nominal wages declined in all States during the period, South Australia showing the greatest fall with 23.0 per cent., followed by Victoria, 22.5 per cent., and New South Wales, 19.7 per cent. The smallest decline was recorded in Queensland, i.e. 12.6 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for Australia declined 19.4 per cent. Compared with 1911 the average weekly nominal wage for Australia was 59 per cent. higher in 1934.

(ii) *Real Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus, 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the "real" wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1934.

In computing these "real" wage index-numbers for the respective years, the nominal wage index-numbers for each State given in the preceding table have been divided by the retail price index-numbers, food, groceries and rent (all houses), for their respective capital cities. The resulting index-numbers show for each State and for Australia for the years specified the variations in "real" wages. The nominal wage index-numbers for the early years are based on rates of wage current at the end of December, the only data available. For the years 1914 onward, however, the nominal wage index-numbers used are based on the average wage for the four quarters in each year, while those in the preceding sub-sections relate to the December quarter. However, so far as the years 1901 and 1911 are concerned, the December figures may stand for the yearly average without appreciable error, as the movement in wages during any one year prior to 1914 was very slight.

"REAL" WEEKLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES.

States.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
New South Wales ..	961	973	906	1,079	1,079	1,089	1,050	1,107	1,160	1,150	1,138	1,101
Victoria ..	915	1,037	961	1,038	1,095	1,120	1,084	1,158	1,162	1,126	1,139	1,114
Queensland ..	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,244	1,222	1,236	1,220	1,317	1,345	1,376	1,417	1,377
South Australia ..	948	957	929	1,027	1,073	1,089	1,067	1,166	1,178	1,133	1,152	1,144
Western Australia ..	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,139	1,199	1,156	1,143	1,229	1,232	1,212	1,245	1,221
Tasmania ..	827	838	942	977	1,072	1,099	1,064	1,111	1,104	1,067	1,094	1,086
Australia (a) ..	964	1,000	948	1,076	1,102	1,115	1,082	1,115	1,185	1,168	1,178	1,148

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the "real" wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the "real" wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1934 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the "real" wage in all States.

(iii) *Real Wages, allowing for Unemployment.* In the preceding table particulars are given as to variations in "real" wages in each State, due allowance having been made for variations in retail prices of commodities, though not for unemployment.

For years prior to 1913 the data available as to unemployment (*vide* C. Employment—§ 2, par. 2, following) are so meagre that comparative results allowing for variations both in prices of commodities and in unemployment cannot be accurately computed for the several States. In the next table, for these earlier years the percentage of unemployment in Australia and the nominal wage index-numbers relate to the end of the year. For 1914 and subsequent years the wages index-numbers, percentages of unemployment, and retail prices index-numbers are the average for the year. Column I. shows the nominal wage index-numbers, and Column II. the relative percentages unemployed. These percentages of unemployment (converted into terms of employment\*) are applied to the index-numbers in Column I. to obtain rate of wage index-numbers allowing for unemployment, which are shown in Column III., computed with the year 1911 as base = 1,000. In Column IV. the retail prices index-numbers are shown, and in Columns V. and VI. the "real" wage index-numbers are given for full work, and allowing for lost time respectively. These are obtained by dividing the figures in Columns I. and III. respectively by the corresponding figure in Column IV.

A comparison between the figures in Columns I. and V. gives the relation between the nominal rates of wage and the purchasing efficiency of these rates. The figures in Column VI. show variations in "real" wages after allowing not only for variations in purchasing power of money, but for the relative extent of unemployment also:—

NOMINAL AND "REAL" WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

Year.	I. Nominal Wage Index- numbers.	II. Percentage Unem- ployed.	Rate of Wage Index-numbers, Allowing for Unemployment.	IV. Retail Price Index- numbers. (Food, Groceries, Rent—all houses.)	"Real" Wage Index- numbers.	
			III. Re-computed. (1911 = 1,000).		V. Full Work.	VI. Allowing for Unemploy- ment.
1901 ..	848	6.6	832	880	964	945
1908 ..	900	6.0	888	951	949	934
1909 ..	923	5.8	913	948	974	963
1910 ..	955	5.6	945	970	985	974
1911 ..	1,000	4.7	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,051	5.5	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913 ..	1,076	5.3	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914 ..	1,081	8.3	1,040	1,140	948	912
1915 ..	1,092	9.3	1,039	1,278	854	813
1916 ..	1,144	5.8	1,131	1,324	864	854
1917 ..	1,226	7.1	1,195	1,318	930	907
1918 ..	1,270	5.8	1,255	1,362	932	921
1919 ..	1,370	6.6	1,343	1,510	907	889
1920 ..	1,627	6.5	1,596	1,785	911	894
1921 ..	1,826	11.2	1,701	1,697	1,076	1,002
1922 ..	1,801	9.3	1,715	1,600	1,126	1,072
1923 ..	1,805	7.1	1,760	1,700	1,062	1,035
1924 ..	1,840	8.9	1,759	1,681	1,095	1,046
1925 ..	1,861	8.8	1,781	1,722	1,081	1,034
1926 ..	1,914	7.1	1,866	1,786	1,072	1,045
1927 ..	1,946	7.0	1,899	1,766	1,102	1,075
1928 ..	1,963	10.8	1,837	1,760	1,115	1,044
1929 ..	1,972	11.1	1,839	1,822	1,082	1,009
1930 ..	1,939	19.3	1,642	1,683	1,152	976
1931 ..	1,752	27.4	1,335	1,479	1,185	903
1932 ..	1,639	29.0	1,221	1,403	1,168	870
1933 ..	1,584	25.1	1,245	1,345	1,178	926
1934 ..	1,590	20.5	1,326	1,385	1,148	957

NOTE.—For years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers and the percentage unemployed relate to the end of the year only, but from 1914 onward these figures, in addition to those for retail prices are averages for the whole year.

\* e.g. (1912)—95.3 : 94.5 :: 1,051 : 1,042.

In 1934 prices rose to a greater extent than wages with the result that the effective wage for full work fell from 1,178 in the previous year to 1,148. Allowing for the factor of unemployment the "real" wage improved from 870 in 1932 to 957 in 1934 owing to a marked decline in unemployment during the past two years following the maximum figure of 29 per cent. recorded for Australia in 1932. Compared with 1911 the "real" wage increased by 14.8 per cent. for full time work, but declined by 4.3 per cent. when allowance is made for unemployment.

### § 3. The Basic Wage and Child Endowment in Australia.

1. *The Basic Wage.*—(i) *General.* The "basic wage" in Australia is understood to mean the lowest wage which can be paid to an unskilled labourer on the basis of "the normal needs of an average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilized community."\* This wage is fixed by various industrial tribunals in Australia operating under Federal and State Arbitration Acts, and is varied from time to time according to changes in cost of living, constitution of the family unit, etc. In addition to the "basic" wage, these tribunals also determine what is known as the "secondary" wage—"the extra payment to be made for trained skill or other exceptional qualities necessary for an employee exercising the functions required."† The term "minimum" wage, on the other hand, is used to express the lowest rate payable in a particular industry, and is either equal to, or greater than the "basic" wage.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the "basic" wage is to be considered by a Court constituted by the Chief Judge and not less than two other Judges, and must be approved by a majority of the members of the Court. The amended Act of 1930 provides that any alteration of the "basic" wage or the principles on which it is computed, or any variation or interpretation of any award where the variation or interpretation would result in any such alteration, shall have no force or effect unless it is considered by the Court constituted as above-mentioned.

By a judgment of the High Court on the 21st April, 1933, however, the "basic" wage is taken to include, for the foregoing purpose, any "loading" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer, the wage payable for skilled labour being assessed on the basis of that primary wage. A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill."

(ii) *History in Australia.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, and the same principle was enunciated in the New South Wales Arbitration Court in somewhat similar terms by Mr. Justice Heydon in 1905. In spite, however, of these pronouncements and the fact that wage-fixing tribunals had been in operation as early as 1896 (in the State of Victoria), it was not until the year 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This declaration was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and is popularly known as the "Harvester Judgment" on account of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per diem or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five," and was generally referred to as the "Harvester" wage. The constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The "Harvester" basic rates for all other towns throughout Australia were fixed at practically the same rates until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the Retail Price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses, for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. These index-numbers had been taken back to 1901, with the year 1911 as base, and disclosed not

\* Mr. Justice Higgins—*A New Province of Law and Order.*

† *Ibid.*



only considerable percentage increases since 1907, but also large disparities in the relative purchasing power of money in the various towns. The basic rates for towns were thereafter fixed on their respective index-numbers, taking the index-number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to 42s. per week—or the base of the table 1000 as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made as regards many country towns, where certain loadings were applied to counterbalance their lower index numbers due to cheaper rentals.\*

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s."† was added to the weekly wage for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard, and in the same year the system was instituted of regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the retail price index-numbers.

The adequacy or otherwise of the "Harvester" standard has been the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. The abnormal conditions during and for some time after the war rendered such a review out of the question, particularly in view of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being automatically adjusted to changes in the cost of living. A Royal Commission (referred to later) was appointed in 1920 to assess a Basic Wage, but its recommendations were disregarded.

This method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage continued in force until 30th April, 1934, when it was superseded by a judgment of the Full Arbitration Court, delivered on 17th April, particulars of which appear below.

In the meantime, however, the Economic depression, which made itself felt severely in Australia in 1930, forced the employers to seek relief from the Court of part of the heavy burden of wages on industrial recovery; and in this section of Official Year Books Nos. 25 and 26 an account will be found of the proceedings which resulted in an order of the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931, together with references to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to rescind the Order on applications made by the Unions.

2. **Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934.**—(i) *Introductory.* As explained hereinafter, the 10 per cent. reduction of wages referred to above ceased to operate in the majority of awards as from the 1st May, 1934, following on a judgment of the Full Court delivered on the 17th April, 1934. The Court at the same time declared a new basic wage, to be periodically adjusted on the "All Items" ("C" Series) index-numbers computed by this Bureau. This new wage supersedes the former "Harvester" standard wage supplemented by the "Powers' 3s." with which the family unit of "about five persons" had been generally associated. For convenience of reference, the new basic wage will be known as the "Commonwealth 'Restoration' Basic Wage, 1934."

(ii) *Applications for Restoration.* In connexion with its former refusals to rescind the 10 per cent. reduction imposed from 1st February, 1931, the Court had indicated that although refusing restoration generally, it was possible that certain industries were in a condition to justify the restoration, and that the Court would be quite prepared to hear applications made on that ground. A number of full and partial restorations were actually made in this way by the Court, and also voluntarily by employers.

Applications by organizations generally renewing the request for rescission of the 10 per cent. reduction having been made, the case opened before the Full Court on the 19th February, 1934, and the hearing continued until the 14th March, 1934.

