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BY

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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the forty-first of the series and deals chiefly with 1952, in addition to providing comparisons for previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1953.

The Report follows in the main the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five Chapters, viz., Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages and Hours; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes); and Labour Organizations. The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

A conspectus of workers' compensation legislation in Australia has been included in this Report (*See* Chapter IV, §8.) and two new sections have been added to the appendix—one containing memoranda and comment relating to the "C" Series Retail Price Index submitted during the 1949-50 Basic Wage Hearing and the other giving details of the judgment in the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Hours Inquiry.

In tabulating the results of investigations as to rates of wage, labour organizations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report:—

Groups of Industries and Occupations.

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

Secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail traders, house agents, and others have readily supplied much information specially for the purposes of this Report, and my thanks are tendered to all who have thus assisted.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made of the continued assistance given by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the work done in the preparation of this Report by Mr. F. Stewart, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Prices Branch, Mr. E. H. Harry, B.A., B.Com., the Supervisor of the Employment and Labour Branch, and the staff under their control.

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