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E. T. McPHEE,
Commonwealth Statistician.

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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the twenty-second of the series and deals chiefly with the year 1931. The tabulations, however, include particulars relating to the first half of 1932 as well as for earlier years, in most cases back to 1927.

The subject-matter in the Report has been divided into four main Chapters, covering information in regard to Prices; (Wholesale, Retail and International Comparisons); Wages; Employment (Unemployment and Industrial Disputes); and Associations (Trade Unions and Employers' Associations).

The present Report follows the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement, but, owing to reasons of economy, has been considerably curtailed, and a large amount of the descriptive matter and commentary embodied in previous issues has of necessity been omitted.

In the section relating to retail prices information is given concerning the "new" regimen of food and groceries.

The retail price index-numbers (Food, Groceries and Rent—all houses) used by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, which are not given in the body of the Report, will be found in Appendix VII.

In the Chapter, "Employment", a brief review has been included of the special legislation for the relief of unemployment enacted during 1931 and the early months of 1932.

For the purpose of tabulating the results of the investigations which have been made in regard to rates of wage, labour organizations, employers' associations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following classification of trades and occupations has been adopted:—

Classification of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber-works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarries, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	X.	Other Land Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Hats, Boots, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, &c.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

It is gratifying to record that secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail dealers, house agents, and others have readily responded to the somewhat heavy demands made upon them.

PREFACE.

Without the help so rendered, the investigations contained herein would have been impossible, and I take this opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks to all who have thus assisted.

The valuable assistance rendered to the Bureau by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices, is acknowledged, and to the officers concerned I desire to express my sincere thanks.

I am specially indebted to Mr. H. J. Petrie, the officer in charge of Labour Statistics in this Bureau, for the care and attention which he has bestowed on the compilation of this Report and in seeing the matter through the press, also to the staff under his control for their cordial co-operation and valuable services.

E. T. MCPHEE,

Commonwealth Statistician.

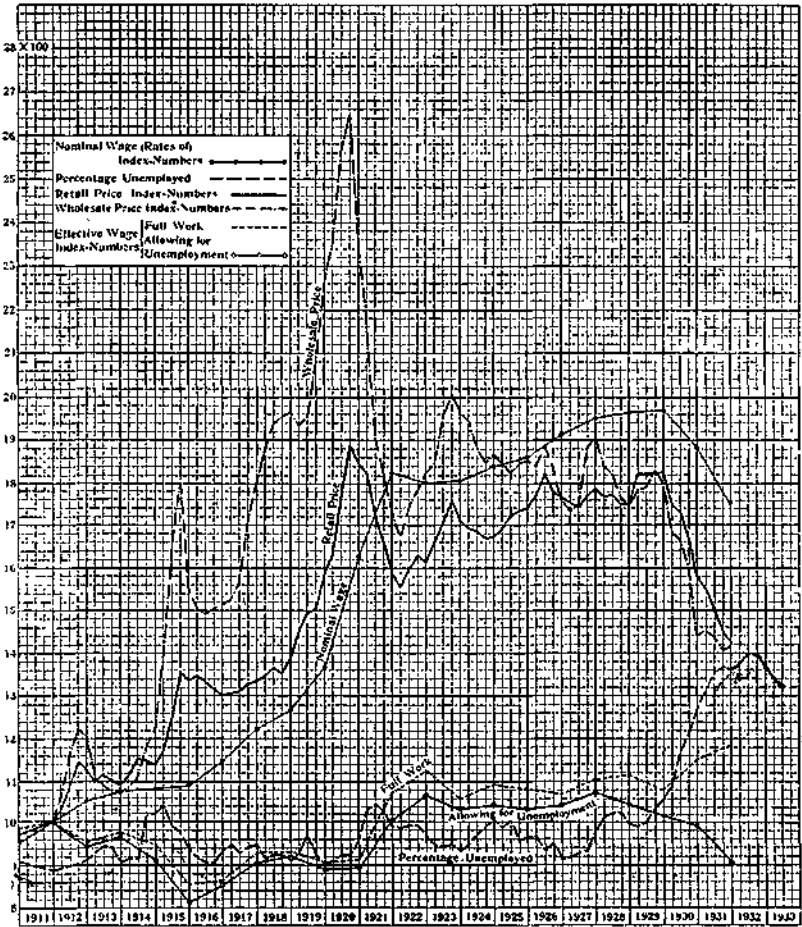
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RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA 1911 TO 1931.



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 (= 1000). 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 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. Average nominal wage for adult males, and real wage (full work) and (allowing for unemployment) for adult males