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\* As these indexes covered only 60 per cent. of household expenditure, a low index due to low rentals would wrongly presume low costs in the remaining uninvestigated 40 per cent. of household expenditure and *vice versa*. † Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the Gas Workers' case.

(iii) *Judgment of the Court. (a) Capital Cities.* The reserved judgment was delivered by the Court on the 17th April, 1934, and came into operation on the 1st May, 1934. The decision was not unanimous, the majority judgment being signed by Dethridge, C.J., and Drake-Brockman, J.; Beeby, J., dissenting as to the amount at which the basic wage was declared. The basic rates awarded for the various capital cities are shown in Column 2 of the following table, while the basic rates being paid under the former systems, together with the increases and decreases on former standards, are added for comparative purposes:—

COMPARISON OF BASIC RATES AWARDED FOR CAPITAL CITIES.

City.	New Rates Awarded 1st May, 1934, "C" Series.	Rates being Paid prior to 1st May, 1934.(a)		Increase or Decrease.		
		Under "D" Series less 10 per Cent. "Cut."	Under "A" Series (Full).	Over "D" Series.	Over "A" Series.	Over "A" Series less 10 per Cent. "Cut."
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sydney .. ..	67 0	66 11	72 0	0 1	- 5 0	+ 2 2
Melbourne .. ..	64 0	63. 4	67 6	0 8	- 3 6	+ 3 3
Brisbane .. ..	61 0	59 4	62 0	1 8	- 1 0	+ 5 2
Adelaide .. ..	64 0	60 2	63 0	3 10	+ 1 0	+ 7 4
Perth .. ..	66 0	59 3	64 0	6 9	+ 2 0	+ 8 5
Hobart .. ..	67 0	64 10	70 0	2 2	- 3 0	+ 4 0
Six Capitals .. ..	65 0	63 9	68 0	1 3	- 3 0	+ 3 10

(a) Calculated to nearest 6d., and including "Powers' 3s." or its equivalent.

NOTE.—For explanation of the "A," "C," and "D" Series see p. 16, Labour Report No. 24, 1933.

Column (3) represents the rates actually being paid to members of the applicant organizations, and the immediate gains are shown in Column (5), representing the differences of Columns (2) and (3). A comparison with past "standards" is made in Columns (6) and (7). Column (6) represents the increase or decrease compared with wages of workers not subject to the 10 per cent. reduction, who are still enjoying the standard represented by the "A" Series of index-numbers, which has existed since the "Harvester" wage was declared in 1907, plus the addition of the "Powers' 3s." in 1922. The most noteworthy feature of Column (4) is the coincidence that the new rate for the Six Capital Cities combined is that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s.," but reference to Section (v.)—"Basis of New Wage"—of this article will disclose the fact that this rate was not used as the basis of the judgment. The rate for Hobart is likewise that formerly paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s.," while for Melbourne the rate is 6d, under that amount; but in the case of Sydney, the decrease was 2s. in addition to that item. The increases disclosed by Column (6) for Adelaide and Perth are due to the higher relative rates under the "C" Series index-numbers for the towns mentioned, compared with those under the "A" Series. Column (7) represents the theoretical immediate gain to wages, had there been no adjustment of wages by means of the "D" Series index-numbers. It must be remembered in this connexion that the introduction of this system of adjustment in May, 1933, was merely a temporary measure adopted by the Court to arrest somewhat the steep drop in wages which was taking place as the result of adjustments made in accordance with the "A" Series index-numbers; and if, therefore, the 10 per cent.

reduction had continued to operate upon the rates derived from the "A" Series, the increases over the rates ruling would, on such an hypothesis, have been those shown in Column (7).

(b) *Country Towns.*—The rates for country towns were, with certain exceptions, fixed at a figure 3s. below that of the Capital City, the exceptions being as follow :— Newcastle 67s.; Broken Hill 65s.; Geelong 63s.; Warrnambool 63s. (on Geelong); Mildura 64s. (on Melbourne); Yallourn 64s. (on Melbourne); Whyalla 64s. (on Adelaide); Kalgoorlie 76s.; Geraldton 69s.; Launceston 66s.; Queenstown 62s. 6d. The rates for Adelaide, Hobart and Launceston were graduated so as to come into full operation by the 1st June, 1935. Special provisions were made in connexion with the Railway services. In the case of Tasmania a flat rate of 65s. or 2s. below that of Hobart was declared, whilst in the case of South Australia a flat rate of 64s. on the Five Towns index-number was fixed. In the cases of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, the Court decided to extend the flat rate to all industries within the Railway services (such as craftsmen in the metal and other trades), and to vary or modify the relevant awards or undertakings accordingly. In view of the financial position of Government transport services, the Court decided to remove the present restriction on State legislatures making reductions in the remuneration of employees covered by Federal Awards, etc., to meet financial stringency, and made the following provision :—

"Notwithstanding anything in this award, the Commissioner may in or from the rates of pay prescribed herein, make reductions or deductions not greater than a statute now or at any time requires to be made generally in or from substantially similar rates of pay of employees of the State or of State instrumentalities."

(c) *Exemptions.* The following industries were exempted from the operation of the judgment until further consideration could be given to them, i.e., Fruitgrowing; Printing at Broken Hill; and the following cases in which cost of living adjustments have not applied—Municipal Employees; Bond Stores; Felt Hatters; Maltsters; Marine Stores; and Launceston Tramways.

(iv) *Periodical Adjustments.* The fixation and future adjustment of the new wage was transferred from the "D" Series of index-numbers to the "C" Series (Food, Groceries, Rent of four and five-roomed Houses, Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure). The greater suitability of the latter series for the purpose had been urged on the Court by the various parties at different times, and was partly adopted by the Court in May, 1933, in connexion with the "D" Series. The "A" Series will, of course, continue to apply to those industries which were not suffering the full 10 per cent. reduction at the date of the judgment. Provision was also made that no adjustment of wages on account of cost of living would be made unless the amount of the change reached at least 2s. per week. The dates of adjustment were altered to the first pay period in the months of June, September, December and March.

(v) *Basis of New Wage.* The new wage adopted by the Court is to a large extent founded upon the amount of 84s. per week, declared by the New South Wales Board of Trade in August, 1925.\* As this amount took into consideration the upward tendency of prices, which continued, the Commonwealth Court regarded that rate as applicable to the year 1926, and taking the fall in prices in Sydney since that date up to the fourth quarter of 1933, as disclosed by the "All Items" index-numbers ("C" Series), the appropriate rate for Sydney was found to be 67s. per week. This rate was then equated to the "C" Series index-number for Sydney for the fourth quarter, 1933, viz., 829, and the proportionate rate for 1,000 (the base of the series) calculated as equal to 81s. per week. From the latter amount as base, a table of wages based on this series was calculated in divisions of 1s. per week (e.g.,  $994 - 1,006 = 81s.$  per week), and the value of all other index-numbers ascertained from the table.

\* See *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, No. 2, Vol. XXVIII., 1925, page 154.

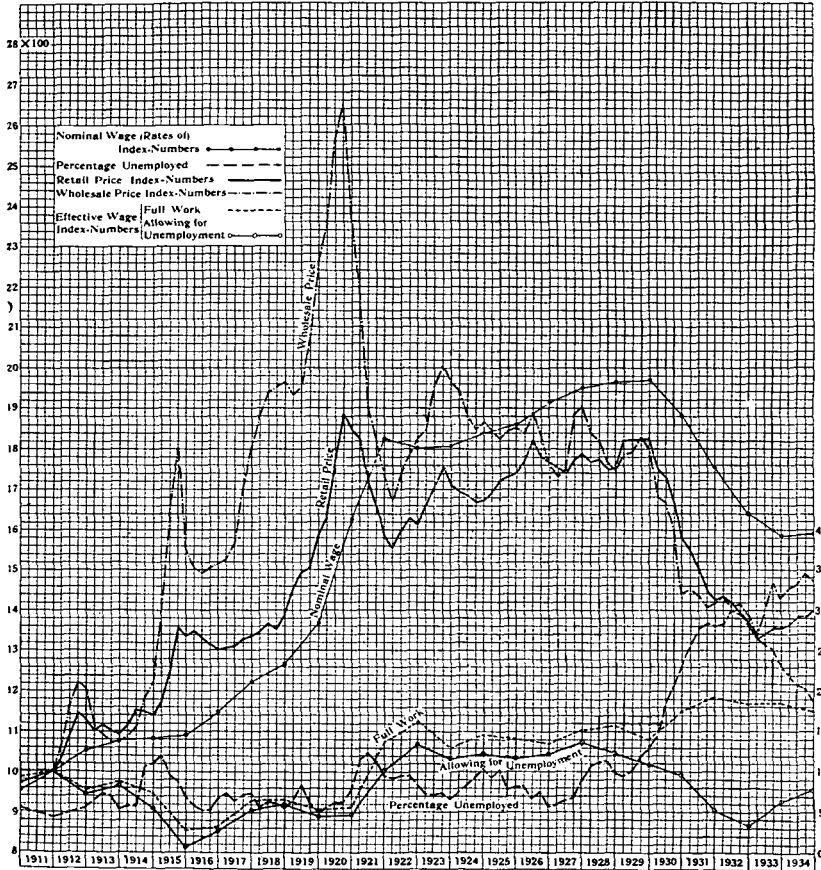
(vi) *Reasons for Judgment.* The Court issued a lengthy statement specifying the reasons which actuated it in arriving at its judgment, but considerations of space preclude the insertion of this matter in the present chapter. Full particulars will, however, be found in Labour Report No. 24.

(vii) *The Family Unit.* The judgment discusses at some length the question of the propriety of identifying a typical family unit with the wage adopted. Hitherto the Court had regarded its basic wage as appropriated to the requirements of a unit of "about five persons," consisting of a man, wife and three dependent children, but in point of actual fact the average number of children per adult male is about one, while for married adult workers it is 1.8. The Court emphasizes the point of view, however, that the deciding factor is what industry in all its primary, secondary, or ancillary forms can pay to the average employee, and that irrespective of what family units have been laid down for, or adopted by Industrial Tribunals, the amounts actually paid have been governed by this consideration. The Court stated, however, that in view of the absence of clear means of measuring the general wage-paying capacity of total industry, the actual wage upon which well-situated labourers are at the time maintaining the average family unit could justifiably be taken as a criterion of what industry can probably pay to all labourers. The Court considered that Mr. Justice Higgins had very wisely used this criterion in the 1907 "Harvester" case, and that there was sound economic warranty for the ascertainment of the real family unit, and the cost of providing something like the standard which families of well-employed labourers had already reached; and that if the real family unit were departed from, or a standard sought for the likely maintenance of which experience gave no reason to hope, then an unrealizable wage level may be ordained. It would appear, therefore, that although not identifying its wage with a specific family unit, the remarks of the Court lead to the conclusion that the wage declared was arrived at partly because in its opinion the material before it suggested that the amount would be sufficient to meet the requirements of a man, wife, and two children, representing the average family responsibility to the married adult worker.

