



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR REPORT, 1934.

No. 25.

Prepared under Instructions from
THE HONORABLE THE TREASURER

by

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FEBRUARY, 1936

By Authority :

L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

[C.S. No. 610].—4271.

PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the twenty-fifth of the series and deals chiefly with the year 1934. The tabulations, however, include particulars relating to the first half of 1935 as well as for earlier years, in most cases back to 1930.

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); Associations (Trade Unions and Employers' Associations); and follows the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement.

In view of the many "series" of retail price index-numbers associated with the fixation and adjustment of wages, a short description has been added to Chapter I., Section 2, of the composition of each series and the extent to which they are used for the purposes mentioned; and in Section 3 the full regimen of Clothing and Miscellaneous items of the "All Items" ("C") Series Index is published for the first time—this being the Index adopted by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court for the purpose of fixing and adjusting the wages controlled by that Court.

In Chapter II., Section 3, a comprehensive review is given of the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration which restored to workers the 10 per cent. reduction of wages imposed by the Court in January, 1931, and established a new system for the fixation and adjustment of the basic wage.

In the Chapter, "Employment", a brief review has been included of the special legislation for the relief of unemployment enacted during 1931 to 1935.

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, 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.

PREFACE.

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.

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. G. Downing, 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.

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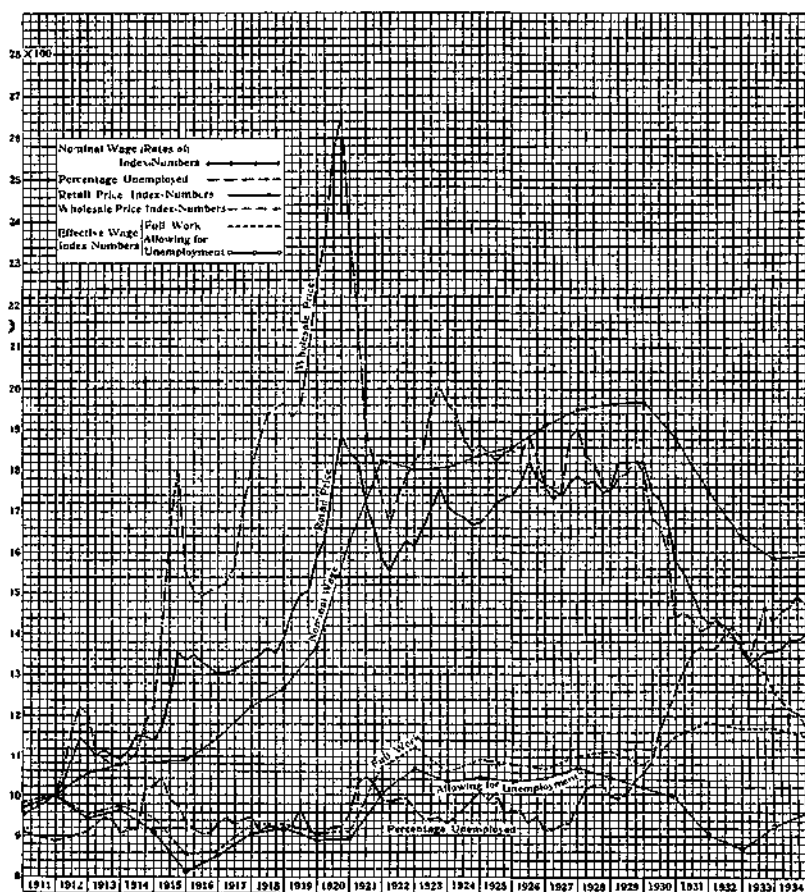
Canberra, F.C.T., February, 1936.

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RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1934.



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 (= 1,000). 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, average nominal wage for adult males and real wage (full work and allowing for unemployment) for adult males, since 1912 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.