

167
COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL BRANCH
REPORT No 10.

Prices, Purchasing-Power-of-Money, Wages,
Trade Unions, Unemployment, and General
Industrial Conditions, 1919.

Prepared under instructions from the Minister of State
for Home and Territories.

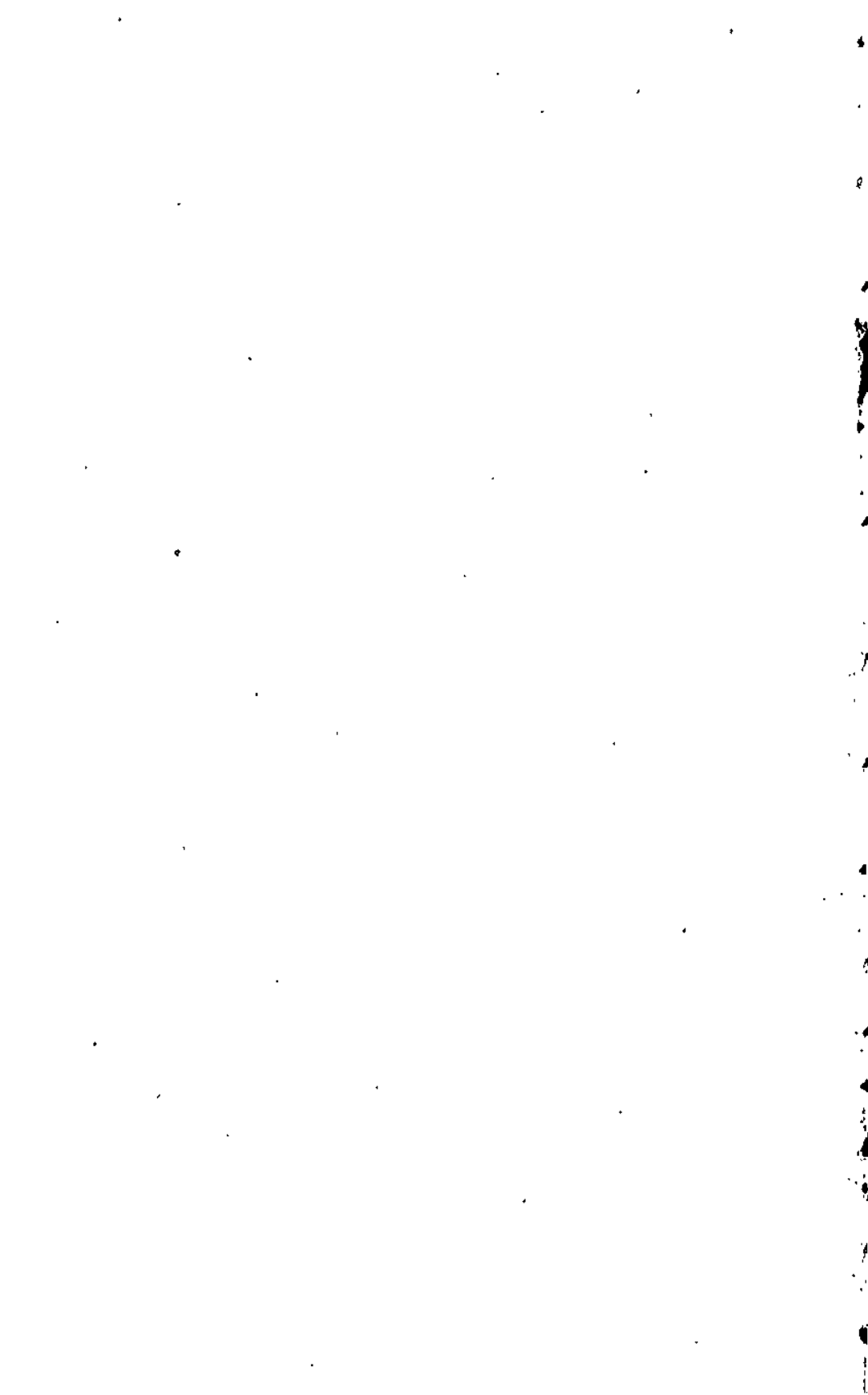
BY

G. H. KNIBBS, C.M.G.,

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, Honorary
Member of the American Statistical Association, and of
the Société de Statistique de Paris, Membre de l'Institut
International de Statistique, etc., etc., etc. ———

Commonwealth Statistician.

October, 1920.



