

SECTION II.—LABOUR ORGANISATIONS.

1. **General.**—In Report No. 2 the method adopted in ascertaining the number of members in labour organisations throughout the Commonwealth was outlined, and the results, tabulated up to the end of 1912, were given. From the beginning of 1913 quarterly returns have been obtained from a considerable number of trade unions, both as to membership and unemployment, and this was supplemented at the end of the year by special inquiries as to the membership of those unions which, owing to the nature of the callings and industries covered, were unable to furnish quarterly unemployment returns. The following pages shew the general situation in regard to the trades union movement in the Commonwealth at the present time, and also its development since the year 1891. It is now fully recognised by all concerned that the affairs of no single union are disclosed in the published results. It is, perhaps, almost unnecessary to add that the investigations are based upon an impartial review of the evidence, and are used solely for general statistical purposes. The wide recognition of this has led to a more cordial readiness to assist the Bureau in securing complete information.

2. **Development of Trade Unions in Australia, 1891 to 1913.**—

The following table shews for the years specified the total number of trade unions in the Commonwealth, and the number and membership of those unions for which membership is available. The estimated total membership of all unions for years prior to 1912 is shewn in the last line of the table.

Number and Membership of Trade Unions in Commonwealth at end of each Year, 1891 to 1913.

Particulars.	1891.	1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Total Number of Unions	124	198	302	323	378	419	482	573	621	710
No. of Unions for which membership available.	72	139	253	286	334	375	442	542	621	710
Membership of these Unions	31,871	68,218	147,049	172,310	212,488	244,747	277,047	344,999	433,224	497,925
Estimated Total Membership of all Unions	54,888	97,174	175,529	194,802	240,475	273,461	302,119	364,732

These figures shew that while the number of unions in 1913 was nearly six times the number in 1891, the estimated membership during the same period increased over nine times. Since 1906 the estimated increase in membership in any one year was greatest in 1912, when it amounted to 68,492, and least in 1907, when it was only 19,073. The increase in the year 1913 was 64,701.

3. **Number and Membership of Trade Unions and Branches, 1912 and 1913.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of trade unions, the number of branch unions, and the number of members in each State and the Commonwealth at the end of 1912 and 1913:—

**Number of Trade Unions, Branch Unions and Membership, at end of Years
1912 and 1913.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S A.	W A.	Tas.	Total.	C'wth.
NO. OF SEPARATE UNIONS.								
1912 ..	177	151	67	78	97	51	621	†408
1913 ..	201	162	94	86	107	60	710	†432
NO. OF BRANCHES.								
1912 ..	453	241	226	62	177	33	1,192	*1,405
1913 ..	555	292	230	74	174	60	1,385	*1,663
NO. OF MEMBERS.								
1912 ..	192,626	116,557	44,768	37,336	33,282	8,655	433,224	433,224
1913 ..	230,677	130,176	51,683	40,061	35,317	10,011	497,925	497,925
Percentage Increase in Membership	12.0	11.2	11.5	10.7	10.6	11.6	11.5	11.5

* Includes not only branches of separate State unions and sub-branches in each State of inter-State unions, but also head State branches of inter-State unions. † Allowing for inter-State excess. The figures represent the number of distinct organisations and Inter-State groups of organisations in the Commonwealth. They do not represent the total number of organisations which are practically independent and self-governing. (See remarks below).

In the above table, under heading the "Number of Separate Unions," each union represented in a State is counted only once, regardless of the number of branches in that State. In taking the total number of separate unions in the Commonwealth (see last column), it is obvious that, in the case of inter-State 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 specified in the last column, deduction is made for this duplication.

Except in the last column, the Number of Branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an inter-State or larger organisation. State branches of inter-State or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "branches" in the last column. It should be observed that the schemes of organisation of these inter-State or federated unions vary greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not fairly represent the number of practically independent organisations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organisations are bound together under a system of unification with centralised 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.

The increase in membership is equal to 11.5 per cent. The increase was greatest in New South Wales, and least in Western Australia. The increase in population from 1912 to 1913 amounted to 1.02 per cent.

4. Number of Unions and Membership in Industrial Groups, 1913.—The following table gives the number of unions and members in Industrial Groups in each State. The number of unions specified for each State refers to the number of different unions represented in each State; that is to say, inter-State or federated unions are counted once in each State in which they are represented, but sub-branches within a State are not counted. In order to avoid disclosing the affairs of individual unions, in cases where there are only either one or two unions in any group in a State, the membership is not given

separately, but is included in the total figures for the State and Commonwealth.

Number of Unions and Membership in Industrial Groups in each State, December. 1913.

