

CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia.

1. **General.**—In Labour Report No. 2 an outline was given of the method adopted to ascertain the number of members of labour organizations in Australia, and tabulated results up to the end of 1912 were included. From the beginning of 1913 quarterly returns were obtained from a considerable number of trade unions, both as to membership and unemployment, and these were supplemented at the end of each year by special inquiries as to the membership of those unions which, owing to the nature of the callings and industries covered, were unable to furnish quarterly unemployment returns. The following pages show the general situation in regard to the trades union movement in Australia at present, and its development since 1939. The affairs of single unions are not disclosed in the published results and this has assisted in securing complete information. The Bureau is greatly indebted to the secretaries of trade unions for their cordial co-operation in supplying information.

In this chapter figures for the years 1949 to 1952 are compared with 1939. Particulars for earlier years will be found in preceding issues of the Labour Report.

2. Trade Unions—Number and Membership, 1939 and 1949 to 1952.—

The following table gives particulars of the number of separate unions and the number of members at the end of the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952 :—

Trade Unions: Number and Membership.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. Terr.	A.C.T.	Aust
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.									
1939..	200	149	114	117	141	79	4	15	(a) 380
1949..	212	150	125	138	152	97	12	21	(a) 349
1950..	222	152	123	138	156	98	14	28	(a) 360
1951..	225	156	128	137	152	101	17	29	(a) 359
1952..	223	159	129	139	151	98	15	31	(a) 360
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.									
1939..	358,301	216,803	180,653	67,282	67,833	22,062	761	1,685	915,470
1949..	606,139	382,503	259,339	127,292	97,706	40,700	2,860	4,375	1,520,914
1950..	642,145	406,317	262,586	137,504	103,582	45,044	2,438	5,725	1,605,344
1951..	678,338	433,407	277,037	140,067	105,507	47,413	2,764	5,738	1,690,271
1952..	619,163	416,349	274,908	137,495	105,162	46,943	2,340	4,877	1,637,542
PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.(b)									
1939..	3.3	0.8	6.5	8.7	0.1	4.8	5.6	9.6	3.4
1949..	1.6	3.1	8.7	6.9	11.2	10.7	24.7	25.6	5.2
1950..	5.9	6.2	1.3	8.0	6.0	10.7	-14.8	30.9	5.6
1951..	5.6	6.7	5.5	1.9	1.9	5.3	13.4	0.2	5.3
1952..	-4.3	-3.9	-0.8	-1.8	-0.0	-1.0	-15.3	-15.0	-3.1

(a) Without interstate duplication. (See letterpress below.) (b) On preceding year.
NOTE.—Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

The types of trade unions in Australia vary greatly, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or international. The schemes of organization of interstate or

federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with centralized 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.

In the table just given, under the heading "Number of Separate Unions", a union with members in a State is counted as one union within that State. The figures by States do not add to the Australian total (shown in the last column) because a union represented in more than one State is included in the figure for each State in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

Because of the difficulties involved, the collection of statistics relating to the "Number of Branches" of trade unions appearing in issues of this publication prior to No. 39 has been discontinued.

3. Trade Unions—Industrial Groups, 1939 and 1949 to 1952.—The following table gives the number and membership of trade unions in Australia in industrial groups at the end of the years 1949 to 1952 compared with 1939.

Trade Unions: Industrial Groups, Australia.

Industrial Group.	1939.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.(a)					
Manufacturing—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	4	6	6	6	6
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	22	16	16	15	15
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	35	33	35	35	35
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	12	6	6	6	6
V. Books, Printing, etc.	8	6	6	6	6
VI. Other Manufacturing	37	36	38	37	37
VII. Building	28	25	26	26	26
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	13	11	12	12	12
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	29	26	26	25	25
X. Other Land Transport	6	9	9	9	9
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	21	15	13	13	13
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	5	4	4	4	3
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	18	14	14	14	14
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	20	16	17	17	17
(ii) Public Service	50	54	56	58	60
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	8	11	12	12	12
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	11	10	11	12	12
(v) Other Miscellaneous	53	51	53	52	52
Total	380	349	360	359	360

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Manufacturing—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27,990	39,162	39,991	42,180	44,439
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	99,731	226,952	234,715	242,800	245,831
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	80,328	98,364	98,029	104,605	93,847
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	68,847	123,039	127,559	131,873	100,056
V. Books, Printing, etc.	22,303	32,374	33,641	35,211	34,494
VI. Other Manufacturing	52,074	67,432	81,766	80,581	75,619
VII. Building	45,651	100,225	112,050	134,198	115,837
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	48,812	45,688	47,812	48,646	49,991
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	105,918	134,513	140,086	139,405	144,710
X. Other Land Transport	19,488	50,600	56,276	58,918	50,111
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	28,760	40,520	43,520	45,972	48,703
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	40,276	32,687	56,735	59,911	59,055
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	13,777	36,914	30,334	34,485	37,749
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	39,013	97,093	101,391	104,162	104,486
(ii) Public Service	89,848	165,762	174,067	183,541	187,355
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	36,290	52,528	53,685	60,847	58,917
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	46,552	62,761	70,635	75,926	72,858
(v) Other Miscellaneous	50,392	94,100	103,022	107,010	111,584
Total	915,470	1,520,914	1,605,344	1,690,271	1,637,542

(a) Without interstate duplication. See above.

4. Trade Unions—Numbers of Male and Female Members and Ratio to Wage and Salary Earners.—The following tables show the estimated percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who are members of trade unions. The data on which the numbers of wage and salary earners are based are described in Chapter IV. (page 110). As current estimates of wage and salary earners in employment do not include employees engaged in rural industry or females in private domestic service the percentages have been calculated on figures obtained by adding to the current estimate (at the end of each year) the numbers of employees in rural industry and female private domestic service recorded at the Census of June, 1947. For this reason, and also because the membership of trade unions includes some persons not in employment, the percentages shown in the tables must be regarded as approximations.

(i) *States, 1952.* The table below shows for each State the numbers of males, females and persons who are members of trade unions and the estimated percentages as described above. In interpreting these, it should be noted that certain employees such as those in professional occupations may not be eligible for membership of a specific union, while others may not reside in a locality covered by a union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. The percentages are not directly comparable with those published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.

Trade Unions: Number of Male and Female Members, and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, States, December, 1952.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (b)
MALES.							
Number of Members of Unions ..	547,656	337,767	219,939	117,910	88,558	10,253	1,354,248
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	69	62	76	65	64	60	67
FEMALES.							
Number of Members of Unions ..	105,384	78,582	54,969	19,585	16,904	6,695	233,294
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	38	36	60	34	39	31	40
PERSONS.							
Number of Members of Unions ..	654,040	416,349	274,908	137,495	105,462	16,948	1,637,512
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	61	55	72	57	58	53	60

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) *Australia.*—Similar particulars for Australia as at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952 are given in the following table.

Trade Unions: Number of Male and Female Members, and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, Australia.

Particulars.	1939.	1948	1949	1950	1951.	1952.
MALES.						
Number of Members of Unions ..	778,336	1,172,676	1,226,818	1,301,868	1,368,694	1,351,248
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	52	62	63	65	66	67

Trade Unions : Number of Male and Female Members, and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, Australia—continued.

Particulars	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
FEMALES.						
Number of Members of Unions ..	137,134	283,132	294,096	303,476	321,577	283,294
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment .. %	24	40	41	40	42	40
PERSONS.						
Number of Members of Unions ..	915,470	1,455,805	1,520,914	1,605,344	1,690,271	1,637,542
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment .. %	44	56	57	58	60	60

5. **Trade Unions—Classification according to Number of Members, 1939 and 1949 to 1952.**—The following table shows the number and membership of all trade unions in Australia at the end of the years 1939 and 1949 to 1952 inclusive, classified according to size. In this table interstate unions are counted once only :—

Trade Unions : Classification according to Number of Members, Australia.

Classification.	10,000 and over	5,000 and under 10,000.	2,000 and under 5,000.	1,000 and under 2,000.	500 and under 1,000.	300 and under 500.	200 and under 300.	100 and under 200.	50 and under 100.	Under 50.	Total.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.											
1939 ..	27	14	41	43	52	28	30	52	41	52	380
1949 ..	37	21	38	41	46	33	24	38	29	42	349
1950 ..	38	24	43	46	50	27	19	43	26	44	360
1951 ..	40	22	44	45	49	31	18	40	26	44	359
1952 ..	39	23	43	46	46	32	22	37	32	40	360
MEMBERSHIP.											
1939 ..	568,624	87,077	134,204	59,283	36,776	10,578	7,483	7,225	2,655	1,565	915,470
1949 ..	1,112,560	157,892	117,007	60,706	39,816	15,687	8,492	5,178	2,225	1,351	1,520,914
1950 ..	1,178,056	171,658	132,585	62,996	35,493	10,458	4,876	5,905	1,975	1,342	1,605,344
1951 ..	1,263,564	156,866	143,937	64,632	35,477	12,274	4,648	5,504	2,017	1,412	1,690,271
1952 ..	1,205,007	166,965	138,859	65,805	33,652	13,176	5,615	4,853	2,416	1,204	1,637,542
PROPORTION OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. (PER CENT.)											
1939 ..	62.1	9.5	14.7	6.5	4.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.2	100.0
1949 ..	73.1	10.4	7.7	4.0	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	100.0
1950 ..	73.4	10.7	8.3	3.9	2.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	100.0
1951 ..	74.8	9.3	8.5	3.8	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0
1952 ..	73.6	10.2	8.5	4.0	2.1	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0

In the last part of the preceding table the percentage which the membership in each group bears to the total membership of all groups is given. The tendency towards closer organization is evidenced by the fact that although membership of trade unions has increased since 1912 by

278 per cent., the number of unions having less than 2,000 members has considerably decreased, namely, from 360 to 255. In 1952, 7.7 per cent. of trade union members belonged to unions having less than 2,000 members as compared with 13.7 per cent. in 1939 and 28.1 per cent. in 1912.

6. Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.—The following table gives particulars regarding number and membership of interstate or federated trade unions having branches in two or more States. The figures include interstate unions registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, as well as federated unions which are not so registered :—

Interstate or Federated Trade Unions : Number and Membership.(a)

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.	
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.		
Number of Unions	1939 ..	19	11	20	24	42	116
	1949 ..	13	17	11	39	58	138
	1950 ..	13	13	17	38	59	140
	1951 ..	12	15	15	38	60	140
	1952 ..	14	14	17	38	59	142
Number of Members	1939 ..	30,888	33,319	120,664	209,369	361,884	756,124
	1949 ..	32,173	44,089	65,219	437,374	774,440	1,353,593
	1950 ..	41,369	41,000	121,180	395,012	832,918	1,431,479
	1951 ..	39,437	47,636	93,109	442,507	882,229	1,501,918
	1952 ..	34,878	40,061	121,121	420,240	827,331	1,449,931

(a) Certain unions have, in addition to branches in the States branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory.

The number of organizations operating in two or more States has increased from 72 in 1912 to 142 in 1952, and the percentage of the membership of such organizations on the total membership of all organizations has risen from 65 per cent. to 89 per cent. during the same period.

7. Central Labour Organizations.—In each of the capital cities, as well as in a number of other industrial centres, delegate organizations, 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 the majority of the towns where such central organizations exist, most of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State, and there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils with which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other States, however, the organization is not so close, and though provision usually exists in the rules of the central council in the capital city of each State for the organization 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 following table gives 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 1939 and 1949 to 1952.

Central Labour Organizations: Number, and Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. Ter.	A.C.T.	Australia.	
No. of Councils	1939 ..	3	5	6	2	8	2	..	1	27
	1949 ..	8	9	13	6	9	5	..	1	51
	1950 ..	10	9	13	5	10	5	..	1	54
	1951 ..	11	9	12	6	10	5	1	1	55
	1952 ..	11	9	12	6	10	5	1	1	55
No. of Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated	1939 ..	103	179	79	50	210	59	..	9	689
	1949 ..	246	274	143	130	327	99	..	27	1,240
	1950 ..	248	272	152	134	434	97	..	21	1,358
	1951 ..	272	276	141	128	427	96	3	22	1,365
	1952 ..	272	283	135	130	395	104	3	19	1,341

The figures regarding number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines and composed of delegates from separate unions whose members' interests are closely connected by reason of their occupations. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the metal trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

A Central Labour Organization, called the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the Trade Unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australasian Council is based on the Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils in each State, such bodies having the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan Councils, the Executive consists of four officers, viz., the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:— (a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australian Trade Union Movement from the craft to an industrial basis by the establishment of one union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes; and (d) educational propaganda among unions.

The A.C.T.U. is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the trade union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting the names of suitable persons from which the Commonwealth Government selects the Australian Workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference.

8. Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.—Under Part VI. of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act any employer or association of employers in any industry who has employed not less than 100 employees during the six months preceding application for registration, and any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry may be registered.* Registered unions include both interstate associations and associations operating within one State only.

* Under the Arbitration (Public Service) Act an association of less than 100 employees may be registered as an organization, provided that its members comprise at least three-fifths of all persons engaged in that industry in the Service. Such organizations are included in the figures shown in the paragraph following.

At the end of 1952 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Act was 53. The number of unions registered at the end of 1952 was 151, with a membership of approximately 1,344,950, representing 82 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia.

§ 2. International Labour Organization.

1. General.—The International Labour Organization originated in the Peace Treaty of 1919 which made provision for the holding of International Labour Conferences and the institution of the International Labour Office. In the inter-war period, the International Labour Organization was an autonomous associate of the League of Nations, and in 1946 became the first of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Under the terms of agreement, the United Nations recognizes the International Labour Organization as a specialized agency having responsibility in the field defined by its Constitution which embraces labour conditions, industrial relations, employment organization, social security, and other aspects of social policy. The Organization has three basic parts. These are the International Labour Conference, its highest authority, which, as a rule, meets annually; the Governing Body, its executive council which usually meets four times a year; and the International Labour Office which provides the secretariat of the Organization. The Conference is composed of national delegations comprising two government delegates and one delegate each of employers and workers, together with their advisers. Subject to the adoption of recent amendments increasing its membership to 40, the Governing Body comprises the representatives of sixteen governments, eight worker members and eight employer members. Particulars are given in previous issues of the Labour Report of the proceedings at International Labour Conferences up to the 35th Session which opened in Geneva on 4th June, 1952.

2. The International Labour Conference.—The 36th Session of the International Labour Conference commenced in Geneva on 4th June, 1953. The Australian Delegation consisted of: Government Delegates: Mr. H. A. Bland, Mr. P. Shaw; Employers' Delegate: Mr. B. R. Orr; Workers' Delegate: Mr. A. E. Monk.

The Minister for Labour and National Service, the Right Honorable H. E. Holt, attended the opening sessions and addressed the Conference on the subject of full employment and productivity in Australia.

The Conference considered, among other things, the organization of National Labour Departments, the minimum age for admission to underground work in coal mines, and holidays with pay. Among the most important questions under discussion was the proposal to increase the size of the Governing Body to 40 members. Amendments to the constitution adopted by Conference will increase the number of Government delegates to twenty and workers' and employers' delegates to ten in each category.

3. Governing Body.—The Australian Government as a deputy member was represented at the 121st and 122nd Sessions of the Governing Body, which met in Geneva during March and May, 1953, by Mr. Patrick Shaw, Australian Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations.

SECTION I.—continued.

Melbourne : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1952.
Groceries, &c.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ..	2 lb.	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 50	12 50	13 00	12 17
Flour, ordinary ..	"	7 15	7 30	7 30	7 30	7 35	7 33	7 30	7 39	7 44	7 19	7 28	7 28	7 30
" self-raising ..	"	13 50	13 60	13 70	13 50	13 50	14 85	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 40	14 42
Tea ..	lb.	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 74	47 63	47 06	47 58	47 20	47 22	47 20
Sugar ..	"	6 50	6 50	6 50	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 80	8 90	9 00	7 83
Sago ..	"	15 39	15 50	15 56	15 72	16 39	18 06	19 17	19 17	19 04	21 25	22 08	23 17	18 45
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	21 35	21 55	27 00	27 00	27 20	27 20	27 10	27 10	26 75	26 40	26 50	26 50	25 99
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	12 11	12 11	12 25	12 50	14 14	15 06	15 06	15 06	15 05	15 45	18 25	19 05	14 67
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10 83	10 83	10 83	10 83	10 83	11 00	11 00	10 92	11 08	10 92	10 92	10 92	10 92
Raisins, seeded ..	"	27 88	27 88	28 20	29 75	30 56	31 69	31 72	31 61	31 72	31 65	31 50	31 55	30 48
Currants ..	"	20 56	20 50	20 81	21 19	21 29	21 43	21 57	21 57	21 57	22 13	22 13	22 19	21 36
Apricots, dried ..	"	46 31	47 00	47 00	52 75	52 00	53 88	56 13	59 50	59 50	59 50	59 50	59 60	54 99
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	26 10	26 10	26 10	26 58	33 50	33 50	33 60	33 10	32 50	32 80	33 40	33 40	31 06
Pears, canned ..	"	26 20	26 20	26 20	29 17	35 85	35 85	35 85	35 65	31 11	34 70	35 00	35 25	32 50
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	34 77	35 00	35 00	35 00	35 00	35 00	35 00	31 50	31 50	23 92	23 83	23 80	31 61
Onions, brown ..	lb.	9 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	5 90	5 90	4 60	4 90	5 00	5 91
Soap ..	"	14 22	14 22	14 22	14 22	14 37	14 93	14 71	15 23	15 23	15 33	15 37	15 47	11 79
Kerosene ..	quart	8 25	8 25	8 24	8 24	8 54	8 54	8 54	8 50	8 46	8 70	8 81	8 78	8 49
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	37 95	37 95	37 95	37 95	37 95	37 95	39 50	40 50	40 50	40 50	40 50	40 50	43 72
Butter, mild ..	"	26 63	26 63	26 63	26 63	26 88	26 88	33 00	33 00	33 00	33 00	33 00	33 00	29 88
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	60 00	65 00	65 00	65 00	70 00	70 00	59 00	58 90	59 00	58 90	58 90	58 90	62 38
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	65 89	67 00	67 00	67 00	67 00	67 33	67 38	67 38	67 38	67 38	67 38	67 38	67 19
Milk, condensed ..	tin	18 40	18 50	18 50	18 50	18 50	19 20	20 30	20 90	20 85	20 85	20 35	20 85	19 68
" fresh ..	quart	14 25	16 50	16 50	16 50	16 50	16 50	17 50	17 50	17 00	17 00	17 00	17 00	16 65
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.		September Quarter.			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		32 60			38 05		38 40			37 74			36 72
" rib ..	"		28 99			33 57		33 70			32 74			32 24
" steak, rump ..	"		43 53			47 75		48 43			48 17			46 97
" chuck ..	"		25 32			32 41		32 80			32 17			30 68
" sausages ..	"		20 50			21 21		21 09			20 83			20 91
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"		32 81			37 25		37 40			36 73			36 05
" bracket ..	"		24 05			29 64		29 80			28 52			28 02
Mutton, leg ..	"		25 07			26 93		24 60			23 68			25 07
" forequarter ..	"		16 40			18 15		16 55			14 96			16 52
" loin ..	"		23 75			25 89		22 52			21 80			23 51
" chops, loin ..	"		25 79			26 65		24 21			22 55			24 80
" leg ..	"		26 42			27 59		25 13			23 95			25 77
Pork, leg ..	"		44 79			46 33		48 50			49 81			47 37
" loin ..	"		46 04			47 25		48 93			49 78			48 00
" chops ..	"		46 54			47 70		49 58			50 37			48 55

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

SECTION I.—continued.

Brisbane : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1952.
Groceries, &c.—														
Bread ..	2 lb.	d.	d	d.	d.	d.	d.	d	d	d	d.	d.	d.	d.
Flour, ordinary ..	..	10 50	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	12 00	11 29
" self-raising ..	..	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	7 70	7 06
Tea ..	..	14 40	14 40	14 95	14 95	14 95	14 95	14 95	14 95	14 95	15 25	15 35	15 40	14 95
Sugar ..	..	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 25	16 90	16 90	16 90	16 67
Sago ..	..	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 47	6 87	6 96	6 96	7 83
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	13 94	14 10	14 50	14 70	15 25	15 45	17 10	17 10	17 10	17 10	17 10	17 10	15 89
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	21 80	21 85	24 70	25 45	28 00	27 70	27 70	27 95	28 35	27 95	28 35	28 35	26 51
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11 00	11 00	11 00	13 05	13 50	13 45	13 50	13 50	13 50	13 50	16 90	17 15	13 42
Raisins, seeded ..	..	13 00	13 00	13 00	13 00	13 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	11 88	11 13	11 13	11 13	12 10
Currants ..	..	25 50	25 36	25 36	25 78	27 42	27 56	27 56	28 31	28 11	28 00	27 90	28 05	27 08
Apples, dried ..	..	19 00	19 00	19 00	19 00	19 00	22 50	22 50	24 00	24 00	20 50	19 00	19 00	20 54
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	42 00	42 00	49 50	49 50	49 50	49 50	50 50	50 50	50 50	55 00	50 00	50 00	49 04
Pears, canned ..	..	28 25	28 25	28 25	28 50	35 61	35 17	35 40	35 56	36 06	36 11	36 11	35 89	33 27
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	29 58	29 58	29 58	29 58	37 21	37 21	38 50	38 83	38 75	38 28	37 28	37 22	35 07
Onions, brown ..	lb.	33 25	37 75	38 30	38 35	36 95	35 70	31 35	35 00	34 85	27 95	17 23	23 00	32 47
Onions, white ..	..	6 89	7 11	6 11	7 56	8 44	8 75	7 70	4 45	3 10	2 80	2 72	3 05	5 72
Soap ..	..	12 87	12 90	12 87	13 24	13 60	14 57	14 60	15 20	15 44	15 44	15 44	15 44	14 28
Kerosene ..	quart	7 74	7 80	8 00	8 00	8 35	8 43	8 45	8 48	8 48	8 68	8 75	8 77	8 33
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	37 45	37 45	37 45	37 45	37 45	37 45	49 15	49 45	49 45	49 45	49 45	49 45	43 45
Cheese, mild ..	..	26 05	26 05	26 15	26 15	26 15	26 15	32 05	32 05	32 00	32 05	32 00	32 00	29 07
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	50 00	60 00	60 00	60 00	63 00	66 30	60 70	57 80	57 50	57 50	57 40	56 20	59 20
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	57 65	57 45	58 30	59 95	60 50	59 50	59 50	59 50	59 35	56 55	56 40	56 70	58 45
Milk, condensed ..	tin	18 36	18 45	18 45	18 50	18 43	19 10	19 30	20 80	20 95	20 95	20 95	20 95	19 60
" fresh ..	quart	14 10	14 10	16 10	16 10	16 10	16 10	16 10	16 10	16 10	16 10	15 10	15 10	15 60
Meat—														
		March Quarter.			June Quarter.			September Quarter.			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin ..	.. lb.	35 94			34 27			33 53			33 20			34 24
" rib ..	..	27 06			24 93			24 10			24 00			25 02
" steak, rump ..	..	43 31			39 79			39 00			39 00			40 03
" chuck ..	..	25 32			23 83			23 10			23 03			23 95
" saussages ..	..	20 94			20 43			18 06			17 80			19 31
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	..	31 88			29 80			28 90			28 90			29 87
" brisket ..	..	27 21			25 38			24 87			24 13			25 40
Mutton, leg ..	..	23 18			22 69			21 58			21 10			22 14
" forequarter ..	..	17 73			17 53			16 73			16 12			17 03
" loin ..	..	22 85			22 31			21 52			20 98			21 92
" chops, loin ..	..	23 70			23 18			22 20			21 80			22 72
" leg ..	..	23 44			22 62			21 60			21 07			22 18
Pork, leg ..	..	44 76			45 82			46 47			46 07			46 26
" loin ..	..	44 45			45 62			47 13			46 47			45 92
" chops ..	..	11 63			45 72			47 17			46 53			46 01

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

SECTION I.—continued.

Adelaide: Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1952.
Groceries, &c.—														
Bread	2 lb.	d. 10 50	d. 10 50	d. 10 50	d. 10 50	d. 10 50	d. 11 00	d. 11 00	d. 11 00	d. 11 00	d. 11 00	d. 11 00	d. 12 00	d. 10 87
Flour, ordinary	"	7 40	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 45	7 85	7 48
" self-raising	"	12 60	12 65	12 00	12 85	13 25	13 20	13 20	13 20	13 20	13 50	14 45	13 21	13 21
Tea	lb.	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 00	47 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	47 50
Sugar	"	6 50	6 50	6 50	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 10	9 00	9 00	7 80
Sago	"	17 50	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	18 40	18 36	18 36	18 36	18 36	23 00	25 33	18 91
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	19 55	19 55	19 55	21 75	22 50	24 10	25 60	27 10	27 10	27 10	27 10	27 10	24 01
Golden Syrup	2 lb.	12 05	12 05	12 05	14 50	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	18 45	18 45	14 80
Oats, flaked	lb	10 75	10 75	10 75	10 75	11 25	11 25	11 08	10 92	11 13	11 13	10 90	10 90	10 96
Raisins, seeded	"	27 57	27 57	27 57	28 63	29 02	29 55	30 45	30 30	31 35	31 30	32 00	32 00	29 83
Currants	"	20 45	20 45	20 45	21 00	21 35	21 45	21 60	21 65	21 60	21 60	21 60	21 60	21 23
Apricots, dried	"	44 69	44 69	44 69	48 63	49 56	50 44	54 94	55 00	55 00	55 00	55 78	55 78	51 78
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	25 19	25 19	25 13	30 31	34 39	34 50	34 50	35 15	35 25	35 25	35 25	35 15	32 10
Pears, canned	"	26 60	26 60	26 13	31 80	36 00	36 05	37 00	37 00	37 00	37 00	37 00	37 00	33 80
Potatoes	7 lb.	49 57	31 50	31 50	31 50	31 50	31 50	31 50	31 50	31 50	31 50	22 50	21 00	30 43
Onions, brown	lb.	6 50	7 75	4 50	6 50	7 00	6 50	6 08	6 08	6 00	5 20	5 17	5 20	6 04
Soap	"	13 00	13 00	13 00	13 20	13 60	14 67	14 67	15 33	15 36	15 64	15 67	15 67	14 40
Kerosene	quart	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 75	7 75	7 75	7 75	7 75	8 00	8 00	8 00	7 73
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory	lb.	37 50	37 50	37 50	37 50	37 50	37 50	49 50	49 50	49 50	49 50	49 50	49 50	43 50
Cheese, mild	"	26 05	26 05	26 05	26 05	26 05	26 05	32 50	32 56	32 56	32 50	32 50	32 50	29 28
Eggs, new laid	doz.	54 45	58 85	60 05	61 50	64 50	64 50	61 60	55 90	55 05	54 25	54 25	54 50	58 28
Bacon, rashers	lb.	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	61 75	58 65	58 60	61 23
Milk, condensed	tin	18 45	18 45	18 45	18 45	18 45	19 50	19 95	20 70	20 70	20 70	20 85	20 85	19 62
" fresh	quart	14 50	14 50	14 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 25
Meat—														
		March Quarter.			June Quarter.			September Quarter.			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin	lb.	27 69			34 13			34 27			28 07			31 04
" rib	"	26 57			31 00			31 57			27 89			29 18
" steak, rump	"	40 85			51 20			51 50			44 07			46 91
" chuck	"	25 96			32 17			32 27			28 00			29 60
" sausages	"	17 24			18 00			18 07			17 23			17 64
Beef (corned) silver-side	"	30 71			36 20			36 53			32 00			33 86
" brisket	"	25 26			30 00			30 38			26 00			27 56
Mutton, leg	"	26 99			27 49			23 53			20 31			24 56
" forequarter	"	15 78			16 35			13 02			10 21			13 84
" loin	"	26 30			26 25			23 12			18 63			23 58
" chops, loin	"	25 84			26 27			23 26			19 05			23 61
" " leg	"	26 27			27 24			23 73			19 27			24 13
Pork, leg	"	49 18			49 53			49 50			49 43			49 41
" loin	"	49 29			49 03			49 70			49 50			49 53
" chops	"	49 43			50 43			50 17			49 93			49 99

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

SECTION I.—continued.

Perth : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1952.
Groceries, &c.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread	1 lb.	11 00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11 00	11.00	11 50	11 50	11 50	11.50	12.00	11 25
Flour, ordinary	"	8 00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8 00	8 00	8.00	8 00	8.00	8 00	8 00	8.00	8 34
" self-raising	"	14 70	14.75	14.70	14.80	15.50	15.70	15.70	15.70	16 80	16 80	16 80	16.75	15.80
Tea	lb.	46 95	47.00	47.00	46 95	46.95	46.95	47.85	47.95	47 95	47 95	47 95	47.95	47.45
Sugar	"	6.50	6.50	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8 00	8 00	9 00	9.00	7.84
Sago	"	19 15	19.60	19.60	20.35	20 95	23.20	23.56	23.89	27 20	27 20	28.25	29.50	23.54
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	24 56	24.72	24.89	24.72	24.65	28.60	32.70	32 10	32 22	32 75	31.85	31 85	28 67
Golden Syrup	1 lb.	13.00	13.00	13.00	15.10	15 90	15.94	15.95	15.95	15.95	16 00	19.25	19.95	15.75
Oats, flaked	lb.	9 70	9.58	10.00	9.60	11.57	12.79	13.21	12.79	12 21	12 29	12.29	12 29	11.53
Raisins, seeded	"	30.75	30.94	30.94	31.36	31.60	31.60	30.07	30.17	31 28	32.65	32.74	32.95	31.42
Currants	"	21.45	21.50	21.50	21 56	21 83	22 67	22.94	23.17	23 20	23 20	23.15	23.00	22.43
Apricots, dried	"	49.50	50 33	50.33	50.10	50 50	52.42	53.00	55 50	58.75	58.75	58.75	58.75	53 89
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	30 50	30.33	30.33	30.75	30 75	38 25	41.06	41.63	41 33	40 00	40 40	40 40	36.31
Pears, canned	"	31.79	31 75	31.80	31.88	31 88	41 79	43.00	42 72	42 78	41.85	40.94	41 80	37.83
Potatoes	7 lb.	24.61	24 78	25.00	29 00	29 06	29 00	29.00	30.00	30 00	30 00	28.00	28 00	27.87
Onions, brown	lb.	5.89	6 00	6.00	6 00	8 50	8 50	8.50	8.50	7.61	7 50	6.94	6 56	7.21
Soap	"	13.64	13 64	13.64	13 83	14 26	15 44	15.60	15.33	16.23	16 67	16.70	16 74	15.15
Kerosene	quart	11 49	11 49	11.56	11.56	11 80	11 84	11.84	11.87	13 00	13 04	13 37	13 37	12.19
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory	lb.	38 00	38.00	38 00	38 00	38 00	38 00	50 00	50 00	50 00	50 00	50.00	50 00	44.00
Cheese, mild	"	30 00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30 00	30.00	37 00	37 00	37 00	37 00	37.00	37 00	33.50
Eggs, new laid	doz.	58 00	61.00	61.00	61.00	62 00	64.00	64.00	62 00	60 00	60 00	60.00	62 00	61.25
Bacon, rashers	lb.	57.50	57 50	58.40	58 55	58 55	59.30	60 95	60 95	60 95	60 95	60 95	60 95	59.62
Milk, condensed	tin	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19 00	19.50	19.50	21 05	21 05	21 00	21.00	21 00	19.92
" fresh	quart	16.00	16.00	16.00	16 00	16 00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16 00	17.00	17.00	17 00	16 25
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.		September Quarter.			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin	lb.		31.00			31.17		34.00			31.89			32 02
" rib	"		24.00			24.45		26.00			24.11			24.64
" steak, rump	"		41.00			41 17		44.00			42.04			42.05
" chuck	"		29.00			29.17		32.00			29.93			30.03
" sausages	"		19.44			20 00		20 67			20 50			20.15
Beef (corned) silver- sides	"		30.00			30.43		33 00			31.67			31.28
brisket	"		26 00			26.17		29 00			27 46			27 16
Mutton, leg	"		23.17			22 10		20 35			19 25			21.22
" forequarter	"		15 26			14 53		12.90			11.38			13.52
" loin	"		20.94			20 83		19.53			18.55			19.99
" chops, loin leg	"		20.90			20 78		19.63			18.59			19.98
Pork, leg	"		20.73			20 63		19.21			18.35			19.73
" loin	"		44.64			47.30		50.90			52.16			48.75
" chops	"		44.64			47.34		51.84			52.56			49.10
"	"		44.85			47 40		51.84			52.56			49.16

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

SECTION I.—continued.

Hobart : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1952.

