

These figures show that the number of unions in 1919 was more than double the number in 1906. The estimated membership during the same period increased nearly four-fold. The estimated increase in membership in any one year was greatest in 1912, when it amounted to 68,492, and least in 1915, when it was only 4760. The increase in the year 1914 was 25,346; in 1916 18,525; in 1917 17,631; in 1918 17,568; and in 1919 45,930.

3. Number and Membership of Trade Unions and Branches, 1912 to 1919.—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 the years 1912 to 1919.

Number of Trade Unions, Branch Unions and Membership, at end of Years 1912 to 1919.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N'thern T'tory.	Total.	C'with.
NO. OF SEPARATE UNIONS.									
1912 ..	177	151	67	78	97	51	..	621	*408
1913 ..	201	162	94	66	107	60	..	710	*432
1914 ..	197	170	86	87	107	62	3	712	*430
1915 ..	203	161	89	87	104	66	3	713	*415
1916 ..	199	151	93	86	107	66	3	705	*392
1917 ..	220	156	96	93	108	71	3	747	*389
1918 ..	217	153	102	101	111	74	4	767	*394
1919 ..	211	160	106	101	112	77	4	771	*394
NO. OF BRANCHES.									
1912 ..	453	241	226	62	177	33	..	1,192	11,405
1913 ..	555	292	230	74	174	60	..	1,385	11,663
1914 ..	598	314	324	85	214	62	..	1,497	11,779
1915 ..	721	312	246	94	203	63	..	1,639	11,937
1916 ..	790	361	390	102	170	72	..	1,785	12,098
1917 ..	765	353	391	98	195	76	..	1,778	12,136
1918 ..	785	346	298	137	195	75	..	1,836	12,209
1919 ..	748	411	338	134	161	76	..	1,868	12,245
NO. OF MEMBERS.									
1912 ..	192,626	116,557	44,768	37,336	33,282	8,655	..	433,221	433,224
1913 ..	230,677	130,176	51,083	40,061	35,317	10,011	..	497,025	497,925
1914 ..	240,023	158,810	55,560	40,956	36,106	9,149	647	523,271	523,271
1915 ..	241,979	141,893	58,310	39,264	35,980	9,346	1,159	528,031	528,031
1916 ..	244,074	147,614	60,807	42,537	33,900	10,263	1,361	546,556	546,556
1917 ..	248,851	148,730	75,393	45,400	33,263	10,866	1,664	564,187	564,187
1918 ..	243,176	152,063	87,737	51,559	33,761	11,900	1,659	581,755	581,755
1919 ..	255,899	164,583	97,378	56,379	38,169	13,556	1,221	627,685	627,083
PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.									
1913 ..	12.0	11.2	11.5	10.7	10.6	11.6	..	11.5	11.6
1914 ..	4.1	6.6	7.5	2.2	7.9	18.6	..	5.1	5.1
1915 ..	0.8	2.3	4.9	14.1	15.6	2.2	79.1	0.9	0.9
1916 ..	0.9	4.0	14.6	8.3	15.8	9.8	17.4	3.5	3.5
1917 ..	2.0	0.8	12.9	6.7	11.9	6.1	23.3	3.2	3.2
1918 ..	12.3	2.2	16.4	13.6	1.5	9.3	16.3	3.1	3.1
1919 ..	5.2	8.2	11.0	10.3	13.1	13.9	121.7	7.9	7.9

* 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). † 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. ‡ Decrease.

In the above table, under heading the "Number of Separate Unions," each union represented in a State is counted only once, re-

gardless of the number of branches in that State. In taking the total number of separate unions in the Commonwealth (see last column but one), 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 given 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 in 1913 was equal to 11.5; in 1914 to 5.1; in 1915 to 0.9; in 1916 to 3.5; in 1917 to 3.2; in 1918 to 3.1; and in 1919 to 7.9 per cent. The increase in population from 1912 to 1913 amounted to 1.02 per cent., and from 1913 to 1914 to 1.4 per cent. Comparing the year 1919 with the first year for which information is given in the table, viz., 1912, it will be seen that there has been an increase in the membership of trade unions of no less than 44.9 per cent. The increase in population during the same period amounts to 10.9 per cent.

There has been an increase in membership in Victoria and Queensland in each of the years 1913 to 1919 inclusive, and in New South Wales in each year except 1918. In South Australia there was a decrease in membership in 1915, and in Tasmania in 1914, but both States shew increases in the remaining years. In Western Australia there was a decrease in each of the years 1915, 1916, and 1917, and an increase in 1913, 1914, 1918, and 1919.