SYNOPSIS

	Page.		Page
Section I.—Introduction.		Section IV.—Retail Prices, House Rents, and Purchasing-Power of Money—cont.	
1. General	7	6. Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in various Towns, 1912 to 1919	35
2. Sources of Information	8	(i.) Food and Groceries	45
3. Classification of Industries	9	(ii.) House Rent	45
Section II.—Labour Organisations.		(iii.) Food, Groceries and House Rent combined	45
1. General	10	(iv.) Care to avoid erroneous comparisons	45
2. Development of Trade Unions in the Commonwealth, 1906 to 1919	10	7. Relative Cost of Food and Groceries and Housing Accommodation in different Towns, 1919	45
3. Number and Membership of Trade Unions and Branches, 1912 to 1919	11	(i.) Food and Groceries	48
4. Number of Unions and Membership in Industrial Groups, Commonwealth, 1912 to 1919	12	(ii.) House Rent	48
5. Percentage of Male and Female Members of Trade Unions, Commonwealth 1919	13	(iii.) Food, Groceries and House Rent combined	48
6. Classification of Unions according to Number of Members, 1912 to 1919	15	8. Purchasing-power of Money, 1901 to 1920 (1st quarter)	48
7. Number and Membership of Federated Unions, 1912 to 1919	16	(i.) Food and Groceries only	49
8. Central Labour Organisations	16	(ii.) House Rent only	50
9. Particulars of Unions registered under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, end of year 1919	17	9. Monthly Fluctuations in Retail Prices of Food and Groceries, July 1914 to May 1920	51
Section III.—Fluctuations in Employment and Unemployment.		10. Tables of Prices and House Rents, 1919	53
1. General	18	11. Increase in Cost of Food and Groceries and House Rent, 1919, compared with previous years	53
2. Number Unemployed in Various Industries, Commonwealth 1891 to 1919	19	Section V.—Variation in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Price Index-Numbers in 150 Towns in the Commonwealth.	
3. Employment Index-numbers, 1891 to 1919	20	1. Introduction	55
4. Unemployment in Different Industries Commonwealth 1918 and 1919	20	2. Price Index-numbers shewing Relative Purchasing-power of Money	55
5. Unemployment in each State, 1918 and 1919	21	3. Food and Groceries	59
6. Causes of Unemployment, 1918 to 1919	22	4. House Rent	60
Section IV.—Retail Prices, House Rents, and Purchasing-Power of Money.		5. Food, Groceries and House Rent	61
1. General	23	6. Variation in Purchasing-power of Money Index-Numbers, 1913 to 1919	62
2. Changes in Cost of Commodities, Standard of Living, and Expenditure on Living	24	7. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and Quarterly Results	63
3. Commodities and Requirements included	25	Section VI.—Wholesale Prices.	
4. Other Investigations as to Price Indexes and Cost of Living	27	1. General	66
(i.) Price Indexes in 150 Towns	27	2. Commodities included and Methods adopted	66
(ii.) Householders' Budget Inquiries	28	3. Index-numbers	68
(iii.) Special Investigations in Towns and Localities not included in the 150 Towns Investigation	28	4. Variations in Price Levels of Commodity Groups for each Quarter of 1919	69
5. Purchasing-power of Money—General Results of Investigation in each Metropolitan Town, 1901 to 1919	28	5. Variations in Price Levels since the Outbreak of War	69
(i.) Groceries	33	6. Seasonal Fluctuations in Wholesale Prices 1919	70
(ii.) Dairy Produce	32	7. Table of Prices 1918 and 1919	70
(iii.) Meat	33	Section VII.—Import and Export Price Index-Numbers.	
(iv.) Food and Groceries	34	1. General	71
(v.) House Rent	34	2. Index-numbers	71
(vi.) Price Index-Numbers for Food, Groceries and House Rent combined	34	3. Variations in Price Levels of Commodity Groups, 1918-19	72
		4. Comparisons between Purchasing-power of Money, Wholesale, and Import and Export Index-numbers	72

SYNOPSIS.

