



7082

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR REPORT.

(ABBREVIATED ISSUE.)

No. 32.

1941 and 1942.

Prepared under Instructions from
THE HONORABLE THE TREASURER,

by

S. R. CARVER,
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

SEPTEMBER, 1943.

By Authority :

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

(Printed in Australia.)

PREFACE.

This thirty-second issue of the annual Labour Report, containing a digest of labour statistics, is an abridged war-time edition. The volume relates to the two years 1941 and 1942 and omits a considerable number of pages of standing matter, which can readily be found in the thirty-first issue for the year 1940. In view of the shortage of staff and paper, insertion of an account of war-time organization of labour, etc., has been deferred until the next issue.

While the form of the present issue leaves much to be desired, the changes have resulted in economies of material and manpower.

The tables and pages in this issue have been numbered to agree generally with those appearing in issue No. 31 for 1940. Each such page bears two numbers—that at the top is identical with the numbering of issue No. 31 while that at the bottom of each page (in brackets) runs through the present issue in sequence.

S. R. CARVER,
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., 19th August, 1943.

SYNOPSIS.

(Page numbers herein relate to numerals at the top of each page. Pages omitted may be found in issue No. 31 for 1940.)

	Page.
CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.	
§ 1. Collection of Returns of Retail Prices and Rents	1
§ 2. Compilation of Indexes of Retail Prices and Rents—	
1. General	1
2. The Regimen	2
3. The Mass Units	5
4. Relative Importance of the Items and Groups	7
5. Base Periods of the Indexes	7
6. The Methods of Tabulation	8
7. Relative Population Weights for Towns	8
8. Basis of Retail Price Index-numbers	9
§ 3. The Food, Groceries and Rent ("B" Series) Index of Retail Prices—	
1. General	9
2. Retail Price Index-numbers—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1942	9, 10
3. Retail Price Index-numbers—Thirty Towns, 1938 to June Quarter, 1942	10
§ 4. The All Items ("C" Series) Index of Retail Prices—	
1. General	14
2. Retail Price Index-numbers—Capital Cities, 1914 to 1920	14, 22
3. Retail Price Index-numbers—Thirty Towns, November, 1914, to June Quarter, 1942	14
Relative Cost of Each Group of Items, 1939 and 1940	21
§ 5. Retail Price Index-numbers, 200 Towns—	
1. General	23
§ 6. Publication of Prices and Price Index-numbers	23
§ 7. Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920	24
§ 8. Changes in the Regimen	25
§ 9. Retail Price Index-numbers and Wage Variations—	
(i) "A" Series	28
(ii) "B" Series	28
(iii) "C" Series	28
(iv) "Court" Series	29
(v) "D" Series	29
(vi) Food and Groceries	30
(vii) The "200 Towns" Series	30
(viii) Relative Merits of Series	30
§ 10. Increases in Retail Prices over War Periods—	
1. Australia	31
2. International Comparisons	32
§ 11. International Comparisons—Retail Price Index-numbers	33

CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index—	
1. General	33
2. The Grouping of the Commodities	33
3. Index-numbers—Melbourne, 1861 to 1942	36
4. Variations since 1914	37
§ 2. Basic Materials and Foodstuffs—	
1. General	37
2. Index-numbers, 1928 to 1942	38

CHAPTER III.—WAGES.

§ 1. Operations under Arbitration and Wages Board Acts and Industrial Legislation—	
1. General	39
2. Laws Regulating Industrial Matters	39
3. Methods of Administration	40
4. Awards and Determinations made and Industrial Agreements filed	41
5. Awards, Determinations and Agreements in Force	42
6. New Legislation and Special Reports	44

CHAPTER III.—WAGES—continued.

	Page.
§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour—	
1. General	47
2. Adult Male Weekly Wages—States, 1914 to 1942	49
3. Adult Male Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1914 to 1942	49
4. Adult Female Weekly Wages—States, 1914 to 1942	51
5. Adult Female Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1914 to 1942	52
6. Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 31st December, 1941—	
(i) General	52
(ii) Adult Males	53
(iii) Adult Females	54
7. Adult Male Weekly Wages—States, 1891 to 1942	55
8. Adult Male Weekly Wages—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1891 to 1942	55
9. Adult Male Hourly Wages, 1914 to 1942	56
10. Adult Female Hourly Wages, 1914 to 1942	57
11. Nominal Hours of Labour—Adult Males, 1914 to 1942	58
12. Nominal Hours of Labour—Adult Females, 1914 to 1942	59
13. Nominal and Effective Wages	60
14. Productive Activity	63
§ 3. The Basic Wage and Child Endowment in Australia—	
1. The Basic Wage	66
2. The Commonwealth Basic Wage—	
(i) General	67
(ii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934	69
(iii) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937	70
(iv) "Lag" in Adjustments	71
(v) Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940	71
3. State Basic Wages	73
4. Royal Commission on Basic Wage, 1920	79
5. Child Endowment	79