4. Number of Unions and Membership in Industrial Groups, Commonwealth, 1912 to 1919.—The following table gives the number and membership of Trade Unions in the Commonwealth, classified according to Industrial Group, at the end of the years 1912 to 1919. It will be seen from the following table that the number of unions classified in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), increased considerably during the period under review, and that a correspondingly large increase occurred in the membership of the group. During recent years, many associations of employees of public and semi-public bodies have been organised, and such unions are now included in the tabulations. Public service associations, which were not previously recognised, are now registered under the provisions of Commonwealth and State Industrial Arbitration Acts, and are therefore classified as industrial bodies. These organisations are responsible, to a great extent, for the increase in Group XIV. Groups III. (Food, Drink, &c.), IV. (Clothing, Hats, &c.), and IX. (Railway and Tramway Services) shew fairly large increases in membership during the year 1919, but in the other groups the membership has not varied to any great extent.

Number and Membership of Trade Unions in the Commonwealth classified in Industrial Groups at the end of years 1912 to 1919.

Industrial Groups.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.								
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	24	20	20	20	20	19	20	20
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	71	79	78	77	76	75	77	77
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	70	72	70	72	69	74	80	77
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	33	32	30	31	29	26	28	27
V. Books, Printing, etc.	39	37	29	30	29	29	30	29
VI. Other Manufacturing	80	79	80	78	78	84	84	94
VII. Building	60	64	67	68	63	60	58	57.
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc.	28	26	27	27	26	25	26	20
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	25	35	32	31	28	34	40	43
X. Other Land Transport	19	28	25	24	23	22	23	23
XI. Shipping, etc.	41	62	63	66	65	73	72	71
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	14	14	11	12	10	10	9	8
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	27	25	22	20	22	19	20	20
XIV. Miscellaneous	99	143	160	162	168	197	200	215
Total ..	621	710	712	713	705	747	767	771

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.								
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	18,569	19,913	19,071	16,172	14,762	16,365	18,953	21,156
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	29,953	39,145	42,108	47,104	49,230	47,023	47,135	49,043
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	28,132	33,372	39,763	35,504	41,519	41,229	40,953	46,589
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	16,691	18,217	17,533	21,885	25,962	29,150	31,850	38,620
V. Books, Printing, etc.	8,214	9,318	9,821	10,784	11,979	11,401	11,972	13,259
VI. Other Manufacturing	24,898	27,010	29,002	30,648	32,119	30,017	30,473	34,301
VII. Building	25,609	31,644	36,503	37,739	36,255	34,772	35,761	37,301
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc.	38,298	40,449	39,733	33,024	36,515	34,029	35,519	40,278
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	56,005	66,323	71,260	76,482	75,296	79,520	74,813	59,193
X. Other Land Transport	14,550	18,469	17,687	17,208	15,719	14,723	14,487	15,003
XI. Shipping, etc.	35,000	40,913	44,536	42,903	45,363	51,746	50,433	48,598
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	52,130	51,606	44,639	38,334	37,479	40,735	44,176	46,794
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	14,289	13,416	11,135	9,209	9,607	10,183	11,169	14,702
XIV. Miscellaneous	69,291	88,240	100,376	107,975	117,050	123,309	133,856	137,378
Total ..	433,224	497,025	523,271	523,031	546,556	564,187	581,755	627,685

5. Percentage of Male and Female Members of Trade Unions.

(i) *Percentage of Male and Female Members of Trade Unions in each State and Commonwealth, 1919.* 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 1919, the estimated number of adult employees of each sex in 1919 is obtained. This is, of course, subject to some measure of uncertainty at a point of time—like the present—viz., 8-9 years after the date of the Census.

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 Trade 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 1919.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Nthn. Territory.	With.
MALES.								
No. of Members of Unions ..	236,165	137,959	89,918	52,030	34,568	12,441	1,181	564,262
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over ..	399,123	268,645	145,840	82,956	80,278	38,345	1,960	1,017,147
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total No. Employees	59.2	51.4	61.7	62.7	43.1	32.4	60.3	55.5
FEMALES.								
No. of Members of Unions ..	19,734	26,624	7,460	4,840	3,401	1,115	40	63,423
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over ..	88,293	82,225	28,433	20,216	13,634	7,908	100	240,807
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total No. Employees	22.4	32.4	26.2	24.0	26.4	14.1	40.0	26.3

* Corresponding figures for 1912 will be found in Report No. 2, page 12; for 1913, in Report No. 5, page 10; for 1914 and 1915 in Report No. 6, page 11; for 1916 in Report No. 7, page 343, for 1917 in Report No. 8, page 13; and for 1918 in Report No. 9, page 14.

It may be seen that the male membership in 1919 was 564,262, and female membership 63,423, representing percentages upon the total membership of 89.9 and 10.1 respectively. Of the 63,423 female members of trade unions in 1919, 24,803, or 39.1 per cent., are included in Group IV. (Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.), and 16,901, or 26.7 per cent., in Groups III. (Food, Drink, etc.), and XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.).