Article.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1952.
		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Groceries, &c.—														
Bread	2 lb.	11.00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 50	12 50	11.42
Flour, ordinary	"	7.95	8.00	8 00	8.00	8 00	8.00	8.00	8 00	8 00	8.00	8.05	8 45	8.04
" self-raising	"	15.50	15.50	15 50	15.50	15 50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15 50	15 50	15 50	15 95	15.54
Tea	lb.	47.00	47 00	47 00	47.00	47 00	47.00	48.00	48 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	47.50
Sugar	"	6 50	6 50	6 50	8.00	8 00	8 00	8.00	8.00	8 00	8 00	9 00	9 00	7 79
Sago	"	20 00	20 00	20.00	20.00	20 20	21 00	21.75	21 95	21 95	22 25	22 55	24 45	21.38
Jam, plum	14 lb.	19.65	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20.23
Golden Syrup	2 lb.	12.50	12.45	12.45	12 45	16 00	16 00	16.00	16.00	16 00	16 00	20 05	20 05	15 50
Oats, flaked	lb.	11.00	11.00	11 33	11 33	11 50	11.63	11 50	11 50	11 50	11 88	11 88	11 67	11 48
Raisins, seeded	"	28 21	28 21	28 00	34 00	34 00	33 00	33.69	33 44	33 44	33 72	31 61	33 44	31 30
Currants	"	21 64	21 57	21 57	23 43	23 93	23 86	23 86	23 86	23 86	23 86	24 00	24 20	23 30
Apricots, dried	"	46 17	46 17	16 17	60.50	58 75	57 10	59 25	60.75	60 75	60 75	60 00	60 00	56 30
Peaches, canned	30 oz.	27 33	27 58	27 58	33 75	40 50	40 80	40 17	40 00	39 72	39 72	39 72	39 83	36 39
Pears, canned	"	27 79	27 93	48 00	48 00	48 00	48 00	46.28	47 05	47 05	45 35	45 35	42 65	43 45
Potatoes	7 lb.	40.89	41 13	41 13	38 43	36 54	34 26	32 69	32 44	32 70	31 06	28 00	28 88	34 85
Onions, brown	lb.	13.43	11 38	9 07	9 21	9 00	8 31	8 07	7 93	8 19	7 69	7 43	7 79	8 96
Soap	"	13.33	13 33	13 33	13 33	14 00	15 00	14 96	15 23	15 40	15 60	15 60	15 60	14 56
Kerosene	quart	12.32	12 32	12.48	12.48	12.13	12 37	12 26	12 26	12 41	13 47	13 51	13 51	12 63
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory	lb.	38.00	38 00	38 00	38.00	38.00	38 00	50 00	50 00	50 00	50 00	50 00	49 80	43 98
Cheese, mild	"	26.50	26 50	26 50	26.50	26 50	26 50	32 53	32 53	33 50	33 50	33 50	33 83	29 87
Eggs, new laid	doz.	60.20	64.45	67 28	67 33	67 33	67 43	67 44	60.00	60 00	60 00	60 00	60 00	63 45
Bacon, rashers	lb.	58.70	58 70	58 70	58.70	58.70	58 70	58 70	58 70	58 70	58 50	58 50	58 50	58 63
Milk, condensed	tin	18.55	18 55	18 55	18 55	18 60	19 50	20 65	21 00	21 00	21 00	21 00	21 00	19 83
" fresh	quart	15.00	18.00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	16 00	16 00	16 00	17 25
Meat—														
		March Quarter.			June Quarter			September Quarter			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin	lb.	28 70			31 67			34 60			37 55			33 13
" rib	"	25 07			26 58			29 31			31 65			28 15
" steak, rump	"	40 33			43 53			47 60			51 02			45 62
" chuck	"	25 39			27 37			30 50			32 38			28 89
" sausages	"	18 53			20 87			21 93			22 38			20 93
Beef (corned) silver-side	"	29 57			31 40			33 47			37 63			33 02
" brisket	"	23 70			25 73			27 93			30 70			27 02
Mutton, leg	"	27 51			27 88			28 44			27 93			27 94
" forequarter	"	17 50			17 43			17 50			16 90			17 36
" loin	"	21 67			23 33			23 84			23 63			23 12
" chops, loin	"	24 42			24 62			24 83			24 84			24 68
" chops, leg	"	25 33			27 38			28 52			26 60			26 96
Pork, leg	"	41 73			41 53			44 00			46 98			43 50
" loin	"	41 73			41 63			43 80			46 57			43 43
" chops	"	42 13			42 03			44 80			47 20			44 04

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

SECTION II.

Weekly House Rents (a) in Metropolitan and Provincial Towns.

TOWN.	WEIGHTED AVERAGE WEEKLY RENTS FOR 4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES.						
	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
NEW SOUTH WALES—							
Sydney	23 3	23 5	23 6	23 7	23 7	23 8	25 2
Newcastle	20 0	20 4	20 4	20 5	20 5	20 5	20 11
Broken Hill	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 3	16 5	16 5	16 8
Goulburn	18 3	18 7	18 7	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 11
Bathurst	17 8	17 8	17 9	17 9	17 9	17 11	18 10
Five Towns(b)	22 9	23 0	23 0	23 2	23 2	23 2	24 7
VICTORIA—							
Melbourne	21 5	21 11	21 11	21 11	22 0	22 0	22 2
Ballarat	15 0	15 0	15 1	15 2	15 3	15 5	15 7
Bendigo	15 4	15 7	15 8	15 9	16 1	16 4	16 7
Geelong	19 8	19 11	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 1
Warrumbool	19 4	19 7	19 7	19 7	19 10	19 10	20 2
Five Towns(b)	21 0	21 6	21 5	21 6	21 7	21 7	21 8
QUEENSLAND—							
Brisbane	19 2	19 5	19 5	19 6	19 10	21 0	21 7
Toowoomba	17 9	18 1	18 4	18 6	19 0	19 10	19 11
Rockhampton	16 11	17 6	17 8	17 11	18 6	19 1	19 10
Townsville	18 1	18 2	18 2	18 2	18 2	18 7	20 0
Bundaberg	23 5	24 4	24 5	24 6	24 9	25 3	25 7
Five Towns(b)	18 8	18 11	19 0	19 1	19 5	20 5	21 0
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—							
Adelaide	19 11	20 2	20 3	20 6	20 10	21 4	23 9
Kadina, etc.	8 2	8 4	8 5	8 6	8 6	11 1	12 9
Port Pirie	14 11	14 11	14 11	14 11	15 0	15 4	16 5
Mount Gambler	14 5	15 1	15 1	15 2	15 4	15 10	16 10
Peterborough	15 9	15 10	15 11	16 0	16 1	16 4	16 6
Five Towns(b)	19 3	19 8	19 7	19 10	20 2	20 8	22 11
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—							
Perth and Fremantle	19 0	19 11	20 0	20 1	20 3	23 11	26 8
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	27 8	22 8	22 9	23 0	23 7	24 9	25 5
Northam	18 7	18 10	19 3	20 1	20 3	24 9	27 0
Bunbury	21 1	20 7	20 8	21 1	21 7	25 2	27 6
Geraldton	22 4	22 4	22 4	22 8	23 0	27 5	30 2
Five Towns(b)	20 5	20 2	20 3	20 5	20 7	24 1	26 8
TASMANIA—							
Hobart	20 9	21 0	21 0	21 1	21 2	23 7	24 3
Launceston	19 1	19 5	19 7	19 8	19 8	23 2	23 7
Burnie	17 6	17 11	17 11	17 11	17 11	20 8	20 11
Devonport	16 0	16 2	16 2	16 2	16 4	18 4	18 10
Queenstown	16 11	17 1	17 2	17 2	17 2	17 10	18 0
Five Towns(b)	19 9	20 1	20 1	20 2	20 3	22 10	23 5
Thirty Towns(b)	21 2	21 5	21 6	21 8	21 9	22 2	23 3
Six Capitals(b)	21 8	21 11	22 0	22 1	22 2	22 8	23 9

(a) The rents are shown to the nearest penny. Revised series comparable only with averages published since December Quarter, 1936. See footnote (b) on page 10, and sub-paragraph (vii) on page 2, as to the meaning of these averages. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account in the above table. (b) Weighted average.

SECTION III.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities : Australia and Other Countries, 1952.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Article.	Unit or Quantity.	AUSTRALIA. (a)								NEW ZEALAND.							
		Sydney.				Melbourne.				Wellington.				Christchurch.			
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
Bread	2 lb.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Flour, ordinary	"	10 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	12 00	12 00	12 06	12 50	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50
Tea	lb.	9 63	10 50	10 29	10 14	7 30	7 35	7 44	7 28	6 54	6 54	6 54	6 51	6 24	6 24	6 24	6 24
Jam, plum	1 1/2 lb.	47 00	47 00	48 00	47 60	47 00	47 00	47 63	47 20	75 20	75 20	72 30	72 30	77 00	77 00	72 00	72 00
Sugar	lb.	26 25	29 45	29 55	29 35	21 55	27 20	27 10	26 50	27 26	28 71	28 71	29 14	26 83	29 74	29 74	29 23
Oatmeal	"	6 50	8 00	8 00	9 00	6 50	8 00	8 00	8 90	8 60	8 60	8 60	8 60	8 50	8 50	8 50	8 50
Baisins	"	11 50	12 50	11 93	12 10	10 83	10 83	10 92	10 92	8 78	10 05	10 25	10 26	9 00	10 30	10 30	10 30
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	29 00	32 33	33 00	32 75	27 68	30 56	31 61	31 50	b17 40	b17 40	b17 80	b17 80	b16 90	b16 70	b17 30	b17 50
Potatoes	7 lb.	26 95	39 00	38 20	38 10	26 10	33 50	33 10	33 40	34 50	34 50	37 30	42 30	34 17	35 38	40 80	44 00
Onions	lb.	42 00	42 00	40 68	38 75	35 00	31 50	23 83	37 31	35 88	38 50	57 19	15 40	16 80	25 20	27 16	27 16
Milk	quart	9 50	9 00	8 63	5 55	6 00	6 00	5 90	4 90	8 00	5 50	5 50	5 00	3 25	3 25	4 88	2 40
Butter	lb.	20 00	21 00	21 00	21 00	16 50	16 50	17 50	17 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	8 00
Cheese	"	37 50	37 50	49 50	49 50	37 95	37 95	49 50	49 50	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	20 00
Eggs	dozen	27 22	27 22	33 50	33 50	26 53	26 88	33 00	33 00	20 80	20 80	20 80	21 00	21 20	21 20	21 80	22 70
Bacon	lb.	68 15	72 00	62 00	62 00	65 00	70 00	58 90	58 90	55 00	69 13	45 00	51 00	51 00	63 00	40 00	45 00
		69 28	71 94	63 61	61 94	67 00	67 00	67 38	67 75	36 30	36 30	36 50	42 00	36 00	36 00	36 00	40 20
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)								
Beef, sirloin	"	38 08	44 48	41 30	40 15	32 60	38 05	38 40	37 74	22 67	22 67	24 67	25 00	21 67	22 33	23 67	25 00
" rib	"	27 63	31 80	31 05	28 71	28 99	33 51	33 70	32 74	20 33	20 67	21 00	24 00	20 33	21 33	22 33	23 33
" steak, rump	"	52 10	57 27	54 40	52 77	43 53	47 75	48 43	48 17	29 33	30 00	31 67	32 33	27 00	27 33	28 67	30 33
" sausages	"	19 37	21 53	21 73	20 20	20 50	21 21	21 09	20 83	14 33	14 33	14 33	14 67	12 33	12 00	13 00	13 00
Mutton, leg	"	24 98	25 13	23 23	22 60	25 07	26 93	24 60	23 68	24 00	24 00	24 00	24 67	21 67	21 67	22 00	22 33
" forequarter	"	18 59	19 02	17 81	16 89	16 40	18 15	16 55	14 96	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 33	12 00	12 33	12 67	13 00
" chops	"	28 15	29 83	26 80	25 70	26 42	27 50	25 13	23 95	23 33	23 33	24 00	24 67	20 33	21 33	21 67	22 00
Pork, leg	"	52 27	53 13	53 00	54 67	44 79	46 33	48 56	49 81	24 00	25 67	28 00	28 67	25 00	25 00	25 67	29 00
" chops	"	53 77	54 63	54 87	56 36	46 54	47 70	49 58	50 37	24 67	25 67	27 00	28 00	25 67	26 00	28 00	31 00

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.
for September quarter. (f) Average for December quarter.

(b) Sultanas.

(c) Average for March quarter.

(d) Average for June quarter.

(e) Average

SECTION III.—continued.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities : Australia and Other Countries, 1952—continued.

Article.	Unit or Quantity.	UNITED KINGDOM.(a)				UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.							
						Capetown.				Witwatersrand.			
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
Bread ..	2 lb.	d. 6.9	d. 8.6	d. 8.6	d. 8.6	d. 8.5	d. 8.5	d. 8.5	d. 8.5	d. 8.4	d. 8.4	d. 8.4	d. 8.4
Flour, ordinary ..	"	8.7	11.2	11.2	11.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Tea ..	lb.				(b)53.4	72.1	73.6	71.9	72.9	71.1	73.6	71.6	72.3
Jam ..	1½ lb.					(c)16.7	(c)17.6	(c)17.9	(c)18.2	(e)17.6	(e)18.2	(c)18.4	(c)18.6
Sugar ..	lb.	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.5
Rice ..	"	10.0	13.0	13.0	13.0								
Oatmeal ..	"					11.1	13.6	13.4	13.4	11.1	13.6	13.5	13.5
Raisins ..	"	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	21.7	22.3	22.7	22.4	22.7	22.9	23.6	24.4
Peaches, canned ..	30-oz. tin	35.4	35.4	35.4	35.4	35.4	25.9	26.7	27.1	27.9	29.1	29.4	29.6
Potatoes ..	7 lb.					(b)13.6	28.0	31.5	44.8	51.1	17.5	21.0	30.1
Onions ..	lb.					(b) 6.0	4.0	9.3	17.3	7.8	4.8	11.8	19.0
Milk ..	quart	12.0	12.0	13.0	13.0	11.0	11.2	12.2	12.2	11.2	11.2	12.0	12.6
Butter ..	lb.	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	34.0	34.0	36.5	38.0	34.0	34.0	36.5	37.9
Cheese ..	"	24.0	24.0	24.0	25.0	28.0	28.0	29.5	32.0	28.0	28.0	29.5	31.7
Eggs ..	dozen	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	40.6	49.5	52.6	52.2	40.1	48.8	52.0	52.0
Bacon ..	lb.	42.0	42.0	42.0	48.0	38.0	39.5	40.6	40.6	37.9	38.0	39.1	38.9
Beef, sirloin ..	"	{ (d)30.0	{ (d)30.0	{ (d)36.0	{ (d)36.0	} 22.0	} 22.0	} 22.0	} 22.0	} 23.9	} 23.7	} 23.9	} 24.0
" rib ..	"	{ (e)26.0	{ (e)26.0	{ (e)32.0	{ (e)32.0								
" steak, rump ..	"	{ 22.0	{ 22.0	{ 26.0	{ 26.0								
" ..	"	{ 36.0	{ 36.0	{ 40.0	{ 40.0								
Mutton, leg ..	"	{ (d)28.0	{ (d)28.0	{ (d)34.0	{ (d)34.0	} 32.0	} 32.0	} 32.0	} 32.0	} 35.7	} 33.7	} 32.6	} 34.7
Porc, leg ..	"	{ (e)18.0	{ (e)18.0	{ (e)20.0	{ (e)20.0								
Porc, leg ..	"	28.0	28.0	34.0	34.0	26.0	26.0	27.0	27.0	25.9	25.7	26.4	26.4
" chops ..	"	34.0	34.0	40.0	40.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.0	28.2	28.1	29.1	29.0

(a) Maximum permitted prices with exception of those marked (b).

(b) Average prices in seven large towns in Great Britain in mid-October, 1951.

(c) Union jam.

(d) British.

(e) Imported.

SECTION III.—continued.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities: Australia and Other Countries, 1952—continued.

Article.	Unit or Quantity.	CANADA.								UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.(a)		
		Ottawa.				Montreal.				Feb.	May.	Oct.(b)
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.			
		cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.
Bread	2 lb.	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	31.6	32.4	32.4
Flour, ordinary	"	15.6	15.6	15.2	15.2	14.8	15.0	14.8	15.0	21.1	21.0	20.8
Tea	lb.	110.4	111.2	110.8	109.6	112.8	112.4	112.6	112.0			
Jam	1 1/2 lb.	(c)37.2	(c)37.2	(c)36.9	(c)36.8	(c)39.3	(c)38.5	(c)37.9	(c)38.1			
Sugar	"	12.1	11.6	10.6	10.4	11.6	10.3	10.2	9.7	10.1	10.2	10.5
Rice	"									17.3	17.7	18.4
Oatmeal	"	13.6	13.3			13.2	13.1			14.5	14.4	14.7
Raisins	"	26.8	27.6	20.5	26.4	24.5	24.6	24.8	25.1			
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	44.6	44.6	43.8	43.8	45.4	45.8	45.2	41.8			
Potatoes	7 lb.	43.8	56.6	54.0	41.3	41.5	51.7	44.2	37.7	46.0	56.7	49.2
Onions	lb.	10.6	15.7	12.0	10.9	11.6	16.3	11.7	9.7	10.4	15.3	
Milk	quart	22.0	22.0	21.8	21.8	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	24.1	23.8	21.7
Butter	lb.	74.0	63.8	61.3	65.6	71.3	62.0	50.8	61.1	94.1	82.0	
Cheese	"	70.6	70.2	68.6	68.8	69.4	69.2	60.2	68.8	60.1	60.2	61.6
Eggs	dozen	54.0	50.6	74.1	82.9	54.8	52.2	72.0	83.0	58.1	57.2	80.4
Bacon	"	74.2	60.3	57.4	61.0	72.9	58.5	57.2	58.0	61.8	60.6	69.9
Beef, sirloin	"	108.1	88.3	95.1	76.3	114.6	104.3	109.2	92.1			
" rib	"	100.1	85.6			100.2	91.6			87.6	86.4	
" steak, rump	"	102.8	87.7	90.2	73.4	108.6	100.9	106.1	85.1	112.1	111.6	
Pork chops	"	62.5	58.5	63.6	64.0	60.1	51.9	58.1	62.4	73.9	81.2	87.0

(a) Average for all towns.

(b) Particulars for August and November not yet available.

(c) Strawberry jam.

SECTION IV.

"Court" Index (Third Series) (a)—In the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration—Quarterly Retail Price Index—Numbers—Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses), Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure. December Quarter, 1951 to December Quarter, 1952.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 103.0.)

Cities and Towns.	1951.		1952.		
	December Quarter.	March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.
New South Wales—					
Sydney	216.3	223.2	235.2	236.6	238.1
Newcastle	213.3	217.8	229.7	230.8	231.5
Broken Hill	224.7	231.3	243.0	246.1	245.0
Goulburn	215.8	221.2	234.5	232.0	231.5
Bathurst	210.1	215.6	229.4	233.0	235.7
Five Towns (b)	216.1	222.8	234.9	236.3	237.7
Victoria—					
Melbourne	209.3	212.0	224.2	228.4	229.0
Ballarat	207.9	210.6	220.9	226.7	226.2
Bendigo	204.6	208.5	220.7	225.6	226.1
Geelong	207.4	211.1	222.4	227.1	226.7
Warrnambool	210.9	214.5	226.7	232.9	234.0
Five Towns (b)	209.0	211.9	224.0	228.2	228.8
Queensland—					
Brisbane	199.2	206.6	212.5	215.6	215.1
Toowoomba	200.2	208.2	215.5	217.0	217.3
Rockhampton	200.8	209.3	215.2	217.5	219.1
Townsville	206.6	214.4	220.6	224.0	225.9
Bundaberg	196.8	205.8	211.3	214.0	214.8
Five Towns (b)	199.8	207.4	213.4	216.4	216.3
South Australia—					
Adelaide	204.9	211.3	223.5	229.1	225.3
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo	198.1	204.2	215.3	219.2	216.7
Port Pirie	202.3	209.0	221.5	226.7	222.2
Mount Gambier	208.2	212.3	222.2	225.2	223.9
Peterborough	203.3	208.3	221.6	225.1	221.9
Five Towns (b)	204.6	211.0	223.0	228.6	224.8
Western Australia—					
Perth, Fremantle	204.8	214.2	222.2	228.2	229.1
Kalgoorlie, Boulder	214.0	222.8	231.8	237.8	239.3
Northam	205.0	213.2	224.5	230.6	232.0
Bunbury	207.2	216.9	224.3	230.9	232.2
Geraldton	215.2	223.4	235.3	242.5	243.4
Five Towns (b)	205.7	215.0	223.3	229.3	230.3
Tasmania—					
Hobart	208.4	214.2	222.3	229.7	231.5
Launceston	207.5	212.0	220.2	227.4	227.7
Burnie	202.8	208.5	217.2	224.0	223.5
Devonport	200.0	205.1	214.1	221.3	221.6
Queenstown	204.7	210.1	217.5	222.2	223.2
Five Towns (b)	207.4	212.7	220.9	228.1	229.2
Thirty Towns (b)	210.1	215.8	226.9	230.2	230.6
Six Capital Cities (b)	210.3	216.0	227.2	230.5	231.0

SPECIAL TOWNS NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE WEIGHTED AVERAGES.

Warwick (Q.)	197.5	205.3	212.2	215.6	216.5
Port Augusta (S.A.)	204.8	209.8	222.9	227.3	221.8
Whyalla (S.A.)	207.6	211.8	225.1	229.2	225.9
Canberra (A.C.T.)	216.6	221.0	234.3	235.6	234.7

(a) See page 39 for explanation.

(b) Weighted average.

SECTION V.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

MEMORANDA

AND

COMMENT

SUBMITTED DURING THE

BASIC WAGE HEARING 1949-50

AND

EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH COURT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
1. Memorandum by Acting Commonwealth Statistician to the Court—June, 1949	166
2. Replies by Acting Commonwealth Statistician to Questions asked by delegates, A.C.T.U. Congress, Sydney, June, 1945	178
3. The "C" Series Index and Basic Wage Adjustments—Submissions by Mr. W. A. Baker (Advocate for Certain Unions)	189
4. Comment by Acting Commonwealth Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions	196
5. Extracts from Judgments referring to "C" Series Retail Price Index ..	210

SECTION V.—*continued.*MEMORANDUM BY THE ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN ON THE
"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

(Prepared for the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, June, 1949.)

SECTION—

- (A)—Definition.
- (B)—Basic Principles.
- (C)—Retail Price Index-numbers Used by the Court.
- (D)—Retail Price Index-numbers and Wage Variations.
- (E)—Organization and General Background.
- (F)—Methods by which Prices Used are Ascertained.
- (G)—The "C" Series Index in the Period 1939-48.
- (H)—Present Position in regard to Index.

Annexure (1).—Replies by the Statistician to questions at the A.C.T.U. Congress, June, 1945.

Annexure (2).—List of "Extra" Items, collection of which was instituted in 1948.

Annexure (3).—Form used in Census of Retail Establishments, 1948.

This memorandum is introductory in character. Details and discussion of technical points have been omitted.

S. R. CARVER,
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.
8th June, 1949.

SECTION V.—*continued.*
THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

SECTION (A)—DEFINITION.

(1) The official definition of the purpose of the index is of fundamental importance. It is as follows:—

"The 'C' Series Retail Price Index is designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While it may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a constant standard of living, it does not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, it measures as nearly as may be the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index. The regimen is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households".(a)

(2) The Statistician describes the index as a *price* index, not as a "cost of living" index. Colloquially it is often referred to as a "cost of living" index and industrial tribunals sometimes use this phrase and the phrase "cost of living variations". While use of such a misnomer may be conveniently descriptive in some ways, it frequently leads to confusion of thought and to irrelevant discussions on the index. Prices are an important element in the cost of living but they are not the only element causing changes in cost of living.

(3) No single index could simultaneously measure the extent of all changes in cost of living. The "C" Series Index is solely a *price* index and is used by the Court only as such. It is erroneous to ascribe demerits to a price index on the ground that it measures only the price component in changes in cost of living. Changes in cost of living caused by factors other than price variations are subjects for consideration quite independently of the "C" Series Index.

(4) The index is by design representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of *wage-earner households* and its regimen and weights are appropriate to this design. This distinguishes it from so-called "general purpose" indexes designed to measure changes in the level of "retail prices generally" or of "retail prices as affecting total consumer expenditures". No index with any great pretension to accuracy has as yet been compiled for these "general purposes". If such an index were compiled it would necessarily cover a very wide range of items and would be weighted in proportions very different from those of the "C" Series Index. It is quite erroneous in times of wide price dispersion (e.g., 1939 to 1949) to use the "C" Series Index as relevant for "general purposes" and idle to try to derive some "general purpose" index by simple adaptation of the "C" Series Index.(a)

(5) By "price dispersion" is meant the "scatter" of price variations over very wide ranges during abnormal periods. This may be illustrated very simply by reference to the percentage increase in prices of the four main groups of the "C" Series Index from September Quarter, 1939 to March Quarter, 1949 for the Six Capital Cities combined:—

Group.	Increases in Prices.
	Per cent.
Food and Groceries	47.9
Rent (4 and 5-roomed houses)	1.4
Clothing and Footwear	121.2
Miscellaneous	35.7
Weighted Average "C" Series Index	48.9

Instances for individual items show still wider dispersion over this period—

Average Six Capital Cities—September Quarter, 1939 to March Quarter, 1949—Approximate Increase in Price.

	Per cent.
Sugar	12
Beef	72
Mutton	60
Sox, All Wool	100
Pyjamas, Winceyette (Woman's)	172
Frock, Cotton (Woman's)	250

The term "price dispersion" recurs in this memorandum in this sense.

(a) NOTE.—See middle of page 37 of Labour Report No. 41 for additional comment.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*

SECTION (B)—BASIC PRINCIPLES.

The basic principles relevant to the "C" Series Index are:—

(1) The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole. In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and quantities of many of the items commonly used.

(2) A full explanation of the methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved is contained in the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9. For convenience the group of selected items is called a "regimen", and the quantities consumed per annum of each item used in the index are called "weights". These terms are used herein. In compiling the index the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight" and then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by denoting the aggregate of a selected or "base" period as 1,000, and calculating all index-numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to that of the base period.

(3) Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

- (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;
- (b) that the regimen be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;
- (c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to the quantities actually used in the selected field.

(4) The regimen must be a selected regimen because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. Even in normal times there is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the regimen of the index to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend the regimen by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The regimen of the index therefore is not, as is sometimes erroneously supposed, a basic wage regimen nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. In fact the regimen used for the "C" Series Index is simply a selected list of items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations on a defined basis. The items are representative of the field covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption as far as can be ascertained. In order to avoid breaks in continuity of the index it is desirable to keep the regimen and weights as stable as possible. It is not always easy to reconcile this principle with that of keeping the index closely representative of current consumption over long periods. The difficulties experienced with abnormal short-term fluctuations are referred to in Section C hereof.

(5) The regimen and weights used in the "C" Series Index are published in full on pages 11-13 of Labour Report No. 36. The 160 items embraced in the index are distributed over the following groups:—groceries (20 items), dairy produce (6), meat (15), house rent (1), clothing and footwear (78), household drapery (9), household utensils (19), fuel and light (4), fares and other miscellaneous items of expenditure (8). For a number of the items prices are recorded for several different grades, types or sizes.

SECTION (C)—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS USED BY THE COURT.

The following is a brief statement of the index-numbers used by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from time to time:—

(i) "A" Series.—This series covered items of food and groceries and the rent of all houses, with the year 1911 as the base (1,000). It was first compiled in 1912 and was discontinued in June Quarter, 1938. The index was used by the Court from 1912 to May, 1933.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Section (C)—continued.*

(ii) "*B*" Series.—The "*B*" Series was first compiled in 1925 and covers items of food and groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, with the years 1923-27 as base (1,000). It is the food and rent constituent of the "*C*" Series. It has replaced the "*A*" Series, but has not been used for adjustment of wages by Industrial Tribunals.

(iii) "*C*" Series.—This series was constructed as the result of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and the regimen adopted was substantially that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission with necessary periodical adjustments. It was first compiled in 1921 and is available for the month of November for the six capital cities for the years 1914 to 1921, quarterly for these cities from June Quarter, 1922, and quarterly for the 30 important towns from March Quarter 1925 to date. The series was first used in connexion with the variation of wages by the Commonwealth Court in May, 1933, when the Court introduced the "*D*" Series. In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted as from 1st May, 1934, the "*C*" Series Index as the sole basis for the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment. In its judgment of 23rd June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court adopted this index as the basis of the "Court" Index (First Series) for the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the Court's basic wage.

(iv) "*D*" Series.—The "*D*" Series was a combination of the "*A*" and "*C*" Series, and was introduced by the Commonwealth Court for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. reduction in real wages determined by the Court in January, 1931. It was used from 1st May, 1933 to 30th April, 1934.

(v) "*Court*" Series.—The "Court" Series was created by the Commonwealth Court in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, and operated from 1st July, 1937. Its purpose was to provide a set of index-numbers which would be published by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible for the fixation and adjustment of wage rates. Its introduction had the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the manner most convenient for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base or components of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards.

SECTION (D)—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS AND WAGE VARIATIONS.

(1) The object of this section is to indicate the specific and limited province of the index in relation to wage adjustments.

(2) Two distinct procedures are adopted by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in fixing and varying the basic wage, as follows:—

(i) The Court periodically fixes the amount of the wage in the light of evidence submitted by parties appearing before it. Such evidence usually covers a wide range of facts as to economic conditions;

(ii) having determined the amount of the basic wage the Court further determines whether or not it shall be subject to automatic adjustment for changes in price level and, if so, by what method such variation shall be made. This again is decided in the light of evidence and of representations by the parties concerned.

(3) For the latter purpose only the "*C*" Series Index is used by the Court. From it is derived the "Court" Series Index upon which the basic or "needs" portion of the wages prescribed in awards is varied automatically for changes in price levels quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. These are commonly referred to as "cost of living adjustments" although in fact they relate only to that part of the change in cost of living which is due to variations in prices. In determining from time to time at public sittings the amount of the basic wage, the Court takes cognizance of evidence submitted in relation to other aspects of "cost of living" and other relevant considerations. It does not have regard to either the regimen used in compiling the retail price index or the cost of such regimen. The regimen of the index would not be suited to such a purpose.

(4) The use of index-numbers by industrial authorities for purposes of adjusting rates of wages for changes in price level is a practice of long standing, dating in the case of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, for example, back to 1913. The tribunals form their own judgment as to the relevance of the index-numbers to their purposes

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Section (D)*—*continued.*

and periodically hear the representatives of employers and employees on the issues involved, including questions as to whether the index is satisfactory for the purposes to which it is applied by the tribunal. In such proceedings the Statistician or his officers are called at times as witnesses on questions of fact and technical matters relating to the index-numbers.

SECTION (E)—ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL BACKGROUND.

(1) Compilation of the index involves collection of more than 50,000 actual prices each quarter covering 160 items a number of which are represented by more than one grade or brand. These prices are checked, tabulated and the index compiled and sent to the Court regularly about two weeks after the end of each quarter, and then published. Separate indexes are compiled for 41 cities and towns (and combinations thereof) each quarter, viz., one for each capital city, one for each of 28 principal towns, one for the six capital cities combined and one for the five towns of each State combined. The large amount of work involved is done with the utmost possible speed to ensure a minimum of delay in the Court's system of automatic quarterly wage adjustments. Meticulous care is taken at all stages of compilation and it has never been necessary to amend the index at any time after its publication.

(2) In all, sixteen officers are engaged full time on the index and of these, eleven work principally "in the field" visiting retailers to collect and verify prices and qualities. The Statistician and some of his principal officers closely examine, each quarter, problems arising in the index. When occasion requires, questions of high principle are referred to the Conference of Commonwealth and State Statisticians.

(3) This extensive organization is far in excess of that considered necessary for other price indexes because of the importance of the "C" Series Index to the Court, to industry and to individual employees. The index is a major factor in the wage, cost and price structures of the community. Over the past ten years automatic wage adjustments based on the index have amounted to 38s. per week for adult males. Directly and indirectly this is equivalent to nearly £200,000,000 per annum of the total amount of something like £1,000,000,000 paid as wages and salaries annually in Australia at the present time.

(4) The elements of increase in the basic wage (six capital cities) over the past ten years (September, 1939 to May, 1949) are:—

1939 Total Basic Wage	79s. (including 5s. non-adjustable).
1939-1949 Increase	38s. by automatic adjustments (based on index).
1946 Increase	7s. by Court interim award.
Total Basic Wage from 1st May, 1949	124s. (including 5s. non-adjustable).

(5) While the index is compiled by the Statistician for general statistical purposes within the official definition, it originated in its present form from the recommendations of the Basic Wage Commission of 1920 and was adopted by the Court in 1934 as an instrument more suitable to the Court's purposes than other indexes then available.

(6) The "C" Series Index has remained throughout an objective statistical index for measuring defined price variations. It has never been used as an instrument of administrative policy.