Industrial Groups.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF UNIONS							
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	3	4	3	4	4	2	20
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	17	22	11	12	12	5	79
III. Foods, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	21	17	6	9	12	7	72
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	10	10	3	4	3	2	32
V. Books, Printing, etc.	9	9	3	2	6	2	31
VI. Other Manufacturing	26	21	6	12	9	5	79
VII. Building	17	15	10	7	10	5	64
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc.	15	3	1	2	3	2	26
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	8	4	10	3	6	4	35
X. Other Land Transport	10	6	4	2	4	2	28
XI. Shipping, etc.	15	8	17	8	7	7	62
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	4	4	1	1	2	1	14
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	8	5	1	2	7	2	25
XIV. Miscellaneous	38	34	17	18	22	14	143
Total	201	162	94	86	107	60	710
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.							
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	6,794	5,084	1,645	1,262	4,138	*	118,923
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	17,401	12,333	2,891	3,992	2,119	409	30,145
III. Foods, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	14,457	10,079	4,481	2,234	1,517	613	33,372
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	7,040	8,111	1,284	970	464	*	17,869
V. Books, Printing, etc.	4,101	3,437	512	*	426	*	9,318
VI. Other Manufacturing	13,787	8,663	625	1,785	1,979	171	27,010
VII. Building	13,268	10,096	2,848	2,624	2,274	434	31,544
VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.	23,430	5,871	*	*	5,972	*	40,449
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	39,163	13,463	3,809	3,722	5,068	1,093	66,323
X. Other Land Transport	7,094	6,251	2,417	*	683	*	18,369
XI. Shipping, etc.	18,324	10,635	4,890	1,768	1,563	683	40,913
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	22,618	12,628	*	*	*	*	51,696
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	7,012	3,698	*	*	1,560	*	13,416
XIV. Miscellaneous	36,188	19,783	16,000	8,397	17,554	1,627	189,549
Total	230,677	130,176	51,683	40,061	85,317	10,011	497,925

* Not available for publication separately; included in State and Commonwealth Totals.
 † Incomplete, see footnote*. ‡ Includes membership of Industrial Group XII. in Western Australia

5. Number of Male and Female Members of Unions, 1913.—The total membership of trade unions in Australia at the end of 1913 was 497,925, consisting of 477,721 males, and 20,204 females. The corresponding figures for 1912 were 415,554, and 17,670, respectively. In 1913, as in 1912, the male membership was 95.9 per cent., and the female membership 4.1 per cent. of the total union membership.

Of the 20,204 female members of trade unions in 1913, 11,701, or 57.9 per cent., are included in Groups IV. (Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.) and XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.).

6. Percentage of Male and Female Members of Unions on Total Number of Employees 20 years of age and over, 1913.—The results of the Census taken in 1911 shew 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. Applying these percentages to the estimated total male and female population in 1913, the estimated number of adult employees of each sex in 1913 is obtained.

The following table shews separately for males and females and for each State (a) the number of members of trade unions, (b) the estimated total 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). It should be pointed out that *the estimated total number of employees, comprises all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed*; the estimate therefore includes a large number of adults who are either not eligible at all for membership of any trade union (such as certain persons employed in professional occupations) or who, while eligible for membership in so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union embracing their particular trade or occupation. It is also proper to observe that the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The Census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and the sum of the groups 20 years of age and over is taken as more closely approximating to the average age of admission to membership than that of any other groups.

Percentage of Male and Female Members of Unions on Estimated Total Number of Male and Female Employees, 20 years of Age and over, in all Professions, Trades, and Occupations, at end of Year, 1913.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
MALES.							
No. of Members of Unions	221,578	122,430	50,973	38,701	34,254	9,785	477,721
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 yrs. of age & over	379,162	256,007	137,036	81,735	81,931	35,571	971,442
Percent. of Members on Estimated Total No. Employees	58.44	47.82	37.20	47.35	41.81	27.54	49.18
FEMALES.							
No. of Members of Unions	9,099	7,746	710	1,360	1,063	226	20,204
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 yrs. of age & over	77,288	76,624	24,848	18,087	12,265	7,352	216,484
Percent. of Members on Estimated Total No. Employees	11.77	10.11	2.85	7.52	8.65	3.06	9.33

* Corresponding figures for 1912 will be found in Report No. 2, page 12.

7. Classification of Trade Unions in Commonwealth according to Number of Members, 1912 and 1913.—The following table shows the number and membership of all trade unions in the Commonwealth in 1913; classified according to size. In this table inter-State unions are, of course, only counted once:—

Classification of Trade Unions in Commonwealth according to Number of Members at end of Years, 1912 and 1913.