(ii.) *Percentage of Male and Female Members of Trade Unions in the Commonwealth, 1912 to 1919.* The following table shews separately for males and females for the Commonwealth (a) the number of members of trade unions, (b) the estimated total number of employees of each sex, 20 years and over, in all professions, trades and occupations, and (c) the percentage of the former (a) on the latter (b).

Percentage of Male and Female Members of Trade Unions on Estimated Total Number of Male and Female Employees, 20 years of Age and over, in all Professions, Trades, and Occupations in the Commonwealth, 1912 to 1919.

Particulars.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
MALES.								
No. of Members of Unions	415,554	477,721	500,686	499,160	506,921	518,582	531,090	564,242
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 yrs. of age & over	944,599	971,442	978,720	957,110	920,686	927,470	948,239	1,017,147
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total Number of Employees	44.0	49.2	51.2	52.2	55.0	55.9	56.0	55.5
FEMALES.								
No. of Members of Unions	17,670	20,204	22,585	26,871	39,575	45,605	50,665	63,423
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 yrs. of age & over	210,213	216,484	221,485	225,588	220,118	232,856	238,301	240,807
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total Number of Employees	8.4	9.3	10.2	12.8	17.2	19.6	21.3	26.3

6. Classification of Trade Unions in Commonwealth according to Number of Members, 1912 to 1919.—The following table shews the number and membership of all trade unions in the Commonwealth for the years 1912 to 1919 inclusive, 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 to 1919.

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.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.											
1912 ..	7	15	26	43	32	32	30	67	72	75	408
1913 ..	9	17	26	35	45	47	26	81	84	62	432
1914 ..	8	17	29	39	52	45	52	72	67	69	430
1915 ..	9	16	30	41	44	35	34	69	63	74	415
1916 ..	11	10	35	33	47	43	25	53	59	70	392
1917 ..	9	19	27	36	48	44	28	48	65	67	384
1918 ..	11	15	33	39	51	33	19	66	65	57	394
1919 ..	13	13	34	44	52	31	32	62	62	51	394

	MEMBERSHIP.										
1912 ..	132,335	99,718	79,614	60,558	22,585	12,294	9,483	9,323	5,106	2,268	433,224
1913 ..	176,188	121,710	75,357	48,038	32,154	17,994	6,408	11,326	5,914	1,938	497,925
1914 ..	178,157	125,021	84,359	59,850	37,141	16,439	7,898	10,141	4,572	2,193	523,271
1915 ..	168,755	122,009	89,295	61,264	30,651	13,405	8,308	9,408	4,537	2,399	528,081
1916 ..	319,690	113,537	95,143	49,170	32,429	16,057	6,008	7,091	4,326	1,160	546,554
1917 ..	317,002	144,198	78,019	52,258	34,944	17,433	7,032	6,742	4,550	2,009	584,187
1918 ..	259,324	103,152	91,656	54,119	37,784	14,340	4,599	9,502	4,623	1,656	581,755
1919 ..	292,406	95,400	104,547	64,145	37,083	12,148	7,624	8,392	4,430	1,510	627,685

	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.										
1912 ..	30.5	23.0	18.4	14.0	5.2	2.8	2.2	2.2	1.2	0.5	100.0
1913 ..	35.4	24.4	15.1	9.8	6.5	3.6	1.3	2.3	1.2	0.4	100.0
1914 ..	33.6	23.9	16.1	11.4	7.1	3.2	1.5	1.9	0.9	0.4	100.0
1915 ..	35.3	23.1	16.9	11.0	5.8	2.5	1.0	1.8	0.9	0.5	100.0
1916 ..	40.3	20.8	17.4	9.0	6.9	3.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.4	100.0
1917 ..	38.5	25.0	13.8	9.3	6.2	3.1	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.4	100.0
1918 ..	44.7	17.7	15.8	9.3	6.5	2.5	0.8	1.6	0.8	0.3	100.0
1919 ..	46.6	15.2	16.7	10.2	5.9	1.9	1.2	1.3	0.7	0.3	100.0

It will be seen that at the end of the year 1912 the seven largest unions (in the group 10,000 and over) comprised 132,335 members, or no less than 30.5 per cent. of the total membership of all unions. In 1913 there were nine unions; in 1914 eight unions, and in 1915 nine unions, in this group. In each of the years specified their membership comprised over 30.0 per cent. of the total membership of all unions. In 1916 the 11 unions in this group comprised no less than 40.3 per cent.; in 1917 the 9 unions comprised 38.5 per cent.; in 1918 the 11 unions comprised 44.7 per cent.; and in 1919 the 13 unions comprised 46.6 per cent. of the total membership of all unions.