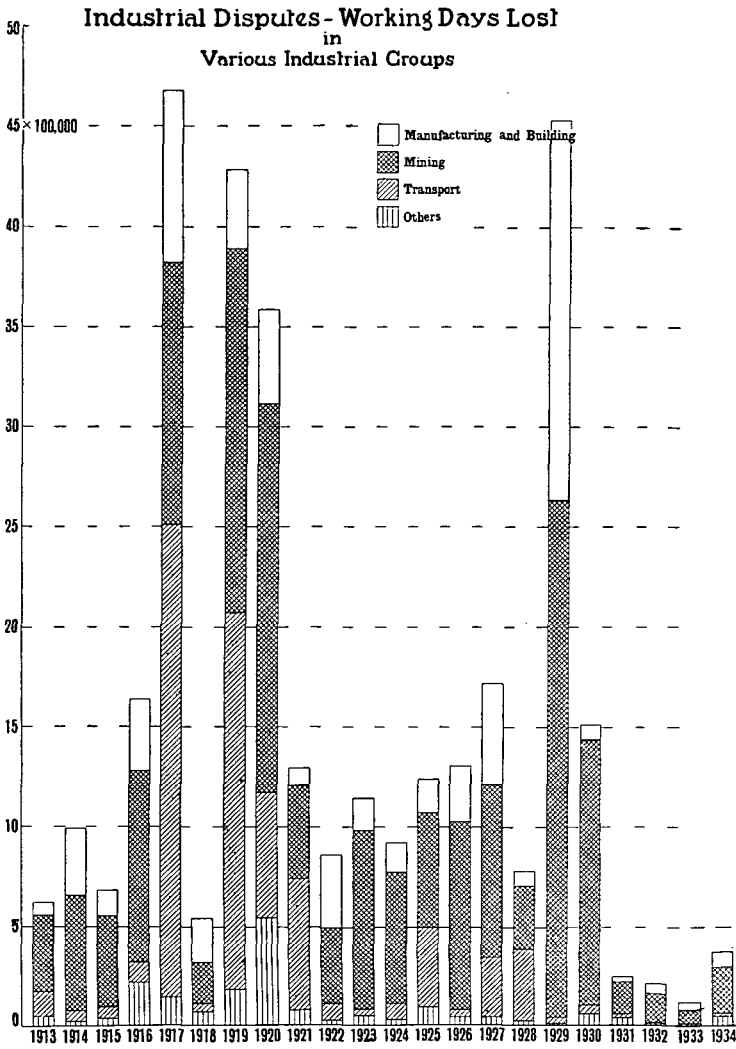
(viii) *Rate for Females.* The Court stated that it did not think it desirable, at any rate at the present time, to declare any wage as a basic wage for females, and continued the proportions in each existing award of the minimum wage for females to that for males—generally in the vicinity of 52 per cent. of the adult male rate.

(ix) *Minority Judgment.* In his minority judgment, Judge Beeby expressed the opinion that although the economic position was much better than twelve months ago, recovery was not sufficient or permanent enough to justify the belief that the Commonwealth can get back to pre-depression standards; that 20 per cent. of the population was still unemployed; that the prices offering for our primary products were lower than those of 1931, and the difficulties of finding markets for our surpluses had increased; that prices offering for our base metals are barely sufficient to meet costs of production; that we are not entitled to assume that the remarkable recovery of wool prices is permanent; that budgetary deficits are still piling up, and the floating debt and consequent interest charges steadily increasing. He stated that the foregoing did not preclude consideration of whether and to what extent the Court's drastic cut in real wages should be modified in the light of substantial economic recovery, nor an examination made of the results of the Court's original order. He analysed the distribution of the products of industry as disclosed by manufacturing statistics which showed that since 1927-28 the proportions going to employers and workers had changed from 45.42 and 54.58 to 49.81 and 50.19 in favour of the employer, and considered that this decline of 4.39 per cent. in the share accruing to the worker called for complete re-examination of the whole theory and methods of wage fixation. He considered that wages should be related to production. He expressed doubt as to whether the reduction of the real wages of a section of the workers materially contributed to the partial recovery of last year, and considered that such transfer of spending power is not conducive to recovery unless it be part of a planned scheme of reorganization which guarantees that the transferred amount is either spent immediately on commodities or re-invested in labour-employing concerns. He reviewed the steps taken in other

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1934.



NOTE.—The figures on the right represent the scale for the percentage unemployed according to trade-union returns. The figures on the left represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (=1,000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent (all houses) for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers, average nominal wage for adult males and *real* wage (full work and allowing for unemployment) for adult males, since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price Index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter.



EXPLANATION.—The scale refers to working days lost in hundred thousands. Thus, taking the year 1917, and comparing the shaded and blank sections with the scale, it will be observed that about 870,000 working days were lost in *Manufacturing and Building*, over 1,300,000 in *Mining*, over 2,300,000 in *Transport*, and about 150,000 in other industries.

countries towards economic reconstruction to show that the universal trend of economic thought from low wage to high wage theories and to shortening working hours should be considered by a Court exercising quasi-legislative functions. He considered that the rates awarded by the majority judgment were not commensurate with the degree of economic recovery, and that the following should be the amounts for the towns shown, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sydney .. ..	3	9	0	Perth .. ..	3	5	0
Melbourne .. ..	3	5	6	Hobart .. ..	3	6	0
Brisbane .. ..	3	5	0	Launceston .. ..	3	3	6
Adelaide .. ..	3	3	0	Six Capitals .. ..	3	6	0

He considered that the "All Items" index-numbers should be used for the future adjustments of wages, but the rates recommended were not proportionate to the "All Items" index-numbers, taking the rate for Sydney as base, but were arrived at after consideration of all prevailing circumstances, and that with these rates there should be corresponding adjustments for provincial towns. In other respects he agreed with the majority judgment.

**3. State Basic Wage Rates in Operation.**—The basic wage rates fixed by State arbitration tribunals differ from those obtaining in the Federal sphere not only as regards amount, but also in respect of constitution of family unit whose needs it purports to supply.

The awards of various State tribunals in operation at the present moment are shown in the following statement. The Industrial Commission in New South Wales and the Industrial Court in Western Australia revised the living or basic rates of wage to be paid in the respective States during 1929. Particulars of these judgments are given in Labour Report, No. 20. The pronouncements of the Industrial Commission in New South Wales are published in the *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. XXXVI., No. 6, and deal exhaustively with matters relating to basic wages. The living wage of £4 2s. 6d. per week for adult males determined in 1929 by the Industrial Commission in New South Wales was not altered during the years 1930 and 1931. On 26th August, 1932, the Commission declared the following rates—£3 10s. per week for adult males, and £1 18s. per week for adult females. The wage was altered as from 1st May, 1933, to £3 8s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 17s. for adult females, and from 1st November, 1933, to £3 6s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 16s. for adult females. From 1st May, 1934, the rates were increased to £3 7s. 6d. for adult males, and £1 16s. 6d. for adult females. The present rates are £3 8s. 6d. for males, and £1 17s. for females. These were originally declared to operate from 1st May, 1935, and were repeated by the commission in its six-monthly declaration on 25th October, 1935. An extensive inquiry into a new "standard" basic wage was commenced by the Industrial Commission on 1st April, 1935, but the finding had not been announced at the date of going to press.

The declarations and reasons for the judgments of the Industrial Court in Western Australia are published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*. A revision of the basic wage in this State was made in June, 1930, when the rate for adult male employees in the Metropolitan area was determined at £4 6s., and for adult female employees at £2 6s. 5d. per week. These rates were reduced in March, 1931, to £3 18s. and £2 2s. 2d. respectively. On 5th November, 1931, the rates for the Metropolitan area were declared at £3 13s. 6d. for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. 8d. for adult female employees. These rates remained in force until 1st March, 1932, when the basic rates for the Metropolitan area were declared at £3 12s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 18s. 11d. per week for adult female employees. On the 2nd November, 1932, the rates were reduced to £3 10s. 6d. and £1 18s. 1d., and on the 28th February, 1933, to £3 9s. and £1 17s. 3d. per week. They were further reduced to £3 8s. and £1 16s. 9d. on the 30th June, 1933, and increased to £3 9s. 3d. and £1 17s. 5d. on the 3rd August, 1933, the latter being the first increase in the basic wage since the 1st July, 1929. These rates were again declared by the Court from 1st July, 1934, and from 1st July, 1935, the rates declared were

£3 10s. 6d. for males and £1 18s. 1d. for females. The Court of Arbitration declares also basic rates of wage for areas outside the Metropolitan area. The rates declared for these areas from 1st July, 1935, were—Agricultural areas, etc., adult male employees, £3 11s. 2d. per week; adult female employees, £1 18s. 5d. per week; Gold-fields area, etc., adult male employees, £4 4s. 4d. per week; adult female employees, £2 5s. 6d. per week.

The Industrial Court in Queensland reviewed the basic rates of wage for that State during 1930, and reduced the rate for adult male employees from £4 5s. to £4 per week as from 1st August, 1930. A further revision during the year reduced the rate for adult males to £3 17s. per week as from 1st December, 1930. The Industrial Court fixed the basic rates as from 1st July, 1931, at £3 14s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation at the end of June, 1935. The declarations of the Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette*.

In 1925 the Board of Industry in South Australia determined the living wage for adult male employees in the Metropolitan area at £4 5s. 6d. per week, and at £1 19s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation for more than five years. On 11th October, 1930, after a public inquiry, the Board of Industry determined the living wage to be paid to adult male employees in the metropolitan area at 12s. 6d. per day or £3 15s. per week, and on 22nd December, 1930, the living wage for adult female employees in the Metropolitan area was declared at £1 15s. per week. Further reductions were made by the Board of Industry on 17th August, 1931, after a public inquiry, to 10s. 6d. per day or £3 3s. per week for adult male employees, and on 4th December, 1931, to £1 11s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. Notwithstanding intervening exhaustive reviews by the Board of Industry, the latter rates were operative up to the 21st October, 1935, when the Board declared 11s. per day or £3 6s. per week for male adults, with no alteration of the rate for females. All the Board's declarations are published in the Bulletins of the Board of Industry, South Australia.

A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review. In the majority of cases the practice of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court of adjusting wages in accordance with the variations in the "Cost of Living" index-numbers has been followed in the past by these bodies. In the case of Victoria, however, by an amendment of the *Factories and Shops Act* (No. 4275—assented to 9th October, 1934), provision is made for the incorporation in all determinations of Wages Boards of the provisions of Awards of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court covering similar employees, and for the automatic adjustment of wages by the Secretary for Labour in accordance with the retail price index-numbers of this Bureau.

#### BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES FIXED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS.

State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales..	(a) 3 8 6	1 17 0	1.5.35	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	1.7.31	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	(c) 3 6 0	(d) 1 11 6	..	..
Western Australia ..	(e) 3 10 6	1 18 1	1.7.35	Man, " wife and " two children
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

(a) Plus child allowances. (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to a large extent.  
 (c) Judgment dated 21st October, 1935. (d) Judgment dated 4th December, 1931.  
 (e) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Goldfields Areas and portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males £4 4s. 4d.; females £2 5s. 6d.; Agricultural Areas and S.W. Land Division—males £3 11s. 2d.; females £1 18s. 5d.



4. **Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.**—The Federal basic wage referred to in par. 1 (ii) *ante* was made operative in other parts of Australia on the basis of the relative retail price index-numbers applicable to the locality, but only one comprehensive attempt has been made by the Federal authorities to ascertain specifically what the actual requirements were in the various States according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household in respect of a family consisting of a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age.

The attempt referred to was made by a Royal Commission, and its report, issued in 1920, recommended the following amounts for the various capital cities, viz. :—

						£	s.	d.
Sydney	..	..	..	..	..	5	17	1
Melbourne	..	..	..	..	..	5	16	6
Brisbane	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	2
Adelaide	..	..	..	..	..	5	16	11
Perth	..	..	..	..	..	5	13	11
Hobart	..	..	..	..	..	5	16	11
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	..	..	..	..	..	5	15	8

The recommendations of this Commission were not given effect to owing to the marked advance of the amounts suggested over ruling rates\* and the grave doubts expressed as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

5. **Child Endowment.**—(i) *General.* The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age has become very prominent in Australia in recent years, and is actually in operation in certain instances. The system has been in force in various forms in England and on the Continent as far back as 1795, the first instance occurring in England in that year.†

(ii) *The New South Wales Scheme.* The first attempt made in Australia to institute the system was in New South Wales in 1919, when a Bill was introduced into the State Parliament to provide a flat basic wage for a man and wife, and an allowance of 5s. per week for each child, the latter rate to be reduced on a sliding scale and to cease automatically when the income reached an amount of £3 per week above the basic wage. The Bill was rejected, and the matter dropped until the session of 1926-27, when measures providing for the payment of child allowances became law.‡ These measures provided for (a) the declaration of a basic wage for a man and wife,|| and (b) the payment of an allowance of 5s. per week in respect of each dependent child, subject to the provision that child allowances would be paid only to the extent by which the total earnings of the worker and his family fall short of the sum represented by the *basic wage* plus child allowance at the rate of 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years. Thus, a worker with three dependent children receiving £5 by way of wages would not be entitled to the allowance, but would receive it in respect of a fourth child. These payments in New South Wales commenced to operate from 1st September, 1927. An amending Act, assented to on the 23rd December, 1929, provides that child endowment shall be 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years except one in the family. The basic or living wage for adult male workers was determined by the Industrial Commission on the 20th December, 1929, at £4 2s. 6d. per week for a family unit consisting of a man, wife and one child. The fund from which child endowment payments are made is created by a levy on the wages bill of employers. The rate of tax to be collected by the Government from employers during the year 1930, was fixed at 1 per cent. This rate was in operation to 30th June, 1931. From 1st July, 1931, the rate was fixed at 2 per cent, and from 1st January, 1932, at the rate of 5d. in the £1 on all

\* The "Harvester" equivalent for Melbourne at the time (September quarter, 1920) was £4 13s. per week, but only £3 18s. to £4 2s. was being paid on the basis of an annual index-number.

† A complete survey of the systems in force in various countries is contained in Elinor Rathbone's *Disinherited Family: A plea for the Endowment of the Family.*

‡ *Family Endowment Act 1927; Finance (Family Endowment Tax) Act 1927; Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Act 1927* and subsequent amendments.

|| This was subsequently declared at £4 5s. per week for adult males and £2 6s. per week for adult females. A separate rate for rural employees was declared later at £4 4s. per week.

wages above £3 per week. The amount of levy collected during 1932-33 was £2,409,034, and £2,105,659 was paid away in allowances to 63,072 families. The levy was discontinued as from 1st January, 1934, the cost of endowment being met from Consolidated Revenue.

(iii) *Commonwealth Public Service.* The first payment of child endowment allowances in Australia was in connexion with the Commonwealth Public Service. From 1st November, 1920, following on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage\*, child endowment at the rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child under fourteen years of age was paid to officers, with a limitation of salary plus allowance of £400 per annum. As the result of proceedings before the Public Service Arbitrator in 1923, this allowance was confirmed as a permanent payment to officers, and the necessary fund to meet it was created by deducting the average value of the payment from the basic wage of all adult officers, so that the officers are themselves providing the fund from which the allowance is paid. The deduction was originally £11 per annum, but is now £12. The payment is now limited to officers receiving up to £500 per annum inclusive of the allowance. Details regarding the introduction and method of calculating the payments under this scheme have been published in previous issues of the Official Year Book and will be found also in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

(iv) *National Scheme.* The Federal Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. per week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission, to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra during May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commission had submitted its report. The minority report recommended a scheme of child endowment financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation. For reasons stated to the Conference, the Government was not prepared to adopt this scheme. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish to the Commonwealth. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment. It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at the present time. The result of the discussion was that it was agreed that the matter of child endowment was one to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

The findings and recommendations in the *majority* and *minority* reports are given in Labour Report, No. 19.

#### § 4. Changes in Rates of Wage.

The collection of detailed information relating to changes in rates of wage was discontinued at the end of the year 1929, owing to the difficulty of securing reliable data. Officials of employers' organizations and trade unions reported that they were unable to supply definite particulars as to the number of workpeople affected by Commonwealth and State awards and determinations. In order to secure comprehensive and reliable data it would have been necessary to extend considerably the field of collection, and after serious consideration, and in view of the fact that the demand for the figures had been limited, it was decided that the additional expense and work involved were too heavy to justify the continuance of the tabulation.

\* The Chairman of the Commission (Mr. A. B. Piddington, K.C.), in a supplementary report had suggested that the wage recommended (£5 16s.) be split up into a flat basic wage of £4 and a Child Endowment of 12s. per week for each dependent child, the fund for the payment of this allowance to be created by a tax on employers of 10s. 9d. per employee per week.

## C.—EMPLOYMENT.

## § 1. Industrial Disputes.

1. *General*.—Information with regard to the collection of particulars and the methods of tabulation of industrial disputes involving stoppage of work has appeared in previous issues of the Official Year Book, and is also given in the annual Labour Reports of this Bureau.

In *annual* tabulations particulars are included of all disputes which either *commenced* or were *current* during the year under review. As regards "number of disputes", "establishments involved", and "workpeople involved", therefore, duplication will take place in respect of those disputes which started in and were unsettled at the end of a preceding year: the number involved will, however, be indicated in a footnote, to permit of due allowance being made in any calculations made from the tables.

2. *Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1934*.—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1934, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the previous years was published in preceding issues of the Official Year Book and Labour Report:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1934.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								£
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	4	4	3,837	155	3,992	36,270	29,825
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	1	8	1,442	1,301	2,743	35,111	17,500
VI.	Other manufacturing ..	3	3	119	..	119	832	804
VII.	Building ..	1	1	34	20	54	108	80
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining ..	85	86	19,750	1,334	21,090	114,574	128,044
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.							
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	5	9	4,475	125	4,600	10,768	11,652
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	1	1	42	..	42	1,050	450
		17	17	3,360	8	3,368	15,040	7,910
	Total .. ..	117	129	33,065	2,943	36,008	213,753	196,265
VICTORIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	2	3	298	..	298	1,414	1,103
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	1	1	13	..	13	13	4
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining ..	2	2	2,000	..	2,000	70,000	53,250
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.							
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	65	700	100	800	19,200	16,000
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	1	3,000	..	3,000	12,000	9,000
XII.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	2	59	4	63	701	457
XIII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	1	1	80	..	80	80	36
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	1	8	..	8	136	60
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	8	8	1,916	250	2,166	5,328	2,528
	Total .. ..	19	84	8,074	354	8,428	108,872	82,438
QUEENSLAND.								
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining ..	1	1	227	..	227	4,994	4,000
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.							
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	5	828	2,144	420	2,564	24,542	20,114
	Total .. ..	7	830	2,453	420	2,873	29,718	24,200

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1934—*continued.*

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num- ber.	Estab- lish- ments In- volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- directly.	Total.		
	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	1	1	44	..	44	11	17
	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	93	..	93	186	100
VI.	Other manufacturing ..	1	1	25	..	25	52	28
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining ..	3	4	299	6	305	795	733
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. ..	2	7	2,260	120	2,380	11,750	10,158
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. ..	1	1	350	50	400	4,000	3,000
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	2	2	281	..	281	1,009	680
	Total ..	10	16	3,309	176	3,485	17,792	14,699
	TASMANIA.							
..	.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	NORTHERN TERRITORY.							
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	1	1	18	2	20	240	240
	AUSTRALIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	7	8	4,228	155	4,383	37,870	31,028
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc. ..	2	9	1,455	1,301	2,756	35,124	17,504
VI.	Other manufacturing ..	4	4	145	..	145	884	832
VII.	Building ..	1	1	34	20	54	108	80
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining ..	91	93	22,282	1,340	23,622	190,363	186,027
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. ..	9	82	7,517	345	7,862	41,800	37,896
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	3,000	..	3,000	12,000	9,000
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	5	5	163	6	169	2,002	1,164
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. ..	7	830	2,574	470	3,044	28,722	23,150
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. ..	1	1	8	..	8	136	60
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	27	27	5,557	258	5,815	21,377	11,118
	Total—Australia ..	(a)155	1,061	46,963	3,895	50,858	370,386	317,859

(a) A dispute in New South Wales (involving one establishment and 64 workers), which commenced in 1933 and was uncompleted at the end of that year, is duplicated in the figures for 1934.

