

CHAPTER XIII.—LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

A. PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. *General*.—The results of an investigation into wholesale prices in Melbourne from 1871 to the end of September, 1912, were given in some detail in Report No. 1 of the Labour and Industrial Branch, while summarized results for later years are included in subsequent Reports.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of eighty commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to ninety-two.* The methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price index-numbers are similar to those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurement for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity is used or consumed, are shown in a tabular statement in Labour Report No. 13 (page 62).

2. *Index-Numbers*.—Index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups together. The index-numbers for the several groups, and for all groups together, are shown in the following table, and in each case were computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base. They show, for each of the years specified, the expenditure necessary, if distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities concerned, to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911. Thus, from the last column it will be seen that the cost of the relative quantities of the various commodities was 1,229 in 1871, and 974 in 1901, as compared with 1,000 in 1911, 1,903 in 1921, and 1,885 in 1924. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871, 1921 or 1924, and the purchasing-power of money in 1911 was, accordingly, greater. Again, prices were lower in 1901 than in 1911, and the purchasing-power of money in the former year was, therefore, greater.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, 1861 TO 1924.

Year.	I. Metals. and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mate- rials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Com- modities together.
1861	1,438	1,881	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1902	1,007	756	1,193	1,215	945	1,447	837	881	1,051
1903	923	834	1,209	1,059	936	1,443	875	921	1,049
1904	821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875	890
1905	772	850	894	980	942	1,209	801	859	910
1906	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	1,021	891	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913	1,046	1,070	1,087	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,088
1914	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915	1,284	1,017	2,102	1,133	1,325	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916	1,695	1,423	2,162	1,530	1,325	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	2,129	2,008	2,108	1,485	1,345	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,423	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,973	1,944
1924	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally. The index-numbers are reversible.

* In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities is taken.

3. *Fluctuations, July, 1914, to May, 1925.*—Since the outbreak of war, prices of many commodities have increased considerably. This is shown in the following table in which the index-numbers are given for each group for the months of July, 1921 to 1924, and May, 1925, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (=1,000) for each group :—

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, JULY, 1914, to 1924, AND MAY, 1925.

Particulars.	I. Metals. and Coal.	II. Jute. Leather, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mate- rials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1921 ..	1,945	1,107	1,579	1,655	1,881	1,191	2,377	2,198	1,589
" 1922 ..	1,764	1,555	1,532	1,564	1,810	1,185	1,681	1,991	1,569
" 1923 ..	1,668	1,876	1,691	1,668	1,698	2,229	1,780	1,923	1,799
" 1924 ..	1,666	2,119	1,525	1,431	1,677	1,281	1,666	1,743	1,626
May, 1925 ..	1,661	1,802	1,589	1,430	1,665	1,335	1,561	1,728	1,592

§ 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

1. *Introduction.*—(i) *General.* In Labour Report No. 1, issued in December, 1912, the results of certain investigations into the subjects of Prices, Price-Indexes and Cost of Living in past years were published, and some account was given of the methods employed for the collection of the data and of the technique adopted in the computation of the results. A detailed examination of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was given, but being necessarily too technical for the ordinary reader, was relegated to Appendixes. In Labour Reports Nos. 2, and 5 to 15, results of further investigations were included, and in Labour Bulletins Nos. 1 to 18, and in Quarterly summaries of Statistics, Nos. 70 to 98, information was incorporated regarding variations in retail and wholesale prices, house rent, and purchasing-power of money up to the end of 1924.

(ii) *Computation of Index-Numbers.* The method adopted for the computation of the index-numbers is what is termed the "aggregate expenditure" method. Thereunder the average price of each commodity included is ascertained, and numbers (called "mass-units") representing the *relative* extent to which each commodity was on the average used or consumed are also computed. The price in any year of each commodity multiplied by its corresponding "mass-unit" represents, therefore, the relative total expenditure on that commodity in that year *on the basis of the adopted regimen*. It follows, therefore, that by taking for any year the sum of the price of each commodity multiplied by its corresponding "mass-unit," a figure is obtained which represents the relative aggregate or total expenditure of the community in that year on all the commodities, etc., included. By computing these aggregate expenditures for a series of years and taking the expenditure in any selected year as "base," that is, making the expenditure in that year equal to 1,000 units, the relative expenditure in any other year, or what may be termed the "index-numbers," are readily ascertained. Numerical examples of the technique and methods adopted for the computation of index-numbers were given in Report No. 2 (pp. 44 and 45), and in Report No. 9 Appendixes I. to IV., pp. 174 to 229.

2. *Scope of Investigation.*—As noted in Report No. 1, distinction must be drawn between (a) Variations in the *purchasing-power* of money, and (b) Variations in the *standard of living*, and in Report No. 2 attention was directed to the factors which must be taken into consideration in dealing with these matters in order to arrive at a satisfactory aggregate expenditure. The various Reports deal with the list of commodities selected and the reasons for their adoption, while § 4 of this Chapter deals with the extension of the inquiry to cover all ordinary household expenditure.

3. *Variations in Index-Numbers for Retail Prices and House Rents, Capital Cities, 1901 to 1924.*—(i) *General.* In Labour Reports and Bulletins, and in recent issues of the Quarterly Summaries of Statistics, index-numbers were given for each of the four groups and for all groups combined for each capital city since 1901, the expenditure in 1911 being taken in each case as base (=1,000). In this sub-section summarized results only

are given, firstly, for food and groceries; secondly, for house rent; and thirdly, for the groups combined—the weighted average expenditure for all capital cities in 1911 being taken in each case as base (=1,000). The index-numbers in each table are fully comparable with one another since they show not only the variations from year to year in each capital, but also the relative cost as between the cities.

(ii) *Food and Groceries.* The index-numbers thus computed for the three groups comprising groceries and food are shown in the following table:—

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES, 1901 TO 1924.

City.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Sydney ..	917	989	1,156	1,520	1,540	1,549	1,783	2,148	1,898	1,703	1,820	1,732
Melbourne ..	965	935	1,091	1,462	1,412	1,466	1,620	2,056	1,901	1,644	1,802	1,684
Brisbane ..	965	1,018	1,078	1,426	1,406	1,495	1,762	2,052	1,812	1,608	1,693	1,690
Adelaide ..	1,028	1,020	1,215	1,532	1,445	1,554	1,719	2,132	1,906	1,723	1,823	1,791
Perth ..	1,184	1,346	1,302	1,542	1,505	1,486	1,772	2,050	1,995	1,776	1,828	1,891
Hobart ..	1,011	1,058	1,212	1,523	1,544	1,635	1,748	2,162	2,025	1,794	1,863	1,840
Weighted Average(a) ..	972	1,000	1,144	1,495	1,472	1,514	1,716	2,101	1,902	1,684	1,805	1,732

(a) For all capital cities.

The figures quoted are directly comparable in every respect; thus, the same quantity of food and groceries, which cost £1,000 in the capital cities considered as a whole in 1911, would have cost £917 in Sydney in 1901, £1,346 in Perth in 1911, or £1,684 in Melbourne in 1924.

In 1924 decreases were experienced in all the capitals with the exception of Perth, which showed an increase of 3.4 per cent. from the previous year. Comparing the results for 1924 with those for 1911, the extent by which prices increased varied from 80.1 per cent. in Melbourne to 40.5 per cent. in Perth. Prices, however, were abnormally high in Perth in 1911.

(iii) *Housing.* The following table gives index-numbers computed for the weighted average house rent in each of the capital cities from 1901 to 1924, taking the average rent for the six capitals in 1911 as the base (=1,000). The average rent has been obtained for each city separately by multiplying the average predominant rent for each class of house (i.e., houses having less than 4 rooms, 4 rooms, 5 rooms, 6 rooms, 7 rooms, and over 7 rooms) by a number ("weight") representing the relative number of houses of that class in the particular city. The sum of the products thus obtained divided by the sum of the weights, gives the weighted average for all houses. The number of houses in each class for each city was obtained from the results of the 1911 census, and the index-numbers are based on the weighted average rents for all houses, and do not refer to any particular class of house. The actual predominant rents for each class were given in appendixes to Labour Reports Nos. 1, 2, and 5 to 14, and an examination of these figures shows that for some classes of houses the increase has been greater, and in some less, than the general increase indicated in the following table.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING, CAPITAL CITIES, 1901 TO 1924.

City.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Sydney ..	858	1,090	1,270	1,212	1,215	1,252	1,289	1,415	1,474	1,535	1,617	1,687
Melbourne ..	733	970	1,126	1,089	1,124	1,180	1,283	1,405	1,502	1,597	1,672	1,729
Brisbane ..	488	767	882	847	859	905	983	1,061	1,079	1,206	1,247	1,242
Adelaide ..	629	1,112	1,040	930	959	1,022	1,108	1,216	1,289	1,360	1,450	1,551
Perth ..	801	810	914	869	874	885	916	998	1,055	1,092	1,124	1,134
Hobart ..	667	805	914	928	951	956	1,134	1,373	1,440	1,445	1,602	1,665
Weighted Average(a) ..	751	1,000	1,135	1,081	1,098	1,143	1,215	1,333	1,404	1,480	1,551	1,609

(a) For all capital cities.

NOTE.—The above figures are directly comparable in every respect.

A striking feature in the rent index-numbers is the decline in the years 1915 to 1917. This fall was probably, in some measure, due to the circumstance that wives and other dependents of soldiers shared houses or apartments, thus reducing the demand for accommodation. Government regulations forbidding increase in rents of houses tenanted by soldiers' dependents also had a restraining influence on any tendency towards a rise. In 1918 rents were again at the 1914 level, but in the years 1920 to 1924 fairly substantial increases occurred.

(iv) *Food, Groceries, and Housing combined.* The weighted averages for all groups are of importance, as indicating the general results of this investigation so far as the purchasing-power of money is concerned. The following table shows the index-numbers for groceries, food, and house rent for each capital city, the weighted average cost for the six capitals in 1911 being taken as base (=1,000):—

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a)—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.—
CAPITAL CITIES, 1901 TO 1924.**

City.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Sydney ..	893	1,031	1,206	1,394	1,406	1,427	1,580	1,847	1,724	1,634	1,737	1,714
Melbourne ..	870	950	1,105	1,309	1,294	1,349	1,481	1,788	1,737	1,625	1,749	1,703
Brisbane ..	769	915	997	1,188	1,181	1,252	1,442	1,645	1,511	1,442	1,510	1,506
Adelaide ..	864	1,058	1,143	1,285	1,245	1,335	1,468	1,756	1,653	1,574	1,670	1,693
Perth ..	1,027	1,126	1,143	1,266	1,246	1,239	1,420	1,617	1,609	1,495	1,538	1,580
Hobart ..	869	954	1,090	1,278	1,301	1,356	1,496	1,837	1,785	1,651	1,756	1,773
Weighted Average(b) ..	880	1,000	1,140	1,324	1,318	1,362	1,510	1,785	1,697	1,600	1,700	1,682

(a) As the price index-number increases, the purchasing-power of money diminishes.