SECTION (F)—METHODS BY WHICH PRICES USED IN THE INDEX ARE ASCERTAINED.

The methods by which prices used in the "C" Series Index are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows:—

- (i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the collection and each is required to furnish a return of prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from about ten retailers in each of the capital cities, and from about five retailers in each of the provincial towns.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (F)—*continued.*

- (ii) These returns are collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1946 which requires that returns be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to competitors or to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply returns, against supplying false information, and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of the return.
- (iii) The actual collection of returns is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, &c.
- (iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to verify returns. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.
- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officer review the whole of the items for which prices are collected after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for identical goods and quality will be recorded at all times and for all places.
- (vi) The list of items in the regimen and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary suitable adjustment is made in computing the retail price index to ensure that it reflects changes in price with due precision and that it is not vitiated by the influence of other changes.
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of 4 and 5-rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations which may be equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from the Census of 1933 and other records. Although expressed in money terms, the average rentals as published are essentially indexes. As such they do not necessarily indicate the average amount of rental actually paid for all rented houses, and still less do they indicate the rental at which vacant or new houses can be rented.

SECTION (G)—THE "C" SERIES INDEX IN THE PERIOD 1939-48.

(1) Between the comprehensive revision of 1936 and the outbreak of war in 1939 changes in conditions did not require any appreciable revision of the regimen or of the weights of items therein. The adjustments made in 1936 had brought the basis of the index up to date in the sense that it conformed reasonably closely to normal pre-war usage.

(2) The position of the index in the period 1939-48 may best be considered in three phases:—

- (a) 1939-42.—Until 1942, conditions affecting the index were not greatly different from those obtaining in pre-war years. Scarcities and wide price dispersion began to appear in 1941 and 1942 and these affected the pattern of consumption. Nevertheless the index remained in this period virtually as representative of current conditions as it was of pre-war conditions.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (G)—*continued.*

(b) 1942-45.—This period was one of unprecedented abnormality due to such things as the introduction of coupon rationing, measures for standardizing some types of goods, price subsidies, price stabilization, scarcities of certain goods, total disappearance of others, erratic supply and changes in grade of goods. These things did not occur *en bloc* and conditions did not remain constant for long periods. Adjustments and re-adjustments of conditions recurred at short intervals throughout the period. It would have been impossible to measure relative current consumption of individual items at any given time, because conditions had changed again before the necessary data could be obtained. In this period the index was continued on its pre-war regimen. It could not have been based on a current regimen with current weights and a change to a "war-time" regimen had little or nothing to recommend it because there was in fact no typical war-time regimen continuously representative of current conditions.

(c) 1945-48.—This period also was entirely abnormal because it was a period of transition by successive changes out of the abnormal conditions that existed at the end of the war in 1945, toward a post-war normal as war-time controls and measures were lifted or varied. Furthermore, demobilization extended from 1945 through 1946 and the resultant re-equipping of ex-servicemen with civilian requirements introduced a new disturbance into the pattern of consumption which continued through 1947. It was not until after the abolition of most coupon rationing and the discontinuance of most price subsidies in the latter part of 1948 that consumer habits could commence to settle down to normal usage. In principle the statements made in the latter half of the preceding sub-section (b) applied also in the period 1945-48.

(3) Some adaptations were however made in the "C" Series Index to meet special circumstances. Where necessary, new grades, qualities or types of articles were substituted for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This applied more particularly to the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the index. Substitutions of similar kind had been necessary at times under normal conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. No change of principle was involved but the necessity for such substitutions arose more frequently between 1943 and 1948 than formerly. Care was taken to ensure that only price variations were measured.

These adaptations continue as and when necessary because it is still an open question as to whether and how far the post-war normal will differ from pre-war normal.

(4) So far as the "C" Series Index is concerned the difficulties created by coupon rationing, price subsidies, price stabilization, standardization and the like virtually ended toward the end of 1948. Their effects were therefore upon the past course of the index. Apart from the transitional aftermath now passing, they do not affect the present position of the index nor can they affect its future trend.

(5) In so far as the past is of any relevancy for present purposes two main aspects may be considered briefly:—

(a) *The Alternatives to Keeping the "C" Series Index on its Pre-war Regimen during the Years 1942-48.*

Conceivable alternatives were (a) to construct temporary indexes or (b) to revise the basis of the "C" Series Index. Both matters were continuously under review by the Statistician from 1943 onward although he received no official request for a temporary index nor for revision of the "C" Series Index. It has already been indicated that in the circumstances prevailing from 1943 to 1948 no single war-time index and no single temporary post-war index could have been either continuously or precisely representative. A series of indexes on different bases could perhaps have been linked together, but their structure and the results derived from them would have rested largely on judgment and conjecture. Similarly, if the "C" Series Index itself had been reconstructed, the resultant changes in the index would have been so extensive as virtually to create a new index which would not have been continuously comparable with the "C" Series Index either as compiled pre-war or as it is likely to be compiled in post-war years. Furthermore, such changes in the index would have had to be repeated at short intervals, virtually destroying the index as an instrument for measuring price changes on any continuous basis.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (G)—*continued.*

Inquiry showed that even if changes were desirable, additional items could not be added to the index to link with the pre-war period because sufficient reliable pre-war prices could not be obtained by retrospective inquiry. Repeated examinations by the Statistician of the changing aspects of the matter led to the conclusions—

- (i) that it was desirable to continue the "C" Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of comparison of price movements on a clearly-defined basis;
- (ii) that it was impossible to reconstruct the "C" Series Index to take account of recurrent temporary departures from normal consumption.

Some other countries have pursued different courses with respect to their retail price index:—

In the United Kingdom the retail price index was kept on its 1914 base until 1947 when it was reconstructed as from 1st July, 1947, on a broader regimen weighted in accordance with the adjusted results of a pre-war (1937-38) survey of household budgets. The new index is not however comparable with the old and there is a break of continuity in retail price index series. In New Zealand the pre-war retail price index was retained until January, 1943, when it was replaced by a temporary war-time index. This latter has now been replaced by a new consumer retail price index as from March, 1949. Neither of these indexes is comparable with the other and there are two breaks of continuity in price index series.

(b) *The Degree of Accuracy with which the "C" Series Index Measured Changes in the Relevant Retail Price Level During the Years 1939-48.*

Objective examination of this matter should have regard firstly to available facts and the official definition of the index. A conjugal approach has inherent defects since it is speculative. Because of the association of the index with wages, conjecture tends to concentrate on factors which might render the index "conservative" to the exclusion of some more or less obvious things which tend to make the index the reverse of "conservative". These more or less obvious things are referred to first in this memorandum because they have some definite factual basis. Considerations with opposite or mixed implications are then briefly mentioned. A great deal of space would be required to discuss the probabilities and possibilities of this very involved matter.

It is commonly accepted among statisticians that any retail price index with a fixed regimen tends to exaggerate the rise in prices over periods in which prices rise substantially and in which consumption shows marked changes. The reason is that, when possible, consumer buying transfers to goods whose prices rise least. There was some scope for the operation of this principle to affect the index in the past ten years. Moreover, from 1942 to 1948 rationing had the effect of substantially reducing consumption of major items such as clothing, household drapery, household utensils and beef whose prices had risen far more than the average rise of the index or section of the index to which they belonged.

In the course of investigations in 1943 a "trial" index was constructed by the Statistician taking into account those things readily susceptible of calculation. For this purpose use was made of a regimen in which items and weights of the "C" Series Index were approximately adjusted in accordance with ration scales and the more obvious war-time scarcities affecting items in the index. In this experiment the following adjustments were made:—

- (a) rice, sago, canned salmon, and all cuts of pork were omitted, since they were virtually unavailable to civilian consumers in 1943;
- (b) the weights for tea, sugar and butter were reduced by 20 per cent., roughly in proportion to the reduction enforced by the food ration scales;
- (c) the weights of dried and canned fruits were reduced by 25 per cent., cheese by 33.3 per cent., bacon by 50 per cent., and cuts of beef and sausages by 66.6 per cent. in accordance with the reduced quantities available to civilian consumers;
- (d) the weight for mutton, on the other hand, was increased by 25 per cent.;
- (e) the weight of the clothing group was reduced by 33.3 per cent., of household drapery and utensils by 50 per cent. and the allowance for smoking by 10 per cent. in accordance with rationed scales or estimated cuts in supplies.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (G)—*continued.*

For purposes of illustration only, the "trial" index on this basis has now been calculated for September Quarter of each year 1939 to 1948 and compared with the "C" Series Index, taking the "C" Series figure of 933 in September Quarter, 1939 as base in both cases:—

Retail Price Indexes (Sydney).—“C” Series Index Compared with War-time “Trial” Index.

(Base 1923-27 = 1,000.)

(1) September Quarter.	(2) “C” Series Index.	(3) War-time “Trial” Index.	(4) Excess of (2) Over (3).
1939	933	933	..
1940	973	961	12
1941	1027	1003	24
1942	1122	1085	37
1943	1154	1109	45
1944	1146	1103	43
1945	1142	1101	41
1946	1167	1118	49
1947	1218	1171	47
1948	1337	1277	60

The regimen and weights of the War-time "Trial" Index did not continue to be representative from 1939 to 1948 and the weights used were mere approximations. The "trial" index by itself had no validity except as indicating that, considering those particular war-time changes in isolation from all other war-time changes, the "C" Series Index might appear to exaggerate the rise in retail prices.

But there were many other war-time changes. For instance, scarcities and food rationing caused consumers to seek plentiful or unrationed foods. These may or may not have been intrinsically dearer. It is clear, however, that some unrationed foods, notably fruit and vegetables, had risen much more in price than had foods within the index. It was also evident at one stage for Sydney that consumption of bread, which was unrationed and which is included in the index, had increased and that its price had fallen slightly in consequence of zoning of deliveries. But these were only incidents in a very complicated situation. Many miscellanea not included in the index had shown varying price rises, sometimes less than the average of the index, sometimes more. In addition the price aspect of rents and of housing became complicated. After weighing these matters the Statistician concluded that for statistical purposes the "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights was sufficiently reliable in terms of the official definition of the index, under the highly abnormal conditions of the times. If the Statistician had arrived at any other conclusion he would have published interpretative comment on the index and in either case the public, including the Court, employers and employees, would have been made aware thereof.

(6) Various aspects of the index were the subject of personal discussion between the Statistician and the A.C.T.U. Executive at the Trades Hall, Melbourne, in 1944 and the A.C.T.U. Congress at the Trades Hall, Sydney, in June, 1945. As Annexure (1) hereto shows, the following written statements given to the latter body set out the then conclusions of the Statistician:—

"The matter is too involved and indeterminate to warrant any very definite opinion except that if the "C" Series Index were reconstructed to reflect all measurable war-time changes the reconstructed index would probably show about the same degree of rise over the war years as does the "C" Series Index on its present regimen. I hope to be able to publish something on this a little later on". (See Annexure (1), page 187.)

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (G)—*continued.*

Actually it was found impossible to publish any detailed or conclusive document because of the great array of matters that would have arisen capable only of conjectural answers. The general attitude of the Statistician was stated as follows to the A.C.T.U. Congress at that time:—

"The present index measures retail price changes on a clearly defined and specific basis. The index has been continued in use by the Court and the parties to basic wage proceedings with a full knowledge of what that basis is. It is quite competent for the parties to apply for and for the Court to approve some other basis. If that is done the Statistician will prepare the necessary data on the new basis". (See Annexure (F), page 179.)

SECTION (H)—PRESENT POSITION IN REGARD TO INDEX.

(1) From the standpoint of the index it appeared early last year that the recurrent disturbances of the war period and of the post-war period were coming to an end and it was then thought that probably some time in 1949, consumption habits of the population would begin to settle down toward a post-war normal. In anticipation of this, action was instituted by the Statistician about the middle of 1948 to gather data upon which to base consideration of the nature and extent of any revision that might be needed in the index on a return to normal conditions. This action coincided with the virtual abolition of coupon rationing which now applies only to tea and butter.

(2) Specific measures taken by the Statistician, and the results, are briefly as follows:—

(a) As from April, 1948, when price control of lamb ended, monthly prices of lamb were regularly examined. The preliminary indication is that retail prices of lamb have varied in much the same way as those of mutton over the past year. The fact that prices of lamb are higher than those of mutton is not relevant to the measurement of price variations.

(b) As from September Quarter, 1948, prices were collected in respect of about 100 "extra" items, i.e., items not already included in the "C" Series Index. A list of these is attached hereto. (Annexure (2).)

The preliminary indication to March Quarter, 1949, is that, including prices of "extra" items, the food and groceries group would have risen less, and the clothing group more, than the corresponding group in the "C" Series Index. The net difference to date is not great and not significant either way, because of the shortness and abnormality of the period covered. Collection of prices of "extra" items is continuing.

(c) The scope of annual estimates of food consumption was enlarged. A report for 1947-48 has been published and from this it appears that there has evidently been a substantial rise in the consumption of milk and eggs. This and certain contra changes evident may have been due directly or indirectly to rationing. The report for 1948-49 when available will relate to a more normal period in regard to food consumption.

(d) Data were gathered as to quarterly production of certain major articles of clothing and footwear in 1947 and 1948, so far as available from departmental sources, and arrangements are in hand to continue those as a regular statistical collection where possible. It is as yet too early to indicate what lasting changes have occurred.

(e) A Census of 130,000 retail establishments was undertaken in September, 1948, partly to establish statistics of retail trade and partly to give a general indication of the relative magnitude of consumer expenditures on the main groups of items and on services, such as hairdressing, shoe repairs, &c. A copy of the form used is attached hereto marked "Annexure (3)". The tabulation of the results obtained is almost completed.

(f) Provision was made for a special analysis of data as to houses and rents gathered at the Census of 1947 and separate action taken to analyse rental data in respect of Governmental houses constructed in recent years both before and since the Census. Both investigations are continuing.

(3) Endeavours are being made to have the foregoing and other relevant information sufficiently complete for preliminary consideration by the Conference of Commonwealth and State Statisticians at the end of August, 1949. But such parts as are available will be produced to the Court if desired. At the present stage it is piecemeal in character.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (H)—*continued.*

(4) Consideration has been given by the Statistician to the collection of household budgets but it is evident that they would be abnormal at this stage and any such collection should be spread over a year. Under any conditions, measures of a special order will be needed to obtain enough reliable data from this source to be of practical use. It is possible that data referred to under 2 (c), (d), (e) and (f) above, supplemented from other sources, will prove to be more serviceable than household budgets.

(5) Over the past year analysis has been made of prices of grades and types of certain articles in the index, other than the grade or type customarily used as representative. Where necessary, prices of additional grades have been collected to ensure that the average prices used in the index for such articles are representative of the relevant buying range. Popular demand has latterly tended to shift to grades of goods superior to those purchased in pre-war years.

(6) Various new factors have created new transitional difficulties in compiling the index in 1948-49 and the existence of these affects the timing of any projected revision of the index. The recent accelerating rise in prices raised the index (Six Capitals) by 27 points in 1946, 65 points in 1947, 120 points in 1948 and by 23 points in the March Quarter of 1949. This rapid rise is continuing and is characterized by an abnormal spread of prices of some goods formerly subsidized and of "old" stock and "new" stock of clothing. In order to keep the index representative, Field Officers have been instructed to collect prices on the basis of whatever stock of relevant standard appears to predominate in individual shops at the time of their collection. It was decided not to adhere wholly to old stocks or wholly to new stocks. Transitional price dispersion has appeared in a new form. Some items of food and groceries formerly stabilized have recently shown a substantial rise in price, more rapid than the rise in clothing and miscellaneous items. This is a reversal of war-time experience. The following comparison shows recent trends in broad outline:—

"C" Series Retail Price Index (Six Capital Cities)—Percentage Rise in Group Aggregates.
(June Quarter, 1948 to March Quarter, 1949.)

	Per cent.
Food and Groceries	10.7
Rents (4 and 5-roomed houses)	0.2
Clothing	7.5
Miscellaneous	4.5
Aggregate Increase in Index	6.7

The spread of individual prices is much wider than that of the group and this new and marked dispersion will almost inevitably react, at least temporarily, upon the disposition of consumer expenditures during 1949. It cannot be assumed that the position will not then change again.

Two other special instances may be mentioned:—Prices of fresh fruit and vegetables still show more than their usual abnormality but an approximate index indicates that, in Sydney, prices of vegetables were relatively lower in March Quarter, 1949 than a year previously. Rents of pre-war houses still show little or no variations because of controls. But the rentals of new houses built for letting since 1945 are on a substantially higher plane than those of comparable older houses. Although these are not yet sufficiently numerous to affect general averages very appreciably, the wide disparity creates an acute problem for solution in relation to rentals in the index.

(7) The present transitional period may be expected to last at all events for the next few quarters and to cause acute difficulties in collection of price data and construction of the index during 1949. This is inherent in prevailing conditions. The difficulties would be intensified by attempting to alter the basis or extend the coverage of the index at this present juncture. No form of revision of the index could make it possible to secure better average prices than those now obtained for those important items whose prices are dispersed over a wide range in neighbouring shops and sometimes within individual shops. Reliable and representative prices are of greater moment at this juncture than revision of the index, and attention is being concentrated on the problems of price collection.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*Section (H)—*continued.*

(8) The present needs and emergencies might be more fully met if additional trained staff could be obtained for extension of the work of price collection in the field. But it is unlikely that investigation by any other method could produce results reliably and promptly. For instance, an inquiry through sworn evidence of witnesses, however expedited, would probably produce information that would be out of date before it could be applied in practice. The time element is all important under rapidly changing conditions.

(9) To date there is no reason to believe that the "C" Series Index is not reasonably reliable in total for its defined purpose and on its specific basis, despite the temporary abnormalities mentioned. Subject to careful consideration of any new matter arising before the Court the Statistician deems it advisable to continue the "C" Series Index on its present basis during 1949, concurrently recording prices of "extra" items and investigating the need for post-war revision of the index. But any computations or revisions which the Court may request in regard to the Court Index will be made. The Statistician is always prepared to supply any relevant information that is in his possession with respect to the "C" Series Index, as exemplified by the annexed copy of written answers given to questions asked by the A.C.T.U. Congress and its members in June, 1945.

(10) This present memorandum is introductory in character. A very lengthy statement would be necessary to deal fully with the subjects set out herein and with the many statistical issues that are not mentioned. If desired, a further memorandum will be prepared on specified matters.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*

ANNEXURE (1).

REPLIES BY ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY DELEGATES, A.C.T.U. CONGRESS, SYDNEY, JUNE, 1945.

(N.B.—These answers are reprinted exactly as originally given, except for minor verbal changes in a few places. These changes are indicated by a light line drawn through the word or words originally used and the substitution in brackets after such word of the amendment now made. These minor amendments are intended to avoid ambiguity or misconception in the answers originally prepared.)

Question (1).—Mr. Clarey's request for a general statement as to *Fruit and Vegetables* in relation to the index.

Answer.—Fresh fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) are excluded from the regimen of the "C" Series Retail Price Index because—

- (a) it has been well-nigh impossible to obtain accurate comparable average prices for them;
- (b) relatively few items of fresh fruit and vegetables are obtainable at any one place throughout the year and still fewer are obtainable throughout the year throughout Australia;
- (c) even in normal times supplies and prices of fresh fruit and vegetables fluctuate up and down so very widely and so very rapidly that their aggregate variation can be measured only approximately;
- (d) comprehensive information as to prices of these items over a term of years has not been collected anywhere in Australia (so far as I am aware) except for Sydney and for one retail market in Melbourne.

The foregoing reasons have hitherto rendered it impracticable, and undesirable from the purely statistical angle, to include fresh fruit and vegetables in the index.

But such *statistical* considerations are not a barrier to the collection of prices and the compilation of an approximate index of prices of fruit and vegetables. Last year I compiled a monthly index of retail prices of vegetables for Sydney (1938–1944) and this will be published as soon as I am satisfied that it contains no serious remediable defect. The same applies to a less comprehensive index as to fruit and vegetables for one retail market in Melbourne. More recently Mr. Lindsay, Research Officer of the Labour Council, Sydney, has compiled an index of wholesale prices of fruit and vegetables, Sydney. The techniques employed by these indexes (in an attempt to solve the problems of price measurement peculiar to fruit and vegetables) differ from the technique of the "C" Series. Each of the three indexes has a special experimental technique of its own. The results are expressed in monthly (or quarterly) averages on the basis of *corresponding* month (or quarter) and they could not in their present form be incorporated directly into the "C" Series Index to form one composite index.

The position then is—

- (i) that certain approximate data are available as to the course of prices of fruit and vegetables for recent years;
- (ii) that the Statistician cannot of his own initiative make any (this major) adjustment to the "C" Series Index as used by Courts for wage adjustment;
- (iii) that if the unions or any authority desires variation in prices of fruit and vegetables to be taken into account in adjusting wages for price variations, they can apply to the Court, when the Statistician will doubtless be asked to produce data and the Court will decide upon a basis (the question).

I should add that, although it is likely to be impossible to effect the same type of automatic quarterly adjustments for fruit and vegetables as is effected for items in the "C" Series Index, I see no reason why some periodical system of adjustment cannot be devised in respect of variations in prices of fruit and vegetables. The Court could (for instance) do this, on data produced by the Statistician, at chosen intervals by making a special allowance when converting "C" Series into Court Series Index. If such a course is adopted, it would then be necessary to arrange for prices of fruit and vegetables to be compiled regularly throughout Australia. This could be done if the Government authorized me to engage one additional Field Officer in each State for the purpose.

Since 1942 retail prices of fresh fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) have risen considerably more in price than the average rise of items in the "C" Series Index. For places for which I have data this rise has fluctuated seasonally between

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Annexure (1)—continued.*

50 per cent. and 200 per cent. It may be true that over the whole period the rise in prices of fruit and vegetables has averaged 100 per cent. Assessment of the degree of rise depends on assessment of pre-war normal. I have no firm opinion on the matter and it is not capable of exact statistical measurement. It is, however, well worthy of further examination.

I agree with the contention that if fruit and vegetables could have been included in the "C" Series Retail Price Index, the resultant index (with pre-war weights and regimen) would have shown a greater war-time rise than does the index in its present form.

It is necessary to add that this war-time rise in this important item, which is not included in the index, is only one of a number of major war-time changes affecting the index. The present index measures retail price changes on a clearly defined and specific basis. The index has been continued in use by the Court and the parties to basic wage proceedings with a full knowledge of what that basis is. It is quite competent for the parties to apply for and for the Court to approve some other basis. If that is done the Statistician will prepare the necessary data on the new basis.

[(a) NOTE.—This matter was further referred to in Section G of the Statistician's memorandum of June, 1949, tendered as evidence before the Commonwealth Arbitration Court and reprinted herein. It was also mentioned in the Judgment of Dunphy J. on 12th October, 1951, the relevant extract from which is included herein.]

Question (2).—Mr. Clarey's request for a general statement as to *Rents.*

Answer.—(a) It has long been the practice, for retail price index purposes, to take fluctuations in rents of 4 and 5 roomed houses as indicative of the fluctuations in cost of housing in the price sense.

In pre-war years I think that this was generally accepted without serious question. But during the past few years of acute house shortage, conditions have altered. It is believed that (notwithstanding rent controls) rents of flats, rooms, &c., have risen more than house rents.

If it is desired to have a wider coverage than house rents to represent housing in the index, it would be desirable to embrace not only fluctuations in rents of houses, flats and rooms but also fluctuations in weekly payments (exclusive of principal but inclusive of rates, taxes, repairs, &c.) of instalment purchase houses which are a substantial proportion of all houses.

Additional officers would be required to collect the data in respect of housing other than rented houses, but it could be done. The Arbitration Court would decide which index it would use in the event of there being any difference.

(b) There are two separate figures as to rents compiled by the Statistician :—

- (i) the "average rent" published quarterly;
- (ii) average of rents actually paid as shown by a Census.

(i) The "average rent" published quarterly is not necessarily the average rent actually paid for all occupied houses of 4 and 5 rooms. In 1933 ~~it was, because it~~ (such an actual average rent) was derived from a census of all houses. Since 1933 it has been increased only in proportion to the rise in rents of a representative sample of houses taking into account the same houses from quarter to quarter. New houses are brought into the sample from time to time but only in respect of fluctuations in their rent subsequent to their introduction into the sample. The "average rent" as published therefore is intended to represent the average rent actually paid for relevant houses in 1933 plus the "price" element of subsequent increase in rents. Where there has been an appreciable proportion of new houses (built since 1933) let at weekly rents higher than the average of the sample houses, a Census would show that the average of rents now actually paid for all houses is higher than the "average rents" published quarterly by the Statistician. The reason is that the "average rent" as published quarterly is really a price index of rents (expressed in pence) and does not purport to be an average of all rents paid for relevant houses. Its purpose is to show the trend of rents of substantially constant average "quality" houses; it excludes rises in average weekly rents actually paid where such rises are due to a rise in standard or quality of housing. Only changes in rents in the "price" sense are relevant to the price index. It is a matter for the Court to determine the amount (question) of adjustment to be made in wages on account of a rise in rents actually being paid.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Annexure (1)—continued.**Question (2)—Rents—continued.*

(ii) The "average of rents actually paid" at the present time could only be determined authoritatively at the census of houses and the war has delayed the normal Census. Endeavour has been made, without success, to arrange a quasi-Census. Consideration is now being given to a test by sampling but the matter presents acute difficulties and the method may not be entirely reliable.

The contention that "the rent in the index is too low" is based on the mistaken belief that the average used by the Statistician is also used by the Court in determining the amount of basic wage. In fact only the *fluctuations* in the rents recorded by the Statistician affect the basic wage and those fluctuations only affect the automatic adjustments based on the index. For example, the "average rent" as published for Sydney over a period of years has risen from 20s. to about 24s. per week. It would have made no appreciable difference to the basic wage if it had risen from 25s. to 30s. over that period. The proportionate rise is the same in both cases (20 per cent.).

It is recognized, however, that information as to the exact rise in average of all (relevant) house rents actually paid is of considerable importance and up-to-date information will be obtained as soon as it is possible to secure authority for a Census or quasi-Census.

[(b) NOTE.—A considerable volume of data as to rents actually being paid was collected at the Census of 1947 and the factual background of the position was set out in the memorandum presented in evidence by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician in 1949 and reprinted herein.]

Question (3).—Mr. T. Wright, Room 70, Trades Hall, Sydney.

Question (a).—Isn't it a fact that the prices of fruit and vegetables which are excluded from the index, have risen more than the regimen items, and that this factor if considered alone tends to depreciate the purchasing power of the workers' wage? Does the exclusion of fresh fish have the same effect?

Answer.—Prices of fruit, vegetables and fish excluded from the index have, since 1942, risen more in price than items in the index.

This is one of several special war-time factors temporarily affecting the index as a measure of retail price variations under war conditions and I think it unsound to consider the effect of only one such factor in appraising the purchasing power of wages in war-time.

Question (b).—It has been claimed that the fact that fresh fruit and vegetables, which have risen greatly in price, are excluded from the index is balanced by the fact that clothing is over-weighted in the index, due to its weight not being reduced in accordance with rationing.

Do you claim that the purchasing power of the basic wage, therefore, remains constant? And that, therefore, the reduced amount of clothing now bought is offset by increased purchases of other consumption goods, or increased saving by the basic wage-earner?

Answer.—I have not expressed any opinion as to whether the purchasing power of the basic wage has remained constant in war-time. A "parity" wage has been calculated by applying the "C" Series Index to basic wages of some earlier years. This, however, must be read in the light of the fact that the "C" Series Index has been maintained on its pre-war regimen with pre-war weights. Its "weights" do not take into account marked changes in consumption occasioned by rationing and scarcities nor the abnormal spread of prices of goods not included in the index.

I do not claim that the purchasing power of the basic wage has remained constant over the war period. Having regard to the pronounced and frequent variations in supplies of goods available and the very marked dispersion of prices, I think it impossible for anybody to determine that matter conclusively.

The matter is further complicated by substitutions of available goods for those unavailable or scarce, but I think that very broadly the upshot has been along the lines indicated in the final part of your question.

SECTION V.—*continued*:THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued*.*Annexure (1)*—*continued*.*Question (3) Mr. T. Wright*—*continued*.

The matter is too involved and indeterminate to warrant any very definite opinion except that if the "C" Series were reconstructed to reflect all measurable war-time changes the reconstructed index would probably show about the same degree of rise over the war years as does the "C" Series Index on its present regimen. I hope to be able to publish something on this a little later on.

[(c) NOTE.—This matter was subsequently examined and the factual background of the position was set out in the memorandum presented in evidence by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician in 1949 and reprinted herein.]

Question (c).—Isn't it a fact that many people are forced to board and live in rooms and furnished rooms and pay more than the pegged rents? Isn't it a fact that this is not taken into account in making basic wage adjustment?

Answer.—I do not know the facts as to the first part of the question. Rates charged for board and lodging are not reflected in the "C" Series Index. If adjustment to the basic wage is desired on the grounds indicated it would be necessary to get an assessment made by the Court on evidence adduced. It would be impossible now to collect retrospective data for index purposes.

Question (d).—From how many agents and in how many and what localities do you get rent quotes? Are the agents' figures checked by visits to houses from time to time? Could you publish these rent figures according to localities?

Answer.—In Sydney data as to rents are obtained from 25 representative agents covering practically all suburbs. I have not got corresponding information in Sydney for other capitals but can supply it from Canberra if desired. Agents' figures are checked every quarter by personal visit of the Field Officer to the agent and when deemed necessary by visits to houses.

It would be a heavy task to dissect into suburban localities the thousands of rentals collected by capital cities and the 24 towns.

Question (e).—Doesn't the purchasing power of the basic wage fall because of the fact that the prosperity loading of 6s. given by the Court in 1937 is not adjusted to the price rises since then?

Answer.—The purchasing power of the 6s. prosperity loading is now less than it was when granted in 1937. The Court then made it non-adjustable.

Question (f).—Have not flats, which are not included in 4 and 5-roomed houses, risen in rent more than your 4 and 5-roomed houses in the last few years? Doesn't the fact that the average rent, of your 4 and 5-roomed houses in Sydney, is only 24s., indicate that these are older houses in the main? Haven't the rents of newer houses and flats increased by more than the older type of house over years because of the deterioration of the latter, and of the deterioration as residential areas of the suburbs in which they exist?

Answer.—I do not know the facts as to the rentals of flats. The fact that the "average rent" as published for 4 and 5-roomed houses in Sydney is approximately 24s. per week does not indicate that it includes older houses in the main. Rentals are obtained from a due proportion of new houses for purposes of measuring fluctuations in rents. The actual average rent of the houses for which rents are recorded is considerably higher than 24s. and I can supply this on my return to Canberra if desired. The figure of 24s. is not the actual average of all rents paid for houses of 4 and 5 rooms. It is probably less than that average. See answer herewith given to question on rents by Mr. Clarey. If the rents of new houses have increased more than the rents of older houses, the fact would be reflected in our sample of houses. There are, however, some very involved problems in this connexion and I shall be glad if you would write to me as to the points you have in mind.

Question (4).—*Mr. E. Thornton.*

Question (a).—Is it true that the "C" Series Retail Price Index was not constructed with the purpose of adjusting wages and the Court uses this index as a matter of expediency as no "cost of living" index is compiled by any authority and no different retail price index is available?

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Annexure (1)—continued.*

Question (4) Mr. E. Thornton—continued.

Answer.—The "C" Series Index was constructed in 1921 (as the result of a recommendation by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920) to provide a more suitable instrument than was then available for periodical adjustment of the basic wage for price changes.

The Court adopted the "C" Series for wage adjustment purposes by deliberate judgment in 1934. At that time the old "A" Series Index (food, groceries and rent) was showing a steeper decline than the "All Items" C Series Index. The Court required a price index, not an index that would measure both changes in price and changes in standard of living. I do not see how any one quarterly index could measure both of those changes.

The Court's practice is to consider (every three years or so) evidence of change in cost of living due to change in standard of living. It does not rely on the index in this connexion since it uses the index only as a price index.

Two retail prices indexes are at present available—the "B" Series and the "C" Series. Others could be compiled if required.

Question (b).—To what extent has the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration directed that alterations be made to the regimen upon which the "C" series retail price index is based?

Answer.—The Court has not at any time directed that any alterations be made in the regimen of the "C" Series Index nor in its method of construction. My impression is that the Court would not move in the matter without hearing representatives of employers and employees, and probably only then on an application made by either employers or employees.

Question (5).—Mr. M. H. Bray, F.E.D. & F.A.

Question (a).—Why is it that items such as fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh fish, small goods, confectionery, hairdressing, &c., are excluded when the index is being fixed, as workers and their families consider that these items are necessary for inclusion, as quite a percentage of their wages are used in the purchase of these excluded items and are required for people to keep free from sickness, especially in the case of fruit, vegetables and fish?

Answer.—As to fresh fruit and vegetables see answer to Chairman's question. As to fresh fish, the difficulties are much the same (though less in degree).