Classification.	10,000 and over.	5000 and under 10,000.	2000 and under 5000.	1000 and under 2000.	500 and under 1000.	300 and under 500.	200 and under 300.	100 and under 200.	50 and under 100.	Under 50.	Total.
No. of Unions											
1912	7	15	26	43	32	32	39	67	72	76	408
1913	9	17	26	35	45	47	26	81	84	62	482
Membership											
1912	132,335	99,718	70,614	60,558	22,585	12,234	9,483	9,323	5,106	2,268	433,224
1913	176,188	121,710	75,357	48,938	32,154	17,994	6,406	11,326	5,014	1,938	407,925
Percent of total Membership											
1912	30.5	23.0	16.4	14.0	5.2	2.8	2.2	2.2	1.2	0.5	100.0
1913	35.4	24.4	18.1	9.8	6.5	3.6	1.3	2.3	1.2	0.4	100.0

It will be seen that at the end of 1913 the nine largest unions (in the group 10,000 and over) comprised 176,188 members, or no less

than 35.4 per cent. of the total membership of all unions, while the 17 unions in the next group (5000, and under 10,000) comprise 121,710 members, or 24.4 per cent. The percentage in these two groups amounts to 59.8 per cent. of the total membership, compared with 53.5 in 1912. The figures given above clearly shew the tendency towards "closer unionism" referred to in previous Reports.

8. Number and Membership of Interstate or Federated Trade Unions in Commonwealth at end of Years 1912 and 1913.—The following table gives particulars of inter-State or federated trade unions having branches in two or more States. The figures given include inter-State unions registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, as well as federated unions which are not so registered:—

Number and Membership of Interstate or Federated Trade Unions in Commonwealth at the end of Years 1912 and 1913.

PARTICULARS.	UNIONS OPERATING IN—					TOTAL.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
Number of Unions, 1912.	20	11	17	14	10	72
1913	16	11	16	13	17	78
Number of Members, 1912	31,353	18,147	55,517	43,548	131,201	279,771
" " 1913	31,053	13,389	73,186	54,202	180,597	352,437

It will be seen that 78 out of the 432 separate associations and groups of associations are organised on an inter-State basis. The membership of these 78 unions amounts to 352,437, or 70.8 per cent. of the total membership (497,925) of all unions. The number of inter-State or federated unions in 1912 was 72, comprising 64.6 per cent. of the total membership of all unions.

9. Central Labour Organisations.—In each of the metropolitan towns, as well as in a number of other industrial centres, delegate organisations, 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 organisations exist, the majority of the local unions are affiliated with the central organisation, which is usually known as the Labour or Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system of organisation extends over the industrial centres throughout the State, and there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Federation, 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 States, however, the organisation is not so close, and though provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at the capital town of each State for the organisation of district councils, or for the representation on the central council of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies. The table shews the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated therewith, in each State at the end of the year 1913:

Central Labour Organisations—Number and Unions Affiliated at the end of the Year 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Councils	3	5	1*	4	11	1	25
No. of Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated	157	202	14	86	147	22	628

* Established in June, 1914.

The figures given in the above 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 organisation of unions may be classed certain State or district councils, organised on trade lines and composed of delegates from separate unions, the interests of the members of which are closely connected by reason of the occupations of their members, such, for example, as 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.

The Brisbane District Council of the Australian Labour Federation ceased to exist when the Australian Labour Federation became absorbed in the Australian Workers' Union. A new Labour Council, however, has been organised, to which 14 trade unions are affiliated.

10. Particulars of Unions Registered under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, classified according to Industrial Groups, at end of Year, 1913.—Under Part V. of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry may be registered. The following table gives particulars of registered unions at the end of the year 1913. Registered unions include both inter-State associations and associations operating within one State only.

Particulars of Unions Registered under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, classified according to Industrial Groups, at end of Year 1913.

Industrial Group.	No. of Unions.	Membership.	Industrial Group.	No. of Unions.	Membership.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	3	19,357	IX. Railway & Tramway Services	1	*
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	10	31,247	X. Other Land Transport	3	9,352
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	9	23,824	XI. Shipping, etc.	6	33,163
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	5	15,239	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	2	*
V. Books, Printing, etc.	1	*	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	5	8,941
VI. Other Manufacturing	14	12,186	XIV. Miscellaneous	10	34,986
VII. Building	5	18,822			
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc.	4	18,821	TOTAL	84	295,760

* Not available for publication separately; included in total for all groups

The figures given in the above table regarding unions registered under the Commonwealth Act are not comparable with those given in the table in paragraph 8 hereof regarding all inter-State and federated unions. A few federated unions included in the table in paragraph 8 are not registered under the Commonwealth Act, while, on the other hand, a number of purely State organisations registered under that Act are, of course, not included in that table.