(b) For all capital cities.

NOTE.—The above figures are directly comparable in every respect.

The combination of housing with prices of food and groceries has had the effect of considerably modifying the index of prices, or, in other words, the purchasing-power of money, as compared with the similar index based on food and groceries only. In 1918, 1919, and 1920 there were increases in prices of food and groceries and housing, the combined results for 1920 being an increase of 18.2 per cent. over 1919, 56.6 per cent. over 1914, and 78.5 per cent. over 1911. The increase in the index-number between 1920 and 1914 varied between the capital cities from 41 per cent. in Perth to 69 per cent. in Hobart, while between 1920 and 1911 it varied between 44 per cent. in Perth and 93 per cent. in Hobart. The decrease in cost in 1921 was very slight in Perth compared with the decrease in the remaining cities. In 1922 there was a further decline in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing in all the cities, the weighted average index-number being 1,600 as compared with 1,697 in 1921. The index-number for 1923 shows a rise of 6.3 per cent. on that for 1922, both food and groceries and housing contributing to the increase, while that for 1924 shows a decrease of 1.1 per cent. from 1923, food and groceries having decreased 4 per cent., while housing increased 3.7 per cent.

4. *Retail Price Index-numbers in Terms of Currency.*—The tables in sub-section 3 give the relative cost in the six capital cities of food, groceries, and housing from 1901 to 1924 in the form of index-numbers. The figures have been converted into a monetary basis in the next table, and show the sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities, and to pay such sums for housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in 1911.

RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1901 TO 1925 (1st QUARTER) TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 in 1911 IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
1901	s. d. 18 4	s. d. 19 4	s. d. 19 4	s. d. 20 7	s. d. 23 8	s. d. 20 3	s. d. 19 4
1907	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1911	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0
1919	35 8	32 5	35 3	34 5	35 5	35 0	34 4
1920	43 0	41 1	41 1	42 8	41 0	43 3	42 0
1921	38 0	38 0	36 3	38 1	40 0	40 6	38 0
1922	34 1	32 11	32 2	34 6	35 6	35 11	33 8
1923	36 5	36 1	33 10	36 6	36 7	37 3	36 1
1924	34 8	33 8	33 10	35 10	37 10	37 0	34 8
1924 { 1st Quarter ..	35 8	34 7	35 2	36 11	37 6	37 11	35 7
2nd " ..	34 8	33 11	33 7	36 6	37 10	37 3	34 10
1924 { 3rd " ..	33 11	33 3	33 5	35 3	38 1	36 10	34 2
4th " ..	34 4	33 1	33 0	34 8	37 11	36 0	34 1
1925 1st	34 6	33 10	33 4	36 3	39 4	35 7	34 9

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (WEIGHTED AVERAGE—ALL HOUSES).

1901	17 3	14 8	9 9	12 7	16 0	13 4	15 1
1907	18 4	16 1	11 6	16 3	13 8	14 2	16 4
1911	21 10	19 5	15 4	22 3	16 3	16 1	20 0
1919	25 9	25 8	19 8	22 2	18 4	22 8	24 4
1920	28 4	28 1	21 3	24 4	19 11	27 5	26 8
1921	29 6	30 0	21 7	25 9	21 0	28 10	28 1
1922	30 8	31 11	24 1	27 2	21 10	28 11	29 7
1923	32 4	33 5	24 11	29 0	22 6	32 1	31 0
1924	33 9	34 7	24 10	31 0	22 8	33 4	32 2
1924 { 1st Quarter ..	33 1	34 1	24 10	29 4	22 7	33 3	31 7
2nd " ..	33 9	34 6	24 10	31 6	22 7	33 3	32 2
1924 { 3rd " ..	34 0	34 9	24 10	31 7	22 7	33 2	32 5
4th " ..	34 3	35 0	24 10	31 8	23 0	33 6	32 7
1925 1st	34 6	34 11	25 0	31 2	23 0	34 3	32 8

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING COMBINED.

1901	17 10	17 5	15 5	17 3	20 6	17 5	17 7
1907	18 6	17 6	15 11	17 11	19 9	17 9	17 11
1911	20 7	19 0	18 4	21 2	22 6	19 1	20 0
1919	31 7	29 7	28 10	29 4	28 5	29 11	30 2
1920	36 11	35 9	32 11	35 1	32 4	36 9	35 8
1921	34 6	34 10	30 3	33 1	32 2	35 8	33 11
1922	32 8	32 6	28 10	31 6	29 11	33 0	32 0
1923	34 9	35 0	30 2	33 5	30 9	35 1	34 0
1924	34 3	34 1	30 1	33 10	31 7	35 6	33 8
1924 { 1st Quarter ..	34 7	34 4	30 11	33 10	31 4	36 0	33 11
2nd " ..	34 4	34 2	30 0	34 6	31 7	35 7	33 9
1924 { 3rd " ..	33 11	33 11	29 11	33 9	31 8	35 4	33 5
4th " ..	34 3	33 10	29 8	33 6	31 10	35 0	33 6
1925 1st	34 6	34 4	29 11	34 2	32 7	35 1	33 11

5. **Variations in Index-numbers, Retail Prices and Housing, Thirty Australian Towns, 1924.**—The index-numbers given in the preceding sub-sections show changes in the cost of food, groceries, and housing separately for each capital city during the years 1901 to 1924. The figures given in the next table show the relative cost of food and groceries, and of housing in 1924 in the thirty towns for which particulars are now collected. The weighted aggregate expenditure for the six capitals for the year 1911 has been taken as base and made equal to 1,000, hence the columns are comparable both horizontally and vertically. The index-numbers in the last column are the same as in previous tables where the period and town are comparable.

RELATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING, THIRTY TOWNS, 1924.

(NOTE.—Weighted Average Cost all Groups, Capital Cities, 1911, taken as base = 1,000.)

TOWN.	Food and Groceries.	HOUSING.				FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT OF—			
		Four-roomed Houses.	Five-roomed Houses.	Six-roomed Houses.	All Houses.	Four-roomed Houses.	Five-roomed Houses.	Six-roomed Houses.	All Houses.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,020	532	655	786	694	1,552	1,675	1,866	1,714
Newcastle	1,030	441	590	741	578	1,471	1,620	1,771	1,608
Broken Hill*	1,151	312	373	446	331	1,463	1,524	1,597	1,482
Goulburn	1,041	505	644	772	684	1,546	1,685	1,813	1,725
Bathurst	970	313	418	514	442	1,283	1,388	1,484	1,412
Weighted Average	1,024	517	640	771	672	1,541	1,664	1,735	1,696
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	992	491	632	815	711	1,483	1,624	1,807	1,703
Ballarat	1,004	284	400	490	455	1,288	1,404	1,494	1,459
Bendigo	1,018	307	390	511	428	1,325	1,408	1,529	1,446
Geelong	985	378	504	648	554	1,363	1,489	1,633	1,539
Warrnambool.	1,015	383	511	622	544	1,398	1,526	1,637	1,559
Weighted Average	994	471	608	782	682	1,465	1,602	1,776	1,676
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	996	331	451	572	510	1,327	1,447	1,568	1,506
Toowoomba	943	293	397	499	484	1,236	1,340	1,442	1,427
Rockhampton	989	238	303	387	379	1,227	1,292	1,376	1,368
Charters Towers	1,084	257	346	435	330	1,341	1,430	1,519	1,414
Warwick	957	338	411	481	479	1,295	1,368	1,438	1,436
Weighted Average	993	318	430	544	490	1,311	1,423	1,537	1,483
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	1,055	485	612	758	638	1,540	1,667	1,813	1,693
Kadina, etc.	1,035	267	359	427	348	1,302	1,394	1,462	1,383
Port Pirie*	1,072	332	413	474	395	1,404	1,485	1,546	1,467
Mt. Gambier	997	232	313	403	321	1,229	1,310	1,400	1,318
Peterborough	1,070	388	463	576	480	1,458	1,533	1,646	1,550
Weighted Average	1,054	466	589	728	611	1,520	1,643	1,782	1,665
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth, etc.	1,114	404	496	585	466	1,518	1,610	1,699	1,589
Kalgoorlie, etc.	1,250	329	394	461	323	1,579	1,644	1,711	1,573
Northam	1,129	409	523	671	409	1,538	1,652	1,800	1,538
Bunbury	1,143	367	460	603	371	1,510	1,603	1,746	1,514
Geraldton	1,169	440	520	658	406	1,609	1,689	1,827	1,575
Weighted Average	1,130	397	486	576	446	1,527	1,616	1,706	1,576
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,089	488	655	817	684	1,577	1,744	1,906	1,773
Launceston	1,081	387	553	699	584	1,468	1,634	1,780	1,665
Burnie	1,107	434	577	707	566	1,541	1,684	1,814	1,673
Devonport	1,098	443	557	679	582	1,541	1,655	1,777	1,680
Queenstown	1,188	263	342	368	256	1,451	1,530	1,556	1,444
Weighted Average	1,092	447	607	757	631	1,539	1,699	1,849	1,723
Australia, Weighted Average, 30 Towns	1,024	466	592	734	634	1,490	1,616	1,758	1,658

* See remarks on page 43 of Labour Report, No. 13, with reference to house rents.

§ 3. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. General.—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding paragraph, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, into retail price index-numbers in 70 additional towns. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number of additional towns was further increased to 170, and it is intended to institute inquiries in November in each year, thus making information available annually for 200 towns. The results

of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the succeeding yearly investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. Detailed Results, 1922 to 1924.—The results of the investigation made in November, 1924, are set out in the following tables. The aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries and rent of 4 rooms, and food, groceries, and rent of 5 rooms are shown for each year for each individual town. The index-number 1,597 represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,472 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1924. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,012 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1924. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for all 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1,597, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,600, while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,455.

A change has been made in the basis on which the index-numbers in this table are computed. Previously, the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the same basis is taken as in the case of the tables referring to 30 towns and 6 capital cities given in the preceding section, i.e., the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing accommodation in the 6 capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1,000.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING IN 150 TOWNS FOR NOVEMBER, 1922, AND 200 TOWNS IN 1923 AND 1924, COMPARED WITH THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT FOR ALL HOUSES IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES IN 1911 AS BASE (=1,000).