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Employment—	
1. Direct Measures of Employment	82
2. Index of Employment in Factories	83
3. Index of Employment in Retail Stores	84
4. Estimates of Total Employment in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania	84
5. Seasonal Employment in Australia	87
§ 2. Unemployment—	
1. Total Persons Unemployed	87
2. Unemployment in Trade Unions—	
(i) General	88
(ii) Australia, 1891 to December Quarter, 1942	89
(iii) Australia, by Industries, 1941	90
(iv) Australia, by Industries, 1912, and Quarterly, 1941 to 1942	91
(v) States, 1941 and 1942	91
(vi) States, 1929 to 1942, and Quarterly, 1939 to 1942	91
(vii) Causes of Unemployment	92
§ 3. Industrial Disputes—	
1. General	92
2. Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1941 and 1942	92
3. Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1940	94
4. Industrial Disputes, 1938 to 1942	97
5. Duration of Industrial Disputes	98
6. Causes of Industrial Disputes	100
7. Results of Industrial Disputes	101
8. Methods of Settlement	103
§ 4. Relief of Unemployment—	
1. Special Legislation for the Relief of Unemployment and Rates of Taxation	105
2. Unemployment Relief—Sustenance Rates	109
3. Unemployment Relief Funds	117
4. Number in Receipt of Sustenance	123
5. Youth Employment	123

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT—continued.

§ 5. State Labour Exchanges.		Page.
1. General	105, 125
2. Registered Unemployed at State Labour Exchanges	126
§ 6. Industrial Accidents—		
1. Source of Information	105, 126
2. Number of Accidents Reported, 1938 to 1942	127
3. Accidents in Industrial Groups, 1941 and 1942	127
4. Mining Accidents, 1941	128

CHAPTER V.—ASSOCIATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations—		
1. General	129
2. Trade Unions and Branches—Number and Membership, 1938 to 1942	130
3. Trade Unions—Industrial Groups, 1938 to 1942	131
4. Trade Unions—Number of Male and Female Members and Percentage to Total Wage and Salary Earners	131
5. Trade Unions—Classification according to Number of Members, 1938 to 1942	133
6. Interstate or Federated Trade Unions	134
7. Central Labour Organizations	134
8. Organizations Registered under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act	136
§ 2. International Comparisons—		
1. The International Labour Conferences	136

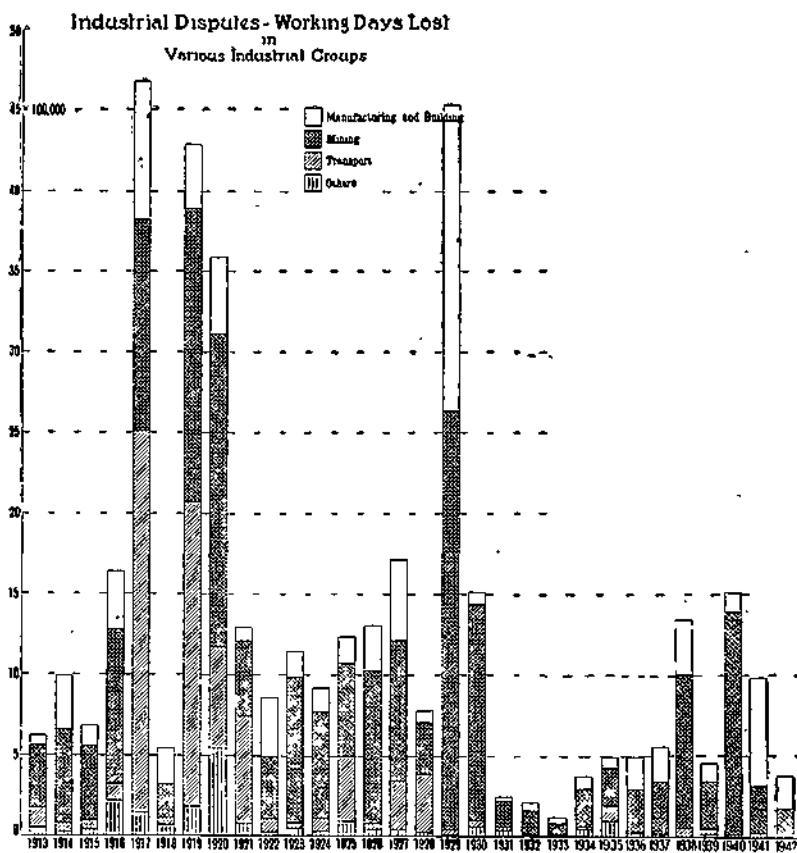
APPENDIX.