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1930 to 1934.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages caused by disputes which either commenced or were current during each of the years 1930 to 1934, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.) For the year 1913 the proportion of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high, ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to as much as 81 per cent. in 1921 and 1924. During the year 1934 disputes in the coal-mining industry represented 59 per cent. of the total, as compared with 58 per cent. during 1933. In the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work people engaged in coal-mining amounted to 1,822,276, representing 74 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining (Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal Mining.	Other Mining, etc.			
NUMBER.							
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1932 ..	20	4	77	8	5	13	127
1933 ..	16	..	52	6	1	15	90
1934 ..	13	1	91	9	6	35	(a) 155
1930-34 ..	91	9	425	35	27	102	689

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1930 ..	6,034	..	40,336	851	2,610	4,391	54,222
1931 ..	5,005	159	23,351	2,015	2,515	4,622	37,667
1932 ..	8,236	120	19,540	2,602	181	2,238	32,917
1933 ..	5,361	..	17,461	5,415	50	1,826	30,113
1934 ..	7,284	54	23,622	7,862	3,169	8,867	50,858
1930-34 ..	31,920	333	124,310	18,745	8,525	21,944	205,777

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

1930 ..	77,232	..	1,328,142	3,798	46,427	55,642	1,511,241
1931 ..	29,032	1,006	124,089	36,012	19,861	35,991	245,991
1932 ..	50,692	1,561	131,154	21,402	1,038	6,471	212,318
1933 ..	31,625	..	48,528	26,985	100	4,718	111,956
1934 ..	73,878	108	190,363	41,800	14,002	50,235	370,386
1930-34 ..	262,459	2,675	1,822,276	129,997	81,428	153,057	2,451,892

## ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

1930 ..	£ 73,126	£ ..	£ 1,398,706	£ 5,111	£ 48,304	£ 67,095	£ 1,592,342
1931 ..	28,694	901	126,535	29,249	13,553	28,799	227,731
1932 ..	24,051	1,434	115,407	19,691	720	4,279	165,582
1933 ..	23,407	..	44,927	23,683	90	2,941	95,048
1934 ..	49,364	80	186,027	37,896	10,164	34,328	317,859
1930-34 ..	198,642	2,415	1,871,602	115,630	72,831	137,442	2,398,562

(a) See footnote to Table on page 386.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1930 to 1934.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1930 to 1934, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
New South Wales	1930	156	384	46,418	2,151	48,569	1,443,366	1,516,296
	1931	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,037	133,068
	1932	92	99	17,813	2,156	19,969	63,425	64,420
	1933	54	143	13,406	1,663	15,069	53,104	48,760
	1934	(a) 117	129	33,065	2,943	36,008	213,753	196,265
Victoria	1930	5	5	385	23	408	7,744	7,228
	1931	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
	1932	12	37	6,475	110	6,585	99,638	65,599
	1933	12	28	7,156	294	7,450	26,693	20,416
	1934	19	84	8,074	354	8,428	108,872	82,438
Queensland	1930	10	31	1,561	70	1,631	9,581	11,059
	1931	15	358	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
	1932	10	210	1,061	1,156	2,217	21,166	18,541
	1933	11	11	2,636	884	3,520	13,876	10,077
	1934	7	830	2,453	420	2,873	29,718	24,200
South Australia	1930	7	246	2,870	6	2,876	22,778	22,987
	1931	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
	1932	2	3	109	4	113	970	664
	1933	1	1	50	..	50	100	90
	1934	1	1	44	..	44	11	17
Western Australia	1930	2	26	468	..	468	27,072	34,378
	1931	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,820
	1932	8	16	2,531	162	2,693	11,203	9,538
	1933	10	10	3,644	276	3,920	16,896	14,530
	1934	10	16	3,309	176	3,485	17,792	14,699
Tasmania	1930	3	3	270	..	270	400	394
	1931	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
	1932	2	4	1,103	..	1,103	15,562	6,516
	1933	1	1	75	..	75	1,200	1,050
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northern Territory	1930	..	..	245	..	245	910	675
	1931	2	2	177	..	177	354	304
	1932	1	1	21	8	29	87	125
	1933	1	1	18	2	20	240	240
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fed. Cap. Territory	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1930	183	695	51,972	2,250	54,222	1,511,241	1,592,342
	1931	134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731
	1932	127	372	29,329	3,588	32,917	212,318	165,582
	1933	90	195	26,988	3,125	30,113	111,956	95,048
	1934	(a) 155	1,061	46,963	3,895	50,858	370,386	317,859

(a) See footnote to Table on page 386.

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during the years 1930 to 1934 and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

5. Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1934.—(i) *General*. The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1934 classified according to Industrial Groups. Increases occurred in all the principal groups during 1934 in respect of workpeople involved, and the number of working days and amount of wages lost. Of the total number of disputes no less than 59 per cent. were in connexion with the coal-mining industry, mostly in New South Wales. Wages lost in this industry in New South Wales was £128,044, or 40 per cent. of the total loss of wages in Australia, viz., £317,859. Compared with earlier years there was no dispute of outstanding magnitude but particulars in the following paragraphs are given of the largest which occurred in the States mentioned.

(ii) *Details regarding Principal Disputes*.—(a) *New South Wales*. Objection to a reduction of wages under a new award of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was reported to be the reason for a stoppage of work in several textile factories in January, 1934. Direct negotiations having failed to effect a settlement, the dispute was referred to a compulsory conference convened under the provisions of the Commonwealth Arbitration Act, with the result that work was resumed after a stoppage of about three weeks.

Refusal to concede a demand by a section of the employees, that brace and platmen's rates be paid to assistants in such occupations, was the reason given for a cessation of work by metalliferous miners at Broken Hill in July, 1934. Negotiations between the parties concerned resulted in a resumption of operations after a stoppage of about ten days.

A dispute involving persons engaged in the manufacture of galvanized iron occurred at Newcastle in August, 1934. The dismissal of an employee and dissatisfaction with award rates and conditions were given as reasons for the cessation of work. After a stoppage of about four weeks work was resumed pending application to the State Arbitration Court for an award.

(b) *Victoria*. An allegation by wheelers of underpayment was responsible for a stoppage of work at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, in March, 1934. After several unsuccessful attempts at settlement of the dispute by direct negotiations, the Minister for Railways convened a conference which resulted in a resumption of work after a stoppage of more than four months.

A claim for an increase in wages and variation of working conditions was reported to be the cause of a stoppage of work by tramway employees at Melbourne in October, 1934. Negotiations between representatives of the parties concerned resulted in a satisfactory termination of the dispute and work was resumed after a stoppage of about four days.

(c) *Queensland*. Introduction by the employees of a new "darg" (regulated output) was responsible for a cessation of work at the State Coal Mine, Collinsville, in January, 1934. Negotiations between the management and representatives of the employees resulted in an amicable settlement of the dispute and work was resumed after a stoppage of about three weeks.

A demand for an 83 per cent. preference to British-born cane-cutters, was the cause of a dispute at Home Hill in June, 1934. An investigation into methods of engaging cutters was promised and a clause to prevent agreements intended to defeat the purposes of the award was added to the Sugar Award. The cutters then agreed to sign on after a hold-up of about four weeks.

A demand that all cane be burnt owing to the prevalence of "Weil's disease" caused a cessation of cane-cutting operations in the Ingham district in August, 1934. The dispute was referred to the Industrial Court which made an order that all cane should be burnt, and work was resumed after a stoppage of about six days.

(d) *Western Australia*. A dispute involving persons engaged in metalliferous mining occurred at Kalgoorlie in January, 1934. The alleged cause of the dispute was the refusal by British-born miners to work with foreigners. After a stoppage of about

one week, work was resumed on the understanding that preference would be given firstly to British-born miners, and secondly to naturalized foreigners. Direct negotiations were instrumental in settling the dispute.

6. **Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1934.**—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated loss in wages, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1934, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1934.**

Limits of Duration.	Num-ber.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less .. ..	53	14,773	807	15,580	15,547	£ 16,295
2 days and more than 1 day	19	3,087	175	3,262	6,524	6,166
3 days and more than 2 days	13	4,249	72	4,321	12,815	11,544
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. ..	22	11,383	256	11,639	50,481	43,435
1 week and less than 2 weeks	22	5,505	707	6,212	52,031	46,608
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	16	4,230	1,743	5,973	88,351	78,063
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	8	2,603	110	2,713	70,053	57,498
8 weeks and over .. ..	2	1,133	25	1,158	74,584	58,250
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>(a) 155</b>	<b>46,963</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>50,858</b>	<b>370,386</b>	<b>317,859</b>

(a) See footnote to Table on page 386.

The details for previous years will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book and in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

7. **Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1934.**—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes during the years 1913 and 1929 to 1934, classified according to principal cause :—

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.**

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
NUMBER.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase .. ..	42	8	..	4	5	1	10
(b) Against decrease .. ..	4	6	9	17	11	4	3
(c) Other wage questions	31	45	44	16	26	14	31
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction .. ..	3	6	4	2	2	..	6
(b) Other disputes re hours	7	2	..	..	..	7	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists .. ..	8	3	..	1	2	1	4
(b) Other union questions	5	12	20	4	3	3	8
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. ..	44	87	48	50	50	35	52
5. Working Conditions .. ..	51	31	27	22	11	9	25
6. Sympathetic .. ..	5	6	11	5	2	..	3
7. Other Causes .. ..	8	53	20	13	15	16	13
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>(a) 155</b>



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
<b>WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	8,633	1,414	..	2,053	1,295	29	7,210
(b) Against decrease ..	563	10,532	12,824	7,108	7,327	2,178	2,817
(c) Other wage questions	7,160	8,742	12,686	3,999	5,417	4,336	8,335
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	460	21,646	4,334	192	198	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	1,819	2,067	..	..	..	2,620	309
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	103	..	9	17	89	383
(b) Other union questions	1,418	4,367	4,160	2,240	501	705	2,184
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	11,370	22,933	7,751	12,023	12,556	11,803	15,638
5. Working Conditions ..	10,785	4,672	4,276	6,659	2,804	4,503	6,062
6. Sympathetic ..	947	11,604	4,010	1,053	316	..	1,045
7. Other Causes ..	1,758	16,524	4,181	2,331	2,486	3,850	6,875
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>50,283</b>	<b>104,604</b>	<b>54,222</b>	<b>37,667</b>	<b>32,917</b>	<b>30,113</b>	<b>50,858</b>

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	7,433	..	15,425	5,990	87	108,277
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	2,332,157	1,227,808	111,258	123,571	17,431	35,459
(c) Other wage questions	78,183	47,261	113,102	43,746	17,631	18,736	40,219
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	1,887,196	63,583	152	2,894	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	15,111	3,183	..	..	..	8,895	1,748
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	424	..	99	59	89	3,263
(b) Other union questions	32,388	49,924	50,225	11,752	6,261	1,421	10,774
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	191,723	78,492	24,683	38,567	36,054	31,799	110,166
5. Working Conditions ..	73,562	8,545	8,551	17,106	14,902	22,865	26,223
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	23,482	17,648	4,070	1,096	..	11,174
7. Other Causes ..	5,212	23,381	5,641	3,816	3,860	10,633	23,083
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>623,528</b>	<b>4,461,478</b>	<b>1,511,241</b>	<b>245,991</b>	<b>212,318</b>	<b>111,956</b>	<b>370,386</b>

(a) See footnote to Table on page 386.