State and Town.	1922. November.			1923. November.			1924. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,034	1,553	1,641	1,087	1,608	1,705	1,022	1,559	1,690
Newcastle	1,008	1,419	1,574	1,120	1,531	1,676	1,006	1,447	1,599
Broken Hill	1,050	1,331	1,402	1,227	1,510	1,587	1,145	1,467	1,525
Goulburn	986	1,409	1,527	1,095	1,570	1,661	1,020	1,521	1,694
Bathurst	940	1,187	1,309	1,045	1,325	1,414	941	1,264	1,376
Albury	986	1,519	1,594	1,060	1,636	1,754	990	1,648	1,785
Armidale	974	1,382	1,404	1,073	1,424	1,536	986	1,371	1,469
Ballina .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,189	1,511	1,564	1,052	1,546	1,678
Bega	983	1,259	1,358	1,132	1,408	1,530	1,029	1,322	1,437
Berry .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,117	1,413	1,512	1,068	1,331	1,496
Blackheath .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,199	1,633	1,725	1,130	1,623	1,738
Bourke	1,055	1,232	1,285	1,228	1,426	1,505	1,055	1,266	1,292
Bowral	1,061	1,495	1,594	1,141	1,701	1,760	1,060	1,530	1,672
Casino	1,011	1,373	1,439	1,133	1,541	1,643	1,063	1,490	1,611
Cessnock .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,111	1,576	1,659	1,014	1,529	1,683
Cobar	1,043	1,141	1,174	1,152	1,251	1,284	1,073	1,162	1,208
Cooma	1,006	1,292	1,380	1,220	1,611	1,709	1,083	1,425	1,537
Coonamble	1,045	1,352	1,435	1,142	1,405	1,475	1,077	1,406	1,472
Cootamundra	921	1,337	1,440	1,098	1,558	1,690	976	1,447	1,549
Corrimal	1,013	1,309	1,381	1,106	1,435	1,527	975	1,304	1,370
Cowra	974	1,372	1,484	1,074	1,505	1,599	1,017	1,438	1,511
Cronulla .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,155	1,748	1,879	1,071	1,713	1,845
Cudgong .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,167	1,364	1,463	1,053	1,289	1,355
Deniliquin	1,008	1,309	1,378	1,087	1,405	1,474	1,009	1,336	1,429
Dubbo	1,018	1,445	1,542	1,204	1,657	1,791	1,065	1,537	1,641
Forbes	1,014	1,398	1,569	1,105	1,559	1,757	1,000	1,491	1,651

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 150 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1922. November.			1923. November.			1924. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
NEW SOUTH WALES— <i>continued</i> —	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Gilgandra .. .. .	..	..	..	1,136	1,426	1,505	1,016	1,268	1,321
Glen Innes	957	1,266	1,400	1,015	1,326	1,423	925	1,254	1,401
Grafton	1,006	1,359	1,478	1,149	1,544	1,643	1,035	1,324	1,430
Grenfell	977	1,444	1,569	1,179	1,541	1,771	1,038	1,498	1,630
Griffiths .. .. .	..	..	..	1,214	1,872	2,004	1,006	1,796	1,862
Guilgong .. .. .	..	..	..	1,092	1,388	1,451	995	1,291	1,354
Gunnedah	990	1,296	1,358	1,039	1,434	1,566	962	1,333	1,439
Hay	1,004	1,280	1,405	..	..	..	1,085	1,392	1,531
Inverell	1,001	1,363	1,407	1,102	1,452	1,521	1,011	1,373	1,451
June	991	1,418	1,517	1,117	1,561	1,676	972	1,564	1,696
Katoomba	1,060	1,584	1,371	1,205	1,728	1,859	1,129	1,619	1,737
Kempsey	961	1,290	1,427	1,021	1,350	1,383	1,004	1,398	1,484
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	..	..	..	1,181	1,477	1,550	1,068	1,424	1,496
Leeton .. .. .	..	..	..	1,196	1,914	1,949	1,097	1,867	1,886
Lismore	1,047	1,402	1,563	1,162	1,517	1,678	1,049	1,404	1,566
Lithgow	1,018	1,355	1,472	1,166	1,547	1,655	1,023	1,422	1,502
Maitland	994	1,350	1,402	1,086	1,554	1,596	952	1,409	1,491
Moree	1,079	1,487	1,605	1,288	1,692	1,797	1,104	1,556	1,692
Moss Vale	999	1,394	1,559	1,112	1,622	1,704	1,034	1,516	1,670
Mudgee	995	1,414	1,504	1,115	1,515	1,611	982	1,398	1,485
Narrabri	992	1,292	1,395	1,109	1,427	1,563	960	1,309	1,436
Narrandera .. .. .	..	..	..	1,187	1,621	1,746	1,069	1,516	1,694
Nowra	1,052	1,578	1,657	1,164	1,559	1,717	1,036	1,481	1,595
Orange	955	1,307	1,410	1,032	1,432	1,535	992	1,447	1,565
Parkes	1,000	1,434	1,559	1,120	1,604	1,696	1,020	1,480	1,595
Penrith .. .. .	..	..	..	1,082	1,440	1,557	1,025	1,340	1,436
Port Kembla .. .. .	..	..	..	1,145	1,467	1,540	1,057	1,380	1,450
Portland .. .. .	..	..	..	1,106	1,402	1,494	1,042	1,423	1,535
Queanbeyan	1,014	1,376	1,458	1,172	1,577	1,676	1,057	1,551	1,704
Quirindi .. .. .	..	..	..	1,128	1,437	1,562	1,034	1,350	1,507
Richmond .. .. .	..	..	..	1,121	1,492	1,588	1,075	1,493	1,569
Scone .. .. .	..	..	..	1,028	1,462	1,587	965	1,335	1,491
Singleton .. .. .	..	..	..	1,117	1,479	1,548	988	1,353	1,442
Tamworth	921	1,339	1,497	1,065	1,427	1,582	947	1,380	1,465
Taree .. .. .	..	..	..	1,088	1,598	1,687	979	1,538	1,686
Temora	1,006	1,467	1,532	1,099	1,555	1,667	1,057	1,584	1,692
Tenterfield .. .. .	..	..	..	1,137	1,490	1,565	1,010	1,383	1,436
Tumut .. .. .	..	..	..	1,149	1,511	1,643	1,030	1,533	1,632
Ulmara .. .. .	..	..	..	1,163	1,571	1,623	1,075	1,470	1,602
Wagga Wagga	951	1,350	1,477	1,132	1,856	1,988	1,016	1,740	1,838
Walcha .. .. .	..	..	..	1,009	1,305	1,436	994	1,257	1,405
Wellington	944	1,226	1,313	1,129	1,414	1,506	1,018	1,308	1,421
Weston .. .. .	..	..	..	1,198	1,487	1,527	1,066	1,356	1,395
Windsor .. .. .	..	..	..	1,108	1,483	1,634	1,052	1,488	1,562
Wollongong	1,018	1,399	1,465	1,137	1,560	1,652	1,045	1,508	1,595
Wyalong	983	1,329	1,445	1,148	1,595	1,681	1,099	1,494	1,626
Yass	1,069	1,385	1,449	1,249	1,567	1,648	1,080	1,458	1,524
Young	950	1,306	1,408	1,014	1,412	1,511	942	1,376	1,475
Weighted Average for State	1,024	1,403	1,589	1,099	1,585	1,686	1,023	1,527	1,653
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	967	1,431	1,570	1,062	1,547	1,689	963	1,455	1,600
Ballarat	976	1,217	1,320	1,080	1,356	1,463	987	1,268	1,384
Bendigo	977	1,284	1,381	1,075	1,375	1,473	988	1,293	1,373
Geelong	959	1,322	1,439	1,054	1,427	1,556	945	1,318	1,448
Warrnambool	932	1,273	1,431	1,067	1,448	1,578	987	1,370	1,497
Ararat	1,002	1,303	1,395	1,150	1,472	1,540	1,049	1,372	1,455
Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	..	..	..	1,081	1,489	1,640	961	1,389	1,520
Bairnsdale	1,009	1,371	1,494	1,166	1,528	1,692	1,052	1,414	1,578
Beechworth	996	1,223	1,275	1,114	1,364	1,433	1,040	1,303	1,369
Benalla	947	1,276	1,385	1,081	1,413	1,489	993	1,325	1,421
Camperdown	963	1,339	1,539	1,055	1,450	1,581	1,001	1,404	1,527
Casterton .. .. .	..	..	..	1,073	1,345	1,446	1,013	1,300	1,425
Castlemaine	997	1,280	1,375	1,069	1,358	1,454	1,056	1,389	1,505
Colac	973	1,500	1,582	1,135	1,675	1,793	1,042	1,574	1,667
Creswick	921	1,053	1,092	1,035	1,154	1,206	962	1,107	1,126
Daylesford	995	1,247	1,329	1,080	1,376	1,458	986	1,216	1,282
Dunolly	934	1,092	1,131	1,067	1,212	1,238	996	1,147	1,180
Echuca	973	1,235	1,327	1,069	1,364	1,464	1,026	1,355	1,470