As to small goods, confectionery and other minor commodities, expenditure on these items is small in relation to the total expenditure on all items in the index. Inclusion of them would make no significant difference to the rise and fall of the index unless their prices rose or fell very much more than the rise and fall in prices of the major items which are in the index. Investigation over the war period shows that prices of these minor excluded items taken together varied in much the same degree as the prices of items in the index. To include them might have psychological value but it would make very little if any practical difference to the trend of the index.

I see no reason why hairdressing should not be included if desired.

The fact that minor items are not included in the index does not mean that the basic wage does not include provision for them. Neither the regimen of the index nor the cost of items in it affect the amount of basic wage fixed by the Court.

As explained orally, the index must be compiled within two weeks of the end of the quarter to which it relates in order that wages may be adjusted promptly for price changes. Any large addition to the number of minor items in the index would tend to delay the index.

Question (b).—What steps would be necessary to have them included in the preparation of the index?

Answer.—I would suggest that, before any proposal is made to include additional items in the index, representatives of the A.C.T.U. confer with the Statistician and his officers; that they then decide what additional items they desire to be included and make an application to the Court seeking its concurrence. The Statistician can prepare any index that is practicable and is desired, but the Court alone decides what index (if any) it will use for automatic wage adjustment.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Annexure (I)*—*continued.*

Question (6).—Mr. W. H. Turner.

Question (a).—Whilst it is recognized that the Index is a "price" index rather than a "cost of living" index, is it known to the Statistician's Office that it is used by the Court as the latter?

Answer.—No. The Court refers to the index as a "cost of living" index and to automatic wage adjustments based on the index as "cost of living variations". But it uses the phrase in the narrow sense of "price" and, in fact, applies the index as a price index and not as a "cost of living" index. If it is felt that there is doubt about this, I am prepared to give evidence if called.

Question (b).—Prices are based on "mass" usage rather than on "family" usage. (Thus, when, on one occasion, potatoes fell from £10 to £2 per ton a reduction of 2s. was made in the basic wage, when the average family did not use 2s. worth of potatoes.)

Had the Statistician ever considered putting out an alternative Index on a "family" usage basis; or would they be prepared to so consider?

Answer.—I think that this refers to something reported in the Melbourne press about ten years ago. I will look up the facts and advise Mr. Turner. A fall from £10 to £2 in price of potatoes alone would not cause a fall of 2s. in the wage. Until the retail price of potatoes was stabilized in 1943, their wide fluctuations caused erratic and possibly disproportionate ups and downs in the index. Although this worked both ways (rise and fall) it was vexatious.

In a sense the index at present is on a family wage basis—at least in part. If Mr. Turner will send me an outline of his suggestion I will be glad to consider it and advise him.

Question (7).—Mr. J. Comerford (Northern Miners).

Question.—What is the effect of overseas price factors upon the index?

Answer.—Overseas prices affect the index in two ways (a) through fluctuations of prices of imported goods and materials—for example, tea, kerosene, cotton and artificial silk goods and tobacco: (b) through fluctuations in overseas prices of goods and materials largely exported—for example, flour, butter, meat, wool. At present the government modifies fluctuations in prices of imported goods and materials by subsidies and of exported goods by "home consumption prices" and stabilized prices. I cannot tell the exact effect of overseas prices on the index, but if Mr. Comerford cares to write and explain his question fully I will endeavour to supply the information.

Question (8).—Mr. Scott (Engine Drivers' Union).

Question.—Is the Statistician at liberty to disclose where his figures on a particular commodity price have been secured and, if not, why not?

Answer.—The Commonwealth Census and Statistics Act forbids the Statistician and his officers to divulge any of the contents of any individual return supplied to him. This applies to returns of all kinds obtained under the Act and includes the names of individual persons from whom particular returns are obtained. The Act recognizes the right of the individual to privacy as regards his personal and business affairs.

In order that the prices collected and the index may be truly representative of price changes, it is necessary that traders from whom returns are obtained be in exactly the same circumstances as other traders. If their names were known they might be subjected to special individual surveillance (either officially or by other employers or employees). In that case they would cease to be truly representative. Traders who supply returns must be safeguarded against risk of anything savouring of victimization.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.**Annexure (1) continued.**Question (9).—Mr. Callard (Clothing and Allied Trades).*

Question.—Does your department take into consideration the quality of goods in war time, that is, the poor quality of materials (cotton and woollens) imported and locally made? These materials are being made into shirts, underclothing and male and female outer garments. The lack of skilled operatives, the using of green labour, the greater amount of work given outdoor, and the lack of skilled supervision, are responsible for the garments wearing out quicker. Lack of good craftsmanship causes garments to fall to pieces quicker, and get out of shape. There is also lack of decent standards of sizes.

Answer.—The retail prices used in the index are those of a specified *standard of quality* verified where necessary, by means of *actual samples*. These "standards" relate to typical goods in general demand. As explained in answer to question 10, herewith, trained Field Officers actually examine the goods in the shops every quarter and verify price and quality.

During the war period supplies of raw materials and garments have been very erratic and qualities, make, &c., abnormally variable. This has compelled us to change our "typical" garment with unusual frequency. When this happens the "new" garment selected is as near as possible to the original and is used subsequently to measure price variations. Special precautions are taken to ensure that price variation (allowing for quality, &c.) is fully recorded.

Supervising Field Officers regularly visit manufacturers, wholesalers and others, as well as retailers, to ensure that they get the full facts to enable them to collect prices which take into account quality, make, &c. The task is extremely difficult but I am satisfied they have done it very well.

Question (10).—Questioner's name not given.

Question (a).—Is there any reason why the names of firms from whom the prices are received should not be disclosed and reported in the press?

Answer.—See answer to Question No. 8 asked by Mr. Scott, Engine Drivers' Union (copy herewith).

It would be quite impossible to get accurate and representative information for a retail price index if the names of individual traders were published. The average prices are either published in official statistical publications or are available on request.

Question (b).—Are the prices of Groceries secured from chain stores, such as "Crofts" and are these prices obtained at the end of month, when certain bargain lines are in operation?

Answer.—A due proportion of prices are obtained from chain stores. They are usually obtained at the middle of the month. "Bargain" prices, "sale" or "clearance" prices and "draw" lines are not included in the price averages on which the index is based.

Question (c).—Is there an Investigating Officer to scour the prices from the shops concerned direct?

Answer.—The Field Officer personally collects each quarter the prices of Clothing, Household Drapery and Household Utensils. He examines these goods in the shop. Each quarter he visits house agents and verifies rents. At intervals as required he checks prices of Groceries, Dairy Produce and Meat.

At intervals one of the Supervising Field Officers accompanies the Field Officer to check his work and to ensure that the collection is being made on uniform lines throughout Australia. This system of double checking is followed to ensure absolute accuracy.

Field Officers are men specially selected for their trade knowledge and fitness. They are also given training for this work.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*

ANNEXURE (2).

RETAIL PRICES.

LIST OF "EXTRA" ITEMS COLLECTION OF WHICH WAS INSTITUTED IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1948.

(N.B.—This list has been reviewed at intervals since 1948 and some items have been deleted whilst others have been added.)

Section A.—Groceries—

Prepared Breakfast Foods—

From Maize.

From Wheat.

Coffee Essence.

Cocoa

Pineapple, Canned.

Prunes, Dried, Loose.

Apples, Dried, Loose.

Dates, Pitted, Bulk.

Beans, Baked.

Peas, Green, Canned.

Cauliflower, Canned.

Haricot Beans, Loose.

Peas, Blue, Boiling.

Custard Powder.

Jelly Crystals.

Biscuits, Loose—

Ginger Nuts.

Milk Arrowroot.

Dry.

Honey, Liquid.

Pickles—

Mustard.

Onions, White.

Sauce, Tomato.

Spaghetti, in Tomato.

Sandwich Spreads.

Sardines.

Sheeps Tongues, Tinned.

Soap—

Toilet

Powder.

Starch, Rice.

Cleaner.

Steel Wool.

Matches, Safety.

Boot Polish.

Clothes Pegs, Loose.

Toilet Paper.

Lemonade.

Ale.

Fish, Dried—

Barracoutta, Whole.

Mullet, Split.

Tasler, Split.

Blue Cod (New Zealand).

Fish, Fresh—

Flathead.

Bream.

Whiting.

Leatherjacket.

Section B.—Dairy Produce—

Cheese, Processed.

Margarine, Cooking, Bulk.

Rabbit.

Section B.—Dairy Produce—continued.

Frankfurts.

Devon Sausage.

Ham Delight.

Milk, Powdered, Full Cream.

Section E.—Clothing—Man—

Coat, Sports, Worsted, Ready-made.

Trousers, Sports, Worsted, Ready-made.

Singlet, Flannel, All Wool.

Overall, Cotton Drill, Combination.

Rug, Travelling, Wool, 60 inches x 80

inches.

Shoe Repairs, Half-soled and Heeled—

(a) Sewn.

(b) Rivetted.

Section F.—Clothing—Woman—

Overcoat, Woollen Tweed.

Raincoat.

Corsets.

Umbrella, Cotton Covered.

Piece Goods (Frockings)—

Rayon (Floral).

Cotton (Floral).

Wool (Plain).

Wool, Fingering.

Shoe Repairs—Half-soled and Heeled—

(a) Pump.

(b) Welt.

Section G.—Clothing—Boy—

Coat, Rain.

Hat, Wool Felt.

Shoe Repairs—Half-soled and Heeled—

(a) Sewn.

(b) Rivetted.

Section H.—Clothing—Girl—

Blazer, All Wool, Flannel.

Dressing Gown, Wool.

Piece Goods—

Wool and Cotton Fabrics.

Section K.—Household Drapery—

Pillow, Kapok.

Linoleum.

Carpet (Runner).

Section L.—Household Utensils—

Baking Dish, Tin.

Cake Tin, Aluminium.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*ANNEXURE (2)—*continued.*

Section L.—Household Utensils—continued. *Section N.—Other Miscellaneous—*

Frying Pan, Aluminium.
 Mixing Bowl, Earthenware.
 Pie Dish, Enamel.
 Roiler, Aluminium.
 Toaster, Electric.
 Spade.
 Digging Fork.
 Rake.
 Hoe, Chipping.
 Axe.

Shaving Soap, Stick (Refill).
 Tooth Paste.
 Razor Blades.
 Medicines—
 Cough Mixture.
 Patent Tonic Medicines.
 A.P.C. Powders.
 Cascara Evac., Sweetened
 Ointment.
 Antiseptic.
 Baby Food.

SECTION V.—*continued.*
 THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*
 ANNEXURE (3).

No.

RETURN OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

This return is being collected under authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905-1946* and you are required to supply the particulars specified herein. Information supplied in individual returns is CONFIDENTIAL FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY and will not be disclosed to any person or to any other Government authority.

Please answer all questions carefully and **POST YOUR COMPLETED RETURN** in the enclosed post-free envelope by 31st August, if possible but not later than 15th September, 1948.

S. R. CARVER,

Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS.	What is the Usual Description of your business? (For example "Grocer" or other applicable term.)						
Full Name and Address of Place of Business	<table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; padding-right: 5px;">{</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Trading Name</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; padding-right: 5px;">{</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Street and Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; padding-right: 5px;">{</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Town or Suburb</td> </tr> </table>	{	Trading Name	{	Street and Number	{	Town or Suburb
{	Trading Name						
{	Street and Number						
{	Town or Suburb						
Telephone Number	Name of Local Government Area in which business is situated						
Do you normally sell goods at wholesale? YES or NO	<table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; padding-right: 5px;">}</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">If your firm operates other branches in Australia, please state Name and Address of Head Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; padding-right: 5px;">}</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; padding-right: 5px;">}</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">.....</td> </tr> </table>	}	If your firm operates other branches in Australia, please state Name and Address of Head Office	}	}
}	If your firm operates other branches in Australia, please state Name and Address of Head Office						
}						
}						

(A separate return is required for each branch.)

TOTAL RETAIL SALES AND OTHER TAKINGS for year ended 30th June, 1948.

Please state on left-hand side below the amount of your total sales of goods at retail for the year ended 30th June, 1948, sub-divided under the headings shown. Show separately on right-hand side below amount of *other takings*. Where actual figures are not available careful estimates will suffice.

If you were not in business for the full year, please state number of months you were in business and give figures for that period months.

SECTION V.—*continued.*
 THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX—*continued.*
 ANNEXURE (3)—*continued.*

Retail Sales of Goods		Other Takings (if any)	
	£		£
Groceries (<i>see footnote</i>) .. (1)		From—	
Confectionery, Ice Cream and Soft Drinks .. (2)		Wholesale Sales of Goods (10)	
Other types of Food .. (3)		Hairdressing .. (11)	
Clothing, Drapery, Footwear, Manchester, Soft Furnishings, &c. .. (4)		Repair Work Done .. (12)	
Hardware, Ironmongery, China and Glassware .. (5)		Meals and Accommodation (13)	
Furniture and Floor Coverings .. (6)		Other Takings (such as commission, hiring, dry cleaning, &c.) .. (14)	
Newspapers, Books and Stationery .. (7)		Total of Other Takings (ii)	
Motor Vehicles, Parts, Tyres, Tubes, Accessories, Petrol, &c. .. (8)			
Other Goods not specified above .. (9)			
Total Retail Sales of Goods (i)		Total Takings ((i) and (ii))	

Include all retail sales of tobacco, cigarettes, beer, wine and spirits under "Other Goods".

Proprietor's Name

Signature of Proprietor
or Manager

SECTION V.—*continued.*
THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND
BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS.

SUBMISSIONS MADE BY
MR. W. A. BAKER TO THE COMMONWEALTH
COURT OF CONCILIATION AND
ARBITRATION.

JULY, 1949.

SECTION V.—*continued.*“C” SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ADJUSTMENT OF BASIC WAGE.
SECTION A.*Propriety of Adjusting Wages by Means of a Price Index.*

In principle the “C” Series Retail Price Index is similar to other indexes which “are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While it may be used as indicating proportionate variations it does not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, it measures as nearly as may be the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index.”

It is most important to fully appreciate that a price index does not measure the cost of changes in the standard of living and is actually designed to *exclude* the cost of any variations in the standard of living.

Such an index is not a suitable means by which to periodically adjust wages. Any periodical adjustment of wages should take into account availability of items entering into household budgets as well as increased costs due to improved standards because of legislation, local government requirements, the pressure of public opinion, or any other factor.

This submission can be most easily understood by considering two or three actual items which are included in the “C” Series Index.

(1) *Rent.*—The “C” Series Index endeavours to measure variations in the price of a standard quantum of accommodation. The actual method followed is for house agents to make returns to the Commonwealth Statistician showing the weekly rental of a large number of individual houses, each of which is selected by a field officer attached to the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics as suitable for inclusion in a sample “designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals.”

However, the standard of accommodation measured varies from State to State and city to city, e.g., the greater proportion of cottages selected in Queensland is timber-framed, while in other States such as South Australia, by far the greater proportion is brick. By these means, changes in rentals in *varying standards of accommodation are measured.*

From time to time, houses are deleted from the index because of deterioration in the standard of accommodation they provide, and new houses are added. However, no variation is shown in the index when new houses are added until the rental of such new houses is increased. If the whole of the slum areas in Australia were demolished and cottages of reasonable standards of accommodation built in their place, the rentals of such new cottages being, say, three or four times the rental of the demolished slum cottages, no variation would be reflected in the price index until there was an alteration in the rental of the new dwellings.

Furthermore, all dwellings, because of deterioration, provide a progressively lower standard of accommodation and when necessary repairs are not made by landlords (a condition which has been very prevalent for a number of seasons during and since the war), this deterioration is accelerated. It is practically impossible for any price index to take this factor into account and the “C” Series Index, at least over the last ten years, has measured the *variation in rental of a progressively lower standard of accommodation, the standard varying in different areas throughout Australia.*

It is a reasonable assumption that the only cottages built for rental since the end of the war have been those built by the government housing authorities in the various States. In some States at least, these cottages are offered to tenants for purchase, and because of this fact the Statistician has not included, for the purpose of measuring rental increases, any cottage built since the end of the war. According to the information supplied by the Housing Division, Department of Works and Housing, Canberra, it is estimated that almost 160,000 dwellings have been completed since the end of the war, amounting to approximately one-twelfth of our stock of houses. These dwellings provide, on the average, a better standard of accommodation than dwellings included in the index. They are almost the only dwellings available for rental at the present time, and the rentals are substantially higher than rentals of dwellings built pre-war.

The Court should take into account these higher rentals in adjusting the Basic Wage, notwithstanding the fact that the standard of accommodation provided may be higher than average.

Further, for the purpose of the “C” Series Index, the Statistician only takes into consideration 4 and 5-roomed, unfurnished cottages, but the 1947 Census showed that there were in Australia, 106,431 flats and 39,697 tenements. Numerous cottages are rented furnished. As the Statistician mentions in his statement to the Court (Annexure (1), page 3*) it is believed that the rentals of flats, tenements and furnished accommodation have increased since the pre-war period to a greater extent than unfurnished 4 and 5-roomed cottages.

* The statement is reprinted on page 179 of this Labour Report.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS—*continued.**Section A—continued.*

Dwellings built since the war by government authorities together with flats and tenements existing at the time of the Census amount to approximately 15 per cent. of the dwellings in Australia and it is submitted that both these categories of dwellings should be taken into account when adjustments are made to the Basic Wage.

More detailed and quantitative submissions will be made to the Court when further information concerning rentals is available from the Commonwealth Statistician, but it is submitted that there is enough evidence presented to show that the "C" Series Rent Index is not an appropriate nor just index by which to adjust the Basic Wage, irrespective of its suitability for other statistical purposes. Consequently, a separate rent index based upon the actual average rents of all accommodation occupied by wage earners should be the basis upon which the Basic Wage is adjusted.

(2) *Fares.*—The Statistician endeavours in the "C" Series Index to take into account the variations in price of a constant quantum of travel. No suggestion is made that price variations of such a constant quantum have not been measured as accurately as possible. However, in an economy such as Australia, where urbanization has been progressing rapidly and consequently the quantum of travel necessary is constantly increasing, an index of price variation is not suitable for wage adjustment purposes. Account should be taken by the Court of the increased quantum of travel necessary from time to time.

(3) *Smoking.*—For purposes of adjusting the cost of smoking, the Commonwealth Statistician obtains price data with respect to tobacco, cigarettes and cigarette papers. The prices for tobacco and cigarettes relate to brands made in Australia and do not include prices of imported cigarettes or imported manufactured tobacco.

The quantity of Australian manufactured cigarettes and tobacco is not sufficient to meet the demands of wage earners and they are forced to purchase imported brands at a considerably higher price and lower quality than the local article. In this case, the prices index, by measuring variations in cost of a standard quantum of smoking-requisites of a given quality, under-estimates actual price increases paid and makes no allowance for the poorer quality available and actually purchased.

Conclusion.—The quality or standard of conditions available and the quantum of commodities necessary are important factors affecting the purchasing power of wage earners.

Irrespective of the reasons for alteration in these factors, the Basic Wage should be adjusted by an index which measures increases in cost because of such factors. Undoubtedly, at present, rent is the most important item of wage-earners' expenditure to be considered from this aspect, but other similar cases will arise from time to time and in each case it will be desirable to adopt a different procedure in adjusting wages to that adopted by the Statistician in compiling his index of retail prices. The Court Series Index should take into account these factors and cease to be an arithmetical conversion of the "C" Series Index.

SECTION B.

Submissions Concerning the "C" Series Index as a Price Index.

(1) In periods when there is a minimum of price dispersion, it is probably true that the "C" Series Index in the price sense reflects as accurately as possible the variations in prices of commodities which enter into the expenditure of wage-earner households. There are, however, important omissions of items which figure in wage-earner budgets. An indication of some of these is given in Annexure (2) to the document submitted by the Commonwealth Statistician to the Court. In periods of wide price dispersion these omissions become most important. The omission which has most seriously affected the index is fruit and vegetables. The Statistician in Section (C) of his document analyses the "C" Series Index in the period 1939 to 1948, the greater part of this period being one of wide price dispersion. His conclusions are as follows:—

- (a) "That it was desirable to continue the 'C' Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of comparison of price movements on a clearly defined basis."
- (b) "That it was impossible to reconstruct the 'C' Series Index to take account of current temporary departures from normal consumption."
- (c) That for statistical purposes the "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights was "sufficiently reliable in terms of the official definition of the index under the highly abnormal conditions of the times".

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS—*continued.**Section B—continued.*

There can be no quarrel with the Statistician with respect to conclusions (a) and (b), but it is poor consolation for the wage-earner whose wages have not been adjusted upwards merely to be told that it is desirable to preserve the continuity of the "C" Series Index and that it is impossible to re-construct the index to take into account temporary departures from normal conditions.

The Statistician, in his memorandum, presented to the Court, does not provide evidence which can lead to conclusion (c). Apparently this conclusion is based upon the difference between the "C" Series Index as compared with the war-time trial index, together with the expression of opinion that items not covered by the "C" Series have, on the average, increased in price only to the degree which off-sets the re-weighting in the trial index and no more. This assumption is examined in the following paragraphs.

The war-time Trial Index which the Statistician publishes for the years 1939 to 1948 inclusive is based upon the re-weighting of the various items covered by the "C" Series regimen. The index shows an increase from 933 in 1939 to 1277 in 1948, or an increase of 37 per cent. as compared with the "C" Series Index which showed an increase from 933 in 1939 to 1337 in 1948, or an increase of 43 per cent. The Needs Basic Wage for the six capital cities in September, 1939, was 73s., so that the 6 per cent. difference between the increase as shown by the Trial and "C" Series Indexes amounts to 4s.

The Statistician mentions that some unrationed foodstuffs, notably fruit and vegetables, have risen much more in price than have foods covered by the index. An experimental Prices Index (copy attached) supplied by the Commonwealth Statistician, shows that the prices of vegetables for the year 1947 were, on the average, 73 per cent. more than the prices for the corresponding weeks in the years 1938 to 1940, and by 1948 the average increase in prices, as compared with the same base period, was 129 per cent. While accurate information is not available, it is reasonable to assume that the price of fruit increased at least to the same degree as shown by the Statistician for vegetables.

If, in 1939, the amount of 5s. was spent by wage-earners on fruit and vegetables, then in the year 1948, price increases in these items alone would be more than sufficient to offset the 4s. difference which would have resulted had the Basic Wage been adjusted by the war-time Trial Index instead of by the "C" Series Index.

Other prices, not covered by the "C" Series Index, also increased to a greater extent than the items in the regimen. Sufficient has been submitted in Section A with reference to rents, to show that rental increases have been underestimated in the index. While the information necessary for a quantitative analysis is unfortunately not available, at least a *prima facie* case in support of this statement is made out in Section A of this statement.

(2) On page 15* of his statement the Commonwealth Statistician states "It is commonly accepted among statisticians that any retail price index with a fixed regimen tends to exaggerate the rise of prices over periods in which prices rise substantially and in which consumption shows marked changes. The reason is that, when possible, consumer buying transfers to goods whose prices rise least. There was some scope for the operation of this principle to affect the index in the past ten years." This statement cannot be denied.

It is also true, and commonly accepted by everybody, that a retail price index tends to underestimate rises in prices over periods in which there are acute shortages of consumer goods and continuous competition by consumers for supplies available. The reason is that, when possible, many sellers charge more than the fixed or legal price and pass goods of inferior quality as first-grade. There was considerable scope for the operation of this "principle" to affect the index in the past ten years and it is probable that the effects of this "principle" more than outweigh the effects of the principle mentioned by the Statistician.

(3) *Lodge Dues and Medicine.*—The following information with regard to Lodge Dues and Medicine was supplied by the Statistician: "In effect, the 'prices' of this item have been kept constant for a lengthy period. There was, however, an appreciable increase in lodge dues last year and this has not been made effective in the index. The reason is that almost concurrently Government action was instituted on the 'Free Medicine Scheme' and this accentuates the need for considering whether the item is appropriate to the index at all. The degree of error involved in keeping the 'price' of this item constant has been relatively small." While the degree of error involved may be relatively small, it is still an error which depresses the basic wage and could, without doubt, result in the basic wage being 1s. less than would be the case if the proper adjustment was made to this item.

* The statement is reprinted on page 173 of this Labour Report.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS—*continued.**Section B—continued.*

(4) *Recreation.*—The Statistician maintains that "The 'weekly amount' of this item also has been kept constant in the price sense, but it has been reviewed on numerous occasions in recent years. On the evidence available, my view is that we have done the correct thing in the price sense." This position is only tenable by the Statistician on the basis of excluding entertainment tax from the prices he has reviewed in relation to Recreation. Apparently, such a course is justified on the basis of entertainment tax being classified as a direct and not an indirect tax.

The actual position is that recreation is necessary and that the amount paid by the workers to procure the customary forms of recreation has increased substantially. If it is held that in the price sense the Statistician is correct, then this is another case similar to those reviewed in Section A, which demonstrates that a price index is not a just index to use in making automatic adjustments to wages.

SECTION C.

The "C" Series Index as an Instrument of Administrative Policy.

On page 9* of the document presented to the Court by the Commonwealth Statistician, it states "The 'C' Series Index has remained throughout an objective statistical index for measuring defined price variations. It has never been used as an instrument of administrative policy". No quarrel can be made with this statement as far as the Commonwealth Statistician is concerned. There is no doubt that the Statistician has always endeavoured to measure defined price variations objectively, but it does not follow that the index has not been used as an instrument of administrative policy. The very opposite is the case.

When the policy of price stabilization was introduced in 1942, it was intended that the price of all consumer goods should be pegged at the then existing levels. This policy was not enforced and progressively, more and more price increases were approved. A firm endeavour was then made to peg, as rigidly as possible, the prices of "necessities". The definition of "necessities", however, became narrower and prices of more and more items were increased as the classification of non-necessities and non-consumer goods became wider. In cases where it was considered that the prices of "necessities" should be increased, the increase was kept to a minimum and a subsidy granted to the manufacturer or the seller.

An analysis of subsidies paid for the years 1943-44 to 1947-48 inclusive, shows that of a total subsidy payment of approximately £38,000,000, approximately £69,000,000 was paid in respect of items included in the "C" Series Regimen. The close relationship between the official definition of "necessities" and items in the "C" Series Index is not merely coincidental.

Potatoes and onions, the only vegetables included in the Regimen, were the only vegetables subsidized although other vegetables are equally necessitous. Tea, which is included in the regimen, was subsidized. Coffee and cocoa were not subsidized.

During an inquiry into the price of milk by the Milk Board of New South Wales when I was giving evidence, a member of the Milk Board stated that it was Government policy to maintain the price of milk as low as possible because of the weighting given to milk in the "C" Series Regimen.

The Chairman of the Jam and Condiment Manufacturers' Association giving evidence in this Court in the 40-hour case stated that the Prices Commission had approved higher prices for jam, ranging from 18. per dozen tins in the case of plum jam to 3s. a dozen tins in the case of strawberry jam. Plum jam is included in the "C" Series Regimen.

The comparatively steep rise in the "C" Series Index since the withdrawal of subsidies by the Commonwealth Government is further evidence of the fact that price stabilization subsidies were directed towards the pegging of prices included in the regimen and it is probable that future examination of the prices of the "extra" items which have been collected by the Statistician since September, 1948, will reveal a lower increase than in the case of "C" Series prices.

Price stabilization subsidies were not only directed to price stabilization, but were directed to rigid wage pegging and the "C" Series Index was used as an administrative basis for ensuring that this policy was as effective as possible.

* The statement is reprinted on page 170 of this Labour Report.

SECTION V.—*continued.*THE "C" SERIES INDEX AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS—*continued.*

SECTION D.

The Present Position in regard to the Index.

As conditions become more "normal" and the degree of dispersion in price movements has been reduced, the "C" Series Index will undoubtedly reflect price increases of items entering into wage-earners' budgets more accurately. The Statistician forecasts the possibility of the "C" Series Regimen being extended in the near future. If this is done, the revised index should not be automatically applied for the purpose of wage adjustments and the index in its present form should continue to be compiled and published by the Statistician.

Prices of items, such as fish, fruit and vegetables, have increased during the period of rising prices to a greater extent than index items and the Basic Wage has not been adjusted upwards because of such increases. It is probable that the prices of the same items will fall more than average in the coming period of falling prices and if the main submission of the unions in this connexion, that the Basic Wage should not be adjusted downwards, is rejected by the Court, any downward adjustment which is made should not be affected by falling prices of those items which did not result in an increase in the Basic Wage in the period of rising prices.

It is submitted that the Court, when fixing the level of the Basic Wage at the conclusion of this inquiry, should take into account the degree to which the Basic Wage has been depressed because of the factors outlined in these submissions and that the aspects dealt with in this section, together with the submissions made in Sections A and C should convince the Court of the urgent need for a separate Court Index for the purpose of making automatic adjustments to the Basic Wage.

In addition, the Statistician should be asked to make the appropriate adjustments in the index suggested by the submissions made in Section B.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

RETAIL VEGETABLE PRICES, SYDNEY.

(Excluding Potatoes and Onions.)

*Weighted Index Based on Average of Prices for Corresponding Weeks in Years 1938-1940 = 100.**(N.B.—This is merely an experimental index. Supplies and prices of vegetables vary so widely and so rapidly in Sydney that it is not possible to measure prices variations by ordinary index-number technique.**This index merely indicates (very roughly) that prices of vegetables in Sydney have ranged between about 40 per cent. and about 200 per cent. above pre-war level in the two years 1947 and 1948.)*

Month.	1947.					1948.				
	Week including—				Average for Month.	Week including—				Average for Month.
	8th.	15th.	22nd.	29th.		8th.	15th.	22nd.	29th.	
January ..	134	148	147	127	139	203	236	195	140	169
February ..	174	211	184	201	193	178	222	165	196	190
March ..	207	210	194	191	200	236	175	180	171	190
April ..	186	177	176	150	170	169	157	150	174	163
May ..	158	131	129	144	140	192	206	261	263	230
June ..	159	182	175	163	170	252	263	281	269	266
July ..	159	152	156	164	158	322	296	324	316	315
August ..	175	170	163	170	170	305	298	309	301	303
September ..	200	180	160	176	179	315	272	276	260	281
October ..	163	183	177	164	172	235	205	240	221	225
November ..	172	175	172	187	176	254	266	255	284	265
December ..	186	186	186	N.A.	186	288	254	264	N.A.	269
Average for Year ..	175	179	169	168	173	236	229	229	223	229

NOTE.—This index relates to Tomatoes, Peas, Beans, Cabbages, Cauliflowers and Carrots. Each of these is given an appropriate weight for each month of the year (based on market receipts). The "Average for Month" is the mean of the figures for four weeks of the month.

The "Average for Year" is the mean of the monthly averages. This average is not very significant. Comparison should be made for corresponding months.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN

on

MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS RELATIVE TO THE "C" SERIES INDEX
AND BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS.

Prepared for

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration,

August, 1949

by

S. R. CARVER,

Acting Commonwealth Statistician—

December, 1940 to May, 1946,

March, 1948 to May, 1949.

	Comment on Page.
<hr/>	
I. MR. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS—	
<i>Section A.</i> —"Propriety of Adjusting Wages by means of a Price Index"—pp. 190 to 191	197
<i>Section B.</i> —"Submissions concerning "C" Series as a Price Index"—pp. 191 to 193	201
<i>Section C.</i> —"The "C" Series Index as an Instrument of Administrative Policy"—p. 193	204
<i>Section D.</i> —"The present position in regard to the Index"—p. 194	206
<hr/>	
2. ANNEXURE (1)—Rents	207
3. ANNEXURE (2)—Experimental Index on Vegetable Prices (Sydney)	209

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.*

SECTION A.

Mr. Baker's Third Paragraph, Page 190.

Mr. Baker submits that the "C" Series Index "is not a suitable means by which to periodically adjust wages. Periodical adjustment of wages should take into account availability of items . . . as well as increased costs due to improved standards . . ."

Comment (A).—The Statistician has always regarded the "C" Series Retail Price Index as a statistical price index which (*inter alia*) is used for making automatic wage adjustments on account of price variations. He has assumed that the Court (in its periodic determinations of the wage) has considered, quite separately from the index, evidence submitted on other matters such as changes in mode of living due to availability of items and increased cost of living due to improved standards of living. He agrees (if that is the submission) that while price variations can be segregated and measured with reasonable precision by statistical technique through price index-numbers, changes in cost of living (due to factors other than price changes) can only be assessed on evidence as a separate function which is not a Statistician's function. He does not regard it as a criticism of a price index that it does not do things that a price index cannot be expected to do. (This matter is alluded to further in comment on Section D of Mr. Baker's submission).

RENT.