Section	I. Average Retail Prices of Chief Food and Groceries Items, Capital Cities, during each month of 1941	137
"	II. Weekly House Rents in Metropolitan and Country Towns, 1938 to 1942	143
"	III. Retail Price Index-numbers—The "Court" Series Index	144
"	IV. Minimum Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour for Adult Male Workers, 31st December, 1940	145
"	V. Minimum Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour for Adult Female Workers, 31st December, 1940	159
"	VI. Comparative Index-numbers, Six Capital Cities (1911 Base)	162
"	VII. Department of Labour and National Service	163

INDEX	167
--------------	---------	-----

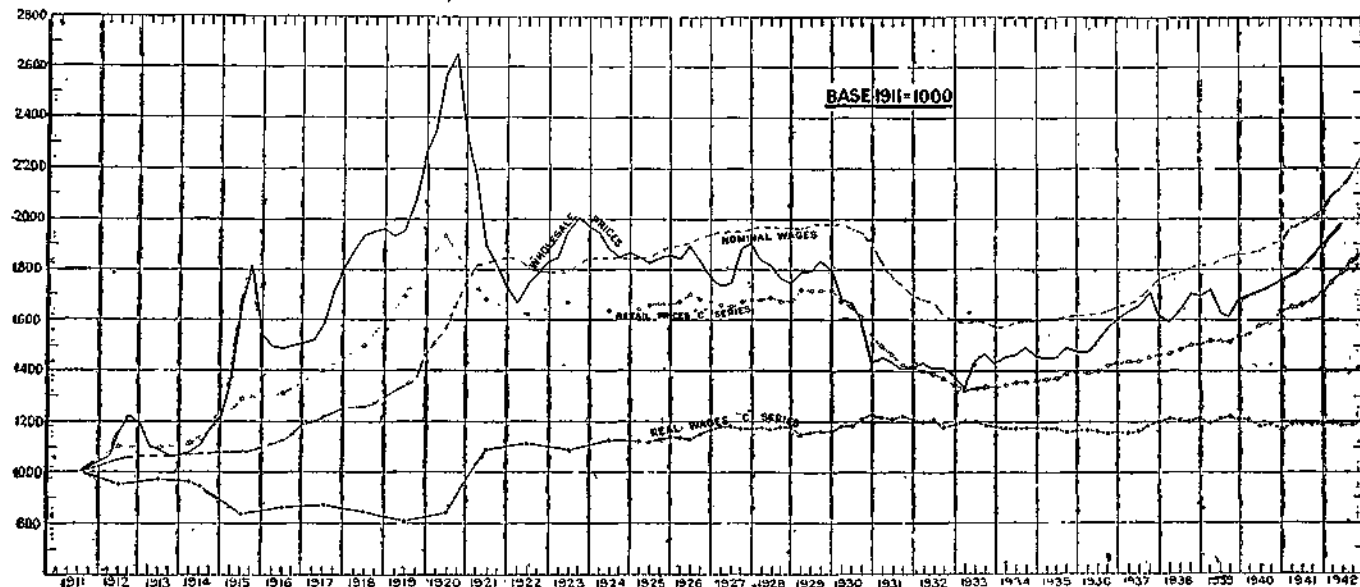
GRAPHS.

1. Industrial Disputes—Working Days Lost in Industrial Groups, 1913 to 1942	vii
2. Retail Prices, Wholesale Prices and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-numbers	viii



EXPLANATION.—The scale refers to working days lost in hundred thousands. Thus, taking the year 1917, and comparing the shaded and blank sections with the scale, it will be observed that about 870,000 working days were lost in Manufacturing and Building, over 1,300,000 in Mining, over 2,300,000 in Transport, and about 150,000 in other industries.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 to 1942.



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the above graph are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. They are shown *quarterly* from 1912 to 1930 and thereafter annually in the case of the Wholesale Prices (Melbourne). The "C" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5 rooms, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown *quarterly* from 1925. Nominal Wages are shown *quarterly* from 1914, and Real Wages *quarterly* from 1925.