* Figures not available for 1923.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 150 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1922. November.			1923. November.			1924. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
VICTORIA—continued.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Euroa	1,011	1,243	1,206	1,131	1,414	1,476	1,070	1,389	1,465
Hamilton	1,018	1,402	1,534	1,140	1,557	1,667	1,086	1,590	1,744
Healesville				1,147	1,588	1,700	1,016	1,430	1,542
Horsham	987	1,417	1,536	1,103	1,673	1,827	1,065	1,668	1,865
Kerang				1,126	1,652	1,784	1,061	1,620	1,752
Koroit				1,096	1,372	1,458	988	1,251	1,357
Korumburra	939	1,273	1,376	1,124	1,387	1,510	1,037	1,497	1,629
Kyneton	951	1,273	1,331	1,064	1,380	1,459	980	1,316	1,410
Lilydale				1,127	1,555	1,653	1,012	1,440	1,572
Maffra				1,146	1,738	1,870	1,019	1,622	1,732
Maldon	950	1,093	1,137	1,086	1,242	1,279	1,000	1,158	1,206
Maryborough	977	1,154	1,270	1,108	1,315	1,407	1,000	1,214	1,309
Mildura	1,102	1,757	1,829	1,163	1,769	1,920	1,084	1,693	1,805
Morwell				1,108	1,733	1,832	1,041	1,764	1,830
Nhill	1,066	1,348	1,409	1,149	1,518	1,639	1,124	1,550	1,699
Nrbost	1,020	1,415	1,547	1,104	1,433	1,499	1,047	1,442	1,573
Portland	1,023	1,346	1,467	1,097	1,412	1,525	1,067	1,357	1,498
Port Fairy				1,090	1,358	1,424	1,016	1,292	1,352
St. Arnaud	976	1,244	1,325	1,122	1,451	1,591	1,040	1,435	1,514
Salé	936	1,252	1,360	1,072	1,487	1,643	987	1,432	1,582
Seymour				1,090	1,370	1,462	1,062	1,400	1,490
Shepparton	1,010	1,454	1,569	1,092	1,487	1,566	1,007	1,476	1,590
Stawell	1,070	1,331	1,423	1,180	1,452	1,548	1,087	1,372	1,451
Swan Hill	982	1,574	1,739	1,086	1,612	1,777	1,052	1,710	1,809
Terang				1,105	1,447	1,552	1,041	1,449	1,567
Traralgon				1,067	1,426	1,518	1,024	1,386	1,485
Wangaratta	1,014	1,350	1,431	1,166	1,618	1,686	1,061	1,458	1,563
Warracknabeal ..	973	1,335	1,400	1,065	1,512	1,634	1,020	1,536	1,645
Warragul				1,099	1,595	1,735	969	1,429	1,561
Wonthaggi	1,000	1,439	1,527	1,204	1,674	1,761	1,049	1,474	1,566
Weighted Average for State	971	1,389	1,517	1,069	1,525	1,660	973	1,437	1,574
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	942	1,275	1,385	1,039	1,376	1,487	970	1,303	1,423
Toowoomba	927	1,183	1,262	1,049	1,339	1,423	905	1,223	1,324
Rockhampton	946	1,194	1,239	1,085	1,329	1,375	972	1,211	1,278
Charters Towers ..	993	1,243	1,312	1,132	1,390	1,474	1,065	1,322	1,411
Warwick	919	1,175	1,230	1,023	1,296	1,404	931	1,291	1,352
AYR				1,195	1,611	1,732	1,125	1,546	1,691
Barcaldine				1,237	1,582	1,681	1,116	1,477	1,609
Bowen				1,103	1,498	1,597	1,079	1,507	1,655
Bundaberg	940	1,192	1,278	959	1,211	1,293	947	1,232	1,327
Cairns	1,044	1,452	1,538	1,163	1,602	1,738	1,139	1,596	1,710
Charleville	1,072	1,466	1,624	1,145	1,573	1,671	1,077	1,537	1,702
Chillagoe	1,050	1,313	1,379	1,138	1,467	1,533	1,063	1,326	1,392
Cloncutry	1,115	1,488	1,585	1,174	1,510	1,653	1,178	1,540	1,636
Cooktown	1,126	1,233	1,270	*	*	*	1,072	1,173	1,221
Cunnamulla	1,047	1,363	1,441	1,155	1,484	1,550	1,074	1,403	1,468
Dalby				1,031	1,268	1,321	981	1,310	1,375
Gayndah				1,031	1,360	1,426	952	1,243	1,310
Gladstone				1,040	1,303	1,435	1,020	1,283	1,415
Goondiwindi	1,016	1,271	1,367	1,145	1,428	1,540	1,033	1,362	1,471
Gympie	998	1,251	1,336	1,054	1,305	1,405	990	1,286	1,352
Hughenden	1,092	1,586	1,750	1,194	1,638	1,770	1,101	1,583	1,682
Innisfail				1,309	1,814	1,923	1,211	1,649	1,803
Ipswich	951	1,241	1,326	1,063	1,406	1,458	963	1,246	1,331
Longreach	1,098	1,385	1,487	1,221	1,552	1,647	1,073	1,446	1,591
Mackay	962	1,327	1,436	1,066	1,448	1,571	987	1,407	1,511
Maryborough	962	1,231	1,363	998	1,251	1,353	953	1,233	1,351
Mount Morgan ..	965	1,183	1,222	1,127	1,357	1,484	1,023	1,300	1,346
Nambour				1,054	1,400	1,498	994	1,410	1,498
Roma	1,009	1,371	1,450	1,132	1,484	1,534	1,010	1,326	1,434
Stanthorpe				1,134	1,503	1,575	1,075	1,431	1,503
Townsville	1,079	1,493	1,632	1,149	1,603	1,731	1,085	1,569	1,719
Winton	1,090	1,551	1,715	1,235	1,735	1,834	1,108	1,656	1,722
Weighted Average for State	963	1,272	1,368	1,063	1,393	1,492	987	1,320	1,430

* Figures not available for 1923.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 150 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1922. November.			1923. November.			1924. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	987	1,418	1,548	1,072	1,518	1,667	1,020	1,516	1,645
Kadina, etc.	990	1,245	1,351	1,059	1,334	1,435	1,014	1,281	1,373
Port Pirie	978	1,297	1,391	1,110	1,433	1,530	1,060	1,399	1,479
Mount Gambier	950	1,185	1,252	1,051	1,286	1,354	994	1,233	1,316
Peterborough	1,013	1,303	1,373	1,079	1,395	1,470	1,103	1,502	1,584
Freeling .. . . .	..	..	..	1,006	1,269	1,375	1,083	1,379	1,445
Gawler	955	1,294	1,389	1,014	1,326	1,400	1,016	1,398	1,457
Kapunda	947	1,184	1,260	1,041	1,304	1,403	1,004	1,215	1,327
Korunga .. . . .	..	..	..	1,110	1,505	1,571	1,053	1,448	1,514
Millicent .. . . .	..	..	..	1,099	1,428	1,520	966	1,427	1,440
Murray Bridge	947	1,348	1,416	1,079	1,524	1,623	1,023	1,474	1,582
Port Augusta	1,023	1,348	1,451	1,112	1,437	1,540	1,123	1,448	1,551
Quorn .. . . .	..	..	..	1,065	1,529	1,651	1,028	1,518	1,620
Victor Harbour	975	1,502	1,633	1,031	1,580	1,711	1,050	1,642	1,774
Renmark	1,059	1,652	1,783	1,166	1,640	1,759	1,116	1,613	1,749
Weighted Average for State	986	1,392	1,515	1,073	1,498	1,639	1,024	1,494	1,616
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth and Fremantle	998	1,389	1,577	1,046	1,446	1,538	1,114	1,527	1,618
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,154	1,493	1,557	1,233	1,580	1,645	1,258	1,590	1,651
Northam	1,081	1,432	1,542	1,154	1,510	1,610	1,074	1,496	1,612
Bunbury	1,046	1,397	1,497	1,056	1,420	1,525	1,137	1,507	1,601
Geraldton	1,065	1,462	1,548	1,131	1,570	1,654	1,192	1,632	1,704
Albany	1,099	1,395	1,467	1,172	1,468	1,567	1,204	1,498	1,609
Beverley .. . . .	..	..	..	1,072	1,281	1,360	1,132	1,366	1,423
Bridgetown .. . . .	..	..	..	1,149	1,560	1,626	1,193	1,538	1,604
Broome	1,308	1,966	2,098	1,306	1,964	2,030	1,330	1,988	2,053
Carnarvon	1,237	1,730	1,779	1,249	1,743	1,841	1,184	1,710	1,776
Collie .. . . .	..	..	..	1,105	1,467	1,533	1,172	1,567	1,632
Greenbushes .. . . .	..	..	..	1,193	1,378	1,404	1,242	1,440	1,466
Katanning	1,009	1,388	1,549	1,000	1,404	1,467	1,077	1,459	1,577
Leonora and Gwalia	1,269	1,427	1,467	1,355	1,513	1,552	1,399	1,557	1,597
Meekatharra .. . . .	..	..	..	1,162	1,425	1,491	1,364	1,627	1,693
Narrogin .. . . .	..	..	..	1,136	1,636	1,794	1,154	1,628	1,812
Wagin .. . . .	..	..	..	1,104	1,338	1,453	1,185	1,491	1,537
York .. . . .	..	..	..	1,125	1,487	1,540	1,176	1,522	1,574
Weighted Average for State	1,045	1,416	1,506	1,078	1,466	1,555	1,138	1,536	1,624
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,013	1,416	1,592	1,114	1,574	1,762	1,051	1,579	1,724
Launceston	1,007	1,374	1,536	1,112	1,490	1,657	1,057	1,444	1,610
Burnie	1,028	1,454	1,586	1,176	1,583	1,746	1,042	1,485	1,621
Devonport	1,010	1,421	1,490	1,146	1,566	1,683	1,080	1,524	1,641
Queenstown	1,092	1,356	1,435	1,214	1,478	1,556	1,185	1,448	1,527
Beaconsfield	995	1,069	1,091	1,113	1,205	1,225	1,099	1,218	1,257
Campbelltown	979	1,129	1,183	1,052	1,260	1,308	1,045	1,259	1,333
Deloraine .. . . .	..	..	..	1,019	1,197	1,457	1,014	1,363	1,396
Franklin	1,024	1,257	1,327	1,082	1,314	1,351	1,061	1,298	1,325
New Norfolk .. . . .	..	..	..	1,043	1,372	1,465	1,032	1,361	1,460
Scottsdale	1,051	1,315	1,380	1,129	1,392	1,458	1,039	1,336	1,418
Ulverstone .. . . .	..	..	..	1,128	1,450	1,558	1,030	1,380	1,477
Zeehan	1,116	1,281	1,327	1,251	1,415	1,468	1,154	1,364	1,430
Weighted Average for State	1,020	1,375	1,519	1,120	1,526	1,689	1,059	1,509	1,647
Weighted Average for Australia	998	1,415	1,525	1,083	1,526	1,642	1,012	1,472	1,597

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in columns B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus, for November, 1924, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 963. Subtracting this from 1,455 (column B) gives a difference of 492, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,600 (column C) gives a difference of 637, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms.

Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns included.

A table showing the retail price index-numbers (food and groceries) for each of the thirty towns for various months since July, 1914, appeared in previous issues, but considerations of space preclude its repetition in the present issue. This table is, however, given in Labour Report No. 14, issued by this Bureau.

§ 4. Variations in the Cost of Food, Groceries, Rent, Clothing and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

1. *General.*—The index-numbers in §3 show the variations in the cost of food, groceries, and house rent. The expenditure on these items covers approximately 80 per cent. of the total expenditure of the ordinary household. The balance is expended on clothing, boots, fuel, light, and such miscellaneous items as renewals of furniture, furnishings, drapery, crockery, lodge dues, trade union dues, recreation, newspapers, etc. The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage recommended in its Report that a method should be adopted of ascertaining from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in its relation to the total household expenditure. The Government adopted the recommendation, and the duty of carrying out the necessary investigations was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, which adopted the methods hereunder described.