Mr. Baker's Second Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) states that "The standard of accommodation measured varies from State to State and city to city . . . changes in rentals in varying standards of accommodation are measured"

Comment (B).—Rentals for capital cities as used in the index relate in all cases to houses of 4 and 5 rooms combined in uniform proportions. But average rents of brick houses and wood houses are combined in the proportions in which rented brick houses and wood houses are in actual use in individual cities. It is true that in Brisbane there are practically no brick houses of this size rented and that in Adelaide brick preponderates. It is also true that the proportion of brick and wood to the total in other capitals varies. The weights for brick and wooden houses for each city are determined on actual local conditions and are kept constant once they have been determined. Variations in rentals are then measured on this basis and it would be unreal to measure them on any "uniform" basis which does not exist. The term "varying standards of accommodation" is probably intended to mean "differing standards of accommodation".

Mr. Baker's Third Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) ("From time . . .").

Comment (C).—The first two sentences of this paragraph are factually correct. Houses which have deteriorated appreciably are deleted to preserve continuity of standard. The argument in the remainder of the paragraph is, of course, suppositious. In the event of all houses or a substantial proportion of houses in a slum area being demolished and replaced by superior houses it would be necessary for the Statistician to consider for purposes of the "C" Series Index whether any and what part of the difference in rentals was due to "price increase". It would be incorrect to conclude that price index procedure appropriate to the occurrence of a few demolitions would be applicable to a general slum clearance scheme.

Mr. Baker's Fourth Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) (beginning "Furthermore . . .")

Comment (D).—It is possible to argue that, over a term of years, all dwellings provide a progressively lower standard of accommodation. This deterioration, however, is slow and slight especially when necessary repairs are made. Furthermore, on a sufficiently broad view, not only the house itself, but its general environment, its amenities such as the availability of gas and electricity, improvements to streets and pathways and improvements in transport frequently tend to compensate for deterioration. In respect of environment the reverse, of course, is true of some houses in areas which become increasingly industrialized; but in that case change in proximity to work may occur. To the extent that necessary repairs were not made during the war period, rentals as obtained for "C" Series Index do relate to a standard of accommodation which deteriorated at a rate faster than normal. Such deterioration is not measurable and it is one of many transient war-time circumstances which (as elsewhere indicated) complicated the problem of measuring price changes in past years.

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.*Section A.—*continued.*

Mr. Baker's Fifth Paragraph on "Rent" (page 190) (beginning "It is a reasonable . . .").

Comment (E).—It is agreed that it is a reasonable assumption that practically all houses built for letting since the end of the war have been built by Government Housing authorities. The Statistician has so far omitted such houses from the index but not for the reason that they are let with the option of purchase. That is one consideration in some States.

The position is approximately as follows:—

RENTED HOUSES OF FOUR AND FIVE ROOMS.
Occupied by Wage Earners—Six Capital Cities Weighted Average.

	Approximate Number	Actual Average Rental
		Per week. s. d.
Occupied as at 30th June, 1947—		
Private	128,500	24 2
Government	3,500	29 9
		} Census average 24s. 4d.
Occupied since 30th June, 1947—Government . .	5,000	34 8
Total (as at about 31st December, 1948) . .	137,000	24 9

The actual average of rents actually paid for the 132,000 houses of 4 and 5 rooms, occupied by wage-earners at the Census (30th June, 1947) was 24s. 4d. per week. To this "stock" of houses has been added approximately 5,000 new Government houses at an actual average rental of 34s. 8d. per week. Assuming that the "stock" is still occupied as it was at 30th June, 1947 and that very few new private houses have been rented since the Census, the "stock" of houses of 4 and 5 rooms occupied by wage-earner tenants as at (about) 31st December, 1948, was approximately 137,000 and their average rental approximately 24s. 9d.—compared with the Census average of 24s. 4d. (30th June, 1947). The difference of 5d. represents the increase in the actual average amount of weekly rental over the period.

So far as investigations have gone the "C" Series sample has measured the "price" element in the pre-censal rent rise with reasonable precision for the six capital cities combined. But as yet the index includes no part of the 5d. increase in average rents actually paid which has occurred since the Census.

At first sight it may appear that the index should include the whole of this 5d. But only part of it is "price" rise due to the rentals being ad valorem on higher building costs. Some part of it is an overstatement, some part of it is due to crude averaging, and some part to higher standard as compared with the average standard of the "stock" of pre-Census houses. It is uncertain as to whether any appreciable part of it is "price" rise that should be included in "C" Series Retail Price Index. Some difficulty flows from the circumstance that there is a dual level of house rents, viz. :— (i) that of pre-war houses with rents virtually pegged at 1942 level and (ii) that of post-war houses which are ad valorem. Mr. Baker's submission as to adjusting wages to allow for the dearer rents of post-war houses, links with his major submission that wages should be adjusted to include the total increase in average rents actually paid. At present automatic conversion of the "C" Series Index to Court Series adjusts the wage for "price" rise only. The two are dealt with conjointly in Annexure (1) hereto where the effects of alternative courses of procedure are set out.

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.*Section A.—*continued.*

For the sake of clarity the approximate amounts involved may here be summarized in money terms:—

Period, June, 1933 to June, 1947—	Per Week.	
	s.	d.
Rise in average rents actually paid	5	0
"Price" rise as measured for "C" Series Index	3	10
(A) Intercensal difference	1	8
Period, 30th June, 1947 to about 31st December, 1948—		
(B) Post-censal difference	0	5
Approximate "excess" of rents actually paid over "price" increase	2	1

The spread of figures between individual cities is fairly wide and can be calculated only roughly. But the above is the weighted average for the six capital cities, and shows the money amounts involved in relation to Mr. Baker's submission (page 190) that "The Court should take into account these higher rentals in adjusting the basic wage, notwithstanding the fact that the standard of accommodation provided may be higher than average".

Mr. Baker's Seventh and Eighth Paragraphs on "Rent" (page 190) (beginning "Further, for the purpose of . . .").

*Comment (F).—*Seventy per cent. of flats and nearly 90 per cent. of tenements ("rooms") are occupied by one, two or three persons. For the most part these are single individuals or couples who have no children or only one child. Such dwellings are not representative for the predominant types of wage-earner households to which the index is relevant. Flats accommodate less than 5 per cent. of the population who live in dwellings which house four or more persons. For these reasons rentals of flats and tenements ("rooms") have not been included in the "C" Series Index.

FARES.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 191) is.—"Account should be taken by the Court of the increased quantum of travel necessary from time to time".

*Comment (G).—*As pointed out in paragraph 3 of Section A of the Statistician's Memorandum on "C" Series Index:—"Changes in cost of living caused by factors other than price variations are subjects for consideration quite independently of the "C" Series Index."

The Statistician could not produce periodic data as to "quantum of travel necessary" in changing circumstances, in a form suitable "for a separate Court Index for the purpose of making automatic adjustments to the Basic Wage" (second last paragraph, page 194 of Mr. Baker's submission). In that case, if the Court adopts this proposal the adjustment could not be "automatic" but would be an amount determined by the Court on evidence.

SMOKING.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 191).

*Comment (H).—*The position may be considered in the light of the following changes in smoking habits:—

Australia: Approximate Consumption of Cigarettes and Tobacco (Per Year).

	Three Years Ended 1938-39.		1948-49.	
	Total Consumption.	Proportion Imported.	Total Consumption.	Proportion Imported.
	Million lb.	Per cent.	Million lb.	Per cent.
Pipe Tobacco	9.5	} 0.4	11.5	} 3
Cigarette Tobacco	6.5		7.5	
Cigarettes	6.5		14.5	
Total	22.5	..	33.5	..

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.*Section A.—*continued.*

The above figures relate to tobacco and cigarettes in their manufactured form ready for use by consumers. "Cigarette tobacco" refers to fine cut ready for "roll your own" smoking.

The smallness of the proportion of pipe tobacco and cigarette tobacco imported shows that Mr. Baker's submission does not involve any question of the validity of the prices of these commodities used for the "C" Series Index.

In so far as manufactured cigarettes are concerned Mr. Baker's contention would be valid in respect of an index related to *total* consumer expenditures. The case is not so clear in respect of wage-earner households to which the "C" Series Index relates. The following round figures show the huge increase in smoking of manufactured cigarettes in the past two years and the sudden increase in imports of manufactured cigarettes:—

Australia: Consumption of Manufactured Cigarettes (Per Year).

	Local Manufacture.	Imported	Total.
	Million lb.	Million lb.	Million lb.
Pre-War	6.4	0.1	6.5
1946-47	9.0	0.5	9.5
1947-48	9.8	2.5	12.3
1948-49	9.5	5.0	14.5

In the ten years ended 1949, population (over the age of fifteen years) increased by 12 per cent. Consumption of cigarettes increased by over 120 per cent. In other words cigarette consumption relative to population has approximately doubled. This very great increase is probably due mainly to increase in the proportion of men and women who smoke. It may also be due in part to increase in consumption of manufactured cigarettes per smoker.

In round numbers, the proportion of imported cigarettes used rose from 5 per cent. in 1946-47 to 20 per cent. in 1947-48 and to 35 per cent. in 1948-49. Such figures do not justify assumptions that lasting changes have occurred. However, if this is assumed and if it is further assumed that imported cigarettes do in fact constitute one third of cigarettes used in wage-earner households and that these are 50 per cent. dearer than local cigarettes, the question at issue would involve not more than 2 points in the index. In practice it may involve 1 point (equivalent to something of the order of rd. in the basic wage adjustment).

This matter and the "weight" allotted to smoking in the index, will receive consideration at the post-war review of the index by Conference of Statisticians. As already indicated, it is impracticable to adjust the index for ephemeral changes especially those of a minor character.

GENERAL.

Mr. Baker's Conclusion (page 191) and *General Submission* (beginning on page 191).

Comment (I).—The question as to "what is necessary" (page 191) and the *general submission on page 191* are considered by the Statistician to be matters for the Court as affecting the method by which the wage will be determined rather than as affecting use of the "C" Series Index for automatic adjustment of wages for price changes. The Statistician could not compile an index which measured both price changes and "cost of living" changes simultaneously. It would be altogether impossible to do that in respect of any index used for prompt quarterly *automatic* adjustments. Data as to changes in standard or mode of living cannot be gathered until some appreciable time after the change has occurred. Moreover it might be unsound to use such data until time had shown that the changes were lasting and not merely a transient fluctuation.

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.**Section A.—continued.*

If the Court accepts the principle that there should be express periodic adjustment of wages on account of changes of the type mentioned in Mr. Baker's submission (which are not reflected in the price index) and if this is to be done consistently with continuance of the present system of automatic quarterly adjustment it could be on lines such as the following :—

- (i) "C" Series or other price index to be converted automatically into Court Series equivalent; and
- (ii) the Court to add to or subtract from the resultant Court Series Index such amount as it determined for such matters as, e.g., rents. (See alternative methods in Annexure E.)

As, however, the "C" Series Index is made available to the Court two weeks after the end of each quarter and wage adjustments are announced by the Registrar of the Court, as of routine, within a few days (to permit of implementation on wage sheets at the beginning of the ensuing month) it is evident that future adjustments under (ii) above would have to be made at intervals after the facts became available and the Court had considered them. Elucidation of the facts as to quantum of smoking, fares, &c., would present much more difficulty than in the case of rents. But changes in the average of rents actually paid could only be determined at Censuses. Extensive "sampling" in intercensal years might be possible.

Collection and compilation of "C" Series is already geared to the utmost possible speed consistent with accuracy.

SECTION B.

Sub-section 1.—(Two paragraphs on page 192 beginning "The Statistician . . ."). *Comment (J).*—The Statistician's conclusion that "for statistical purposes the 'C' Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights was sufficiently reliable in terms of the official definition of the index, under the highly abnormal conditions of the times", was based on rather wider grounds than those indicated by Mr. Baker. A re-reading of sub-section (b), pages 15, 16 and 17* of the Statistician's Memorandum will show this. It would be a very lengthy proceeding to set out the full grounds in specific detail. Broadly the grounds may be summarized thus :—

- (i) The indication obtainable from such parts of the facts as are measurable fairly definitely in figures is that "C" Series Index on its pre-war regimen and weights increasingly over-stated the effective price increase which occurred in the field to which it related during the period of controls and rationing (1942-1948);
- (ii) By 1948 this overstatement appeared to be something of the order of 5 per cent. (or 60 points in the index);
- (iii) During the relevant period prices of fresh fruit and vegetables fluctuated widely around levels which showed a substantially greater rise than did "C" Series Index; at some points of time between 1942 and 1948 this more than fully offset the overstatement mentioned in (i) above; at other points of time it partly offsets such overstatement; in particular in the year 1948 the offset was only partial.
- (iv) Even exhaustive research could add little to the above that is positive or could be accurately expressed in figures. A catalogue of minor contrasts in price movements would, by its mere length, prove nothing and would probably create false impressions in the minds of those not engaged in the day to day task of compiling the index.
- (v) No index technique and no form of inquiry could have measured effective price changes that occurred under the abnormal conditions of 1942-1948 with demonstrable precision; approximate measurement only was possible.

The Statistician's conclusion quoted at the beginning of this comment (J) is based on repeated examination of the position during the relevant period and on the elaborate care taken to keep the index reasonably accurate despite abnormal circumstances.

* The sub-section referred to is reprinted on pages 173 and 174 of this Labour Report.

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.**Section B.—continued.*

Looking at the whole period 1939-48 the position is—

- (a) that it is now entirely clear that it was desirable to continue "C" Series on its pre-war regimen and weights;
- (b) that there was no practicable alternative;
- (c) that (subject to post-war revision) the level of "C" Series Index is becoming closely comparable with that of 1939;
- (d) that any intervening overstatement or understatement due to the abnormalities of the "control" period was most probably small and is being automatically eliminated as "control" abnormalities pass.

On page 192 Mr. Baker refers to two questions in this regard (i) fruit and vegetables, (ii) rent.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (PAGE 192).

Comment (K).—Mr. Baker, for his calculation, allots a weight of about 7 per cent. to fruit and vegetables in 1939. Some uncertainty exists, but a generally accepted statistical weight for fresh fruit and vegetables (excluding potatoes and onions) in a wage-earner household price index is about 4 per cent. On this weight the relative dearth of fruit and vegetables alone would not have sufficed to offset the excess of "C" Series over the trial index in 1948 though it might have done so in earlier years. The experimental "vegetables price index" for Sydney overstates the effective rise in prices. (See Annexure 1 herewith and Comment (L) herein.)

Mr. Baker's statement (page 192 paragraph beginning "If, in 1939") "in the year 1948, price increases in these items alone would be more than sufficient to offset the 4s. difference which would have resulted had the Basic Wage been adjusted by the war-time trial index instead of by the "C" Series Index" needs amendment. The 60 points difference between the two indexes in 1948 was equivalent to approximately 5s. on the wage. The effective price of fruit and vegetables in 1948 was probably less than 129 per cent. above pre-war level and allowance for this would partly offset the 60 points referred to.

Mr. Baker's further statement (page 192) that "Other prices, not covered by the "C" Series Index, also increased to a greater extent than the items in the regimen" is true of some such prices (e.g., fish). It is not true of others, some of which became important. For example, in the relevant period, production data show that sportswear was even more extensively used for every-day wear than were men's suits. Indications for relevant periods are that prices of sportswear (which are not in the index) rose considerably less than those of ready-made suits which are in the index.

RENT.

(page 192, paragraph beginning "Other prices").

Comment (L).—The statement that "rental increases have been underestimated in the index" is covered in Comment (E) hereof and in Annexure (1) hereto.

GENERAL.

(page , paragraph beginning "Other prices")

Comment (M).—Enumeration of contrasting examples can only illustrate the pros and cons of the diverse movements of prices. Only exhaustive listing of items and evaluation of their prices and weights could reduce the matter to figures. This is impossible. Hence assessment of the question of the precision with which "C" Series Index measured the relevant price rise in the period of controls 1942-48 must rest on first hand knowledge of the working of such an index in practice and an intimate accumulated knowledge of the price dispersion, changes of usage, &c., which occurred. An attempt was made by the Statistician during the period under discussion to evaluate the position fully in figures. The difficulties proved insuperable.

Sub-section 2 of Mr. Baker's submission (page 192)—

The paragraph beginning "It is also true" reads in part "a retail price index tends to underestimate rises in prices over periods in which there are acute shortages of consumer goods and continuous competition by consumers for supplies available. The reason is that, when possible, many sellers charge more than the fixed or legal price and pass goods of inferior quality as first-grade."

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.**Section B.—continued.*

Comment (N).—The view said to be “commonly accepted by everybody” is open to doubt. For instance, it could not be accepted by those responsible for fixing and enforcing legal prices and checking malpractices. But in any event, the scope for such practices to affect the index was limited by the fact that trained field officers of the Statistician regularly visited retailers and consistently sought to ascertain prices *actually charged* by reputable representative retailers. They also examined the quality of relevant goods to ensure continuity of standard of comparison. It is considered that this was substantially effective except in regard to “black market” transactions in which purchasers paid vendors a premium to break the law to give purchasers something illegally. Field officers of the Bureau actually examined all articles of clothing, drapery and household utensils for which price quotes were obtained each quarter. The law for most of the period, at least, required each article to bear a marked price. Prices of food and groceries were checked at frequent intervals.

It is improbable that the “principle” enunciated by Mr. Baker did in fact operate to offset completely the effect of the principle that “any retail price index with a fixed regimen tends to exaggerate the rise in prices over periods in which prices rise substantially and in which consumption shows marked changes”.

Sub-section 3 (page 192) of Mr. Baker's submission—

LODGE DUES AND MEDICINES.

Comment (O).—Mr. Baker's statement of the information supplied to him by the Statistician is correct and complete. But the information itself is incomplete and does not warrant the suggestion that a “proper adjustment” of this item would make the Basic Wage *is* higher. The item briefly described as “Lodge Dues and Medicine” historically represents an indefinite and wide range of services and commodities in the field of medical service, sick pay, funeral benefits, dental service, hospital service, patent medicines and the like. The item has always been represented in the index by a constant “price” and although the question of varying this amount has been considered at intervals no practicable or accurate basis of variation has been found. For instance, it was not varied when hospital services to patients in public wards were made free in 1946, nor when sickness benefit was introduced, nor when worker's compensation was extended, nor when baby health centres and various clinic services were extended. Similarly it was not varied when in 1948 the medical service part of lodge dues was raised. Yet all of these things affected the “price” of these services.

Contributions to friendly societies for sick pay and funeral benefits have varied as benefits varied without detectable “price” rise. Extended provision for sick pay in many awards and extensions of workers' compensation, have tended to reduce the “price” of sick pay. Cost of dental services at normal scales have risen but there has been some extension of free dental services at hospitals. Patent medicines have shown little rise in price.

This item “Lodge Dues and Medicine” has ceased to be a satisfactory “price” index item from the Statistician's viewpoint because the entire “price” structure in regard to it has changed and variations cannot be measured. Its elimination will be considered in the post-war review of the index. Meanwhile retention of the item in the index at a constant “price” involves insignificant “error” and that error is not necessarily in the direction of understating the “price” rise.

Sub-section 4 (page 193) of Mr. Baker's submission—

RECREATION.

Comment (P).—From the Statistician's viewpoint, this also has become an unsatisfactory item in the price index because its “price” variations cannot be measured and it is represented by a constant “price”. Historically the item relates to “recreation, amusements and library” but the exact components have never been specifically stated and are almost incapable of specific statement. In general, regard has been paid to admission charges to cinemas and certain sports. Regard has also been had to the fact that broadcast listening has become almost a universal form of recreation. The annual fee has been reduced from 27s. 6d. in 1925 progressively and has been constant at £1 since 1940. This reduction has not been reflected in the index. (The number of such licences has increased from 61,000 in 1925, to 311,000 in 1930, to 720,000 in 1935, to 1,129,000 in 1939 and about 1,500,000 at present.)

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.**Section B.—continued.*

Having regard to changes in prices and quality of entertainment (for example, introduction of cinema "talkies" and popularization and diversification of broadcast programmes) it has been concluded that it is broadly correct to keep this item constant until some more satisfactory means of "pricing" it is found or until it is specifically replaced in, or eliminated from, the index.

For purposes of the index, entertainment tax is not regarded as part of the price of recreation but a direct tax paid by the person admitted to taxable entertainments.

Comment (Q).—Mr. Baker's statement (second paragraph, page 193) that "the amount paid by the workers to procure the customary forms of recreation has increased substantially" involves questions of standard of living, changing nature and quantum of recreation, &c. These are regarded as quite separate from the concept of "price" appropriate to an index.

SECTION C.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 193).

*Comment (R).—*In view of the assertion that the "C" Series Index has been used as an instrument of administrative policy, it seems desirable to set out the Statistician's experience in relation to this matter. By design the "C" Series Index is a measure of price changes affecting a high proportion of the expenditures of wage-earner households. For this purpose the index must be and remain *representative* of relevant prices. The Statistician has stated that it fulfilled the design with reasonable accuracy during the abnormal years 1939-48 and has stated that if he had held any other view he would have stated it publicly by way of interpretative comment.

When the policy of price stabilization was introduced towards the middle of 1943, the Statistician realized that in the process of applying such a complex policy in a way beneficial to the war effort, the index might inadvertently become an instrument for implementing the policy of price stabilization. Price stabilization policy was in fact very comprehensively based on a general price ceiling, import subsidies, extensions of home consumption price schemes, direct price stabilization subsidies, manufacturer subsidies, sales tax remissions, production control, consumer rationing, wage pegging, profit control, reductions in interest, rent control and many other inter-related measures.

The representative character of the index might have been affected if either selective price control or selective subsidy policy were directed toward stabilizing prices of "C" Series items to the exclusion of relevant items not actually included in the index. At the outset this matter was discussed by the Acting Statistician with the Prices Controller and with the Minister. It was made clear to the Statistician that stabilization measures would be very broadly based and not selective, and it was accepted that the Acting Statistician should consider it his duty to ensure that the index continued to fulfil its functions objectively and that it retained its representative character. Apart from ensuring observance of this understanding, the Statistician had several ready means of protecting the index against developing bias due to acts of "control" or to the abnormalities of price dispersion or to failure of supplies. He could substitute representative items for items in the index that had become unrepresentative; he could broaden some of the fields of commodities representing individual items; he could have reported facts as to the index publicly or direct to the Judges of the Court by way of interpretative comment. All statements considered necessary in regard to the index were published quarterly when issuing the index to the press, and in the annual Labour Report of the Statistician.

The primary responsibility for preserving the integrity and representative character of the index therefore rested on the Statistician and exercise of his discretion was unfettered.

In 1944 the Statistician personally discussed the index with the A.C.T.U. Executive in Melbourne when the index generally and its integrity were discussed. Again in June, 1945, the Statistician attended the A.C.T.U. Congress in Sydney and gave written answers to questions put to him. The question of the integrity of the index was not raised on that occasion but there was a question and answer bearing on the reliability of the index under the conditions then prevailing (*see Question and Answer 3 (b)* appended to Statistician's Memorandum supplied to the Court in June, 1949.) The Statistician offered on both occasions to go fully into any or all phases of the index with representatives of the unions with a view to their putting to the Court any submissions they deemed fit. No submission was put to the Court on this matter then nor during the currency of price stabilization and subsidy policy.

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.*Section C.—*continued.*

The brief account of price stabilization and subsidies (in Mr. Baker's submission) is not historically exact as affecting "C" Series Index. Price and subsidy policies 1943 to 1946 were parts of a very comprehensive policy directed toward stabilizing the whole price and cost structure of Australia.

Then the interim basic wage increase of 7s. was awarded. This happened to coincide with a rapid upthrust in prices of many imported goods and of some major exportable goods. These and other fundamental changes in the situation were followed in 1947 by progressive modification of many war-time controls including price-stabilization and price subsidies until both were almost entirely discontinued in mid-1948. The annual cost of price subsidies rose from £13,000,000 in 1945-46 to £22,600,000 in 1946-47 and to £35,000,000 in 1947-48 then fell to £10,000,000 in 1948-49 and to £7,000,000 (estimated) in 1949-50. It is evident that factors other than trends in "C" Series Index governed these changes.

The statement that £69,000,000 out of £88,000,000 paid as subsidy "was paid in respect of items included in the "C" Series regimen" may convey a wrong impression unless explained. It applies to the whole period 1943-44 to 1947-48. During the first part of that period (to the end of 1946) there could be no sustainable suggestion of discrimination if stabilization policy be considered in its entirety. During the latter part of the period (1947 to mid-1948) when subsidy was restricted to "essentials" it was not restricted to "C" Series items but applied generally to a wide field. For example, most of the import subsidy (other than tea) was paid on very broad classes of goods whether in the index or not (e.g., cotton and rayon materials for manufacture of textiles; textile apparel woven or knitted). Other major subsidies related to items affecting the economy, e.g., recoupment of basic wage increases, coal, firewood, rubber and raw wool for local manufacturers. These subsidies were not selective *vis-à-vis* the index. It is a fact that large amounts of subsidy were paid specifically on three important "C" Series items, viz.:—imported tea, local potatoes and fresh milk. These subsidies were paid from the inception of price stabilization in 1943. This fact has been interpreted at times as being selective subsidy policy in relation to "C" Series Index. The fact, however, was that these were the only three major foods (whose prices were susceptible to stabilization) which had not already been stabilized some years previously under home consumption price schemes for purposes other than price control. Instances were bread, flour, sugar, butter, &c. The subsidies as introduced in 1943 aligned all major foods in this respect except meats which were neither subsidized nor stabilized.

The facts are that prices of tea and potatoes were raised by about 25 per cent. in 1947, and both are in the index. Similarly, prices of milk were raised at the end of 1947. The clothing price index rose by 154 points in 1946 and by a further 135 points in 1947. These changes were broadly consonant with other price changes inside and outside the index.

Fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) could not be subsidized because the marketing system, their perishable nature, and the extremely erratic seasonal variations in their supply and prices rendered the application of subsidy impossible. Nevertheless efforts were made to control their prices and to influence them by contracts. Their relationship to the index is discussed elsewhere in this memorandum.

Coffee and cocoa, being imported, would have had to be rationed if subsidized. They are relatively little used as beverages, although the vogue of coffee has increased since tea rationing. To the extent that the price of tea became unrepresentative of prices of table beverages the index has a very slight downward bias.

The date of the statement quoted by Mr. Baker in regard to milk is not given. Evidently it was since September, 1947 (when price control of milk was transferred to the State) if it was made by a member of the Milk Board of New South Wales. The fact is that the price of fresh milk has been raised by amounts varying between 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. in the respective capital cities since the latter part of 1947. Reasons given for control policies by administrative bodies do not always reflect high Government policy.

An incident of the kind mentioned in respect of jam was in fact brought under the Statistician's notice late in 1946 by a Field Officer and appropriate action taken promptly by the Statistician to safeguard the representativeness of the index in this respect. Even if this apparent instance of selective price control had not been detected the resultant bias in the index would have been about half a point.

It was inevitable that (among very many thousands of contingencies arising during the past ten years) isolated instances of apparent misapplication of the principles of stabilization policy occurred. These were of a minor character and they were very much the exception to the rule. Close attention was paid to these matters by the Statistician and his staff.

SECTION V.—*continued.*COMMENT BY STATISTICIAN ON MR. W. A. BAKER'S SUBMISSIONS, ETC.—*continued.*

SECTION D.

Mr. Baker's submission (page 194) (Paragraph beginning "As conditions").

Comment (S).—The Statistician's purpose in revising the "C" Series Index will not be to change its essential nature or regimen but to make adjustments needed to render the index more closely representative of current conditions in the light of changes that have occurred since the last general review of the index in 1936. Attention is also necessary to items such as "Recreation, &c" and "Lodge Dues and Medicine" referred to herein and in Mr. Baker's submission. It is to be expected that the index as revised will show much the same trend as would the index in its present form, but it will relate more closely to present circumstances. The very considerable work entailed in continuing to compile the index in its present form would not be justified because, if there were any appreciable differences in trend, it is certain that the revised index would be the more accurate reflex of price movements relevant under post-war conditions.

(Paragraph (page 194) beginning "Prices of items").

Comment (T).—Wide and frequent fluctuations in prices and supplies of *fresh fish, fruit and vegetables* in Australia render it technically impossible to include them as an integral part of the "C" Series Index without destroying its precision. It is not proposed to use improvisations to include them. The Statistician may be able to prepare separate indexes for them (as he has attempted to do for vegetables in Sydney). But, of necessity, any such indexes would be very rough approximations. The Statistician's view is that there is no statistical method whereby the effective price variations in these highly variable items can be measured except very roughly. Interpretation of such indexes requires exercise of judgment in the light of the facts underlying them. So long as prices and supplies of fish, fresh fruit and vegetables (other than potatoes and onions) fluctuate widely, erratically and at short intervals it is virtually impossible to do more than guess the approximate order of magnitude of the fluctuations. (See also Comment (K) herein and Annexure 2 herewith.)

(Paragraph (page 194) beginning "It is submitted").

Comment (U).—The Statistician's view is that the basic wage has been neither depressed nor raised unduly by reason of alleged deficiencies of the "C" Series Index as a *price index* nor by reason of the effects on the index of the abnormal conditions under which the index was necessarily compiled since 1939. The Court's use of the "C" Series Index to make automatic basic wage adjustments for *price variations* is considered to have achieved its objective as far as has been practicable in the very difficult circumstances. As Mr. Baker points out, there are some considerations as to "actual" average rents, quantum of fares, quantum and quality of smoking, quantum of recreation which the Court may wish to consider. These are referred to at some length herein. In the view of the Statistician they are matters quite separate and distinct from the use of "C" Series Index for automatic wage adjustment for *price changes*. Any allowance for them would necessarily have to be determined by the Court itself from time to time. They really involve determinations as to appropriate standards of living and total amount of basic wage which are outside the province of the Statistician. The Statistician does not see how a separate Court Index allowing for these and kindred factors would be used for *automatic adjustments* of the Basic Wage. They are matters of assessment in the light of evidence.

(Paragraph (page 194) beginning "In addition").

Comment (V).—In Section B, Mr. Baker does not appear to make specific submissions for adjustments in the "C" Series Index as a *price index*. The main submission appears to be that "a *price index* is not a just index to use in making automatic adjustments to wages" second paragraph (page 193). Clearly a *price index* (if reasonably accurate) is an appropriate instrument for adjusting wages for *price variations*. So far as they impinge on the index Mr. Baker's submissions might be interpreted as meaning that in addition to making automatic adjustments to wages for *price changes*, the Court should specifically make periodic wage adjustments to allow for such things as rise in average rents actually paid (as distinct from "price" rises in rents) and variations in such things as changing quantum of fares, quantum and quality of smoking, quantum of recreation, &c., which are considered to be necessary.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

ANNEXURE (1).

GENERAL NOTE BY THE STATISTICIAN ON RENTS.

Three major matters arise for consideration as the rental data of the Census of 30th June, 1947, become available:—

- Item (1)—It will now be possible to review and to bring up-to-date the absolute amounts of rent used in the index for the individual capital cities. (The relative level of "C" Series Index for individual cities depends partly on the levels of rents. The facts given in this annexure may be relevant to certain submissions now before the Court. Revisions of relative rent levels can only be effected at intervals on Census data.)
- Item (2)—It has now become possible to make an approximate check on the accuracy with which "C" Series rent sample has measured the general "price" rise in rents in past years.
- Item (3)—It is possible to indicate approximately how far the rise in average rents actually paid (including rises due to change in standard) exceeds the rent "price" rise taken into account in "C" Series Index up to the time of the Census (June, 1947). This is relevant to a submission foreshadowed by Mr. Baker. (The associated question as to the Court's treatment of rises in rents actually paid since the 1947 Census is referred to in Comment (E) of the Statistician's Comments on Mr. Baker's submissions herewith.)

Decision on Item 1 depends partly on the view taken by the Court concerning Item 3 and the two are examined conjointly later in this annexure. As to Item 2, analysis of Census results indicates that the "C" Series rent sample has measured the general rent "price" rise for four and five-roomed unfurnished houses occupied by employed wage-earners with reasonable precision, on the weighted average of the six capital cities. An exact reconciliation is not possible because of the many abnormal factors intervening between 1933 and 1947 and the abnormal economic circumstances existing at the time of both Censuses. Disparities between cities are being examined.

Briefly the facts as to Item 3 are as follows:—

The "price" rent rise shown by the "C" Series rent sample from 1933 to 1947 was 3s. 10d. per week, combining houses of four and five rooms and houses of brick and wood in constant proportions and combining them into a "six capitals" average on constant weights.

The average of all rents actually paid for four and five-roomed houses occupied by employed wage-earners in the six capital cities taken together at the Census of 1933 was 18s. 10d. per week. There were 80,276 such houses, after excluding houses occupied by unemployed many of whom were paying nominal rents.

The average of all rents actually paid for corresponding houses at the Census of 1947 was 24s. 4d. per week. There were 132,060 such houses (excluding shared houses) and it was assumed that all wage-earners were employed or in circumstances to pay normal rents.

Although the average of 18s. 10d. in 1933 is not exactly comparable with the 24s. 4d. of 1947, the difference between them (5s. 6d.) may be taken as representing approximately the amount of rise in the actual average of rents paid for all rented houses in the defined group.