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1913 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. Since 1928 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" has averaged approximately 28 per cent. of the total number for each year. The majority of the dislocations of work classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry, and has been the principal cause of industrial disturbance of recent years. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but have been relatively unimportant during the past six years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the six years 1929 to 1934, classified according to results:—

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.**

Year.	Number.				Workpeople Involved.				Working Days Lost.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1929..	70	135	44	5	11,200	69,859	7,150	15,304	38,943	4,315,760	43,174	26,302
1930..	36	117	24	1	4,133	45,204	3,343	520	13,497	1,358,044	25,177	13,000
1931..	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..
1932..	29	77	21	..	5,437	17,518	9,962	..	23,572	48,893	139,853	..
1933..	17	58	13	1	4,778	20,697	4,361	213	12,301	84,697	14,468	42 <sup>0</sup>
1934 <sup>ab</sup>	29	102	14	9	7,025	31,220	9,620	2,729	40,048	179,126	126,081	19,059

(a) See footnote to table on page 386.

(b) The following particulars of a dispute in New South Wales which was incomplete at 31st December, 1934, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding tables:—1 dispute; 264 workpeople involved; and 6,072 working days lost.

The figures for the year 1929 and 1930 in the above, and also in the following table, include the number of workpeople involved and the working days lost in the dispute on the Northern Coalfield of New South Wales which commenced in March, 1929, and terminated in June, 1930.

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1913 and 1929 to 1934, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement:—

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.**

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934. (a) (b).
NUMBER.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	130	134	88	87	64	84
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act .. .. .	17	8	3	3	4	1	2
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. .. .	19	3	6	11	5	3	10
By reference to Board or Court .. .. .	22	1	2	1	2	3	9
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. .. .	4	6	..	4	3	2	5
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out .. .. .	13	7	9	2	7	2	2
By closing-down establishment permanently .. .. .	1	3	1	2	1	3	2
By other methods .. .. .	13	96	23	21	18	11	40
Total .. .. .	208	254	178	132	127	89	(a) 154

(a) See footnote to table on page 386.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous table.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA—continued.

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934. (a) (b)
<b>WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.</b>							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	32,393	40,804	22,292	22,595	19,703	25,469
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act .. ..	3,172	19,161	196	1,885	1,800	1,100	891
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. ..	6,505	487	3,476	3,871	1,640	1,290	4,559
By reference to Board or Court .. ..	12,774	56	184	42	416	1,390	1,666
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. ..	659	511	..	1,083	1,839	1,096	4,335
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out .. ..	658	5,411	2,940	222	460	986	138
By closing-down establishment permanently .. ..	170	144	40	52	11	1,271	444
By other methods .. ..	2,988	45,350	5,560	8,058	4,156	3,213	13,092
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>50,283</b>	<b>103,513</b>	<b>53,200</b>	<b>37,505</b>	<b>32,917</b>	<b>30,049</b>	<b>50,594</b>

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	2,417,171	1,289,487	109,601	87,650	54,774	182,260
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act .. ..	26,335	1,279,258	2,893	2,625	79,872	6,600	20,019
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. ..	187,871	5,261	56,648	25,257	7,423	3,510	58,801
By reference to Board or Court .. ..	221,769	56	1,272	252	3,408	6,330	10,474
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference .. ..	2,105	1,882	..	30,317	18,596	15,437	46,814
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out .. ..	14,139	610,686	34,612	27,042	6,874	10,543	138
By closing-down establishment permanently .. ..	20,400	9,861	80	5,355	44	8,627	4,486
By other methods .. ..	56,509	100,004	24,726	37,970	8,451	6,071	41,322
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>623,528</b>	<b>4,424,179</b>	<b>1,409,718</b>	<b>238,419</b>	<b>212,318</b>	<b>111,892</b>	<b>364,314</b>

(a) See footnote to Table on page 386.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous Table.

The majority of disputes are settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled since 1913 ranging between 43 per cent. in 1925 and 75 per cent. in 1930. Of the 154 disputes settled during 1934, 84 or 55 per cent. were settled by this method. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration Acts has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging from 3 per cent. in 1915 to 22 per cent. in 1913. The proportion in 1934 was 15 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as

having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

## § 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. **General.**—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 420,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received, the percentages of unemployment derived from Trade Union returns may be regarded as of value by virtue of the indication they give of the relative intensity of unemployment from time to time, and it is believed that they can be taken as a rough index of the percentage of workers unemployed at any time. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

2. **Unemployment.**—(i) *States.* In addition to the qualifications referred to above, allowance must be made for the circumstance that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not quite identical in the various States. The results may, however, be taken as representing fairly well labour conditions generally:—

### UNEMPLOYMENT.—1934.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. .. .	114	188,591	46,581	24.7
Victoria .. .. .	81	114,699	19,875	17.4
Queensland .. .. .	46	55,648	6,513	11.7
South Australia .. .. .	58	29,675	7,584	25.6
Western Australia .. .. .	61	26,449	4,707	17.8
Tasmania .. .. .	34	8,973	1,605	17.9
<b>Australia .. .. .</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>424,035</b>	<b>86,865</b>	<b>20.5</b>

(ii) *Summary for Australia.* The appended table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years and quarterly for years, 1931 to 1934 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

Period.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1930 .. .. .	395	438,874	84,767	19.3
1931 .. .. .	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1932 .. .. .	395	415,434	120,454	29.0
1933 .. .. .	394	415,305	104,035	25.1
1934 .. .. .	394	424,035	86,865	20.5
1931 1st Quarter .. .. .	397	440,234	113,614	25.8
2nd " .. .. .	397	429,687	118,424	27.6
3rd " .. .. .	396	426,603	120,694	28.3
4th " .. .. .	396	423,493	118,732	28.0
1932 1st Quarter .. .. .	395	425,094	120,366	28.3
2nd " .. .. .	396	413,742	124,068	30.0
3rd " .. .. .	395	412,997	122,340	29.6
4th " .. .. .	392	409,902	115,042	28.1
1933 1st Quarter .. .. .	394	412,674	109,182	26.5
2nd " .. .. .	394	415,559	106,652	25.7
3rd " .. .. .	394	416,426	104,560	25.1
4th " .. .. .	394	416,560	95,745	23.0
1934 1st Quarter .. .. .	394	422,056	92,297	21.9
2nd " .. .. .	394	422,113	88,413	20.9
3rd " .. .. .	394	425,104	86,652	20.4
4th " .. .. .	396	426,866	80,097	18.8

NOTE.—Similar figures for each of the four quarters of the years since 1912 will be found in the Labour Reports. The quarterly figures show the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter, and the annual figures, the average of the four quarters; the returns do not include persons out of work through strikes or lock-outs.

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (30.0) was reached in the second quarter of 1932.

(iii) The following table gives the percentages in each State from 1930 to 1934 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—PERCENTAGES.

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1930 Year .. .. .	21.7	18.3	10.7	23.3	19.2	19.1	19.3
1931 " .. .. .	30.8	25.8	16.2	32.5	27.3	27.4	27.4
1932 " .. .. .	32.5	26.5	18.8	34.0	29.5	26.4	29.0
1933 " .. .. .	28.9	22.3	15.3	29.9	24.8	19.1	25.1
1934 " .. .. .	24.7	17.4	11.7	25.6	17.8	17.9	20.5
1932 1st Quarter .. .. .	31.8	26.0	18.2	33.1	28.6	27.3	28.3
2nd " .. .. .	33.2	27.7	19.9	35.2	30.3	27.4	30.0
3rd " .. .. .	33.0	27.0	19.3	35.4	30.1	26.9	29.6
4th " .. .. .	31.9	25.2	17.9	32.2	28.9	23.8	28.1
1933 1st Quarter .. .. .	30.2	23.9	16.7	30.5	27.1	19.8	26.5
2nd " .. .. .	29.6	23.0	15.6	30.0	26.0	19.0	25.7
3rd " .. .. .	28.8	22.5	15.1	30.3	25.6	19.2	25.1
4th " .. .. .	27.0	19.9	13.8	28.9	20.5	18.2	23.0
1934 1st Quarter .. .. .	25.8	18.6	13.7	28.5	19.5	17.7	21.9
2nd " .. .. .	25.0	18.0	12.7	25.4	18.3	17.9	20.9
3rd " .. .. .	24.5	17.5	11.4	25.4	17.2	18.9	20.4
4th " .. .. .	23.5	15.3	9.1	23.0	16.3	17.0	18.8

(iv) *Industrial Groups. Australia.* The next table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries or occupations in which employment is stable, such as railways, and those which are subject to exceptional fluctuations, such as wharf labour, agricultural, pastoral, etc., are not included. Other occupations—domestic, hotel employees, etc., are included in the "Other and Miscellaneous" group, as their returns are not sufficiently representative:—

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1934.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
Manufacturing :—				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	16	18,755	5,667	30.2
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	72,198	16,741	23.2
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	51	35,956	5,947	16.5
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	22	36,312	4,881	13.4
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	18,707	2,051	11.0
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	65	39,094	9,507	24.3
VII. Building .. ..	47	49,207	13,320	27.1
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	26,396	7,646	29.0
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services ..	12	17,802	3,668	20.6
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	84	109,608	17,437	15.9
All Groups .. ..	394	424,035	86,865	20.5

3. *Seasonal Employment in Australia.*—An investigation concerning the extent of seasonal employment in Australia was made during 1929. The State Statisticians were requested to furnish brief reports regarding the industries and callings in their respective States subject to seasonal fluctuations. From the reports received from these officials, supplemented by information from other sources, particulars were compiled and published in Official Year Book, No. 22, and in Labour Report, No. 19.

4. *Special Legislation for the Relief of Unemployment.*—The position in regard to unemployment in Australia became so serious during 1930, that the usual methods of providing funds for relief works and sustenance were found to be inadequate. The cessation of loans, and the general depression in industry and business, due mainly to the decline in the prices of primary products, brought about an economic crisis in all States. The number of persons thrown out of work increased rapidly, with little prospect of conditions improving during the immediate future. The Commonwealth and State Governments realized that special action was necessary to provide additional funds to relieve the distress caused by continued unemployment, as the money ordinarily available was not sufficient to meet the abnormal conditions.

Special grants to the States were made by the Commonwealth Government, while special legislation relating to the relief of unemployment was enacted in practically all the States. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, the Acts provided for special taxation for the purpose of creating funds for relief works and sustenance for the unemployed. In South Australia income tax rates were increased and a Financial Emergency tax was levied in Western Australia. The funds necessary for the relief of unemployment in Tasmania were provided by a tax on wages.