2. *Methods Adopted.*—The Commission was concerned principally with the ascertainment of variations in the cost of the regimen described in the Indicator Lists published in its Report. It is clear, however, that restriction of the investigations of the Bureau of Census and Statistics in the way suggested by the Commission, would have limited their usefulness. It was decided, therefore, to apply to the extended investigation the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries, and rent. The index-numbers may be used to determine accurately from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family as outlined by the Commission, as well as for the determination of variations in any standard fixed by previous investigators, or which may be fixed in the future.

After careful investigation it was decided to adopt for food, groceries, and house rent the commodities, method, and weighting used by this Bureau. The commodities and quantities adopted for food and groceries conform very closely to those given in the Indicator Lists of the Commission. With regard to rent, the Commission adopted a certain type of five-roomed house as its standard for determining the amount allowed for housing. The investigations made by this Bureau were not confined to any particular type, but to the predominant house rent, and can with safety be used to show variations in the rent being paid for the type of house described by the Commission.

The investigations of this Bureau advisedly had been confined to food, groceries, and house rent,* and it was necessary, therefore, to make investigations into the cost of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and life of articles, and this has been utilized in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables. Forms were sent out to retailers on which the prices of the articles at November, 1920, were given. These prices, so far as the capital cities are concerned (being in general the prices quoted by the firms to whom the forms were sent), are the predominant prices, i.e., the price of the grade of the articles which is most in demand. The retailers were asked to quote for November, 1921, and for May, 1922, the prices of the same articles. In order to ascertain the change in expenditure, the quantities and life as given in the Indicator Lists of the Basic Wage Commission were used for "weighting" purposes to arrive at a weekly expenditure for clothing. This weekly expenditure is then multiplied by weights in the same manner as is the weekly expenditure on rent, thus giving an aggregate expenditure comparable with the aggregate expenditure on food and groceries and on rent.

* See pages 22-25 of Labour Report No. 12.

With regard to Miscellaneous Expenditure, which covers a very wide field, inquiries were made as to variations in cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, etc., and also with regard to other items included in the Indicator Lists for Miscellaneous Expenditure, and the aggregate expenditure on these items has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

The item Groceries (not Food) has been omitted from Miscellaneous Expenditure, as the index-numbers of this Bureau cover the items allowed for, such as soap, starch, blue, etc.

3. Period Selected as Base.—For the new index-numbers November, 1914, was adopted as base owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years, but they may be accepted as typical of immediately pre-war conditions.

4. Variations in Cost in the Capital Cities.†—The index-numbers in the following table show the variations not only in each city from period to period, but also as between the various cities at any given period. Thus, the increase in cost in the six capital cities from November, 1914, was greatest in November, 1920, when it amounted to 66.5 per cent. The increase in November, 1924, compared with November, 1914, was 41.7 per cent. Further, in November, 1924, the cost of the commodities and services included was greatest in Hobart (1,512) and least in Brisbane (1,316).

INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.— 1914 TO 1924.

(NOTE.—Weighted average cost in November, 1914, for all articles in capital cities taken as base = 1,000).

Cities.	November.										
	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Sydney ..	1,037	1,159	1,187	1,266	1,328	1,505	1,681	1,477	1,440	1,456	1,420
Melbourne ..	986	1,117	1,124	1,194	1,294	1,437	1,704	1,475	1,417	1,471	1,431
Brisbane ..	898	1,046	1,016	1,114	1,222	1,408	1,511	1,330	1,275	1,356	1,316
Adelaide ..	997	1,114	1,140	1,186	1,265	1,447	1,657	1,411	1,370	1,455	1,453
Perth ..	1,001	1,059	1,123	1,166	1,238	1,404	1,552	1,409	1,301	1,339	1,369
Hobart ..	997	1,110	1,121	1,253	1,311	1,489	1,724	1,536	1,452	1,527	1,512
Weighted Average	1,000	1,123	1,140	1,213	1,295	1,461	1,665	1,454	1,402	1,446	1,417

§ 5. Control of Trade, Prices, and House Rents.

In previous issues of the Year Book information was given as to the legislative measures enacted by Federal and State Parliaments for the control of trade, prices, and house rents.

In Queensland the Profiteering Prevention Act 1920, and the Fair Rents Act 1920, and in New South Wales the Fair Rents Act 1915, amended in 1920, are still in force. Similar legislative measures enacted by the other States and by the Federal Parliament have been repealed or allowed to expire by effluxion of time.

B. WAGES.

§ 1. Operations under Wages Board and Industrial Arbitration Acts.

1. General.—Particulars of the operations of Wages Boards and Industrial and Arbitration Courts under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours, and conditions of labour were first compiled to the 31st December, 1913, and reviews to the end of approximately quarterly periods appear in Labour Bulletins and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1924.

† In Labour Report No. 14, index-numbers are given showing the relative cost from November, 1921, to November, 1923, in 30 of the principal towns in Australia.

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each quarter of the years 1923 and 1924 :—

AWARDS, DETERMINATIONS, AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS, 1923 AND 1924.

State and Commonwealth.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Full Year.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filled.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filled.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filled.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filled.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filled.
1923.										
New South Wales	8	16	18	9	15	13	19	15	60	53
Victoria ..	12	..	24	..	19	..	27	..	82	..
Queensland ..	4	..	6	5	7	4	14	6	31	15
South Australia	5	..	7	2	10	1	16	2	38	5
Western Australia	1	6	1	3	10	2	1	6	13	17
Tasmania ..	5	..	6	..	..	1	3	..	14	1
Cwlth. Court ..	4	7	18	14	22	5	20	8	64	34
Cwlth. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	4	..
Total ..	40	29	80	33	84	26	102	37	306	125
1924.										
New South Wales	11	9	14	20	15	21	18	6	58	56
Victoria ..	42	..	15	..	11	..	10	..	78	..
Queensland ..	3	1	8	6	17	6	27	7	55	20
South Australia	19	2	6	..	9	1	24	1	58	4
Western Australia	..	12	5	6	3	6	3	13	11	37
Tasmania ..	1	..	3	1	6	..	3	1	13	2
Cwlth. Court ..	2	17	7	11	13	6	22	11	44	45
Cwlth. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	4	..
Total ..	79	41	59	44	74	40	109	39	321	164

3. Boards Authorized, Awards, etc., in Force.—(i) *Totals for Australia.* The following table gives particulars at the dates specified for all States—excepting Western Australia, in which State there is no provision for Boards—of Boards authorized, etc., and, including operations under the Commonwealth and the Western Australian Arbitration Acts, of the number of awards, determinations, and industrial agreements in force :—

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, ETC., AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA, 1913, 1923, AND 1924.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards Con- stituted.	Boards which had made Awards or Deter- minations.	Awards or Deter- minations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agree- ments in Force.
31st December, 1913	505	501	387(b)	575(c)	401
30th June, 1923	572	564	517	1,042	731
31st December, 1923	574	566	523	1,088	740
30th June, 1924	575	567	528	1,095	635
31st December, 1924	575	538(d)	520	1,111	549

(a) Including awards made by Arbitration Courts and the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator. (b) Owing to the fact that a number of awards under the New South Wales Industrial Disputes Act (1908) were still in force, the Boards constituted for such industries under the Industrial Arbitration Act (1912) had not made any awards. (c) Excluding awards or determinations which expired in New South Wales (under the Act of 1908) on 31st December, 1913. (d) During 1924 the majority of South Australian Boards expired and all had not been reconstituted at the close of the year.

Considerable expansion of the principle of the fixation of a legal minimum rate of wage and of working conditions took place during the eleven years ended 31st December, 1924. At the end of 1924, 536 additional awards or determinations were in force in Australia. The number of industrial agreements* made and in force under the various Acts increased during the eleven years under review by 148.

(ii) *Summary for States.* The following table gives particulars for each State and the Commonwealth of the number of Boards authorized, etc., for the years specified :—

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913, 1923, AND 1924.

Particulars.	At 31st Dec.	Commonwealth.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
		Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.							
<i>Boards Authorized, etc. (a)—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	1913 ..	..	..	(b) 216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	1923 ..	..	..	274	177	..	76	..	47	574
	1924 ..	..	..	274	176	2	75	..	48	575
Boards constituted ..	1913 ..	..	..	(b) 223	132	74	51	..	21	501
	1923 ..	..	..	274	175	..	76	..	41	566
	1924 ..	..	..	274	174	2	46	..	42	538
Boards which have made Awards or Determinations ..	1913 ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	1923 ..	..	..	258	166	..	66	..	33	523
	1924 ..	..	..	259	158	..	65	..	38	520
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Awards and Determinations in force ..	1913 ..	17	..	(c) 265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	1923 ..	141	29	318	171	216	78	87	48	1,088
	1924 ..	146	29	320	174	221	81	91	49	1,111
<i>State Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Applying to Whole State ..	1913 ..	..	..	32	8	3	..	..	15	58
	1923 ..	..	..	31	43	65	9	5	39	192
	1924 ..	..	..	31	65	65	7	5	39	212
Applying to Metropolitan area ..	1913 ..	..	..	58	..	28	53	13	1	153
	1923 ..	..	..	85	..	48	47	49	..	230
	1924 ..	..	..	90	1	50	50	51	..	242
Applying to Metropolitan and Country areas ..	1913 ..	..	..	49	105	1	..	1	5	161
	1923 ..	..	..	137	116	43	2	7	7	312
	1924 ..	..	..	136	94	44	2	8	7	291
Applying to Country areas ..	1913 ..	..	..	126	14	41	1	4	..	186
	1923 ..	..	..	65	11	60	20	26	..	184
	1924 ..	..	..	63	14	62	22	27	3	191
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards</i>										
Awards in force in each State ..	1913 ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	1923 ..	..	..	81	109	32	79	40	62	..
	1924 ..	..	..	87	110	32	80	38	62	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Determinations in force in each State ..	1923 ..	..	..	28	25	25	26	26	24	..
	1924 ..	..	..	28	26	25	25	25	24	..
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	1913 ..	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	1923 ..	454	..	116	..	50	43	72	5	740
	1924 ..	221	..	135	..	62	44	85	2	549
Commonwealth Agreements in force in each State ..	1913 ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	1923 ..	..	..	64	284	24	48	38	18	..
	1924 ..	..	..	68	96	24	24	11	19	..
Number of Persons covered by State Awards and Determinations (estimated) ..	1924 ..	..	..	275,000	192,300	163,600	32,000	35,000	19,000	716,900

(a) The figures for New South Wales are exclusive of Demarcation Boards.