The excess of this 5s. 6d. over the 3s. 10d. rent "price" rise taken into "C" Series Index is 1s. 8d. which must be regarded as approximate since it represents the difference between much larger figures which are not exactly comparable. It represents rent "cost" of changes in standard of the following types, viz. :—

- (a) The average "standard" of houses built after 1933 was above the average "standard" of the "stock" of houses built before 1933;
- (b) The proportion of brick houses in the total has increased and the proportion with five rooms has risen;
- (c) Some pre-1933 houses have been improved in standard and rental increase on this account is excluded from the "C" Series sample because they are changes in standard.

Other influences operated and statements (a), (b) and (c) or any general statement is subject to qualifications when considered for specific purposes. It is not possible to give a concise complete picture.

SECTION V.—*continued.**Annexure (1)—continued.*

Changes in these various factors do not affect individual cities equally and, having in mind items 1, 2 and 3 of this annexure, it is necessary to consider the incidence on the individual capital cities of applying three alternative methods of making adjustment to "C" Series Index for rental data derived from the Census:—

Method A is based on the view (a) that the Census check shows that "C" Series rent sample has measured the rent "price" rise with reasonable accuracy in individual cities and (b) that the "C" Series Index cannot continue to measure changes in relative rent levels as between cities consistently with its main purpose of measuring periodic changes in price level for each city. On this method there would be no adjustment to the "C" Series Index for statistical purposes, except such as concern houses occupied after the Census of 1947.

Method B is based on the view that the Census check shows that "C" Series rent sample has measured the rent "price" rise with reasonable accuracy so far as concerns the weighted average of the six capital cities, and that the relative levels of rent in the six cities individually require adjustment to bring them into conformity with the relative rent levels revealed by the Census. On this method there would be no change in the weighted average of the six capital cities. But the level of the index for some cities would be reduced by 5 to 10 "C" Series points, while those for others would be increased in like degree.

Method C is based on the view that the present amount of rent in "C" Series Index for each capital city should be raised to the actual average of rents paid (including rises due to changes in standard) as shown by the Census. In this case the weighted average of the six capital cities would be raised by 22 "C" Series points and the figures for individual cities by amounts ranging from 10 to 30 "C" Series points. This would give effect to the submission which Mr. Baker is making in respect of pre-censal rents and a further 5 points would be added to six capitals average for post-censal rents.

On the Court's present adjustment scales each 12 "C" Series points is equivalent to about 18. in the basic wage adjustment. The foregoing figures are approximate estimates subject to revision.

Comment.—

Method A may be strictly correct for a statistical price index which measures "price" variations over a period of time. If this method be adopted "C" Series Index would not in future show differences of relative price levels as between capital cities.

Method B may be more appropriate than Method A if the "C" Series Index is to continue on present principles. Adoption of this method would involve accepting the view that rent "price" rise cannot be exactly measured in a strictly limited sense. If this method be adopted "C" Series would, as in the past, continue to show differences of price levels as between capital cities.

Method C would implement that part of Mr. Baker's submission which asks that the Court Series Index should incorporate in full the change in the average amount of rent actually paid (including changes due to rent costs consequent on rise in standard of houses occupied). This could be implemented by adding approximately 22 "C" Series points to the "C" Series Index derived as under Method B above for "pre-censal" adjustments and further points (5 at present) for post-censal adjustments. See Comment (E) herewith.

The Statistician expresses no view on the merits of applying either Method B or Method C to the Court Series. Choice of method (so far as Court Series is concerned) seems to turn on submissions made in various claims before the Court as to the general principle of adjustment and as to the relative wages to be paid in capital cities. Adoption of Method C would accept *pro tanto* the submission of Mr. Baker that the "rent" used for adjusting wages should be the average rent actually paid (including rises in the average standard of houses).

Figures quoted are derived from extensive analysis of Census results and are not yet final. They may require some revision but are sufficiently firm to be used as a basis for deciding what principles should be adopted.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

ANNEXURE (2).

RETAIL VEGETABLE PRICES, SYDNEY.

Comment on the Index Appended to Mr. Baker's Submission.

This index was compiled by the Government Statistician of New South Wales from a series of long-term records collected regularly by the Division of Marketing of New South Wales Department of Agriculture. The price data are considered to be reliable.

Mr. Baker has presented the statement with all of the written comment given to him.

It is only necessary to add that this is merely an experimental index and it illustrates the impracticability of devising a reliable index of price variations for vegetables in Sydney, or for any place in which prices and supplies fluctuate very widely at short intervals. For instance, not much meaning attaches to the index of 169 for the month of January, 1948, derived as an unweighted average of the successive weekly figures for that month—203, 236, 195 and 140. Prices of vegetables vary inversely with supply. It is evident that there was some shortage of vegetables in the first half of the month and something of a glut in the last week when prices fell heavily. Actually, much more vegetables were available for sale at the lower rates than at the higher and data are not available for weighting to get a true or effective average. This always applies to such an index since the quantum of purchases is governed by supply and price varies inversely to supply. In most circumstances such an index overstates the price rise. Arithmetical unweighted averages yield an unreal index.

The foregoing comment might be extended and illustrated much more fully to show that price index technique cannot be satisfactorily applied to commodities whose prices and supplies vary widely and rapidly. The index should therefore be used (if at all) only to show that the fluctuations are very wide and to derive some rough idea of the approximate order of magnitude of the fluctuations. It should not, for instance, be used as indicating that vegetable prices in Sydney in 1948 were 129 per cent. above pre-war average. The effective increase was probably very much less.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

BASIC WAGE INQUIRY 1949-50.

—
EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS

REFERRING TO "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

12TH OCTOBER, 1950.

SECTION V.—*continued.*
EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS.

Kelly C. J.

Provided that the "C" Series Index is an appropriate measure of the variation in the purchasing power of wages since 1937, it will be evident that the standard of living provided by the basic wage resulting from that inquiry has not only been maintained but has been increased as a result of the 1946 "interim" basic wage decision.

Two questions have to be answered: the first, whether the "C" Series Index has properly measured the fall in the purchasing power of wages, and in particular the basic wage, since 1937; the second, whether some further increase of the standard of the notional adult male worker in question can, in the light of all the evidence, be safely and effectively made.

The Acting Commonwealth Statistician stated in evidence that he was satisfied, having taken account of some influences which might have caused an overstatement as well as some which might have caused an understatement, that the "C" Series Index numbers since before the war had been a reasonably reliable measure of changes in the level of retail prices appropriate to the expenditure of wage-earner households. Apart from this, a section of the Unions' submissions concerned the propriety of adjusting wages by means of a price index, which by its nature could not measure rises in the cost of living if they resulted from a rise in the necessary standard of living, due to a change in convention or availability. The Acting Commonwealth Statistician in evidence indicated that this part of the Unions' claim did not concern the "C" Series Index as a price index; but he provided some details of possible changes in customary standard affecting certain items, chiefly rent, which might have caused a change in the "cost of living" in this sense. He quoted the difference between the rise in average rents of 4 and 5 roomed houses which had occurred between June, 1933 and June, 1947, as revealed by the Census, and the corresponding rise in the rent of those houses in a price sense, as measured for the "C" Series Index. The difference, amounting to 1s. 8d. a week for the six capital cities combined, was not in his opinion due to any failure of the "C" Series sample to measure the "price" element in the pre-consumption rent rise with reasonable accuracy, but was a change in "cost of living" due to other factors than price, presumably a change of standard. A further difference of 5d. had emerged between June, 1947 and December, 1948; for a number of reasons it was uncertain whether any appreciable part of this was a "price" rise which should have been included in the "C" series retail price index. After examining the evidence on rent and other matters on which a change in conventional standard had been alleged, I am satisfied that the sums involved are small in comparison with the actual increase in the basic wage standard achieved by the 7s. increase granted in 1946. Moreover, if the alleged inappropriateness of the index has been almost entirely due to rising necessary or available standards, affecting certain items, my conclusion remains almost unchanged. Nearly 5s. of the 1946 increase must be taken as having operated to effect a significant raising of the standard recognized by the 1937 judgment. And this raising of the standard has been maintained by the application to the 1946 "Interim" addition of the "C" Series Index

I think it is fair to include as a submission in support of the claims that the Unions have alleged "that the basic wage has not been adjusted in a manner to preserve and maintain a constant real standard of living for the Australian worker"; that "this maladjustment has resulted from the failure of the "C" Series Index figures to measure accurately the increasing costs of food, groceries, rent, clothing and miscellaneous articles necessary to be bought by the basic wage worker"; and "that in consequence of this failure the standard of living of the Australian worker has fallen". I have already said that, in my judgment, these allegations concerning the "failure" of the "C" Series Index have not been sustained

Foster J.

. "C" SERIES.

I agree completely with Mr. Wright's submission that "of the many things which have emerged from this case none is as satisfying as the examination of the construction of the "C" Series Index Numbers. No doubt can remain that the Statistician's methods and technique completely satisfy the requirements of an index designed for the purpose for which the "C" Series is designed."

After having from Mr. Carver, Acting Commonwealth Statistician, the assurance that a conference of Statisticians held after he gave evidence (but during the course of the case) had resolved against any alteration in the technique of compiling this Series, I am of opinion that for the Court's purpose the "C" Series is adequate, satisfactory and should not be altered. That does not mean that the index is perfect, no such claim is made for it and no such perfect index is possible, but it works within reasonable margins of error and is satisfactory

SECTION V.—*continued.*EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS—*continued.*

Dunphy J.

Mr. Carver, the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, had a lengthy occupancy of the witness-box, and was subjected to intensive questioning from all parties interested, including members of the Bench, as to the efficacy of the "C" Series Index in relation to basic wage matters. The index has been subjected to attack in prior basic wage proceedings and has been criticized by economists, and would-be economists, outside the Court, and by employers' organizations, and the labour movement in alternation over the years, without the Court itself ever finding any material fault in its structure. I doubt very much if such a full and complete exposition of its purpose and the machinery of its working as was presented in this hearing has ever been given before.

To my mind, Mr Carver's memorandum, Exhibit B.1 (which really constitutes his evidence in chief) together with his cross-examination, and his supplementary submission, Exhibit B.24, should be embodied in one document and widely circulated amongst all those who have any real interest in these very vital proceedings of the Court.

Annexure 1 to Exhibit B.1 is a record of replies by Mr. Carver to questions asked by delegates to the A.C.T.U. Congress in Sydney in June, 1945, and it appears that at that time the Acting Commonwealth Statistician was ready and willing to answer all questions which the labour movement cared to ask relating to the index, and, in fact, did answer a number of most pertinent questions dealing with current problems. In particular, publication of his treatment of that hardy annual, "the non-inclusion of fresh fruit and vegetables, other than potatoes and onions," from statistical calculation should bring home to all concerned, the facts in relation to what is often regarded as a vulnerable omission from the so-called regimen.

It seems to me that the odds are in favour of the omission inflating rather than deflating the "needs" wage up to the moment. The main reason why fresh fruit and vegetables have been omitted is the very great difficulty associated in tracing the fluctuations of price movements with respect to these commodities. They are most unstable both with respect to regularity of supply and uniformity of price, so that the position changes almost from day to day. Whilst it may be true that available statistics indicate that during the war years prices of fresh fruit and vegetables have increased more than most other food commodities, and their inclusion might, during that period, have had an inflationary effect, for many years prior to the war, and particularly in depression times, fresh fruit and vegetables were most susceptible to deflationary trends. If, therefore, they had been included prior to 1939, they would have had a deflationary effect on the "needs" wage over quite a lengthy period which, would have off-set any inflationary effect during more recent years. If the Statistician's methods are properly appreciated it should be realized that the addition to food commodity items of new items bearing a low average cost (no matter how common or necessary the use of such items may be) will inevitably result in a deflating of that particular portion of the index. Probably the use of the word "regimen" in relation to the "C" Series Index had given the false impression that the index purports to be a list of items of general average consumption, the total weekly value of which forms an integral part of the basic wage, and that therefore the omission of such necessary and everyday articles keeps that wage below the needs of the worker. Study of Mr. Carver's submissions completely debunks this superstition and, in my own view, the basic wage earner would have been worse off rather than better off if fresh fruit and vegetables had been an original item.

Apparently, this was appreciated by Mr. Baker because at page 1849 of the transcript he says—"If the Court please, on the particular matter of fruit and vegetables, I want to make it clear that there is no application or suggestion by me that the index should be altered to include fruit and vegetables," and at page 2572 he reinforced this statement as follows:—"There was some discussion as to the possibilities and desirability of including fresh fruit and vegetables and, I think, to some lesser extent, fresh fish in the regimen, and I just wanted to make my position clear that at this stage we are not suggesting that any major alteration such as the inclusion of classes of items which are not at present in the index should be included."

Mr. Carver did discuss at some length the assertion that the "C" Series takes no account of changes in the standard of housing available to wage earners in relation to the rent figure. There is a possible discrepancy here and the maximum deficiency, if any, appears to be now in the vicinity of 2s. 1d. Three alternatives were provided as tentative methods of adjustment, but as the inquiry on these particular lines is really only in the embryo stage, and was not fully debated before the Court, I would not be in favour of adopting any one of the three alternatives without a more exhaustive examination. The disclosures in this direction date from the 1947 Census, and even if they are finally and conclusively established it could not be said that the basic wage earner was

SECTION V.—*continued*.EXTRACTS FROM JUDGMENTS—*continued*.

out of pocket to this extent because the 7s. real increase granted in 1946 more than compensates for any such deficiency. During the course of the proceedings we were advised that a conference of State and Commonwealth Statisticians had made an up-to-date examination of the "C" Series and found it so substantially effective that they were not prepared to recommend any vital alterations, and this fact, together with all of the foregoing considerations, leads to the inevitable conclusion that nowhere in the world has a better system of measurement of price fluctuations been devised

SECTION VI.

Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53.

On 5th August, 1952 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration began hearing claims by:—

(1) The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other employers' organizations—

- (a) that the basic wage for adult males be reduced;
- (b) that the basic wage for adult females be reduced;
- (c) that the standard hours of work be increased;
- (d) that the system of adjusting the basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index-numbers be abandoned.

(2) The Metals Trades Federation, an association of employees' organizations, that the basic wage for adult males be increased, which would also result in increasing the amount, though not the proportion it bears to the basic wage for adult males, of the basic wage for adult females.

The Court consisted of Kelly *C.J.*, Foster, Kirby, Dunphy, Wright, McIntyre and Morgan *J.J.*, but before the hearing of evidence commenced Wright *J.* withdrew and during the hearing of the case Foster *J.* withdrew from the bench. The Court gave its decision on 12th September, 1953 and stated that reasons for its decision would be delivered later. Before the reasons for the judgment could be delivered McIntyre *J.*, who had been ill during the case, died.

The hearing of evidence for employers began on 16th September, 1952 and the hearing of evidence for employees concluded on 11th September, 1953. After the employers had finished their case and before the employees had commenced theirs, the counsel for employees applied to the Court to have the case dismissed on the grounds that "no case" had been made out by the employers. The Court however, rejected this claim.

The decision of the Court, announced on 12th September, 1953, was expressed in the following terms:—

"1. The employers' applications for reduction of the current basic wages for adult males and for reduction of the current basic wages for adult females are refused.

2. The employers' applications for an increase of the standard hours of work in the industries covered thereby are refused.

3. The employers' applications for omission or deletion of clauses or sub-clauses providing for the adjustment of basic wages are granted.

4. The Unions' applications for increases of basic wages are refused.

The Court makes orders accordingly, to operate as from to-day.

The reasons for the above decision will be delivered at a later date.

The form of the appropriate orders will be settled by the Industrial Registrar."

This decision applied to awards within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The reasons for the decision were delivered on 27th October, 1953.

SECTION VII.

Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Male Workers in the Main Occupations in the Capital City of each State for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) at 31st December, 1952.

NOTE.—These rates are quoted from the latest Awards, Determinations, or Agreements which were in force at 31st December, 1952. Where two or more Award, Determination, or Agreement Rates are quoted, the reason for such is that different rates of wage have been fixed for various classes or grades of work. In certain cases of this nature the wages are shown in the form (say) 280s. 0d. to 280s. 0d., indicating that in addition to the two rates specified there are also certain intermediate rates in force. In other cases the rates are shown in the form 26s. 0d. and 27s. 6d., indicating that there are only two minimum or standard rates in force for different classes or grades of work, and that there are no intermediate minimum or standard rates. Except where otherwise specified by a numerical prefix in small type, the hours of labour constituting a full week's work are 40. (See footnotes below).

GROUP I.—WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS AND TIMBER YARDS.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Coopering—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Coopers	289 0	298 0	271 0	296 0	302 1	322 0
Furniture—						
Cabinetmakers ..	287 0	278 0	259 0	279 0	290 0	280 0
Carpet Planners ..	287 0	278 0	259 0	279 0	283 6	280 0
Chairmakers	287 0	278 0	259 0	279 0	290 0	280 0
French Polishers ..	287 0	278 0	259 0	279 0	288 6	280 0
Upholsterers	287 0	278 0	259 0	279 0	288 6	280 0
Woodcarvers	287 0	278 0	259 0	279 0	288 6	280 0
Wood Machinists ..	287 0	258/ to 278/	259 0	259/ to 279/	282 0	260/ to 280/
Mattress Making—Wire—						
Finishers	275 6	258 0	252 7	259 0	262 6	260 0
Makers	279/6 & 282/	278 0	252 7	279 0	282 0	280 0
Picture Framing—						
Compo. Workers ..	271 0	268 0	252 0	269 0	268 6	270 0
General Hands ..	271 0	258 0	252 0	259 0	268 6	260 0
Gilders	271 0	258 0	252 0	259 0	268 6	260 0
Mount Cutters ..	271 0	258 0	252 0	259 0	268 6	260 0
Sawmilling and Timber Yards—						
Box and Casemakers	267 0	258 0	232 6	259 0	256 6	260 0
Labourers	251 0	242 0	231 6	243 0	243 6	244 0
Machinists—						
Box Printing	258 6	249 6	254 0	250 6	283 6	251 6
Boult's Carver ..	283 6	274 6	254 0	275 6	283 6	276 6
Nailing	259 0	250 0	232 6	251 0	253 6	252 0
Planing	268/6 & 283/6	259/6 & 274/6	233 6	260/6 & 275/6	268/6 & 283/6	261/6 & 276/6
Shaping	283 6	274 6	254 0	275 6	288 6	276 6
Ordermen	270 6	267 6	239 0	262 6	268 6	263 6
Saw Doctors	302 0	293 0	263 8	291 0	304 6	295 0
Sawyers—						
Band or jig	258/ to 289/	259/ to 280/	261 6	260/ to 281/	268/6 & 281/6	261/ to 282/
Circular	269/ & 281/6	260/ & 272/6	241 6	261/ & 273/6	268/6 & 279/6	262/ & 274/6
Stackers	254/ & 261/	245/ & 252/	231/6	246/ & 253/	254 6	247/ & 254/
Wood Turners	283 6	274 6	240 10	275 6	288 6	276 6

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Agricultural Implements—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Assemblers	269 0	252/ & 256/	235 0	253/ & 257/	254/6 & 260/6	262 0
Bulldozermen	290 6	257 0	..	258 0	..	283 6
Drillers	265/ to 289/	253 0	..	254 0	293 6	258/ to 282/
Fitters	269/ & 289/	258/ to 265/	..	259/ to 266/	266/6 & 269/6	262/ & 282/
Labourers—unskilled	246 0	237 0	..	238 0	238 6	239 0
Machinists—iron ..	254/ to 289/	256/ to 280/	..	257/ to 281/	293 6	258/ to 282/
Painters—Brush ..	260 0	251 0	..	252 0	255 6	253 0
Patternmakers	260 0	260 0	..	261 0	255 6	253 0
Sheet Iron Workers ..	302 0	293 0	..	294 0	310 6	295 0
.. ..	274 0	265/ & 280/	..	266/ & 281/	277/6 & 293/6	267 0
Strikers	260/ & 262/	251/ & 253/	..	252/ & 254/	262 6	253/ & 257/

Various numbers of hours constituting a full week's work.

- (1) 34 hours. (2) 36 hours. (3) 37½ hours. (4) 38 hours. (5) 38½ hours (77 per fortnight). (6) 39 hours. (7) 44 hours. (8) 60 hours. (9) 35 to 40 hours. (10) 76 hours per fortnight. (11) 42 hours. (12) 48 hours.

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Boiler Making—						
Journeyman ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Railwayman ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Brassworking—						
Coremakers ..	265/ to 289/	256/ to 280/	268 0	257/ to 281/	293 6	258/ to 282/
Dressers ..	267/ & 269/	258/ & 260/	243 6	259/ & 261/	264/6 & 267/6	260/ & 262/
Planishers ..	274/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Furnacemen ..	271/ to 274/	262/ to 265/	245/ to 263/6	263/ to 266/	269 6	264/ to 267/
Moulders ..	265/ to 280/	256/ to 280/	255/ & 268/	257/ to 281/	293 6	258/ to 282/
Cycles—						
Assemblers ..	256 6	257/6 & 265/	248/ & 268/	261/ & 273/6	261/6 & 263/6	263 0
Frame Builders ..	267 0	265/ & 266/3	263 6	270/ & 285/	277/6 & 288/6	268 0
Repairers ..	267 0	265/ & 266/3	263 6	270/ & 285/	277/6 & 288/6	277 6
Turners (Cycle) ..	267 0	280 0	263 6	270/ & 285/	293 6	282 0
Electrical Installation—						
Cable Joiners ..	284/6 & 287/6	275/6 & 278/6	268 0	276/6 & 279/6	280 6	277/6 & 280/6
Fitters ..	289 0	280 0	270 9	281 0	293 6	282 0
Mechanics ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Patrolmen ..	262/6 & 277/	253/6 & 268/	241 11	254/6 & 269/	280 6	255/6 & 270/
Wiremen ..	277 0	268 0	268 0	269 0	280 6	270 0
Other Adults ..	246 0	237 0	234 0	238 0	238 6	239 0
Electrical Supply—						
Armature Winders ..	301 0	280 0	270 9	281 0	293 6	282 0
Cable Joiners ..	301 0	275/6 & 278/6	268 0	276/6 & 279/6	280 6	277/6 & 280/6
Instrument Makers ..	304 6	295 6	270 9	296 6	293 6	297 6
Linemens ..	295 0	268 0	268 0	269 0	280 6	270/ to 282/
Motor Traders ..	304 6	260/ & 267/	268 0	261/ & 268/	280 6	262/ & 269/
Patrolmen—Night Shift Electricians ..	304 0	280 0	250 0	269 0		270 0
Switchboard Attendants ..		266 6	234 0	267 6		268 6
Other Adults ..	272 0	237 0	234 0	238 0	238 6	239 0
Electrical Trades—						
Fitters ..	289 0	280 0	270 9	281 0	293 6	282 0
Mechanics ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Wiremen ..	277 0	268 0	268 0	269 0	280 6	270 0
Electroplating—						
Platers ..	259/ to 289/	250/ to 280/	268 0	251/ to 281/	264/6 to 293/6	252/ to 282/
Polishers ..	267 0	265 0	246/ & 268/	259 0	270 6	267 0
Engineering—						
Blacksmiths ..	290 6	281 6	272 6	282 6	293 6	283 6
Borers and Slotters ..	271/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Brassfinishers ..	274/ & 280/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Coppersmiths ..	290 6	281 6	269 6	282 6	293 6	283 6
Drillers—Radial ..	261/ & 284/6	252/ & 273/6	244 0	253/ & 276/6	293 6	254/ & 277/6
Fitters ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Millers ..	271/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Patternmakers ..	302 0	293 0	281 0	294 0	310 6	295 0
Planers—						
Rail and Plate Edge ..	274/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	244 0	266/ & 281/	264 6	267/ & 282/
Other ..	274/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Shapers ..	271/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Turners ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Ironworking—Assistants—						
Boilermakers' Helpers ..	260 0	251 0	241 0	252 0	262 6	253 0
Labourers ..	260 0	251 0	231 10	252 0	238 6	253 0
Engineers' Labourers ..	260 0	251 0	231 10	252 0	262 6	253 0
Furnacemen's Assistants ..	260 0	251 0	231 10	252 0	261 6	253 0
Moulders' Labourers ..	260 0	251 0	231 10	252 0	262 6	253 0
Strikers ..	260/ & 262/	231/ & 253/	231 10	252/ & 254/	262 6	253/ & 255/

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Moulding—Iron—						
Coremakers—Machine	265/ to 276/	256/ to 267/	268 0	257/ to 268/	277 6	258/ to 269/
" Other	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Dressers and Fettlers	260/ to 270/	251/ to 261/	243 6	252/ to 262/	264/6 & 267/6	253/ to 263/
Furnacemen	266/ to 284/6	257/ to 275/6	245/ to 263/6	258/ to 276/6	269/6 to 273/6	259/ to 277/6
Moulders—Machine	265/ to 276/	256/ to 267/	255 0	257/ to 268/	277 6	258/ to 269/
" Other	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Sheet Metal Working—						
Canister Makers	263 0	254 0	242 0	255 0	264 6	256 0
Japanners—						
Coating or Brush-work	259 0	250 0	253 0	251 0	255 6	252 0
Ornamental	274 0	265 0	253 0	266 0	255 6	267 0
Solderers	259/ & 263/	250/ & 254/	253 0	251/ & 255/	257 6	252/ & 256/
Tinsmiths	274/ & 289/	265/ & 280/	268 0	266/ & 281/	293 6	267/ & 282/
Nailmaking—						
Case Wire	258 0	237 0				239 0
Labourers	258 0	237 0				233 0
Setters Up	276 0	254 0				258 0
Wire Working—						
Journeyman	257 0	257 0	229 0		249 0	

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Aerated Water and Cordials—						
Bottlers	257 0	248 0	236 0	256 0	253 6	250 0
Drivers (Motor)	268/6 to 279/	259/6 to 270/	244/ to 252/	260/6 to 271/	270/ & 276/	261/6 to 272/
" (One Horse)	260 6	251 6	242 0	252 6	262 0	253 6
Packers	254 0	245 0	233 0	253 0	247 0	247 0
Wire	254 0	245 0	233 0	253 0	247 0	247 0
Baking (Bread)—						
Board Hands	297 0	295 0	256/ to 261/	281 6	301 6	298 0
Carters (One Horse)	277 0	270 0	243 0	276 0	259 6	253 6
Doughmen	309/6 & 312/6	301 8	263 6	291 6	306 6	298 0
Ovenmen	305 6	295 0	261 0	281 6	301 6	298 0
Stablehands	302 0	305 10	263 6	286 6	306 6	307 0
Baking (Biscuits and Cakes)—						
Adult Males	243 0	245 0	230 6	242 0	250 6	234 0
Bakers	269 6	267 0	241 0	259 0	259 6	279 0
Mixers	258/ & 262/	266 0	241 0	257 0	261 6	285 0
Brewing—						
Adult Males	271 0	264 0	237 0	253 0	271 6	268 0
Bottlers and Washers	271 0	264 0	237 0	253 0	271 6	268 0
Cellarman	271/ & 276/	272 3	247 0	268 0	276 6	268 0
Drivers (Two Horses)	277 0	270 0	248 0	256 0	271 6	261 6
" (Motor under 3 tons)	285 0	283 9	248/ to 256/	259 0	281 6	261/6 & 267/6
Towermen	276 0	273 0	237 0	256 0	276 6	276 0
Butchery (Carcass)—						
Chilling Room Hands	263/ to 268/	321 6	239 0	297 9	266 0	316 0
Labourers (Beef)	267 0	284 6	239 0	290 9	254 6	293 6
" (Mutton)	259 0	284 6	239 0	290 9	254 6	293 6
Scalders	307 0	295 0	256 6	365 0	254 6	297 0
Slaughtermen (Beef)	347 0	347 3	264 6	365 0	283 6	349 0
" (Mutton)	(d)	347 3	264 6	365 0	283 6	349 0

(a) Piece-work rates.

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Tailoring—Ready-made—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cutters	289 0	289 0	289 0	289 0	289 0	289 0
Folders	259 0	259 0	259 0	259 0	259 0	259 0
Machinists	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0
Pressers	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0
Tailors	285 0	285 0	285 0	285 0	285 0	285 0
Trimmers	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0	278 0
Textile-Working—Woolen Mills—						
Carders	259 0	259 0	234/ & 237/	256 0	259 0	259 0
Dyehousemen	264 0	264 0	234 0	261 0	264 0	264 0
Labourers—General	235 0	235 0	230 0	232 0	235 0	235 0
Pattern Weavers	270 0	270 0		267 0	270 0	270 0
Scourers	264/ & 271/6	264/ & 271/6	240/ & 246/	261/ & 268/6	264/ & 271/6	264/ & 271/6
Spinners	259 0	259 0	234/ & 241/	256 0	259 0	259 0
Tuners	252/ to 282/	252/ to 282/	232/ to 259/	249/ to 279/	252/ to 282/	252/ to 282/

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bookbinding—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bookbinders	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Finishers	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Marblers	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Paper Rulers	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Engraving (Process)—(a)						
Engravers	297 0	288 0	276 0	289 0	298 6	294 0
Etchers—Half-tone	301 6	292 6	280 6	293 6	298 6	294 6
Etchers—Line	297 0	288 0	276 0	289 0	293 6	290 0
Operators	301 6	292 6	280 6	293 6	298 6	294 6
Printers	297 0	288/ & 292/6	276 0	289 0	293 6	288 0
Routers	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	284 6	288 0
Lithographing—						
Printers	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Rotary Machinists	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Stone Polishers	265 0	250 0	244 0	257 0	256 0	256 0
Printing (Daily Newspapers)—						
Compositors—						
Day Work	363/ to 370/6	*339 0	324/ & 327/6	329 0	*322 10	330 0
Night Work	378/ to 386/6	*364 0	337/6 & 344/	349 0	*337 10	350 0
Linotype Attendants—						
Day Work	323/ to 330/6	297 6	313/6 & 317/	311 0	*290 11	312 0
Night Work	338/ to 346/6	*322 6	327/ & 333/6	331 0	*305 11	332 0
Linotype Operators—						
Day Work	363/ to 370/6	339 0	307/6 & 311/	329 0	*335 7	330 0
Night Work	378 to 386/6	*364 0	321/ & 327/6	349 0	*350 7	350 0
Machinists (First Hand)—						
Day Work	323/ to 335/6	343 6	316/ & 319/6	329 0	*312 9	330 0
Night Work	338/ to 351/6	*368 6	329/6 & 336/	349 0	*327 9	350 0
Publishers—						
Day Work	300/6 to 308/	297 6	282/6 & 286/	296 0	*287 11	297 0
Night Work	315/6 to 324/	*322 6	296/ to 302/6	316 0	*302 11	317 0
Readers—						
Day Work	330/6 to 338/	339 0	307/6 & 311/	320 0	*322 10	321 0
Night Work	345/6 to 354/	*364 0	321/ & 327/6	340 0	*337 10	341 0
Readers' Assistants—						
Day Work	300/6 to 308/	311 6	282/6 & 286/	293 0	*283 2	294 0
Night Work	315/6 to 324/	*336 6	296/ & 302/6	313 0	*298 2	314 0
Stereotypers (First Class)—						
Day Work	318/ to 330/6	*339 0	297/6 & 306/	308 0	*307 11	309 0
Night Work	333/ to 346/6	*364 0	316/ & 317/6	328 0	*322 11	329 0

(a) Other than in newspaper offices.