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Reports, Nos. 22 to 25.

### § 3. Apprenticeship.

In Year Book No. 16, pp. 602-3, information was given with regard to legislation relating to the question of apprenticeship. Tables were included showing the periods of apprenticeship fixed in the awards of the various industrial tribunals of the States and Commonwealth, also the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and journeywomen. This information has been omitted from the present issue. Reference to legislation covering apprenticeship will be found in the Appendix to Official Year Book, No. 23.

## D.—ASSOCIATIONS.

### § 1. Labour Organizations.

1. **Registration.**—(i) *Under Trade Union Acts.* The benefits obtained by registering trade unions under the Trade Union Acts in force in the various States are not considered of much value; consequently the statistics of registered trade unions of employees do not accurately represent the position of unionism. Further, the returns for past years are so defective as to be practically valueless, inasmuch as no reliable indication is afforded of the numerical and financial position of the unions. Some of the registered unions fail to supply returns; this non-supply may lead to cancellation of the registration. Others have obtained the cancellation of their certificates of registration, the apparent reason being that they proposed to register under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act or a State Arbitration Act. In Queensland, some of the largest labour unions withdrew from registration during 1911, mainly on account of the necessity for closer restriction of their objects as set forth in their rules, consequent on legal decisions affecting trade unions. In Victoria and in South Australia very few of the existing unions are registered under the Trade Union Acts. It will be seen, therefore, that the available information under this heading is too meagre for statistical purposes.

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 169 industrial unions of employers and 155 industrial unions of employees, the membership not being available in either case; Queensland, 13 industrial unions of employers with 11,350 members, and 79 industrial unions of employees with approximately 138,705 members; South Australia, 25 organizations of employees with 18,433 members; Western Australia, 43 organizations of employers with 871 members, and 111 organizations of employees with 35,849 members. There is no provision in the South Australian Industrial Acts for the registration of organizations of employers, and in Victoria and Tasmania, where Wages Board systems of wage fixation are in operation, organizations of employers and employees are not required to register. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. On 31st December, 1934, there were 28 registered organizations of employers with a membership of 20,000, and 137 registered organizations of employees, with a total estimated membership of 630,000.

2. **Particulars regarding Trade Unions.**—(i) *Types.* The trade unions in Australia are very diverse in character, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be merely a branch of a British or International union. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour

organizations, viz. :—(i) the local independent ; (ii) the State ; (iii) the interstate ; and (iv) the Australasian or International, but a number of variations occur from each of these classes. The leading characteristics of each of these types were briefly outlined in Labour Report No. 2 (pp. 7 to 9) issued by this Bureau.

(ii) *Number and Membership.* As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912 the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1934 :—

#### TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1934.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales .. .. .	185	579	312,639
Victoria .. .. .	149	406	195,877
Queensland .. .. .	106	323	129,358
South Australia .. .. .	109	183	55,120
Western Australia .. .. .	128	188	54,195
Tasmania .. .. .	79	77	13,510
Northern Territory .. .. .	4	..	825
Federal Capital Territory .. .. .	15	1	1,043
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>762,567</b>
<b>Australia (a) .. .. .</b>	<b>355 (a)</b>	<b>2,177 (b)</b>	<b>762,567</b>

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. The figures represent the number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations which are practically independent and self-governing.

(b) See remarks below.

In the preceding table the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line, allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are, therefore, 355 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,177 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 762,567 members.

(iii) *Classification in Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the number of unions and members thereof in Australia at the end of each of the last five years. The number of unions specified refers to the number of different unions represented in each



State; and, while interstate or federated unions are counted once in each State in which they are represented, sub-branches within a State are not counted:—

TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Groups.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
<b>NUMBER OF UNIONS.</b>					
<b>Manufacturing:—</b>					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	18 (a)	18 (a)	18 (a)	18 (a)	17 (a)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	65 (32)	63 (34)	63 (34)	62 (34)	62 (32)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	24 (12)	24 (12)	24 (12)	24 (11)	24 (11)
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	15 (9)	15 (10)	15 (10)	15 (10)	15 (9)
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	79 (41)	76 (38)	77 (37)	77 (37)	76 (36)
VII. Building ..	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	18 (14)	16 (13)	16 (13)	16 (13)	17 (14)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	52 (30)	51 (29)	51 (29)	51 (29)	51 (29)
X. Other Land Transport ..	12 (5)	11 (4)	11 (4)	11 (4)	10 (4)
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	59 (26)	57 (24)	57 (24)	55 (22)	55 (22)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	8 (3)	9 (4)	9 (4)	9 (4)	10 (6)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	20 (15)	20 (15)	20 (16)	20 (16)	20 (15)
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical ..	30 (20)	31 (19)	31 (19)	30 (19)	30 (19)
(ii) Public Service ..	143 (45)	145 (46)	145 (45)	145 (45)	145 (45)
(iii) Retail and Wholesale ..	9 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)	8 (7)
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring ..	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	13 (12)	13 (11)
(v) Other Miscellaneous ..	100 (36)	108 (40)	108 (40)	107 (39)	108 (41)
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>780 (362)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>780 (362)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>781 (361)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>775 (356)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>775 (355)<sup>a</sup></b>

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

<b>Manufacturing:—</b>					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	30,944	26,700	27,054	27,164	25,886
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	79,081	74,316	72,883	69,244	73,393
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	71,437	63,582	61,183	62,103	65,663
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	50,625	47,707	51,154	50,173	56,484
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	19,822	18,703	18,128	18,113	18,285
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	44,742	42,553	40,578	42,577	43,720
VII. Building ..	59,629	52,041	52,582	52,936	53,140
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	42,405	36,037	32,846	30,166	36,560
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	106,968	92,292	91,889	90,521	91,035
X. Other Land Transport ..	18,211	17,595	17,158	16,408	13,566
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	38,050	36,039	32,994	32,691	29,363
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	43,639	28,668	21,237	20,997	22,599
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	25,504	23,611	20,993	20,849	19,585
XIV. Miscellaneous:—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical ..	31,140	30,222	28,420	27,884	33,947
(ii) Public Service ..	81,275	81,395	80,889	79,809	77,305
(iii) Retail and Wholesale ..	28,859	26,030	24,983	26,426	29,009
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring ..	41,027	32,541	30,639	30,261	32,482
(v) Other Miscellaneous ..	42,399	38,374	35,221	41,076	40,515
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>855,757</b>	<b>769,006</b>	<b>740,831</b>	<b>739,398</b>	<b>762,567</b>

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

(iv) *Trade Unions—Numbers and Percentages of Male and Female Members—Australia.* The Census discloses the percentage of male and female employees (i.e., persons in "receipt of wages or salary," and persons "unemployed"), 20 years of age

and over, on the total male and female population, and by applying these percentages to the estimated total male and female population at the end of each year, an estimate of the number of adult employees of each sex in the year is obtained.

The following table shows separately for males and females (a) the number of members of trade unions; (b) the estimated number of employees of each sex 20 years of age and over in all professions, trades, and occupations; and (c) the percentage of the former (a) on the latter (b) at the end of each year, 1930 to 1934. The estimated number of employees includes all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a large number of adults who are not eligible for membership of any trade union, such as certain persons employed in professional occupations, as well as others who, while eligible for membership so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. Moreover the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and age 20 years is taken as approximating to the age of admission to membership. A line has also been added showing the estimated numbers of "junior" workers under 20 years of age:—

**TRADE UNIONS—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS.—AUSTRALIA.**

Particulars.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
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**MALES.**

Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	1,313,000	1,321,000	1,330,000	1,344,290	1,393,155
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	735,767	656,105	630,688	626,266	641,370
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	56.0	49.7	47.4	46.6	46.0
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	243,400	244,850	246,500	249,010	253,682

**FEMALES.**

Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	311,600	314,600	317,250	321,500	363,255
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	119,990	112,901	110,143	113,132	121,197
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	38.5	35.9	34.7	35.2	33.4
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	137,500	138,870	139,980	141,960	158,863

**TOTAL.**

Estimated Number of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) .. .. .	1,624,600	1,635,600	1,647,250	1,665,790	1,756,410
Number of Members of Unions .. .. .	855,757	769,006	740,831	739,398	762,567
Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees .. .. .	52.7	47.0	45.0	44.4	43.4
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	380,900	383,720	386,480	390,970	412,545

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1933 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1934.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions ..	20	13	17	22	42	114
Number of Members ..	32,521	40,978	99,762	191,157	280,283	644,701

(a) Certain unions in this group have, in addition to branches in each of the six States, branches in the Northern Territory and the Federal Capital Territory.

It appears, therefore, that 114 out of the 355 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 114 unions reaches 644,701 or 85 per cent. of the membership of all unions.

3. **Central Labour Organizations.**—In each of the capital cities and in a number of industrial centres elsewhere, delegate organizations consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a per capita tax on the members of each affiliated union. In most of the towns where such central organizations exist, the majority of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system or organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State. In this State there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils, to which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other five States, however, the organization is not so close, and, while provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils or for the representation of the central council on the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies.

A new Central Labour Organization, called the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the Trade Unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australasian Council is based on the Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils in each State, such bodies having the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. The Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils are the branches of the Australasian Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan Councils, the Executive consists of four officers, viz., the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution, and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:—(a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australasian Trade Union Movement from the Craft to an Industrial basis by the establishment of one Union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes; (d) educational propaganda among unions. The Australasian Council

of Trade Unions is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the Trade Union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference at Geneva.

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto in each State at the end of the year 1934 :—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1934.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	F.C.Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	6	2	9	3	1	29
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated ..	94	168	77	54	214	59	11	677

The figures given in the preceding table as to number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated to the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines, and composed of delegates from separate unions the interests of the members of which are closely connected by reason of the occupation of their members. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters, and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the iron, steel, or brass trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

4. **Laws relating to Conditions of Labour.**—In Official Year Book No. 16, pp. 538 to 566, a conspectus was given of Labour Laws in force in Australia at the end of the year 1922, and of Acts and Regulations relating to Factories and Shops.

Information was contained in the same issue with regard to employment under Mining Acts, followed by a brief reference to Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts and miscellaneous legislation relating to conditions of labour enacted by the States. A conspectus of the Tribunals for the Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Labour was also included.

## § 2. Employers' Associations.

1. **General.**—Recent investigations show that the spirit of association is no less manifest in the case of employers than in the case of workers. Associations for trade purposes merely are not included in the present chapter, which deals with those associations only whose members are united for their own protection, and for representation in cases before Arbitration Courts, Wages Boards and other wage-fixing tribunals. Associations of employers and employees are recognized under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act as well as under several State Acts, and organizations of these bodies may be registered.

The year 1922 was the first for which information was collected, and detailed particulars for that and subsequent years will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book and in the Labour Reports.