(b) Including boards which were subsequently dissolved, owing to alteration in the sectional arrangement of industries and callings.

(c) Omitting a number of awards which expired on the 31st December, 1913.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. *General.*—The collection of information respecting the current rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries was first undertaken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in the early part of the year 1913. The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements, under Commonwealth and State Acts, and therefore show the minimum rates prescribed. They refer generally to the capital city in each State, but in industries which obviously

* The registration of industrial agreements is not provided for under the Victorian Act, but such agreements may be registered and filed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

are not carried on in the capital cities, *e.g.*, mining, agriculture, etc., the rates in the more important centres have been taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement is in force, particulars are given, where available, of the ruling union or predominant rate as furnished by employers or secretaries of trade unions. The total number of occupations for which particulars of wages are available back to 1901 is 652. Since 1913, when the scope of the inquiry was extended to 930 specified industries and 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 male and 308 female), the number of occupations included in the comparative computations has been kept constant.

The index-numbers for male adult workers were computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (=1,000) in order that comparisons might more readily be made between these index-numbers and the retail prices index-numbers which are also computed to the year 1911 as base. In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

An extensive tabular presentation of the minimum rates of wage for adult male and female workers in the main occupations in the capital city of each State is given in the Appendix to Labour Report No. 15.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1920 to 1924.—(i) *General*. The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to furnishes the basis for the computation of relative weighted wages in the different States and industrial groups.

(ii) *Adult Males—States*. The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the 31st December in the years 1920 to 1924 for a full week's work in each State and Australia, together with index-numbers computed with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (=1,000).

WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1920 TO 1924.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia in 1911 (51s. 3d.) as base (=1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (a)
No. of Occupations Included ..	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1920 ..	94 0	86 1	91 6	82 8	89 9	85 9	89 10
31st December, 1921 ..	95 10	93 7	96 8	89 5	95 0	91 8	94 6
31st December, 1922 ..	91 6	91 4	93 10	87 6	93 9	88 5	91 6
31st December, 1923 ..	94 6	95 7	94 2	90 9	94 2	92 4	94 4
31st March, 1924 ..	94 1	96 3	94 4	90 6	93 9	92 7	94 4
30th June, 1924 ..	94 0	95 10	94 8	91 1	93 9	92 7	94 3
30th September, 1924 ..	93 11	95 6	95 9	91 4	93 10	92 5	94 4
31st December, 1924 ..	93 6	95 5	95 9	91 10	94 8	92 6	94 3

INDEX-NUMBERS.

	1,835	1,679	1,785	1,613	1,751	1,674	1,752
31st December, 1920 ..	1,835	1,679	1,785	1,613	1,751	1,674	1,752
31st December, 1921 ..	1,869	1,826	1,886	1,745	1,853	1,788	1,844
31st December, 1922 ..	1,785	1,783	1,830	1,708	1,829	1,726	1,785
31st December, 1923 ..	1,844	1,865	1,837	1,770	1,838	1,802	1,840
31st March, 1924 ..	1,835	1,878	1,841	1,765	1,828	1,806	1,840
30th June, 1924 ..	1,835	1,870	1,847	1,778	1,829	1,807	1,840
30th September, 1924 ..	1,832	1,863	1,868	1,783	1,831	1,803	1,840
31st December, 1924 ..	1,824	1,862	1,868	1,791	1,847	1,805	1,839

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1924, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, and South Australia. In all States wages increased rapidly from December, 1919, to the end of 1921. During 1922, however, the average declined on account of adjustments made in accordance with the decrease in the cost of living. In 1923 the average wage increased in each State. During 1924 wages decreased in New South Wales and Victoria, but there was sufficient movement in the opposite direction in the remaining States to allow the weighted average for Australia as a whole to remain practically stationary. The largest percentage increase during the period under review was in South Australia, with 11.0 per cent., followed by Victoria, 10.9 per cent., Tasmania 7.8 per cent., Western Australia 5.5 per cent., and Queensland 4.6 per cent. A decrease of 0.6 per cent. occurred in New South Wales. The increase in the weighted average for Australia was 5.0 per cent.

(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows (a) the average weekly rate of wage in each of the fourteen industrial groups, (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, and (c) index-numbers based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (51s. 3d.), as base (=1,000):—

WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1920 TO 1924.

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and all industrial groups, based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (51s. 3d.), as base (=1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Industrial Group.		Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—							
		31st Dec., 1920.	31st Dec., 1921.	31st Dec., 1922.	31st Dec., 1923.	31st March, 1924.	30th June, 1924.	30th Sept., 1924.	31st Dec., 1924.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage	95.1	93.2	95.4	99.2	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.7
	Index-No.	1,855	1,916	1,860	1,935	1,946	1,946	1,947	1,943
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage	92.5	93.2	93.10	97.4	97.9	97.9	97.2	97.5
	Index-No.	1,803	1,915	1,832	1,900	1,907	1,908	1,896	1,901
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage	89.3	93.10	91.10	94.2	93.10	94.0	93.11	94.0
	Index-No.	1,742	1,832	1,792	1,837	1,831	1,833	1,832	1,835
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage	86.5	93.3	91.1	93.11	94.0	94.2	93.0	95.0
	Index-No.	1,637	1,819	1,777	1,833	1,835	1,837	1,815	1,815
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage	99.6	104.7	102.9	104.5	106.6	107.4	108.0	108.3
	Index-No.	1,941	2,040	2,004	2,037	2,078	2,094	2,107	2,113
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage	88.11	95.0	91.11	96.2	95.3	95.3	95.6	95.6
	Index-No.	1,736	1,854	1,793	1,876	1,859	1,859	1,863	1,863
VII. Building	Wage	95.7	102.5	100.5	103.8	104.5	104.3	105.1	105.6
	Index-No.	1,865	1,999	1,960	2,023	2,037	2,035	2,050	2,055
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage	103.10	105.4	103.8	104.5	104.1	103.11	103.11	104.2
	Index-No.	2,026	2,056	2,022	2,037	2,032	2,028	2,028	2,033
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage	93.1	97.5	93.4	97.8	96.9	96.5	97.3	96.11
	Index-No.	1,816	1,901	1,821	1,906	1,888	1,881	1,898	1,892
X. Other Land Transport	Wage	87.3	90.2	88.5	92.6	90.6	90.0	89.9	89.4
	Index-No.	1,702	1,760	1,725	1,806	1,766	1,756	1,751	1,744
XI. Shipping, etc. (a)	Wage	88.0	101.8	99.9	102.4	99.9	98.11	98.6	97.10
	Index-No.	1,716	1,984	1,947	1,997	1,946	1,931	1,923	1,908
XII. Agricultural, etc. (b)	Wage	87.1	89.0	83.11	85.8	85.11	85.11	86.0	85.10
	Index-No.	1,699	1,736	1,637	1,671	1,676	1,677	1,670	1,675
XIII. Domestic, etc. (b)	Wage	80.6	84.2	82.4	84.6	85.3	85.9	85.10	86.0
	Index-No.	1,571	1,642	1,606	1,648	1,663	1,674	1,675	1,678
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage	84.11	91.1	88.8	92.3	92.5	92.6	92.4	92.2
	Index-No.	1,656	1,778	1,730	1,800	1,804	1,804	1,802	1,798
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage	89.10	94.6	91.6	94.4	94.4	94.3	94.4	94.3
	Index-No.	1,752	1,844	1,785	1,840	1,840	1,840	1,840	1,839

(a) Including the value of victualling and accommodation where supplied. (b) Including the value of board and lodging where supplied. (c) Weighted average.

The foregoing table shows that the rate of increase in the weighted average weekly wage in occupations and callings classified in the fourteen industrial groups during the period 31st December, 1920 to 1924, was greatest in Group XI. (Shipping), 11.2 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups VII. (Building), 10.3 per cent., V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 8.9 per cent., and XIV. (Miscellaneous), 8.6 per cent. The smallest increase occurred in Group VIII. (Mining), 0.3 per cent., while one group (Agricultural, etc.), shows a

decrease of 1.4 per cent. In nine of the groups the increase was more, and in five groups less than the increase in the weighted average for all groups. During 1924 there was a decline in the averages for eight groups, with increases in the remainder. The largest decreases occurred in Group XI. (Shipping), etc., 4.5 per cent., followed by Group X. (Other Land Transport), 3.4 per cent. The greatest increases occurred in Groups V. (Books, Printing, etc.), and XIII. (Domestic, etc.), with 3.7 and 1.8 per cent. respectively. The weighted average wage for all groups combined shows no appreciable movement during the twelve months.

(iv) *Adult Females—States.* The following table shows the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index-numbers are given also for each State based on the average weekly wage at the end of each of the periods indicated, computed with the weighted average wage for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1920 TO 1924.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (27s. 2d.) as base (=1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.(a)
No. of Occupations Included ..	85	87	37	47	24	28	308

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1920 ..	46 0	43 1	44 11	40 7	52 11	41 10	44 6
31st December, 1921 ..	49 0	47 10	50 3	45 2	56 4	47 6	48 8
31st December, 1922 ..	47 8	48 0	48 2	44 0	56 4	47 7	47 11
31st December, 1923 ..	49 3	49 5	50 5	46 4	56 4	48 6	49 6
31st March, 1924 ..	49 3	50 2	51 3	46 9	56 8	49 2	49 11
30th June, 1924 ..	49 3	50 2	51 3	46 9	56 8	50 7	50 0
30th September, 1924 ..	49 0	49 6	50 10	46 4	56 8	50 3	49 7
31st December, 1924 ..	49 1	49 7	50 10	46 6	56 11	50 3	49 7

INDEX-NUMBERS.

	1,695	1,586	1,652	1,495	1,947	1,540	1,637
31st December, 1920 ..	1,695	1,586	1,652	1,495	1,947	1,540	1,637
31st December, 1921 ..	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	2,074	1,749	1,790
31st December, 1922 ..	1,754	1,767	1,771	1,620	2,075	1,751	1,763
31st December, 1923 ..	1,812	1,819	1,855	1,704	2,075	1,785	1,821
31st March, 1924 ..	1,813	1,847	1,886	1,721	2,085	1,809	1,838
30th June, 1924 ..	1,813	1,845	1,886	1,721	2,085	1,863	1,839
30th September, 1924 ..	1,804	1,823	1,872	1,706	2,085	1,851	1,824
31st December, 1924 ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826

(a) Weighted Average.