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Printing (Job Offices)—						
Compositors ..	s. d. 295/ 10	s. d. 286/ 10	s. d. 274/ 10	s. d. 287/ 10	s. d. 286/ 10	s. d. 288/ 10
Electrotypers ..	305/ 6	296/ 6	284/ 6	297/ 6	296/ 6	298/ 6
General Hands ..	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Lino-type Operators ..	253 0	244 0	232 0	245 0	244 0	246 0
Machinists ..	305 6	296 6	284 6	297 6	296 6	298 6
Monotype Operators ..	295 0	285 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Monotype Casting	305 6	296 6	284 6	297 6	296 6	298 6
Machinists ..	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0
Readers ..	295 6	289 6	277 6	290 6	289 6	291 6
Stereotypers ..	295 0	286 0	274 0	287 0	286 0	288 0

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Brickmaking—						
Burners ..	267/ & 273/	269 0	234 0	265 6	265 6	270 9
Carters—Two Horses ..	268 0	259 0	247 0	260 6	270 0	261 6
Drawers ..	289 6	268/ 6 & 271/	231 6	270 6	268 6	270 9
Labourers ..	264 6	258 0	226 8	253 0	257 6	268 0
Machinemen ..	283 6	265 6	231 6	264 0	257 6	268 0
Paumens ..	271/ 6 & 286/ 6	261/ & 265/ 6	226 8	271 6	257 6	268 0
Pitmen ..	284 0	283/ 6 & 289/ 6	228 6	278 0	257 6	268 0
Setters ..	289 6	268/ 6 & 281/	230 0	270 6	268 6	273 6
Whealers ..	281 0	263 0	228 6	259 0	268 6	268 0
Brushmaking—						
Base Broom Drawers ..	274 6	268 0	233 6	271 0	264 6	
Finishers ..	274 6	268 0	233 6	274 0	264 6	
Machinists—Dorning ..	274 6	253 0	233 6	274 0	264 6	
Paint Brush Makers ..	282 0	274 3	233 6	274 0	264 6	
Candle Making—						
Acidifiers ..	267 6	266 6		267 6		
General Hands ..	261 0	255/ 10 & 260/		258 0	246 6	
Glycerine Distillers ..	273 3	266 6		267 6	261 0	
Moulders ..	273 3	260 0		259 6		
Stillmen ..	278 6	266 6		267 6		
Cardboard Box Making—						
Guillotine and other Cutters ..	268/ 6 to 280/ 6	259/ 6 to 271/ 6	247/ 6 & 254/ 6	260/ 6 to 272/ 6	259/ 6 to 271/ 6	261/ 6 to 273/ 6
Other Adults ..	253 0	244 0	232 0	245 0	244 0	246 0
Coachmaking (Road)—						
Bodymakers ..	289 0	280 0	268 0	281 0	293 6	282 0
Labourers ..	240 0	231 0	227 6	232 0	238 0	233 0
Painters ..	262/ 6 to 283/ 6	253/ 6 to 274/ 6	262 6	254/ 6 to 275/ 6	268 6	253/ 6 to 276/ 6
Smiths ..	290 6	281 6	269 6	282 6	293 6	283 6
Trimmers ..	283 6	274 6	262 6	275 6	288 6	276 6
Wheelmaking Machinists ..	289 0	280 0	262 6	281 0	283 6	282 0
Wheelwrights ..	283 6	274 6	262 6	275 6	288 6	276 6
Feltmongering—						
Gate Hands ..	262 0	254 0	242 0	255 0	253 6	253 0
Green Hands ..	262 0	254 0	242 0	255 0	253/ 6 & 257/ 3	253 0
Limepit Men ..	262 0	254 0	242 0	255 0	253 6	253 0
Machinists ..	262/ 10 to 270/ 6	254/ 10 to 262/ 6	242/ 10 to 250/ 6	255/ 10 to 263/ 6	253/ 6 & 257/ 3	253/ 10 to 261/ 6
Soakpote Men ..	265 0	257 0	245 0	258 0	257 3	256 0
Wool Sorters ..	280/ 6 & 300/ 6	272/ 6 & 292/ 6	260/ 6 & 280/ 6	273/ 6 & 293/ 6	269 9	271/ 6 & 291/ 6

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s d	s. d.	s. d.	s d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gas Making and Supply—						
Coke Trimmers ..	265 0	249 0	232 0	253 0	256 6	251 0
Gas Fitters ..	303 0	285 6	280 6	290 0	294 6	282 0
Labourers ..	252 0	243 0	232 0	244 0	256 6	245 0
Mainlayers ..	262 0	260 0	250 6	284/ & 299/	275 6	262 0
Metermakers ..	287 0	278 0	268 0	285 0	288 6	282 0
Motor Testers ..	266/ & 275/	272 0	246 0	270 0	271 6	265 0
Service Layers ..	281 0	266 0	250 6	290 0	275 6	268 0
Stokers ..	276 0	261 0	259 0	268 0	266 6	263 0
Glassfoundry—						
Furnacemen ..	278 6	263/6 to 278/6	251/6 to 266/6	264/6 to 279/7	263/6 to 278/6	..
Labourers ..	250 0	247 0	235 0	248 0	247 0	..
Lehrmen ..	260 0	255 0	243 0	256 0	255 0	..
Sorters ..	261 0	252/6 & 259/	240/6 & 247/	253/6 & 260/	252/6 & 259/	..
Glass Working and Glazing						
Bevelers ..	294 6	278 0	263 6	279 0	280 0	280 0
Cutters and Glaziers ..	287 0	278 0	263 6	270 0	280 0	280 0
Lead Light Glaziers ..	287 0	278 0	271 0	279 0	280 0	280 0
Silverers ..	294 6	278 0	263 6	279 0	280 0	280 0
Jewellery, Clock and Watchmaking—						
Choinmakers ..	287 0	280 0	240 6	281 6	286 0	..
Engravers ..	295 0	280 0	240/6 & 246/	283 6	286 0	..
Mounters ..	287 0	280 0	240/6 & 246/	289 6	286 0	..
Setters ..	295 0	270 6	..	289 6	286 0	..
Watch and Clock- makers and Repairers	302 0	257/ & 282/	253 6	287 0	288 6	265/ & 295/
Masonry—Marble and Stones—						
Carvers ..	329 4	297 6	273 0	303 0	295 0	..
Machinists— Carborundum ..	316 0	267/6 & 278/3	273 0	263/6 & 274/	261 6	300 0
Other ..	316 0	267/6 & 278/3	273 0	263/6 & 274/	261 6	300 0
Masons ..	316 0	286 6	273 0	282 0	295 0	300 0
Paper Bag Making—						
Guillotine Cutters ..	275 6	266 6	254 6	267 6	266 6	268 6
Machinists ..	275/6 & 283/	266/6 & 274/	254/6 & 262/	267/6 & 275/	266/6 & 274/	268/6 & 276/
Paper Making—						
Beatermen ..	323 0	312/ to 328/	..	..	..	324 0
Brenkermen ..	287 6	278 6	..	..	..	..
Guillotine Men ..	290 6	281 6	..	..	..	285 0
Machinists ..	335 0	320/ to 357/	..	..	..	324/ to 353/
Ragbolormen ..	286 6	276 0	..	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	272 6	263 6	..	..	..	239 6
Potteries—General—						
Burners—Head ..	270 0	259 0	242 6	258/6 & 261/6	263 6	260 0
Hollow-ware Pressers ..	283 9	252 0	234 0	251 0	..	276 0
Sanitary Pressers ..	283 9	233 0	234 0	251 0	252/ & 260/	276 0
Throwers—1st Class ..	284/9 & 288/	261 0	245 0	270/ & 285/	..	279 0
Potteries—Pipemaking—						
Burners—Head ..	273 0	259 0	242 6	270 6	266 0	266 0
Drawers ..	274 6	250 0	231 6	260 6	262 6	..
Moulders ..	277 6	243 0	228 6	270 6	265 0	263 6
Mould Makers ..	277 6	261 0	239 0	257 0	262 6	..
Setters ..	274 6	256 0	230 0	266/6 & 270/6	262 6	266 0
Quarrying—						
Borders—Hand ..	277 0	273 0	231 2	272 0	256 6	263 0
Machine ..	285 8	283 6	234 10	265 6	256 6	259 0
Dressers ..	286 10	277 6	231 2	263 6	256 6	259 0
Facemen ..	277 0	288 6	231 2	272 0	252 0	259 0
Hammermen ..	287 9	280 0	226/7 & 230/8	265 6	260 6	265 0
Machine Feeders ..	..	..	234 10	265 6	252 0	266 6
Quarrymen ..	285 8	..	..	..	..	..

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Rubber Working—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Calendar Hands ..	272/ & 277/	263/ & 268/	240 0	266 6	..	..
Cycle Tyre Makers ..	234 0	245 0	..	..	..	258 6
Dough Mixers ..	254 0	245 0	233 6	250 6	..	..
Hosemakers ..	256/ to 263/	247/ to 254/	233 6	..	..	..
Mechanical Lathe						
Hands ..	256/ & 260/6	247/ & 251/6	233 6	252 6	..	..
Mill Hands ..	254/ & 263/	245/ & 254/	233 6	262 0	..	..
Spreaders ..	257/ & 263/	248/ & 254/	233/6 & 236/	..	..	..
Surgical, Packing, and other Makers ..	256/ & 268/	247/ & 259/	229/ & 233/6	..	..	..
Tyre Moulders ..	254/ & 260/6	245/ & 251/6	242 0	254 6	..	258 6
Saddlery and Harness Making—						
Harness Makers ..	277 0	268 0	256 0	269 0	274 6	270 0
Saddlers ..	277 0	268 0	256 0	269 0	274 6	270 0
Sailmaking—						
Sailmakers ..	277 0	268 0	256 0	269 0	..	270 0
Shipbuilding—						
Carpenters and Joiners ..	308 0	308 0	308 0	308 0	308 0	308 0
Dockers (a) ..	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/
Painters (a) ..	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/	254/ to 269/
Shipwrights ..	291 6	291 6	291 6	291 6	291 6	291 6
Soap Making—						
General Hands ..	261 0	255/ to 260/6	234 6	261 0	246 6	241 0
Mixers ..	273 3	260/ to 265/	234 6	258/ & 261/	..	241 0
Soap Makers ..	299 6	267 6	234 6	268 6	255 6	261 0
Tanning and Currying—						
Beamsmen ..	284 6	275 6	263 6	276 6	275 6	277 6
Curriers ..	300 6	291 6	279 6	292 6	291 6	293 6
Japanners or Enamellers ..	284 0	275 0	263 0	276 0	275 0	277 0
Limemen ..	277 6	268 6	256 6	269 6	268 6	270 6
Machinists—						
Fleshing ..	289 6	280 6	268 6	281 6	280 6	282 6
Scouring ..	275 6	266 6	254 6	267 6	266 6	268 6
Splitting ..	291/6 to 298/6	282/6 to 289/6	270/6 to 277/6	283/6 to 290/6	282/6 to 289/6	284/6 to 291/6
Unhairing ..	284 6	275 6	263 6	276 6	275 6	277 6
Rollers and Strikers ..	283/ & 285/6	274/ & 276/6	262/ & 264/6	275/ & 277/6	274/ & 276/6	276/ & 278/6
Tablemen ..	279/6 to 285/6	270/6 to 276/6	258/6 to 264/6	271/6 to 277/6	270/6 to 276/6	272/6 to 278/6
Tent and Tarpaulln Making—						
Cutters ..	271 0	262 0	250 0	263 0	252 6	264 0
Machinists ..	271 0	262 0	250 0	263 0	252 6	264 0
Sewers—Hand ..	271 0	262 0	250 0	263 0	252 6	264 0
Tent Makers ..	271 0	262 0	250 0	263 0	252 6	264 0

(a) Permanent rate

GROUP VII.—BUILDING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Building—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Bricklayers—						
Sewer and Tunnel ..	340 0	324 2	287 0	315 0	320 2	310/ & 320/
Surface ..	326 8	313 4	279 6	315 0	315 2	305 0
Carpenters ..	331 8	290 0	283 6	291 6	316 8	286 6
Labouring (Builders)(a) ..	262 6	253 6	258 6	254 6	270 9	255 6
Lathers ..	331 8	290 6	280 6	291 6	316 8	305 0
Metak Cellars ..	331 8	290 6	283 6	291 6	316 8	308 0
Masons ..	316 0	286 6	273 0	315 0	313 8	305 0
Painters, Paperhangers ..	315 0	313 4	279 6	280 3	314 2	305 0
Signwriters ..	327 6	313 4	281 0	280 3	314 2	305 0

(a) Rate excludes allowances for statutory holidays, following the job and sick pay.

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP VII.—BUILDING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Building—continued.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Plasterers—						
Sewer or Tunnel ..	337 1	311 4	288/ & 291/9	315 10	320 2	310/ & 320/
Surface ..	323 9	307 6	280 6	315 10	315 2	305 0
Plumbers, Gasfitters ..	324 0	313 7	280 6	289 0	316 8	313 0
Slaters ..	324 0	313 4	279 6	..	279 6	..
Tilers (Roof) ..	324 0	313 4	279 6	282 6	279 6	..
Tuckpointers ..	326 8	313 4	279 6	315 0	..	..
Water Supply and Sewerage—						
Concrete Workers ..	275/3 to 284/5	273 0	236/ to 252/6	250 0	250/6 to 262/6	254/ & 257/
Labourers ..	269/1 to 279/10	253 0	227/ to 239/11	229 0	244 6	243 0
Miners—Sewer ..	*289/10 to 308/9	258 to 268/	252/6 & 257/6	257/ & 269/	252/ to 268/6	254/ & 266/
Pipe-jointers and Setters ..	279/10 & 285/1	268 0	232 6	250/ to 258/	262/6 & 273/6	257 0

GROUP VIII.—MINING.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Coal-mining—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Blacksmiths ..	295 3	288 6	274/3 to 290/3	..	312 0	283 10
Bracemen ..	291 1	271 6	270/1 to 286/1	..	..	270 5
Carpenters ..	299 0	290 0	278/ to 294/	..	..	275 0
Deputies ..	339 8	305 11	313/8 to 329/8	..	*336 4	309 6
Engine Drivers—						
Winding and Loco.	321/ to 326	310 5	272/ to 321/	..	319 10	286 7
Other ..	284/5 to 293/7	303 4	266/ to 292/5	..	..	277/5 & 286/7
Labourers—						
Surface ..	276 6	268/7 to 275/3	256/1 to 272/1	..	271 4	270 5
Underground ..	279 5	268/7 to 276/1	256/1 to 272/1	..	*280 1	270 5
Miners—						
Machine ..	(a)298/7 & 320/3	(b)	299/3 to 315/3	..	*318 2	292 1
Manual—Dry Work	(a)298 7	(a)281 6	(a)277/7 to 293/7	..	*294 3	..
Platmen or Banksmen	276/6 & 296/1	285 3	256/1 to 272/1	..	*277 4	..
Shiftmen—						
Dry Work ..	298 7	285 3	277/7 to 293/7	..	*294 3	284 2
Wet Work ..	311 1	297 9	290/1 to 306/1	..	..	296 8
Shotfirers ..	329 1	299 0	306/7 to 322/7	..	*318 2	287 1
Timbermen ..	293/7 & 298/7	285 3	277/7 to 293/7	..	*294 3	284 2
Weighmen ..	280 8	282 7	302 0	..	323 7	279 2
Whealers ..	280/3 & 282/9	276 11	259/6 to 275/6	..	*282 10	270 5
Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)—					(c)	
Battery Feeders ..	262/ to 268/	241/ & 244/	232 4	261 0	291 8	248/ to 258/
Bracemen ..	264/ to 270/	251/ & 254/	237 10	270/ & 277/6	*296 8	262/ to 268/

(a) Piece-work rates normally operate for these occupations but minimum weekly wage rates are as shown. (b) Piece-work rates. (c) Excludes district allowances.

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP VIII.—MINING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)—contd.						
Engine Drivers—					(4)	
Stationary ..	249/ to 285/	262/ to 273/6	225/ to 282/		302/11 to 312/1	260/ to 275/
Winding and Loco.	255/ to 294/	263/ to 287/6	240/ to 272/	261 0	306/3 to 350/10	260/ to 275/
Firemen ..	244/6 to 261/	257/ & 262/	225/ to 244/9		293/4 to 302/1	248/ to 263/
Labourers ..	254/ to 263/	241/ & 244/	232 4	270 0	284 2	248/ to 265/
Miners—						
Machine ..	274/ to 290/6	257/ to 274/	237/10 to 246/		³ 304/2 to 314/2	264/ to 288/
Manual—						
Dry Work ..	274/ to 283/	265/ to 274/	237 10	270 0	³ 296/8 to 306/8	272/ to 282/
Wet Work ..	281/6 to 290/6	277/6 to 286/6	245 4	277 6	³ 305/8 to 315/8	284/6 to 294/6
Platmen ..	264/ to 277/6	251/ & 254/	237 10		⁴ 296 8	262/ & 268/
Shaft Sinkers—						
Dry Work ..	277/ to 283/	268/ & 274	237 10	270 0	⁴ 301/8 to 314/2	278/ to 288/
Wet Work ..	284/6 to 290/6	280/6 & 286/6	245 4	277 6	³ 310/8 to 323/2	290/6 to 300/6
Timbermen ..	275/ to 293/6	268/ to 276/	246 0	270 0	³ 306/8 to 314/2	275/ to 290/

(a) Excludes district allowances.

GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Railways—						
Engine Drivers (Loco.)—						
1st Class ..	326/ & 329/	306/ to 321/	300 1	307/ to 322/	314/6 to 322/6	306/ to 321/
2nd Class ..	320 0	303 0	290 9	304 0	305 6	303 0
3rd Class ..	311 0	294 0	283 1	295 0	295 0	294 0
4th Class ..	292 6	284 6	275 3	285 6	289 6	284 6
5th Class ..	286 0	278 0	275 5	279 0	289 6	278 0
Firemen—						
1st Class ..	279/ & 282/	264/ to 271/	256 0	265/ to 272/	281 6	264/ to 271/
2nd Class ..	276 0	258 0	249 10	259 0	269 6	258 0
3rd Class ..	272 0	252 0	249 10	253 0	262 6	252 0
Guards—						
1st Class ..	296 0	287 6	275 9	286 6	288 6	276/6 & 282/
2nd Class ..	287/ & 290/	270/ to 281/6	268 10	277/6 & 283/	282 6	272 6
3rd Class ..	282/ & 284/	270/ to 281/6	257 0	268/ & 271/	276 6	268 0
Porters ..	253/ to 284/	245/6 to 280/	235/10 to 239/9	246/ & 271/	241/6 to 261/6	245/ to 271/
Shunters—						
1st Class ..	¹⁰ 295/ & 299/	¹⁰ 286/ & 289/	277 3	278/ & 281/	276/6 to 282/6	276/6 & 279/6
2nd Class ..	¹⁰ 284/6 & 287/6	¹⁰ 278/6 & 281/6	268 5	271 0	270 6	267 0
3rd Class ..	¹⁰ 265/ to 281/	¹⁰ 250/ to 268/6	264 5	258/ to 268/	267 6	260 0
Ordinary ..	¹⁰ 265/ to 275/	¹⁰ 250/ to 268/6	248 7	258/ to 268/	267 6	257 0
Signalmen—						
Special ..	¹⁰ 314 0	¹⁰ 303 0	273/4 & 283/2	287/ & 296/	293 0	
1st Class ..	¹⁰ 311 0	¹⁰ 292 6	271 4	280 0	279 6	273 0
2nd Class ..	303 0	279 6	265 6	274 0	270 6	267 6
3rd Class ..	295 0	271 6	258 6	266 0	260 0	262 0
4th Class ..	287 0	267 0	252 9	261 0	255 6	262 0

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Tramways (Electric)—						
Car Washers or Cleaners	258 0	251 0	230 7	243/ & 246/	246 6	247 0
Conductors—						
1st Year	258 0	251 0	229/6 & 232/6	246/ & 248/	265 6	248 6
2nd Year	264 0	257 0	232/6 & 236/	248 0	265 6	252 6
3rd Year	264 0	257 0	236/ & 242/	252 0	265 6	252 6
Labourers	252 6	245 0	227 0	244/ & 247/	238 6	247 0
Maintenance Men ..	260/ & 263/	254 0	227/ to 239/8	249/ & 252/	253 6	251 0
Motormen—						
1st Year	267 0	251 0	229/6 & 232/6	248 0	265 6	250 0
2nd Year	267 0	257 0	232/6 & 236/	251 0	265 6	254 0
3rd Year	267 0	257 0	236/ & 242/	254 0	265 6	254 0
Overhead Wiremen—						
Leading	286 6	268 0	283 0	269 0	289 6	263 0
Other	254/6 & 277/6	251 0	268 0	252 0	280 6	257 0
Fitters		265 0	245/ & 248/	249/ to 257/	265 6	258 6
Signalmen	282/ & 285/	260/ & 268/	238/ & 242/	268/ & 273/		
Track Cleaners	249 0	251 0	226 0	244/ & 247/	248/6 & 262/6	247 0

GROUP X.—OTHER LAND TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Carrying—Merchandise—						
Carriers—						
One Horse	268 0	251 6	242 0	252 6	262 0	253 6
Two Horses	273 0	259 6	247 0	260 6	270 0	261 6
Corporation Carters—						
One Horse	268 0	251 6	242 0	252 6	262 0	253 6
Two Horses	273 0	259 6	247 0	260 6	270 0	261 6
Jinkers—						
One Horse	268 0	261 0	249 0	262 0	276 0	263 0
Two Horses	273 0	268 6	254 0	269 6	280 6	270 6
Sanitary Carters ..	326/ & 331/	257 6	242 0	258 6	291 1	259 6
Stable Hands	267/6 to 272/6	246 0	235 0	247 0	256 6	248 0
Motor Lorries and Wagons—						
Under 3 tons	270/ to 280/	295/6 & 265/6	244/ to 252/	260/6 & 266/6	270/ & 276/	261/6 & 267/6
3 tons or over	284/ to 288/	270 0	256/ & 260/	271/	280/6 to 284/6	272 0
Lift Attendants—						
Goods	258 0	258 0	227/ & 229/	249 6	249 0	
Passenger	258 0	258 0	221/ & 223/	249 6	249 0	

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP XI.—SHIPPING, WHARF LABOUR, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Waterside Working—						
Wharf Labourers per hour <i>a</i>	8 2	8 2	8/2 to 8/7	8 2	8 2	8 2
Passenger Vessels—Interstate <i>b</i>—			£	s.	d.	
Bakers per month			50/16/0 to 57/8/6 (c)			
Barmen "			50/16/0(d)			
Butchers "			51/18/6 to 56/3/6(c)			
Cooks—						
Chief "			60/1/0 & 62/3/6(c)			
Second "			55/3/6 & 59/1/0(c)			
Third "			50/16/0(e)			
Ships "			51/1/0(c)			
Pantrymen "			51/18/6 to 52/8/6(c)			
Scullerymen "			49/8/6(b)			
Stewards—						
Chief Saloon "			63/13/6 to 71/13/6(d)			
Second "			54/13/6(d)			
Second Saloon "			53/1/0(d)			
Fore Cabin "			52/8/6(d)			
Bedroom and Other "			50/3/6 & 50/16/0(d)			
All Vessels—Interstate <i>c</i>—						
A.B. Seamen per month			53/11/0			
Boatswains "			54/11/0			
Donkeymen "			55/11/0			
Firemen "			54/11/0			
Greasers "			54/11/0			
Lamp Trimmers "			54/11/0			
Fuel Trimmers "			52/11/0			
Marine Engineers <i>b e f</i>—			<i>Vessels (Steam)</i>			<i>Vessels (Steam)</i>
Chief per month		100 N.H.P. and under	71/1/6 to 75/1/6			Over 100 N.H.P.
Second "			66/2/6			77/4/6 to 104/15/6
Third "			62/5/6			66/2/6 to 77/2/6
Fourth "						62/5/6 to 69/10/6
Fifth and under "						58/14/0 to 65/18/6
						58/2/0
Merchant Service <i>b f g</i>—			<i>Seagoing</i>			<i>Seagoing</i>
Masters per month			Passenger Vessels.			Cargo Vessels
Officers—			125 tons or under	Over 10,000 tons.	60 tons or under.	Over 10,000 tons.
Chief "			71/17/0	152/12/6	65/9/0	120/14/6
Second "			63/18/0	77/2/6	60/18/0	72/12/6
Third "			60/16/0	72/0/6	58/6/0	68/10/6
4th, 5th and 6th "			..	66/8/6	..	63/8/6
				58/2/0	..	58/2/0

(a) Rates of wage quoted are for other than special cargo. (b) Rates of wage quoted are in addition to victualling and accommodation. (c) Not more than 8 hours per day. (d) Not more than 8 hours per day within a spread of 15 consecutive hours when at sea, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in terminal ports and between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. in intermediate ports. (e) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified according to nominal horse-power of vessels. (f) Ordinary length of duty in a day at sea or in port or partly at sea and partly in port shall be 8 hours. (g) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified for interstate vessels, and for vessels within a State according to tonnage; the lowest and highest classes for interstate passenger and cargo vessels are here given.

GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Farming—						
Harvesters .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	247 0
Milkers .. .. .	..	1258 0	..	..	..	7247 0
Chaffcutting—						
Feeders (Travelling plant)	277 0	258 6	..	248 0	256/ to 281/6	275 0
Feeders (Stationary mill)	277 0	252 6	..	248 0	256/ to 281/6	275 0

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Gardening—						
Gardeners ..	s. d. 266 6	s. d. 256 0	s. d. 230 0	s. d. 251 0	s. d. 252 6	s. d. 254 0
Gardeners' Labourers ..	260 0	246 0	222 6	246 0	246 6	248 0
Nurserymen ..	266 6	253/6 & 264/	230 0	252 6	256 6	254 0
Nurserymen's Labourers ..	260 0	237 0	222 6	246 0	246 6	248 0
Pastoral Workers(a)—						
Cooks ..	567 8	567 8	604/7 & 625/6	567 8	558 1	567 8
Shearers—						
Hand .. per 100	154 6	154 6	117 3	154 6	141 1	151 1
Machine ..	143 9	143 0	147 3	143 9	131 3	143 3
Shed Hands ..	402 8	402 8	426 8	402 8	423 4	402 8
Wood Pressers ..	435 3	435 3	436 1	435 3	473 3	435 3
Rural Workers—						
Fruit Harvesters ..	237/ to 248/	236/ to 239/		234/ to 239/		238/ & 239/

(a) Shearers' and woolpressers' hours are 10 per week; shed hands' hours are the same as shearers, with such additional time as may be necessary to finish picking up fleeces, &c. Should the time engaged picking up, &c., exceed 30 minutes per day, all time thereafter must be paid as overtime. The hours of cooks are not regulated. Rates shown are "not found" rates.

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage specified for employes in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are not provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Cooks (Hotels)—						
Chiefs ..	s. d. 273/ to 307/	s. d. 261/ to 298/	s. d. 254/ & 260/	s. d. 261/ to 298/6	s. d. 273/6 & 283/6	s. d. 266/ to 300/
Cooks—Second ..	267/ to 289/6	258/ to 280/6	245 0	263/ to 279/	258/ & 263/6	260/ to 282/6
Cooks—Third ..	267 0	258 0	245 0	259 0	253 6	260 0
Kitchenmen ..	257 0	248 0	232 6	231 0	243 6	250 0
Hairdressing—						
Hairdressers ..	277 0	267 0	238/6 & 246/	282 0	278 6	277 0
Hotels—						
Barmen ..	267 0	258 0	242 0	265 0	268 6	260 0
Billiard Markers ..	257 0	248 0	230 0	231 0	243 6	250 0
Handymen ..	257 0	248 0	230 0	231 0	243 6	250 0
Lift Attendants ..	257 0	258 0	221 0	249 6	243 6	250 0
Porters—Day Work ..	257 0	248 0	230 0	236 0	248 6	250 0
Porters—Night Work ..	257 0	248 0	237 0	236 0	253 6	250 0
Waiters—Head ..	267 0	258 0	235 0	248/6 & 249/6		260 0
Waiters—Other ..	257 0	248 0	230 0	242 0	248 6	250 0
Restaurants—						
Pantrymen ..	252 6	245 0	226 6	232 6	243 6	243 6
Waiters ..	252/6 & 253/	245 0	226 6	239 0	248 6	240/ & 243/6

GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Factory Engine Driving—						
Engine Drivers (Stationary)—						
1st Class ..	s. d. 274/ & 280/6	s. d. 265/ & 271/6	s. d. 265 0	s. d. 266/ & 271/6	s. d. (n) 269 4	s. d. 267/ & 273/6
2nd Class ..	269/ & 274/	260/ & 265/	253 0	261/ & 266/	269 4	262/ & 267/
3rd Class ..	269/ & 274/	260/ & 265/	247 0	261/ & 266/	264 4	262/ & 267/
Firemen—						
1st Class ..	260 0	260 0	243 0	261 0	261 4	262 0
2nd Class ..	264 0	255 0		256 0	259 4	257 0
Greasers ..	260/ & 269/	251/ & 260/	239 0	252/ & 261/	254 6	253/ & 262/
Trimmers ..	256 0	247 0	235 0	248 0	251 4	249 0

(a) Rates shown are those for the sawmilling industry.

SECTION VII.—continued.

GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Municipal—						
Labourers ..	260 0	247 0	227 0	231 0	211 0	245 0
Street Sweepers ..	260 0	253 0	227 0	241/ & 243/	211/ to 247/6	248 0
Shop and other Assistants—						
Foot Salesmen ..	279 0	265 0	248 0	264 0	271 0	267 6
Chemists' Assistants ..	318 0	313 0	293 0	262 0	262/ to & 273/9	315 0
Clerks	265/6 to 277/	272 6	253 0	264 0	275 6	239/ to 279/
Drapery Salesmen ..	279 0	265 0	248 0	264 0	271 0	267 6
Furniture Salesmen ..	279 0	268 0	248 0	264 0	271 0	242/ to 279/
Grocery Salesmen ..	279 0	261 0	248 0	259 0	271 0	245/6 to 268/6
Hardware Salesmen ..	279 0	265 0	248 0	264 0	271 0	234/ to 274/
Railway Bookstall Assistants ..	279 0	255 6	248 0	264 0	271 0	234/ to 271/
Tobacconists' Assts. ..	279 0	265 0	248 0	258 0	271 0	270 0
Storemen—Packing, Cleaning, &c.—						
Night Watchmen ..	263 6	248 0	224 0	241 6	266 0	..
Office Cleaners ..	268 0	245 0	221/ & 226/	229 0	251 6	248 0
Packers—General ..	269/6 & 272/6	269 0	238 0	260 0	266 0	256 0
Storemen—General ..	268/ & 270/6	269 0	238 0	260 0	266 0	256 0
Wholesale Grocery—						
Packers	267 0	261/ & 263/6	238 0	255 0	266 0	256 0
Storemen	264 0	261/ & 263/6	238 0	255 0	266 0	256 0
Wholesale Hardware—						
Packers	267/ & 270/	258 0	238 0	255 0	266 0	256 0
Storemen	264/ & 267/	258 0	238 0	255 0	266 0	256 0

SECTION VIII.—continued.

GROUPS I, II, V, AND VI.—PRINTING AND OTHER MANUFACTURING

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth	Hobart.
Bedding and Furniture—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Bedding Machinists ..	181 0	191 0	160 8	191 6	167 7	192 6
Picture Frame Workers ..	186 0	178 6	190/1 & 231/	179 0	167 7	180 0
Bookbinding						
Folders and Sewers ..	201 6	195 0	186 0	195 6	193 0	196 6
Brushmaking—						
Adult Females ..	189 0	175/6 & 177/6	146 6	203 3	153 0	..
Candle and Soap Making—						
Adult Females ..	177 6	187 3	172 2	187 9	155 0	180 9
Cardboard Box Making—						
Box Makers ..	199/6 & 206/	193/ & 199/6	184/ & 190/6	193/6 & 200/	193/ & 199/6	194/6 & 201/
Other Adults ..	190/ to 202/	183/6 to 195/6	174/6 to 186/6	184/ to 196/	183/6 to 195/6	185/ to 197/
Jewellery—						
Chainmakers ..	237 0	187 0	168 0	..	156 7	..
Gliders ..	191 0	187 0	158 0	218 6	156 7	..
Polishers ..	191 0	187 0	158 0	218 6	156 7	..
Scratch Brushers ..	191 0	187 0	158 0	218 6	156 7	..
Leather Goods—						
Adult Females ..	193 6	187 0	178 0	187 6	158 6	188 6
Paper Making—						
Adult Females ..	194 6	188 0	..	..	..	189 6
Paper Bag Making—						
Adult Females ..	190/ to 199/6	183/6 to 193/	174/6 to 184/	184/ to 193/6	183/6 to 193/	185/ to 194/6
Potteries—						
Adult Females ..	177 6	171 0	151 6	..	155 0	..
Printing—						
Jobbing Office Assis- tants ..	201 6	195 0	186 0	195 6	195 0	196 6
Lithographic Feeders ..	201 6	195 0	186 0	195 6	195 0	196 6
Rubber Working—						
Adult Females ..	185 6	179 0	163 0	193 0	..	..
Tent and Tarpaulin Making—						
Machinists ..	193 6	187 0	178 0	187 6	161 0	188 6

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage mentioned herein for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are not provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Hotels—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Barmaids ..	207 6	258 0	180 6	..	268 6	201 0
Housemaids ..	191 6	185 0	161 0	168 0	175 1	185 0
Laundresses ..	195 6	189 0	167 0	194 6	173 1	189 0
Waitresses—Head ..	197 6	191 0	166 0	193 0	..	191 0
Other ..	191 6	185 0	161 0	188 0	175 1	185 0
Laundries—						
General Hands ..	177 6	171 0	157 0	198 6	156 7	171 6
Machinists—Shirt and Collar ..	179 0	178 0	157 0	198/6 & 202/6	156 7	171 6
Sorters ..	179 0	171 0	157 0	198/6 & 202/6	156 7	171 6
Starchers ..	177 6	178 0	157 0	198/6 & 202/6	156 7	171 6
Washers ..	177 6	178/ & 230/	157 0	198/6 & 233/	156 7	182/6 & 192/6
Office Cleaning—						
Adult Females ..	184/6 to 192/6	227 0	164/6 & 167/6	171/6 & 180/6	171 0	..
Restaurants—						
Pantry Maids ..	177 6	180 0	155 0	186 0	172 6	186 0
Waitresses ..	177 6	180 0	155 0	187 6	175 0	182 6

SECTION VIII.—*continued.*

GROUP XIV.—SHOP ASSISTANTS, CLERKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Clerks, &c.—						
Cashiers	199 6	199 0	187 6	197 9	187 1	172 6
Clerical Assistants ..	197 6	199 0	187 6	197 9	187 1	172 6
Saleswomen—						
Boot	199/6 & 279/	186 6	173 6	197 9	181 6	176/6 & 209/8
Drapery	199/6 & 279/	186/6 & 265/	173/6 & 248/	197/9 & 264/	181 6	176/6 & 209/8
Fruit and Confectionery	186/6 & 199/6	182 6	173 6	194 9	181 6	172 6
Newsagent and Book-stall	199 6	173/6 & 175/6	173 6	197 9	181 6	174 6
Tobacconists	199 6	198 6	173 6	196 9	181 6	172 6

SECTION IX.