	Page.
Section VIII.—Current Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.	
1. General	74
2. Weekly Rates of Wage Index-numbers in States and in Classified Industries, 1919	76
(i.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each State, 1919	76
(ii.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each Industrial Group, 1919	76
(iii.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Female Workers in each State, 1919	77
(iv.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Female Workers in each Industrial Group, 1919	78
3. Relative Weekly Wage and Wage Index-numbers in each State, 1914 to 1919	78
(i.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each State, 1914 to 1919	78
(ii.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers in each State, 1914 to 1919	80
(iii.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers in each Industrial Group, 1914 to 1919	82
(iv.) Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers in Industrial Groups, 1914 to 1919	83
4. Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1919	84
(i.) Males	85
(ii.) Females	86
5. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1914 to 1919	86
Section IX.—Variations in Nominal and Effective Wages—continued.	
1. General	88
2. Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage in each State and Commonwealth, 1914 to 1919	89
(i.) Adult Male Workers	89
(ii.) Adult Female Workers	90
3. Variations in Nominal Wage Index-numbers in Industrial Groups, 1901 to 1919	90
4. Variations in Nominal Wage Index-numbers in States, 1901 to 1919	91
5. Average Nominal Weekly Wages in States, 1891 to 1919	91
6. Average Nominal Weekly Wage in Industrial Groups, 1891 to 1919	92
7. Nominal Wages and Effective Wages	93
8. Variations in Effective Wages in each State 1901 to 1919	93
9. Variations in Effective Wages and Standard of Comfort, 1901 to 1919	97
10. Relative Productive Activity and Effective Wages, 1871 to 1918	100
Section X.—Operations under Arbitration and Wages Board Acts.	
1. General	101
2. Boards Authorised and Awards, Determinations and Agreements in force	108
(i.) New South Wales	109
(ii.) Victoria	111
(iii.) Queensland	112
(iv.) South Australia	112
(v.) Western Australia	113
(vi.) Tasmania	113
(vii.) Commonwealth Arbitration Acts	114

	Page.
Section XI.—Changes in Rates of Wage.	
1. General	115
(i.) Definition of a change in Rate of Wage	115
(ii.) Sources of Information	116
(iii.) Collection of Particulars concerning Changes	116
(iv.) Summary of Particulars tabulated	116
2. Number and Effect of Changes in each State, 1913 to 1919	117
3. Changes in Rates of Wage in Male and Female Occupations; number and effect in each State, 1913-19	119
4. Number and effect of Changes in Rates of Wage in each State, classified according to Industrial Groups, 1919	120
(i.) Changes in Rates of Wage, according to Industrial Groups, 1919	120
(ii.) Changes in Rates of Wage in Female Occupations, according to Industrial Groups, 1919	122
(iii.) Changes in Rates of Wage in the Commonwealth classified according to Industrial Groups, 1913-19	123
5. Changes in Rates of Wage, classified according to Methods by which Effected	125
(i.) Commonwealth, 1913 to 1919	125
(ii.) States and Territory, 1919	126
Section XII.—Industrial Disputes.	
1. General	128
(i.) Collection of Particulars	128
(ii.) Methods of Tabulation	129
(iii.) Definitions and Explanations of Terms	129
(iv.) Other particulars	131
2. Industrial Disputes in each State, 1913 to 1919	131
3. Particulars of Principal Disputes, 1919	135
(i.) New South Wales	135
(ii.) Victoria	136
(iii.) Queensland	137
(iv.) South Australia	138
(v.) Western Australia	138
(vi.) Tasmania	139
(vii.) Northern Territory	139
4. Industrial Disputes classified in Industrial Groups, 1919	139
5. Duration of Industrial Disputes	147
(i.) Commonwealth, 1913 to 1919	147
(ii.) In each State and Territory, 1919	149
6. Causes of Industrial Disputes	150
(i.) Commonwealth, 1913 to 1919	150
(ii.) States and Territory, 1919	152
7. Results of Industrial Disputes	153
(i.) Commonwealth, 1913 to 1919	154
(ii.) Commonwealth, classified according to Causes and Results, 1919	154
(iii.) In each State & Territory, 1919	155
8. Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes	156
(i.) Commonwealth, 1913 to 1919	157
(ii.) States and Territory, 1919	159
Section XIII.—State Free Employment Bureaux.	
1. General	162
2. Applications and Positions Filled, Commonwealth, 1913 to 1919	162
3. Applications and Positions Filled in each State, 1919	162
4. Applications and Positions Filled in Various Industrial Groups, 1919	163
5. Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, 1919	164
Section XIV.—Assisted Immigrants.	
1. General	164
2. Number of Assisted Immigrants arriving in each State, 1919	166
3. Number of Assisted Immigrants, classified in Industrial Groups, 1919	166

SYNOPSIS.

	Page.
Section XV.—Industrial Accidents.	
1. Scope of Investigation	166
2. Number of Accidents in each State, 1918 to 1919	166
3. Number of Accidents Reported Quarterly in 1919	166
4. Number of Accidents Reported in each Industrial Group 1919	167
5. Mining Accidents—Sources of Information	167
6. Classification of Mining Accidents, 1919	167
7. Number of Accidents per 1000 Persons Employed in Mining, 1918	169

Section XVI—International Labour Statistics

1. General	170
2. Unemployment	170
3. Industrial Disputes	170
4. Price Index Numbers in various Countries—	
(i.) Wholesale Prices	171
(ii) Retail Prices	172

GRAPHS.