As in the case of male occupations, female wages increased rapidly up to December, 1921, but in 1922 reductions were recorded. The decrease over the whole of Australia was relatively much less than in the case of males. There was an increase in each State during 1923, with the exception of Western Australia, where the wage remained stationary. The figures for 31st December, 1924, indicate a very slight increase so far as Australia is concerned, and in respect of individual States increases in all excepting New South Wales, the greatest increase being 1s. 9d. in Tasmania. The advance in the Australian average during the period was 11.5 per cent.

(v) *Adult Females—Industrial Groups.* The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined. Taking the average wage for all groups at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000), index-numbers are given computed on the average rate of wage ruling at the end of each period indicated.

WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1920, TO 1924.

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each Industrial Group and all Industrial Groups, based on the average wage for all groups at 30th April, 1914 (27s. 2d.), as base (=1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V. and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. (a).	XIV. Miscellaneous.	All Groups (b).
RATES OF WAGE.						
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1920 ..	41 10	43 5	44 0	46 3	46 2	44 6
31st December, 1921 ..	43 9	48 7	48 0	48 6	50 0	48 8
31st December, 1922 ..	43 3	47 10	47 4	48 3	48 9	47 11
31st December, 1923 ..	44 1	50 1	48 10	49 5	49 6	49 6
31st March, 1924 ..	44 11	50 1	49 7	49 6	51 3	49 11
30th June, 1924 ..	44 11	50 1	49 5	49 6	51 3	50 0
30th September, 1924 ..	44 11	49 6	49 4	49 6	50 7	49 7
31st December, 1924 ..	45 2	49 7	49 6	49 7	50 7	49 7
INDEX-NUMBERS.						
31st December, 1920 ..	1,538	1,597	1,619	1,701	1,700	1,637
31st December, 1921 ..	1,609	1,789	1,766	1,787	1,841	1,790
31st December, 1922 ..	1,593	1,762	1,741	1,777	1,794	1,763
31st December, 1923 ..	1,622	1,842	1,799	1,819	1,821	1,821
31st March, 1924 ..	1,654	1,842	1,824	1,823	1,885	1,838
30th June, 1924 ..	1,654	1,845	1,817	1,823	1,885	1,839
30th September, 1924 ..	1,654	1,823	1,816	1,823	1,862	1,824
21st December, 1924 ..	1,661	1,826	1,821	1,824	1,862	1,826

(a) Including the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

(b) Weighted Average.

The greatest increase in the weekly rate of wage occurred in Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 14.3 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups I., II., V., and VI. (All Other Manufacturing), 12.5 per cent., XIV. (Miscellaneous), 9.5 per cent., III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 8.0 per cent., and XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 7.2 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for all groups was 11.5 per cent. higher at the end of 1924 than at the 31st December, 1920.

The average wage for females in each industrial group, excepting IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), increased during the year 1924, the largest increase being 2.4 per cent. in Group III., followed in the order named by Groups XIV., 2.3 per cent., I., II., V., and VI., 1.2 per cent., and XIII., 0.3 per cent. Group IV. decreased 0.9 per cent. The weighted average for all groups increased by 0.3 per cent.

3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1920 to 1924.—(i) General. The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs relate to the minimum payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in many instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. In order to secure what may be for some purposes a more adequate standard of comparison, it is desirable to reduce the comparison to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour. Particulars are given in the following table classified according to States, for male and female occupations separately, at the end of the years 1920 to 1924. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage, (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work, and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes the value of board and lodging where supplied in land occupations, and the value of victualling in

marine occupations, whereas the number of working hours and the hourly wage relate to all industrial groups other than Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, hence the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

The general effect of reducing the rates of wage to a common basis (*i.e.*, per hour) is to eliminate on comparison any apparent difference between the several States which may be due to unequal working time.

(ii) *Adult Males and Females.* Particulars for the last five years for adult males and females are given in the table hereunder:—

**WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.—ADULT WORKERS,
1920 TO 1924.**

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec. 1920	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 94 0	s. d. 86 1	s. d. 91 6	s. d. 82 8	s. d. 89 9	s. d. 85 9	s. d. 89 10
	Working Hours (b)	47.51	47.19	45.63	47.29	46.53	47.33	47.07
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/-	1/10	2/0½	1/8½	1/11¼	1/10	1/11
31st Dec., 1921	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 95 10	s. d. 93 7	s. d. 96 8	s. d. 89 5	s. d. 95 0	s. d. 91 8	s. d. 94 6
	Working Hours (b)	45.66	46.95	45.52	47.07	46.24	46.84	46.22
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/1½	2/0½	2/2	1/10½	2/1	1/11½	2/0½
31st Dec., 1922	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 91 6	s. d. 91 4	s. d. 93 10	s. d. 87 6	s. d. 93 0	s. d. 88 5	s. d. 91 6
	Working Hours (b)	46.05	46.99	45.51	47.00	46.41	46.93	46.38
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/0½	1/11¼	2/1½	1/10½	2/0½	1/10½	2/-
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 96 6	s. d. 93 0	s. d. 95 9	s. d. 91 8	s. d. 95 2	s. d. 93 3	s. d. 96 3
	Working Hours (b)	46.73	47.06	45.51	47.00	46.66	47.27	46.70
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/0½	2/1	2/1½	1/11½	2/0½	1/11½	2/0½
31st Dec., 1924	Weekly Wage (a)	s. d. 93 6	s. d. 95 5	s. d. 95 0	s. d. 91 10	s. d. 94 8	s. d. 92 6	s. d. 94 2
	Working Hours (b)	46.75	46.99	45.40	46.98	46.52	47.26	46.66
	Hourly Wage (b)	2/0½	2/1	2/1½	1/11½	2/0½	1/11½	2/0½
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1920	Weekly Wage	s. d. 46 0	s. d. 43 1	s. d. 44 11	s. d. 40 7	s. d. 52 11	s. d. 41 10	s. d. 44 6
	Working Hours	46.83	46.23	46.09	46.51	46.20	47.86	46.47
	Hourly Wage	-/11½	-/11½	-/11½	-/10½	1/1½	-/10½	-/11½
31st Dec., 1921	Weekly Wage	s. d. 49 0	s. d. 47 10	s. d. 50 3	s. d. 45 2	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 47 6	s. d. 48 8
	Working Hours	45.06	46.04	45.66	46.10	45.97	47.36	45.69
	Hourly Wage	1/1	1/0½	1/1½	-/11½	1/2½	1/-	1/0½
31st Dec., 1922	Weekly Wage	s. d. 47 8	s. d. 43 0	s. d. 43 2	s. d. 44 0	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 47 7	s. d. 47 11
	Working Hours	45.33	46.14	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.82
	Hourly Wage	1/0½	1/0½	1/0½	-/11½	1/2½	1/-	1/0½
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage	s. d. 49 3	s. d. 49 5	s. d. 50 5	s. d. 46 4	s. d. 56 4	s. d. 48 0	s. d. 49 6
	Working Hours	45.81	46.13	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.98
	Hourly Wage	1/1	1/0½	1/1½	1/0	1/2½	1/0½	1/1
31st Dec., 1924	Weekly Wage	s. d. 49 1	s. d. 49 7	s. d. 50 10	s. d. 46 6	s. d. 56 11	s. d. 50 3	s. d. 49 7
	Working Hours	45.98	46.08	45.60	46.10	45.97	47.86	46.02
	Hourly Wage	1/0½	1/1	1/1½	1/-	1/2½	1/0½	1/1

(a) Weighted average weekly rate in all industrial groups combined. (b) Weighted average working hours per week, and computed hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in industrial groups XI. and XII.

(iii) *Index-numbers.* There has been a diminution in each of the States during the years 1920 and 1921 in the number of working hours constituting a full week's work for male and female occupations, but during 1922 and 1923 certain increases in hours were recorded, principally in New South Wales. Each State, excepting New South Wales, shows a decrease for 1924. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table. In each instance (male and female occupations separately) the basis taken is the weighted average for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (=1,000).

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT WORKERS, 1920 TO 1924.

NOTE.—Weighted average for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1920	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,706	1,561	1,659	1,500	1,628	1,556	1,629
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,725	1,570	1,753	1,492	1,686	1,567	1,655
31st Dec., 1921	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,738	1,697	1,753	1,623	1,723	1,663	1,715
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,817	1,741	1,865	1,637	1,796	1,675	1,779
31st Dec., 1922	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,660	1,657	1,702	1,588	1,701	1,605	1,660
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,735	1,709	1,803	1,621	1,766	1,628	1,726
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,714	1,734	1,763	1,646	1,709	1,675	1,711
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,775	1,790	1,808	1,676	1,754	1,696	1,771
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,696	1,731	1,737	1,665	1,717	1,679	1,710
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,761	1,790	1,838	1,709	1,771	1,706	1,774
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1920	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,695	1,586	1,652	1,495	1,947	1,540	1,637
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,777	1,685	1,761	1,578	2,069	1,580	1,730
31st Dec., 1921	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	2,074	1,749	1,790
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,965	1,878	1,989	1,770	2,215	1,794	1,923
31st Dec., 1922	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,754	1,767	1,771	1,620	2,075	1,751	1,763
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,899	1,881	1,908	1,726	2,215	1,797	1,889
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,812	1,819	1,855	1,704	2,075	1,785	1,821
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,943	1,937	1,997	1,815	2,215	1,831	1,944
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,929	1,943	2,017	1,821	2,236	1,898	1,949

4. Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1920 to 1924. Index-numbers are given also for each State based on the weekly average hours at the end of each of the periods specified, computed with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

HOURS OF LABOUR.—WEEKLY INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES, 1920 TO 1924.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the Average Hours of Labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (48.93) as base (=1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout. Overtime is excluded.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
31st Dec., 1920	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	47.51	47.19	45.63	47.29	46.53	47.33	47.07
	{ Index-numbers ..	971	964	933	966	951	967	962
31st Dec., 1921	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	45.66	46.95	45.52	47.07	46.24	46.84	46.22
	{ Index-numbers ..	933	960	930	962	945	957	945
31st Dec., 1922	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.05	46.99	45.51	47.00	46.41	46.93	46.38
	{ Index-numbers ..	941	960	930	961	948	959	948
31st Dec., 1923	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.73	47.06	45.51	47.00	46.66	47.27	46.70
	{ Index-numbers ..	955	962	930	961	954	966	954
31st Dec., 1924	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.75	46.99	45.40	46.98	46.52	47.26	46.66
	{ Index-numbers ..	955	960	928	960	951	966	954

(a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), in which working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals.