The membership of the unions in the next group (5000, and under 10,000) comprised in each year specified, excepting 1918 and 1919, over 20 per cent. of the total membership of all unions. The percentage in in these two groups together amounted to 53.5 in 1912; 59.8 in 1913; 57.5 in 1914; 58.4 in 1915; 61.1 in 1916; 64.1 in 1917; 62.4 in 1918; and 61.8 in 1919, of the total membership in those years.

7. **Number and Membership of Interstate or Federated Trade Unions in Commonwealth at end of Years, 1912 to 1919.**—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 to 1919.

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	18	17	78
" " 1914	18	9	14	16	22	79
" " 1915	17	11	14	16	23	81
" " 1916	15	11	12	18	26	81
" " 1917	18	11	18	14	33	94
" " 1918	14	17	13	18	33	95
" " 1919	16	14	12	17	36	95
Number of Members, 1912	31,368	18,147	55,517	43,548	131,201	279,771
" " 1913	31,063	13,980	73,186	54,202	180,597	352,437
" " 1914	26,423	7,853	64,040	67,427	190,084	355,827
" " 1915	21,709	10,425	73,760	76,633	197,510	379,637
" " 1916	18,185	12,739	56,717	101,848	222,794	412,283
" " 1917	18,286	18,649	76,981	90,068	252,319	456,303
" " 1918	14,709	35,855	58,376	95,012	265,135	469,147
" " 1919	19,323	43,643	51,862	106,430	276,652	497,930

* Four unions in this group have, in addition to branches in each of the six States, a branch in the Northern Territory.

The development of trade union organisation of an inter-State character is reflected in the figures given in the above table. The number of organisations operating in two or more States has increased from 72 in 1912 to 95 in 1919, and the percentage of the membership of such organisations on the total membership of all organisations has increased from 64.6 per cent. to 79.3 per cent. during the same period.

8. **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 shows 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 years 1914 to 1919.

Central Labour Organisations—Number and Unions Affiliated at the end of the Years 1914 to 1919.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.	
No. of Councils	1914	4	5	1	4	11	1	26
	1915	3	5	1	4	10	1	24
	1916	4	5	4	4	10	1	28
	1917	4	5	2	4	11	1	27
	1918	4	5	5	3	10	1	28
	1919	3	5	4	3	10	1	26
No. of Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated	1914	164	196	18	84	182	24	668
	1915	150	198	26	80	183	22	668
	1916	169	205	67	90	181	20	732
	1917	163	192	46	82	171	18	672
	1918	143	188	58	80	159	18	646
	1919	127	175	50	76	168	19	615

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.

9. Particulars of Unions Registered under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, classified according to Industrial Groups, at end of Year, 1919.—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 1919. 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 1919.

Industrial Group.	No. of Unions.	Mem-ber-ship.	Industrial Group.	No. of Unions.	Mem-ber-ship.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	3	18,937	IX. Railway & Tramway Services	3	4,085
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	13	44,379	X. Other Land Transport . . .	3	8,855
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	11	32,796	XI. Shipping, etc.	9	42,502
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	5	39,752	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	1	†
V. Books, Printing, etc.	3	7,174	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . . .	3	7,812
VI. Other Manufacturing	19	28,238	XIV. Miscellaneous	29	200,392
VII. Building	6	30,950			
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc. . .	1	†	TOTAL	109	482,822

* Under the Arbitration (Public Service) Act an association of less than 100 employees may be registered as an organisation, provided its members comprise at least three-fifths of all persons engaged in that industry in the service. † Not available for publication separately, included in Group XIV.

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 7 hereof regarding all inter-State and federated unions. A few federated unions included in the table in paragraph 7 are not registered under the Commonwealth Act, while, on the other hand, a number of purely State organisations registered under the Act are, of course, not included in the table in paragraph 7.

SECTION III.—FLUCTUATIONS IN EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

1. **General.**—In Section IX of this Report, the method of index numbers is applied to trace variations in rates of wages in the Commonwealth since 1891, while in Sections IV., V., VI., and VII., variations in retail prices and purchasing-power of money, and in wholesale and import and export prices are shewn by a similar method. In order to elucidate further the progress of events, it is desirable to supplement that information, so far as practicable, by furnishing index-numbers which disclose the fluctuations in employment and unemployment.

Employment index-numbers serve not only to throw light upon the figures shewing the course of wages, prices, and purchasing-power of money, inasmuch as they indicate the relative loss of time through lack of employment, but also to furnish a useful measure of the fluctuations of industrial activity regarded as a whole. In this connection, it may be said that while export statistics relate only to the margin of national production which is sent overseas, statistics of employment measure, on the other hand, the relative activity or depression of the whole of the industries to which they relate, including, that is, production for the home market as well as for export.