2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1930 to 1934 :—

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1930 .. ..	146	152	83	58	66	29	534
1931 .. ..	148	157	85	60	67	30	547
1932 .. ..	148	158	85	60	68	30	549
1933 .. ..	140	153	80	58	62	28	521
1934 .. ..	(a) 134	157	74	60	54	26	505
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
1930 .. ..	930	495	197	12	297	7	1,938
1931 .. ..	906	465	197	18	306	7	1,899
1932 .. ..	907	461	185	18	297	10	1,878
1933 .. ..	897	508	189	15	288	8	1,905
1934 .. ..	810	520	135	15	301	8	1,789
MEMBERSHIP.							
1930 .. ..	56,430	37,790	18,791	7,218	11,723	2,717	134,669
1931 .. ..	55,417	37,389	18,807	7,311	10,969	2,535	132,428
1932 .. ..	54,005	37,342	18,929	6,656	10,189	2,504	129,625
1933 .. ..	56,384	37,929	18,721	6,452	10,311	2,391	132,188
1934 .. ..	a 58,387	38,276	18,943	6,765	10,464	2,095	134,930

(a) Includes 1 association in Federal Capital Territory.

There has been a large increase in the number of branches since the year 1926, due to the inclusion of associations representing agricultural interests, while the increase in total membership is partly attributable to a more complete collection of statistics relating to these organizations.

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1933 and 1934 :—

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.
Manufacturing :—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	20	20	4	4	1,272	1,048
II. Engineering, etc. ..	14	12	12	12	3,439	2,308
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	108	106	87	86	18,982	21,634
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	20	17	2	2	1,739	1,210
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	40	39	3	3	2,805	3,015
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	51	48	2	2	3,720	3,601
VII. Building .. ..	30	29	12	12	2,637	2,176
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	11	10	..	..	276	240
X. Other Land Transport ..	16	15	21	21	2,178	2,042
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	16	15	3	3	254	237
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	48	48	1,727	1,612	77,675	81,352
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	15	15	..	..	1,722	1,799
XIV. Miscellaneous .. ..	132	131	32	32	15,489	14,268
Total .. ..	521	505	1,905	1,789	132,188	134,930

The female membership of these associations was 4,927 for 1933, and 6,006 for 1934.

The organization of employers is relatively strongest in the pastoral and agricultural industries and in the manufacture and distribution of articles of food and drink. In the former case there has been considerable growth in organization among small farmers, and in the latter, the number of small shops purveying foodstuffs of which the proprietors are members of grocers', butchers', and other similar associations accounts for the large membership.

4. **Federations of Employers' Associations.**—In addition to the associations in various industries, there are central associations in each State, to which many of these separate organizations are affiliated. Examples of this kind of association are provided in the Chamber of Manufactures, Chamber of Commerce, and Employers' Federation in each State. Further, these State associations are, in some cases, organized on a federal basis, e.g., there is an Associated Chamber of Manufactures, an Associated Chamber of Commerce, or a Central Council of Employers, to which State branches are affiliated.

The affiliation of these associations is, however, of a very loose nature when compared with that of the Federated Trade Unions. Whereas in the latter case the central body has complete control of its State branches, in the case of the Employers' Associations each State body enjoys complete independence, the central body acting in a more or less advisory capacity only.

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of interstate or federated associations having branches in two or more States from 1930 to 1934 :—

#### INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Year.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
<b>NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.</b>						
1930	4	3	4	12	16	39
1931	5	4	4	13	19	45
1932	5	4	4	13	19	45
1933	6	4	5	14	16	45
1934	4	2	12	8	17	43
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS.</b>						
1930	1,169	339	975	61,327	43,303	107,113
1931	1,190	359	741	61,813	42,871	106,974
1932	1,132	323	842	59,993	40,872	103,162
1933	1,354	290	1,118	60,144	35,299	104,205
1934	2,438	56	44,745	22,947	34,026	104,212

The above table shows that associations having 77 per cent. of the total membership of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.

#### E.—COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS.

In order to show the relative movements of certain price and related data the following table of annual and quarterly index-numbers for the six capital cities combined has been compiled with a common base 1911 = 1,000.

COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

Base(a) of each Section—Weighted Average of Six Capitals 1911 = 1,000.

Period.	Food and Groceries.	Rent.		Food and Rent.		All Items of Household Expenditure.	Wholesale Prices Melbourne.	Nominal Wages, Adult Males.	Real Wages. (b)	Percentage of Unemployment among Trade Unionists.
		All Houses.	4 and 5 Rooms.	All Houses.	4 and 5 Rooms.					
Year—						(c) 1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	%
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4.7
1914 ..	1,144	1,135	1,082	1,140	1,121	1,140	1,149	1,081	948	3.3
1918 ..	1,514	1,143	1,181	1,362	1,405	1,501	1,934	1,270	932	5.8
1919 ..	1,716	1,215	1,256	1,510	1,617	1,695	2,055	1,370	907	6.6
1920 ..	2,101	1,333	1,392	1,785	1,873	1,935	2,480	1,627	911	6.5
1921 ..	1,902	1,404	1,410	1,697	1,717	1,680	1,903	1,826	1,076	11.2
1928 ..	1,761	1,758	1,743	1,760	1,755	1,675	1,792	1,963	1,115	10.8
1929 ..	1,866	1,760	1,754	1,822	1,824	1,713	1,803	1,972	1,082	11.1
1930 ..	1,682	1,685	1,711	1,683	1,693	1,618	1,596	1,939	1,152	19.3
1931 ..	1,477	1,483	1,473	1,479	1,475	1,448	1,428	1,752	1,185	27.4
1932 ..	1,425	1,374	1,336	1,403	1,390	1,377	1,411	1,639	1,168	29.0
1933 ..	1,342	1,356	1,314	1,345	1,329	1,335	1,409	1,584	1,178	25.1
1934 ..	1,397	1,365	1,324	1,385	1,371	1,355	1,468	1,590	1,148	20.5
Quarter—										
1925.										
1st Qtr.	1,737	1,633	1,644	1,694	1,702	1,642	1,848	1,840	1,086	9.3
2nd "	1,784	1,633	1,647	1,722	1,733	1,654	1,826	1,846	1,072	10.2
3rd "	1,810	1,622	1,644	1,732	1,747	1,662	1,847	1,869	1,079	7.9
4th "	1,810	1,640	1,653	1,740	1,751	1,661	1,856	1,887	1,084	8.1
1926.										
1st Qtr.	1,808	1,719	1,670	1,771	1,756	1,667	1,841	1,892	1,068	8.2
2nd "	1,888	1,727	1,679	1,822	1,810	1,699	1,892	1,904	1,045	6.7
3rd "	1,820	1,726	1,678	1,781	1,766	1,675	1,832	1,922	1,079	7.6
4th "	1,803	1,726	1,680	1,771	1,757	1,669	1,764	1,938	1,094	5.7
1927.										
1st Qtr.	1,782	1,723	1,673	1,758	1,741	1,656	1,737	1,944	1,106	6.9
2nd "	1,758	1,721	1,678	1,743	1,728	1,648	1,743	1,942	1,114	5.4
3rd "	1,794	1,746	1,690	1,774	1,755	1,666	1,882	1,944	1,096	6.7
4th "	1,820	1,746	1,694	1,789	1,773	1,678	1,904	1,955	1,093	8.9
1928.										
1st Qtr.	1,771	1,765	1,744	1,768	1,761	1,675	1,840	1,966	1,112	10.7
2nd "	1,784	1,760	1,745	1,774	1,769	1,684	1,820	1,963	1,107	11.2
3rd "	1,745	1,752	1,741	1,748	1,744	1,670	1,764	1,963	1,123	11.4
4th "	1,746	1,752	1,742	1,749	1,744	1,670	1,744	1,959	1,120	9.9
1929.										
1st Qtr.	1,859	1,763	1,758	1,820	1,821	1,713	1,788	1,958	1,076	9.3
2nd "	1,865	1,759	1,753	1,821	1,823	1,713	1,794	1,977	1,086	10.0
3rd "	1,867	1,761	1,754	1,823	1,824	1,713	1,834	1,979	1,086	12.1
4th "	1,873	1,755	1,751	1,825	1,827	1,712	1,799	1,974	1,082	13.1
1930.										
1st Qtr.	1,751	1,752	1,782	1,752	1,763	1,670	1,680	1,973	1,126	14.6
2nd "	1,734	1,724	1,744	1,730	1,738	1,653	1,667	1,956	1,131	18.5
3rd "	1,673	1,662	1,692	1,668	1,680	1,607	1,599	1,939	1,162	20.5
4th "	1,568	1,600	1,625	1,582	1,590	1,542	1,438	1,887	1,193	23.4
1931.										
1st Qtr.	1,533	1,557	1,560	1,546	1,546	1,500	1,453	1,814	1,173	25.8
2nd "	1,496	1,507	1,501	1,501	1,498	1,464	1,437	1,764	1,175	27.6
3rd "	1,435	1,464	1,447	1,447	1,439	1,423	1,406	1,735	1,199	28.3
4th "	1,439	1,406	1,382	1,425	1,418	1,406	1,418	1,694	1,189	28.0
1932.										
1st Qtr.	1,465	1,391	1,358	1,435	1,425	1,403	1,434	1,680	1,171	28.3
2nd "	1,448	1,378	1,345	1,419	1,409	1,389	1,410	1,672	1,178	30.0
3rd "	1,416	1,367	1,327	1,395	1,381	1,370	1,418	1,608	1,153	29.6
4th "	1,369	1,359	1,314	1,363	1,346	1,346	1,384	1,597	1,172	28.1
1933.										
1st Qtr.	1,317	1,357	1,318	1,330	1,314	1,327	1,336	1,585	1,192	26.5
2nd "	1,337	1,354	1,314	1,342	1,326	1,334	1,401	1,595	1,189	25.7
3rd "	1,359	1,355	1,311	1,355	1,339	1,340	1,467	1,587	1,171	25.1
4th "	1,355	1,357	1,311	1,354	1,336	1,337	1,432	1,570	1,160	23.0
1934.										
1st Qtr.	1,371	1,360	1,315	1,365	1,348	1,344	1,456	1,572	1,152	21.9
2nd "	1,404	1,365	1,319	1,387	1,371	1,353	1,463	1,592	1,148	20.9
3rd "	1,401	1,367	1,331	1,387	1,375	1,357	1,492	1,596	1,151	20.4
4th "	1,422	1,368	1,332	1,400	1,388	1,361	1,474	1,599	1,142	18.8

(a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of housing, and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

(b) Calculated by "All Houses" ("A" Series) Index (Food and Rent of All Houses).

(c) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the Food and Rent ("All Houses") Index.