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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
CANBERRA.

OFFICIAL

YEAR BOOK

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

No. 40.—1954.

Prepared under Instructions from
The Right Honorable the Treasurer,

BY

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PREFACE.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered, subject to the Constitution, "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to Census and statistics." In the exercise of the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. The publication here presented is the fortieth Official Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government.

The Synopsis on pp. ix to xxviii immediately following shows the general arrangement of the work. The special index (preceding the General Index) provided at the end of the volume, together with certain references given in the various chapters, will assist in tracing in previous issues special articles and other more or less important miscellaneous matter which, owing to limitations of space, have been omitted or abbreviated in the present volume. Where, in the General Index, more than one reference to a subject is given, the chief reference (or references) has been specially indicated wherever possible.

Every endeavour has been made to meet the demand occasioned by the current economic and financial conditions for new information, or information expressed in new terms, concerning many branches of statistics, while a Diary of Principal Economic Events of the years 1950 to 1953 is inserted after the last chapter.

It is not proposed to refer here to the whole of the new matter or to the new treatment of existing matter incorporated in the present volume, but attention may be drawn to the following:—

- Chapter II. Physiography.—Brief description of the main physical characteristics of the Australian continent (pp. 10-12).
- Chapter III. General Government.—Commonwealth Parliamentary Allowances (pp. 52-3).
- Chapter V. Transport and Communication.—Commonwealth Navigation and Shipping Legislation (pp. 110-2); Motor Vehicles—*Résumé* of fees, arrangements for registration of motor vehicles and issue of drivers' and riders' licences in each State (pp. 135-8).
- Chapter VII. The Territories of Australia.—Papua and New Guinea—Information extended, particularly with regard to finance and agriculture (pp. 243-7).
- Chapter VIII. Labour, Wages and Prices.—Industrial Disputes—New classification of causes used and stoppages analysed by cause and by method of settlement in two separate groups "Coalmining and Stevedoring" and "Other Industries" (pp. 316-9).
- Chapter IX. Population.—Number of assisted migrants who arrived in Australia under the various schemes introduced since 1946 (p. 371).
- Chapter XI. Education.—The chapter has been extensively revised on the basis of a special article contributed by the Commonwealth Office of Education on developments in Australian education since the subject was last treated in Official Year Book No. 22—1929.
- Chapter XIII. Public Health and Related Institutions.—Pensioner Medical Service (p. 531). Free Milk for School Children Scheme (p. 532).
- Chapter XIV. Welfare Services.—United Kingdom—Australia reciprocal agreement on social services (p. 553).
- Chapter XVI. Private Finance.—Outline of the provisions of the Commonwealth Bank Act 1953 and the Banking Act 1953 (pp. 615-6).
- Chapter XVII. Public Finance.—Cost of Commonwealth Departments (p. 686-90).
- Chapter XVIII. Mineral Industry.—Revised basis of recording mineral production (p. 747 et seq.).

- Chapter XIX. Pastoral Production.—Consumption of raw wool and consumption of locally-processed wool in Australia and exports of wool from Australia on both greasy and clean bases (pp. 822-4); Stocks of raw wool (p. 825).
- Chapter XXVII. Defence.—Revised information on casualties to members of each of the Australian Fighting Services during the 1939-45 War (pp. 1114-8).
- Statistical Summary.—Considerably extended by inclusion of additional statistical series.
- Appendix.—Summary of Standard Hours and Basic Wage Inquiry 1952-53 by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (pp. 1239-40); Korean Campaign—Casualties, Prisoner-of-War Exchange Agreement, and Operational Awards granted (pp. 1266-7).

The Statistical Summary and the Chronological Table have been transferred from their former position at the beginning of the volume to the end, following the Diary of Principal Economic Events.

The material in the Year Book has been carefully checked throughout, but I shall be grateful to those who will be kind enough to point out defects or make suggestions.

Printing difficulties are still being experienced and have delayed the publication of this volume. In order to offset to some extent this delay, the contents of this issue have already been published in separate Parts as the successive chapters or groups of chapters were printed. Particulars of these Parts, numbering eleven in all, are shown in the Price List of Printed Publications at the end of this volume. In a publication of this size, a considerable time must necessarily elapse between the handling, by both author and printer, of the earlier and later parts of the work. The result, in a statistical publication, is an unevenness in the periods to which the statistics relate. To overcome this difficulty at least partially, much more use is now made of the Appendix to the Year Book. So far as space permits, later particulars, where available, of many statistical series appearing in preceding chapters have been inserted in the Appendix. The insertions have been restricted to figures mainly, as the inclusion of current textual matter is not generally practicable.

The Appendix to this issue contains information for various periods up to 1953-54, that is, one, and in some instances two, years in advance of that contained in the body of the book.

It is not inappropriate to mention here that for the most recent statistics the reader should refer to other publications issued by this Bureau, notably the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics*. There are also numerous mimeographed statements issued from time to time on a wide range of subjects. Particulars of these are shown in Chapter XXX.—Statistical Organization and Sources of Information.

Commencing with issue No. 38 a change in the title of the Year Book was made, the year now shown being the year of issue.

My thanks are tendered to the State Statisticians, who have collected and compiled the data on which a great part of the information given in the Official Year Book is based. Thanks are also tendered to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, and to others who have kindly, and often at considerable trouble, supplied information.

I also desire to express my keen appreciation of the valuable work performed by Mr. S. H. Begley, Editor of Publications, Mr. J. M. Jones, B.A., former Assistant Editor, and Mr. R. C. Gilligan, B.Com., and Mr. G. I. Neville, B.Com., Assistant Editors, and the other officers of the Publications Division, and of the services rendered by the officers in charge of the several Branches of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics upon whom has devolved the duty of revising the chapters relative to their respective Branches.

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Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

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