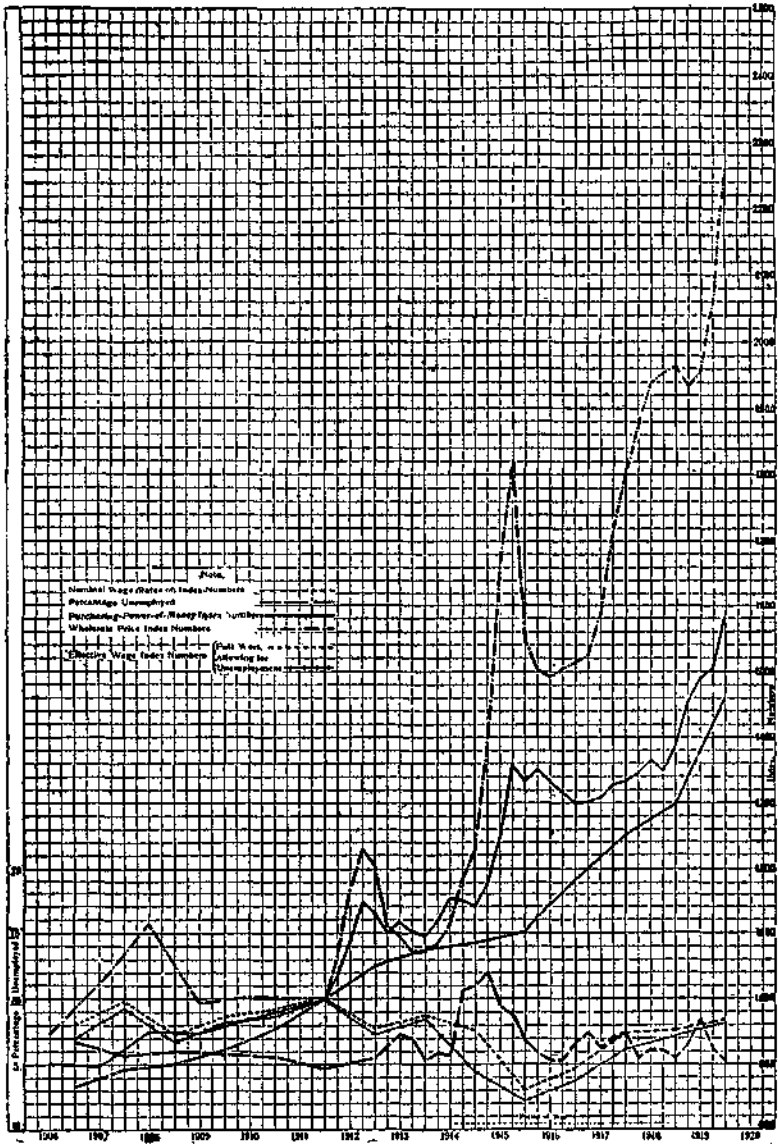
1. Purchasing-power of Money, Wholesale Prices and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-numbers and Percentage of Unemployed	6
2. Purchasing-power of Money and Retail Prices in Capital Towns, 1901 to 1919	30-33

	Page.
GRAPHS—continued	
3. Relation between Purchasing-power of Money, Wholesale Prices and Import and Export Index-numbers, 1901 to 1918-1919	78
4. Nominal Wage Index-numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 1906 to 1919	96
5. Effective Wage Index-numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 1906 to 1919	96
6. Unemployment, Purchasing-power of Money and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-numbers, 1906 to 1919	99
Map showing Purchasing-power of Money in Relation to Density of Population	Facing page 63

APPENDICES.

1. Retail Prices in 1919	174-177
2. House Rents in 1919	178
3. Wholesale Prices in 1918-19	179
4. Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Male Workers 31st Dec. 1919	180-199
5. Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Female Workers, 31st Dec. 1919	200-202
6. Maximum Number of Hours of Labour per week	203-214

Purchasing-Power-of-Money, Wholesale Prices, and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-Numbers, and Percentage of Unemployed.



EXPLANATORY NOTE.—The figures on the left represent the scale for the percentage of persons unemployed according to trade union returns. The figures on the right represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911 the index-numbers for cost of food, groceries, and house rent (average for the six metropolitan towns) and for wholesale prices (Melbourne) are shown each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. Unemployment figures for previous years are shown as at the end of each year, while other index-numbers refer to the average for the whole year. Nominal and effective wage index-numbers are only computed annually. It should be observed that the purchasing-power-of-money and wholesale price index-numbers since the year 1911 show the average level during the whole of each quarter; but for purposes of convenience they have, however, been plotted on the graph as at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter. The purchasing-power-of-money index-number is based upon a constant regimen; see Report No. 1, Appendix vii., and Labour Bulletin No. 9, pp. 27 to 46.