Weekly Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour : Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand.

(Wages are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
Furniture—												
Cabinet Maker	107 0	44	287 0	40	82 3	47	165 0	45	110 0	40	202 6	40
Upholsterer	107 0	44	287 0	40	82 3	47	165 0	45	110 0	40	202 6	40
French Polisher	107 0	44	287 0	40	82 3	47	165 0	45	110 0	40	202 6	40
Sawmilling—												
Machinist, Planing	91 0 and 100 0	44	268 6 and 283 6	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	206 8	40
Machinist, Shaping	105 0	44	283 6	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	206 8	40
Sawyer, Band or Jig	95 0 to 108 0	44	268 0 to 289 0	40	..	..	..	..	96 8	40	193 4	40
Sawyer, Circular	95 0 to 102 0	44	269 0 and 281 6	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	215 0	40
Engineering, and Metal Working—												
Fitter and Turner	108 0 and 112 0	44	289 0	40	70 11	47	140 11½	44	110 0	40	206 8	40
Patternmaker	120 0	44	302 0	40	71 3	47	..	..	110 0	40	206 8	40
Moulder (Iron)	90 0 to 111 0	44	265 0 to 289 0	40	70 11	44	145 7½	44	110 0	40	202 6	40
Tinsmith	101 6	44	274 0 and 289 0	40	..	..	..	..	110 0	40	204 2	40
Milling (Flour)—												
Miller (shift)	97 0 to 107 6	44	289 0 to 314 0	40	71 0 and 73 0	42	152 0	42	(a) 99 4	40	(a) 192 6	40
Packerman	85 0	44	271 0	40	..	..	..	..	95 4	40	187 6	40

(a) Kiliman.

SECTION IX.—continued.

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND NEW ZEALAND—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	
Bootmaker (Manufacturing) ..	104 0	44	275 0	40	51 6 to 58 0	45	130 0	45	91 8	40	200 0	40
Tailoring (Ready-made)—												
Cutter	101 0	44	289 0	40	..	..	..	..	102 6	40	200 0	40
Presser (Coat)	98 0	44	278 0	40	..	..	..	..	92 6	40	194 3	40
Trimmer	98 0	44	278 0	40	..	..	..	..	92 6	40	200 0	40
Bookbinding—												
Bookbinder	108 0	44	295 0	40	80 0	45	176 0	43½	107 6	40	204 2	40
Paper Ruler	108 0	44	295 0	40	80 0	45	176 0	43½	107 6	40	204 2	40
Printing (Daily Newspaper)—												
Compositor (Day Work) ..	131 0	44	363 0 to 370 6	40	89 0	45	..	..	107 6	40	204 2	40
Reader (Day Work)	139 6	44	370 6 to 338 0	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	217 3	40
Printing (Jobbing Offices)—												
Compositor	108 0 and 117 0	44	295 0 to 305 6	40	89 0	45	176 0	43½	107 6	40	204 2 and 221 5	40
Linotype Operator (Day Work)..	117 0	44	305 6	40	..	..	..	..	125 0	40	212 6	40
Building—												
Bricklayer	121 0	44	326 8	40	77 0	44	152 2 and 154 0	44	115 0	40	212 6	40
Carpenter	121 0	44	331 8	40	77 0	44	152 2 and 154 0	44	112 6	40	206 8	40

SECTION IX.—continued.

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, GREAT BRITAIN, AND NEW ZEALAND—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1952.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
Building—continued.	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
Labourer—Carpenter's ..	87 0	44	262 6*	40	57 9	44	132 0 and 133 10	44	93 4	40	190 7	40
Concrete Worker ..	87 0	44	262 6*	40	(a)	(a)	132 0 and 133 10	44	93 4	40	190 7	40
Earth Excavator ..	87 0	44	262 6*	40	(a)	(a)	132 0 and 133 10	44	93 4	40	190 7	40
Painter	114 4	44	315 0	40	73 4	44	152 2 and 154 0	44	110 0	40	203 4	40
Paperhanger	114 4	44	315 0	40	77 0	44	152 2 and 154 0	44	110 0	40	203 4	40
Plasterer	121 0	44	323 9	40	77 0	44	152 2 and 154 0	44	115 0	40	208 4	40
Plumber	125 0	44	324 0	40	77 0	44	152 2 and 154 0	44	110 0	40	210 10	40
Tramways—												
Conductor—												
1st year	87 0	44	258 0	40	73 0 to 82 0	48	141 6	44	95 10 and 100 0	40	180 10 and 185 0	40
2nd year	90 0	44	264 0	40			147 6	44			185 0	40
3rd year	93 0	44	264 0	40			147 6	44			185 0	40
Motorman—												
1st year	99 0	44	267 0	40	73 0 to 82 0	48	143 6	44	100 0 and 103 4	40	192 6 and 192 6	40
2nd year	99 0	44	267 0	40			151 6	44			192 6	40
3rd year	99 0	44	267 0	40			151 6	44			192 6	40
Carrying (Merchandise)—												
Carter (1 horse) ..	92 0	44	268 0	40	60 0 and 67 0 to 64 6	48	123 0	44	93 0	40	178 5	40
Municipal—Labourer ..	94 6	44	260 0	40		47	132 0	44	90 0	40	160 10	40

* Rate excludes allowances for statutory holidays, following the job and sick pay.

(a) Not available.

SECTION X.

Basic Wage Rates—1923 to 1933.

(Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration).

The following table shows the basic weekly wage rates prescribed for adult males under periodical decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration including automatic variations made in accordance with quarterly changes in the retail price index for the city or combination of cities shown at the head of the table. The amount *legally* payable in any specific instance must be determined by reference to the appropriate award.

- (1) The rates of wages shown include "Powers 3s." (or the equivalent thereof) and "Prosperity" loadings, where applicable.
- (2) The 10 per cent. reduction operative from February, 1931, to May, 1934, has been applied.
- (3) Generally the rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month indicated.

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth.	Hobart	Six Capitals
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1923—							
February ..	82 6	82 0	73 0	78 0	73 6	81 6	80 6
May ..	" "	81 6	73 6	79 6	74 0	83 0	" "
August ..	86 6	87 6	75 0	84 0	79 6	87 6	85 0
November ..	89 0	91 6	76 0	85 6	78 0	89 0	87 6
1924—							
February ..	87 0	87 6	77 6	84 0	76 0	89 6	85 0
May ..	86 0	85 6	77 0	" "	78 0	" "	84 6
August ..	85 6	85 0	75 0	85 6	78 6	88 6	84 0
November ..	84 6	84 6	" "	84 0	79 0	88 0	83 0
1925—							
February ..	85 0	84 0	74 0	83 6	79 6	87 0	83 6
May ..	86 0	85 6	75 0	85 0	81 0	" "	84 6
August ..	87 0	87 0	76 6	87 6	82 6	" "	85 6
November ..	88 0	87 6	77 0	86 0	81 0	85 6	86 0
1926—							
February ..	89 6	" "	78 6	85 6	77 6	86 0	86 6
May ..	90 6	88 6	82 0	86 6	81 6	89 0	88 0
August ..	92 6	92 0	" "	89 6	84 0	" "	90 6
November ..	91 6	89 0	82 6	85 6	81 6	88 6	88 6
1927—							
February ..	" "	88 6	83 0	84 6	80 0	87 0	88 0
May ..	90 6	87 6	80 6	86 0	" "	86 6	87 6
August ..	89 6	87 0	78 6	" "	80 6	85 6	86 6
November ..	90 6	90 0	79 6	88 0	79 6	85 0	88 0
1928—							
February ..	93 0	89 6	80 6	87 0	80 0	84 0	89 0
May ..	91 6	88 0	79 6	87 6	" "	82 6	88 0
August ..	92 0	87 6	" "	" "	84 0	83 0	" "
November ..	90 6	86 0	79 0	85 0	85 0	82 6	87 0
1929—							
February ..	91 0	" "	80 0	84 0	" "	83 0	" "
May ..	95 0	89 6	81 6	88 0	86 0	86 0	90 6
August ..	94 6	90 0	80 6	88 6	86 6	85 6	" "
November ..	95 0	" "	" "	" "	85 6	86 0	" "
1930—							
February ..	95 6	" "	81 0	87 0	83 6	86 6	" "
May ..	92 0	86 0	77 6	84 0	82 6	84 0	87 0
August ..	91 0	85 6	73 0	82 6	82 0	" "	86 0
November ..	88 0	83 0	70 6	78 0	79 0	82 0	83 0

SECTION X.—continued.

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1931—							
February ..	76 6	70 2	60 9	66 2	66 2	70 2	71 1
May ..	74 3	68 5	60 9	64 4	66 7	68 10	69 4
August ..	72 11	65 8	60 4	62 1	65 8	67 1	67 6
November ..	70 8	63 5	58 6	58 1	62 1	64 4	65 3
1932—							
February ..	68 10		"	"	60 9	64 10	64 4
May ..	"	63 11	"	58 11	61 8	65 3	64 10
August ..	68 5	63 0	57 7	58 6	"	65 8	63 11
November ..	67 6	61 8	56 8	57 2	59 5	64 4	63 0
1933—							
February ..	66 7	60 4	55 10	55 4	58 1	63 5	61 8
May ..	67 10	63 4	59 4	59 2	59 9	64 10	64 2
August ..	66 11	62 5	58 10	"	58 10	63 10	63 4
November ..	"	62 10	59 4	59 7	60 3	63 11	"
1934—							
February ..	"	63 4	"	60 2	59 3	64 10	63 9
May ..	67 0	64 0	61 0	*64 0	66 0	*67 0	65 0
June ..	68 0	"	62 0	*65 0	"	"	66 0
September ..	"	"	"	"	68 0	*67 0	"
December ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1935—							
March ..	"	66 0	"	"	"	*69 0	"
June ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
September ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
December ..	70 0	"	64 0	67 0	"	"	68 0
1936—							
March ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
June ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
September ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
December ..	"	69 0	66 0	69 0	71 0	"	"
1937—							
March ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	70 0
June ..	72 0	"	68 0	"	"	"	"
July ..	75 0	72 0	71 0	70 0	72 0	72 0	73 0
September ..	"	73 0	70 0	71 0	73 0	73 0	"
October ..	78 0	76 0	73 0	73 0	75 0	75 0	75 0
December ..	"	77 0	74 0	74 0	"	"	76 0
1938—							
March ..	79 0	"	"	75 0	74 0	76 0	77 0
June ..	"	"	75 0	"	75 0	"	"
September ..	80 0	78 0	"	76 0	76 0	"	"
December ..	81 0	79 0	"	"	"	"	78 0
1939—							
March ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
June ..	82 0	81 0	77 0	78 0	77 0	77 0	79 0
September ..	81 0	"	76 0	"	"	"	"
December ..	82 0	80 0	"	77 0	"	"	"
1940—							
February ..	"	81 0	77 0	"	"	78 0	80 0
May ..	83 0	82 0	78 0	78 0	"	"	"
August ..	85 0	84 0	79 0	80 0	79 0	80 0	82 0
November ..	"	"	"	"	80 0	81 0	83 0
1941—							
February ..	88 0	86 0	82 0	82 0	81 0	83 0	85 0
May ..	"	87 0	83 0	83 0	82 0	84 0	86 0
August ..	89 0	"	"	"	84 0	85 0	"
November ..	"	88 0	84 0	84 0	85 0	"	87 0

* Except in special cases these rates were subject to graduated deductions so that the increase granted in May, 1934, was, in effect, introduced in stages over the succeeding twelve months.

SECTION X.—continued.

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1942—							
February ..	91 0	89 0	86 0	86 0	86 0	87 0	88 0
May ..	93 0	92 0	88 0	88 0	87 0	88 0	90 0
August ..	95 0	94 0	89 0	91 0	89 0	91 0	93 0
November ..	97 0	97 0	91 0	93 0	91 0	92 0	95 0
1943—							
February ..	98 0	98 0	..	..	92 0	94 0	96 0
May ..	..	..	92 0	..	..	..	..
August ..	100 0	99 0	94 0	94 0	94 0	95 0	98 0
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	..	..	..	97 0
1944—							
February ..	..	97 0	..	93 0	93 0	94 0	96 0
May ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August ..	..	98 0	..	..	..	93 0	..
November ..	..	..	..	..	94 0	94 0	..
1945—							
February ..	..	..	..	..	93 0	..	..
May ..	98 0	..	..	..	..	93 0	..
August ..	..	..	..	..	94 0	..	..
November ..	99 0	..	..	..	..	94 0	..
1946—							
February ..	..	..	..	94 0	..	95 0	..
May ..	..	..	94 0	..	..	..	97 0
August ..	100 0	99 0	..	95 0	95 0	96 0	98 0
November ..	101 0	..	..	..	..	97 0	..
December ..	108 0	106 0	101 0	102 0	102 0	103 0	105 0
1947—							
February ..	..	107 0	103 0	..	103 0	104 0	106 0
May ..	110 0	..	104 0	103 0	..	..	..
August ..	..	108 0	..	104 0	104 0	105 0	107 0
November ..	112 0	109 0	105 0	106 0	106 0	107 0	109 0
1948—							
February ..	114 0	113 0	107 0	108 0	107 0	110 0	111 0
May ..	116 0	115 0	110 0	111 0	110 0	112 0	114 0
August ..	120 0	117 0	113 0	114 0	112 0	115 0	116 0
November ..	122 0	120 0	115 0	116 0	116 0	118 0	119 0
1949—							
February ..	124 0	123 0	118 0	119 0	118 0	121 0	122 0
May ..	127 0	125 0	119 0	121 0	120 0	124 0	124 0
August ..	130 0	128 0	122 0	124 0	126 0	127 0	127 0
November ..	132 0	130 0	125 0	126 0	129 0	128 0	129 0
1950—							
February ..	135 0	134 0	127 0	129 0	131 0	131 0	133 0
May ..	138 0	137 0	129 0	131 0	133 0	..	135 0
August ..	142 0	140 0	132 0	134 0	136 0	135 0	138 0
November ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0
1951—							
February ..	173 0	170 0	159 0	166 0	166 0	165 0	169 0
May ..	180 0	177 0	166 0	171 0	176 0	173 0	176 0
August ..	193 0	189 0	175 0	184 0	188 0	187 0	189 0
November ..	207 0	199 0	185 0	195 0	197 0	199 0	200 0
1952—							
February ..	216 0	209 0	199 0	205 0	205 0	208 0	210 0
May ..	223 0	212 0	207 0	211 0	214 0	214 0	216 0
August ..	235 0	224 0	213 0	224 0	222 0	222 0	227 0
November ..	237 0	228 0	216 0	229 0	228 0	230 0	231 0
1953—							
February ..	238 0	229 0	215 0	225 0	229 0	232 0	231 0
May ..	241 0	232 0	217 0	228 0	231 0	239 0	234 0
August(a) ..	243 0	235 0	218 0	231 0	236 0	242 0	236 0

(a) By the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, automatic adjustment of basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index-numbers was discontinued in Commonwealth awards either then the subject of applications before the Court or subsequently reviewed by the Court in this connexion.

SECTION XI.

COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000(a).)

Period.	"C" Series Retail Price Index-numbers.						Nominal Wages, Adult Males.	Real Wages. (c)	Pro- portion of Trade Union- ists Unem- ployed.
	Food and Grocer- ies.	Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses). (b)	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses).	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	Total "C" Series Retail Price Index.			
Year—									%
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	(d)1,000	(d)1,000	(d)1,000	1,000	1,000	4.7
1914 ..	1,144	1,082	1,121	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,081	948	8.5
1921 ..	1,002	1,410	1,717	1,883	1,537	1,680	1,826	1,087	11.2
1929 ..	1,866	1,754	1,824	1,506	1,533	1,713	1,972	1,151	11.1
1932 ..	1,425	1,336	1,390	1,215	1,458	1,377	1,639	1,190	29.0
1933 ..	1,242	1,314	1,332	1,190	1,447	1,335	1,584	1,187	25.1
1939 ..	1,657	1,577	1,626	1,271	1,465	1,526	1,846	1,210	9.7
1940 ..	1,679	1,590	1,644	1,445	1,519	1,588	1,889	1,190	8.0
1941 ..	1,693	1,595	1,654	1,600	1,613	1,673	1,997	1,104	1.7
1942 ..	1,813	1,396	1,742	1,977	1,693	1,809	2,164	1,196	1.6
1943 ..	1,855	1,595	1,749	2,177	1,766	1,876	2,309	1,231	1.1
1944 ..	1,834	1,595	1,737	2,168	1,773	1,867	2,326	1,246	1.2
1945 ..	1,849	1,595	1,746	2,155	1,767	1,868	2,339	1,251	1.2
1946 ..	1,852	1,596	1,748	2,276	1,776	1,900	2,400	1,269	1.4
1947 ..	1,967	1,597	1,816	2,367	1,825	1,971	2,598	1,318	1.2
1948 ..	2,245	1,601	1,982	2,637	1,913	2,143	2,914	1,357	0.9
1949 ..	2,492	1,605	2,128	3,010	2,037	2,349	3,210	1,367	(e)1.0
1950 ..	2,800	1,613	2,313	3,455	2,184	2,589	3,596	1,389	0.8
1951 ..	3,649	1,649	2,827	4,156	2,555	3,124	4,495	1,439	0.7
1952 ..	4,516	1,728	3,370	4,657	2,980	3,645	5,241	1,438	2.9
Quarter—									
1939.									
September ..	1,645	1,532	1,620	1,264	1,461	1,529	1,854	1,220	10.2
1946.									
March ..	1,853	1,595	1,748	2,201	1,772	1,881	2,354	1,254	1.1
June ..	1,863	1,595	1,754	2,259	1,776	1,900	2,360	1,244	1.3
September ..	1,839	1,596	1,741	2,209	1,776	1,902	2,378	1,250	1.4
December ..	1,854	1,596	1,750	2,343	1,781	1,918	2,507	1,307	1.4
1947.									
March ..	1,915	1,596	1,785	2,305	1,798	1,933	2,527	1,307	1.4
June ..	1,945	1,597	1,803	2,319	1,802	1,948	2,545	1,306	1.2
September ..	1,974	1,597	1,820	2,367	1,846	1,978	2,630	1,330	1.1
December ..	2,055	1,598	1,857	2,478	1,853	2,026	2,690	1,328	0.9
1948.									
March ..	2,128	1,599	1,912	2,511	1,874	2,071	2,781	1,343	0.9
June ..	2,197	1,593	1,953	2,600	1,900	2,121	2,854	1,346	0.9
September ..	2,278	1,601	2,001	2,688	1,935	2,175	2,970	1,366	0.9
December ..	2,378	1,602	2,060	2,748	1,944	2,225	3,050	1,371	0.8
1949.									
March ..	2,433	1,603	2,093	2,795	1,985	2,263	3,099	1,369	0.8
June ..	2,482	1,604	2,122	2,968	2,017	2,328	3,182	1,367	0.8
September ..	2,497	1,606	2,131	3,080	2,047	2,370	3,249	1,371	(e) 5.5
December ..	2,555	1,608	2,167	3,223	2,098	2,433	3,310	1,360	0.8
1950.									
March ..	2,633	1,609	2,213	3,259	2,134	2,474	3,372	1,363	0.8
June ..	2,718	1,611	2,264	3,418	2,151	2,546	3,458	1,358	0.8
September ..	2,828	1,614	2,330	3,501	2,180	2,609	3,545	1,359	0.8
December ..	3,020	1,618	2,444	3,643	2,271	2,726	4,009	1,471	0.7
1951.									
March ..	3,201	1,641	2,560	3,760	2,381	2,843	4,142	1,457	0.7
June ..	3,443	1,646	2,705	4,151	2,498	3,042	4,387	1,442	0.8
September ..	3,819	1,651	2,928	4,283	2,611	3,224	4,601	1,427	0.6
December ..	4,133	1,656	3,116	4,429	2,731	3,388	4,850	1,432	0.7
1952.									
March ..	4,298	1,672	3,219	4,523	2,783	3,481	5,036	1,447	1.1
June ..	4,589	1,702	3,402	4,685	2,967	3,661	5,156	1,408	2.2
September ..	4,633	1,750	3,448	4,709	3,072	3,714	5,345	1,439	4.0
December ..	4,544	1,789	3,411	4,712	3,098	3,722	5,428	1,458	4.1
1953.									
March ..	4,599	1,835	3,463	4,838	3,118	3,763	5,443	1,446	3.4
June ..	4,658	1,857	3,506	4,906	3,122	3,805	5,512	1,449	3.1

(a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of housing, and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination of groups is made equal to 1,000. (b) See footnote (b) on page 20.

(c) Index of nominal weekly wage rates for adult males divided by "C" Series Retail Price Index-number. (d) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses).

(e) Includes all members of reporting unions indirectly affected by the industrial dispute in the coal-mining industry; those directly affected are, however, excluded.

INDEX.

	PAGE.
"A" Series Retail Price Index	38
Accidents, Industrial	136
Acts Regulating Industrial Matters	51
Arbitration, Industrial—	
Acts Regulating	51
Australian Capital Territory	54
Coal Industry	53
Commonwealth Court	51, 72
Commonwealth Public Service	54
State Tribunals	54
Stevedoring Industry	53
Arbitrator, Commonwealth Public Service	54
Associations—	
Employers'	152
Labour (Employees')	146, 152
"B" Series Retail Price Index	4, 6, 19, 20, 24, 28, 38
Base Periods of Retail Price Indexes	16
Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Wholesale Price Index	45
Basic Wage—	
Automatic Scales for adjustment of	40
Commonwealth	72
Females	81
"Harvester"	73
" Lag " in Adjustments	76
1934 Inquiry ("Needs" Wage)	74
1937 Inquiry ("Prosperity" Loadings)	75
1940 Inquiry	76
1946 Inquiry ("Interim")	77
1949-50 Inquiry	78
Memoranda and Comment	164-213
1952-53 Inquiry	213
Rates Operative	80, 234
Review of Principles Followed, Female Wages	83
Royal Commission, 1920	102
States, Rates, &c.	92, 102
Territories—	
Australian Capital Territory	86
Northern Territory	87
Boards, Wages and Industrial	51
Women's Employment	82
"C" Series Retail Price Index	4, 5, 6, 10, 18, 38, 237
Basic Wage Hearing, 1949-50—	
Comment by Statistician on Mr. W. A. Baker's Submissions	196-209
Extracts from Judgments	210-213
Memorandum by Statistician	166-188
Submissions by Mr. W. A. Baker	189-195
Central Labour Organizations	150
Child Endowment	104
Commonwealth Public Service	105
National Scheme	104
New South Wales Scheme	105
Clothing Retail Price Index-numbers	6, 19, 20, 24-27, 35
Regimen	12, 33

	PAGE.
Coal Industry Tribunal	53
Mines, Accidents	136
Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration	51, 72
Employment Service	119
Composite Unit, Retail Prices. (See "Regimen".)	
Conferences, International Labour	152
Statisticians' <i>re</i> Retail Prices	33
Consumption Weights, Retail Prices	11-13
Control Measures—Prices	5, 9
Conversion Factors for Various Bases (Retail Price Indexes)	17
"Court" Series Index	39, 78, 80, 82, 163
"D" Series Retail Price Index	39
Deaths, Mining Accidents	136
Disputes, Industrial	123
Causes	130
Duration	128
Methods of Settlement	132
Results	132
Wages Lost	124, 127-129
Working Days Lost (Graph)	126
Workpeople Involved	124, 127-131, 133
Effective or Real Wages	50, 68, 237
Employees' Associations	146
Employers' Associations	152
Employment	106
Board, Women's	82
Factories	113
Governmental	110, 111
Industrial Groups	110
Rural	106
Service, Commonwealth	119
Total Occupied Persons	106
Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment	109, 110
Graph	109
Endowment, Child	104
Family, New South Wales	105
Factory Employment	113
Family Endowment, New South Wales	105
Unit, Commonwealth Court	73, 77
Federated Trade Unions	150
Field Officers, Functions	1
Food and Groceries, Retail Prices—	
Average Prices	153
Index-numbers	6, 19, 20, 24-31, 34, 237
1911 Base	237
Regimen	11, 32
Governmental Employment	110, 111
Graphs—	
Industrial Disputes, Working Days Lost	126
Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment	109
Wholesale and Retail Prices, Nominal and Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers	50
Groups of Industries and Occupations	iii

	PAGE.
Harvester—All Items ("D" Series) Index	39
"Harvester" Wage	73
Hourly Rates of Wage	62, 65-66
Hours of Labour	57, 70, 214
Females	64, 67, 228
Males	63, 67, 214
Standard	70
Housing—	
Average Weekly Rents	159
Changes in Constituent of Regimen	32, 34
Four and Five-roomed Houses	2, 6, 11, 19, 20, 24-32, 34, 237
 Index-numbers—	
Hours of Labour—	
Females	68
Males	67
Retail Price—	
"A" Series	38
Abnormal Conditions, Effects	4
"B" Series	4, 6, 19, 20, 24, 28
Base Periods	16
Basic Principles of	2
"C" Series	4, 5, 6, 18, 237
Clothing	6, 19, 20, 24-27, 35
Collection of Information	1
Comparative (1911 base)	237
Compilation	2, 13
Conversion Factors for Various Bases	17
"Court" Series	39, 76, 77, 78, 79, 163
"D" Series (Harvester—All Items)	39
Essential Features	3
Food and Groceries	6, 19, 20, 24-31, 34, 237
Graph	50
Housing—Four and Five-roomed Houses	6, 19, 20, 24-32, 237
International Comparisons	9, 42, 160-162
Levels, 1914-52	5
Mass Units	11-13
Method of Tabulation	13
Miscellaneous Household Requirements	6, 19, 20, 24-27, 35
Population Weights for Towns	17
Publication of	18
Purpose of	3
Recent Years, Increases	7
Regimen	3, 10, 32
Standards	3, 14
Tabular Statements	18
Thirty Towns	21-23, 25-27, 29-31
Two Hundred Towns	32, 39
Wage Variations on	36
War Conditions, Effects	35
Weights	11-13
Wage—	
Effective or Real	68, 237
Nominal—	
Females	61
Males	59, 69, 237
Wholesale Price—	
Basic Materials and Foodstuffs	45
Regimen	46
International Comparisons	49
Melbourne	47

	PAGE.
Industrial Accidents	136
Acts	51
Boards	51
Disputes. (See "Disputes".)	
Groups, for Tabulations	iii
Legislation	51, 56
Tribunals, Acts	51
Methods of Administration	51
"Interim" Basic Wage, 1946	77
International Comparisons—	
Retail Prices	9, 42, 160-162
Wage Rates and Hours of Labour	231
Wholesale Prices	49
International Labour Conferences	152
Organization	152
Interstate Organizations, Trade Unions	150
Labour Conferences, International	152
Exchanges, State	121
Hours of	57, 70, 214
Organizations	146
Central	150
"Lag" in Adjustment of Basic Wage	76
Laws Regulating Industrial Matters	51, 56
Legislation, Industrial	51, 56
Workers' Compensation	137
"Loadings"	74, 75
Lockouts and Strikes. (See "Disputes".)	
Mass Units	11-13
Melbourne Wholesale Price Index	47
Membership, Trade Unions	146
Mining Accidents	130
Miscellaneous Household Requirements, Retail Price Index-numbers	6, 19, 20, 24-27, 35
Regimen	13
"Needs" Basic Wage	75
Nominal Wages	59, 68, 237
Occupational Groups for Tabulations	iii
Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour	214, 228, 231
Occupied Persons	106
Operations, Industrial Tribunals	51
Organization, Central Labour	150
Registered	151
Trade Unions	146
Population Weights (Retail Price Indexes)	17
Prices, Average Retail, Food and Groceries, Capital Cities	153-158
Collection of	1
Control Measures	5, 9
International Comparisons	9, 42, 49, 160-162
Publication of Retail Prices and Price Index-numbers	18
Retail. (See "Retail Prices".)	
Variations in Recent Years	8
Wholesale, Index-numbers	45-49
Productive Activity	70
"Prosperity" Loading	75
Public Service Arbitrator	54

	PAGE.
Rates of Wage	57
Real or Effective Wages	50, 68, 186
Regimens—	
Retail Prices	3, 10, 32
Changes	32
Clothing	12, 33
Cost, Percentage Distribution of	11, 15
Food and Groceries	11, 32
Groups and Sections	10
Miscellaneous Items	10, 33
Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index	46
Registered Organizations	151
Rents. (See "Housing".)	
Retail Prices—	
" A " Series Index	38
Average Monthly, Food and Groceries, Capital Cities	153-158
" B " Series Index	4, 6, 19, 20, 24, 28, 38
Base Periods of Indexes	16
Basis of Index-numbers	2
" C " Series Index	4, 5, 6, 10, 18, 38, 237
Clothing, Index-numbers	6, 19, 20, 24-27, 35
Regimen	12, 33
Collection of Information	1
Compilation of Indexes	2, 13
" Court " Series Index	39, 78, 80, 82, 163
" D " Series Index	39, 76
Food and Groceries	6, 19, 20, 24-32, 34, 153, 237
Graph	50
Housing—	
All Houses	32
Four and Five-roomed Houses	2, 6, 11, 19, 20, 24-32, 34, 237
Index-numbers. (See "Index-numbers".)	
International Comparisons	9, 42, 160-162
Levels, 1914-52	5
Mass Units	11-13
Method of Tabulation of Index-numbers	13
Miscellaneous Household Requirements, Index-numbers	6, 19, 20, 24-27, 35
Regimen	13
Population Weights for Towns	17
Publication of Index-numbers	18
Regimen	3, 10, 32
Relative Expenditure of Items and Groups	11, 15
Standards	3, 14
Tabular Statements of Index-numbers	18
Thirty Towns	21-23, 25-27, 29-31
Two Hundred Towns	32, 39
Wage Variations on Index-numbers	36
War Conditions, Effects	35
Weights	11-13
Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920	102
Sickness Benefits (Commonwealth)	121
Standard Hours of Work	70
State Basic Wages	92, 102
Labour Exchanges	121
Industrial Tribunals	54
Statisticians' Conference on Retail Prices	33
Stevedoring Industry Board ^h	53
Strikes and Lockouts. (See "Disputes".)	

	PAGE.
Territories—	
Australian Capital Territory—	
Basic Wage	86
Industrial Authority	54
Northern Territory—	
Basic Wage	87
Thirty Towns, Retail Price Index-numbers	21-23, 25-27, 29-31
Towns, Population Weights	17
Trade Unions, Classified by Numbers of Members	149
Industrial Groups	147
Interstate or Federated	150
Number and Membership	146
Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners	148
Unemployment Amongst Members	115
Two Hundred Towns Retail Price Index-numbers	32, 39
Unemployment. (See also "Employment")—	
Benefits	123
Exchanges, State Labour	121
Total	114
Trade Unions	115
Australia	116
Industrial Groups	117
States	117
Various Countries	119
Unions, Trade	146
Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment	110
Graph	109
Wages, Acts Regulating	52
Automatic Adjustment	40
Basic. (See "Basic Wage".)	
Boards	54
Effective or Real	50, 68, 237
Graph	50
International Comparisons	231
Nominal Hourly, Females	64, 66
Males	63, 65
Weekly, Females	61
Males	59, 69, 237
Occupational Rates, Comparison—Sydney, London and Auckland	231
Females	228
Males	214
Scales for Automatic Adjustments	40
Variation on Retail Price Index-numbers	36
War Periods—	
Control Measures over Prices	5, 9
Retail Price Index—Effects	35
Retail Prices—Increases, 1939-52, Australia and Other Countries	7-9
Weights—	
Population	17
Regimen—	
Retail Prices	11-13
Wholesale Prices	46
Wholesale Prices—	
Basic Materials and Foodstuffs	45
Graph	50
International Comparisons	49
Melbourne Index	47
Women's Employment Board	82
Workers' Compensation Legislation (Conspectus)	137
Working Hours, Standard	70