There was a diminution in each State during the years 1920 and 1921 in the number of working hours constituting a full week's work for male occupations, but during 1922 and 1923, in certain States, especially in New South Wales, hours of labour were increased. Each State, excepting New South Wales, shows a decrease for 1924. The weighted average weekly hours index-number for Australia at the 31st December, 1924, was 954, as compared with 1,000 at 30th April, 1914, a reduction of 4.6 per cent. The lowest weighted average nominal weekly hours index-number at the 31st December, 1924, was that for Queensland (928), followed in the order named by Western Australia (951), New South Wales (955), South Australia and Victoria (960), and Tasmania (966).

5. *Nominal and Effective Wages, 1901 to 1924.*—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—Each State.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average wage for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (=1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities.

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1924.

(WEIGHTED AVERAGE WAGE FOR AUSTRALIA IN 1911=1,000.)

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1924.												
New South Wales ..	158	874	858	1,003	1,096	1,208	1,257	1,286	1,498	1,835	1,869	1,785	1,844	1,824
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,065	1,148	1,229	1,278	1,404	1,679	1,826	1,783	1,865	1,862
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,042	1,177	1,273	1,356	1,534	1,785	1,886	1,830	1,837	1,868
South Australia ..	134	567	819	1,013	1,062	1,151	1,231	1,278	1,373	1,613	1,745	1,708	1,770	1,791
Western Australia ..	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,226	1,272	1,345	1,372	1,516	1,751	1,853	1,829	1,838	1,847
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,028	1,112	1,163	1,193	1,346	1,674	1,788	1,726	1,802	1,805
Australia (a) ..	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,085	1,184	1,252	1,296	1,462	1,752	1,844	1,785	1,840	1,839

(a) Weighted average.

NOTE.—The figures in the above table are comparable both horizontally and vertically.

During the period 1911 to the end of the year 1924 the average weekly rate of wage in New South Wales increased 82 per cent., in Victoria 89 per cent., in Queensland 88 per cent., in South Australia 77 per cent., in Western Australia 61 per cent., and in Tasmania 126 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 84 per cent.

(ii) *Effective Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250), is effectively equal only to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week, when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the effective wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1924.

In computing these effective wage index-numbers for years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers given in the preceding table have been divided by the price index-numbers in Section A §2. The resulting index-numbers show for each State and for Australia for the years specified the variations in effective wages. The nominal wage index-numbers for these earlier years are based on rates of wage current at the end of December, the only data available. For the years 1914 onward, however, the nominal wage-index numbers used are based on the average wage for the four quarters in each year, and in this respect differ from those in the preceding sub-sections. However, so far as the years 1901 and 1911 are concerned, as the movement in wages during any one year prior to 1914 was very slight, it is possible that if the wage data were available in quarters, the index-numbers used would approximate very closely to those based on averages for the year.

EFFECTIVE WEEKLY WAGE INDEX NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1924.(a)

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
New South Wales ..	961	973	906	835	882	890	875	911	1,079	1,113	1,040	1,069
Victoria ..	915	1,037	961	858	929	925	904	875	1,038	1,102	1,036	1,097
Queensland ..	1,172	1,090	1,038	944	1,041	1,042	990	1,036	1,244	1,273	1,214	1,232
South Australia ..	948	957	929	863	961	934	901	853	1,027	1,090	1,036	1,051
Western Australia ..	1,024	1,023	1,070	985	1,051	1,095	1,008	1,012	1,139	1,226	1,192	1,161
Tasmania ..	827	838	942	829	875	869	840	830	977	1,053	1,000	1,017
Australia (b) ..	964	1,000	948	864	930	932	907	911	1,076	1,126	1,062	1,095

(a) As to the effect in abnormal periods, see Labour Report No. 6, pp. 20-2, Section IV., par. 3.
(b) Weighted average.

In the table above the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1924 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the effective wage in all States.

(iii) *Effective Wages and Standard of Comfort.* In the preceding table particulars are given as to variations in effective wages in each State, due allowance having been made for variations in retail prices of commodities, though not for unemployment.

For years prior to 1913 the data available as to unemployment are so meagre that comparative results allowing for variations both in prices of commodities and in unemployment cannot be accurately computed for the several States. In the next table for these earlier years the percentage of unemployment for Australia and the nominal wage index-numbers relate to the end of the year. For 1914 and subsequent years the wages index-numbers, percentages of unemployment, and retail prices index-numbers are the average for the year. Column I. shows the nominal wage index-numbers, and Column II. the relative percentages unemployed. Applying these percentages to the numbers shown in Column I., and deducting the results from each corresponding index-number to allow for relative loss of time, the figures in Column III. are obtained. These figures are then re-computed with the year 1911 as base, and are shown in Column IV. In Column V. the retail prices index-numbers are shown, and in Columns VI. and VII. the effective wage index-numbers are given, firstly, for full work, and secondly, allowing for lost time. These are obtained by dividing the figures in Columns I. and IV. respectively by the corresponding figure in Column V. The resulting index-numbers show for Australia for the years specified the variations in effective wages, or in what may be called the "standard of comfort."*

* This expression must not be confused with "standard of living." A change in the standard of living necessarily involves a change in regimen (see Labour Report No. 1), that is, a change in the nature or in the relative quantity of commodities purchased, or both. A change in the "standard of comfort" merely implies a variation in effective wages, which variation may, or may not, result in, or be accompanied by, a change in the "standard of living."

A comparison between the figures in Columns I. and VI. gives the relation between the nominal rates of wage and the purchasing efficiency of these rates. The figures in Column VII. show variations in effective wages after allowing not only for variations in purchasing power of money, but for the relative extent of unemployment also.

WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE, 1901 TO 1924.(a)

Year.	I. Nominal Wage Index- Numbers.	II. Percentage Unem- ployed.	Rate of Wage Index- Numbers, Allowing for Lost Time.		V. Retail Price Index- Numbers.	Effective Wage Index-Numbers.	
			III. Actual.	IV. Re-com- puted. (1911 = 1,000).		VI. Full Work.	VII. Allowing for Unemploy- ment.
1901	848	6.6	793	832	880	964	945
1906	866	6.7	808	848	902	960	940
1907	893	5.7	842	884	897	996	986
1908	900	6.0	846	888	951	946	934
1909	923	5.8	870	913	948	974	963
1910	955	5.6	901	945	970	985	974
1911	1,000	4.7	953	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	1,051	5.5	993	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913	1,076	5.3	1,021	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914	1,081	8.3	991	1,040	1,140	948	912
1915	1,092	9.3	990	1,039	1,278	854	813
1916	1,144	5.8	1,078	1,131	1,324	864	854
1917	1,226	7.1	1,139	1,195	1,318	930	907
1918	1,270	5.8	1,196	1,255	1,362	932	921
1919	1,370	6.6	1,280	1,343	1,510	907	889
1920	1,627	6.5	1,521	1,596	1,785	911	894
1921	1,826	11.2	1,621	1,701	1,697	1,076	1,002
1922	1,801	9.3	1,634	1,715	1,600	1,126	1,072
1923	1,805	7.1	1,677	1,760	1,700	1,062	1,035
1924	1,840	8.9	1,676	1,759	1,681	1,095	1,046

(a) As to the effect in abnormal periods, see Section IV., par. 3, of Labour Report No. 6.

NOTE.—For years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers and the percentage unemployed relate to the end of the year only, but from 1914 onward these figures, in addition to those for retail prices, are averages for the whole year.

Compared with 1911 the effective wage in 1901 was 3.6 per cent. less for full work, and 5.5 per cent. less after allowance for unemployment. In connexion with the index-numbers in Column VII., unemployment was less in 1911—the base year, than in any other year. During the period 1912 to 1920, while wages increased steadily, prices increased at a greater rate, with the result that the purchasing power of wages was less in each of these years than in 1911, the lowest point reached being in 1915 when the full time index number was 14.6 per cent. less, or, allowing for unemployment, 18.7 per cent. less than for the base year. The first occasion on which the effective wage was higher than in 1911 was in 1921, when wages increased considerably while prices declined, the increase in effective wages being 7.6 per cent., but only 0.2 per cent. allowing for unemployment. Unemployment reached its “peak” during 1921. Both wages and prices fell in 1922, but the former less than the latter, resulting in a further increase in the effective wage. As wages remained practically stationary while prices rose, the effective wage for 1923 showed a decline.

In 1924 a rise in wages coincided with a fall in prices, and the effective wage increased. The average unemployment being greater than in the preceding year the increase in the effective wage was greater for full work than allowing for unemployment. In 1924 the effective wage was 9.5 per cent. (full time) and 4.6 per cent. (allowing for unemployment) higher than in 1911.

§ 3. Changes in Rates of Wage.

1. *General.*—A change in rate of wage is defined as a change in the weekly rates of remuneration of a certain class of employees, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed and apart from any revision of rates due to increased length of service or experience. It is obvious that under this definition certain classes of changes are excluded, such, for example, as (a) changes in rates of pay due to promotion, progressive increments, or, on the other hand, to reduction in pay or grade to inefficient workers, and (b) changes in average earnings in an occupation due to a change in the proportions which more highly-paid classes of workers bear to those paid at lower rates. Bonuses to employees have not been taken into account in the tabulations. Each single change recorded relates to a change in the rates of wage effected in a specific industry or calling, and includes any and all changes to workers in that industry, irrespective of the different number of separate occupations or trades affected. Moreover, in some instances a change may relate to the employees of a single employer or to those of a number of employers, according to the instrument or method operating to bring about the change.

There is a certain amount of overstatement as regards "persons affected," since in the quarterly adjustments of wages the same persons figure on four occasions. The difficulty of eliminating this factor has, however, been found too great to justify the labour involved. A further complication also arises from the overlapping of Commonwealth and State awards.

2. *Methods by which Changes were Effected, and Results.*—(i) *Summary, Australia, 1924.* The following table gives for Australia the number of changes in rates of wage, the number of workpeople affected, and the total net amount of increase in the weekly wage distribution brought about either without, or after, stoppage of work during the year 1924, as a result of the application of one or other of the methods set out in the tables:—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA, 1924.(a)

Methods by which Changes were Effected.	Without Stoppage of Work.			After Stoppage of Work.			All Changes.		
	No. of Changes.	No. of Work- people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per week.	No. of Changes.	No. of Work- people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Changes.	No. of Work- people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per week.
By direct negotiations ..	18	1,491	522	5	448	132	23	1,939	654
By negotiations, intervention or assistance of third party(a) ..	58	63,681	14,132	11	1,972	495	69	65,653	14,627
By award of Court under Com- monwealth Act(a) ..	211	521,469	(b)14,636	..	..	..	211	521,469	(b)14,636
By agreement registered under Commonwealth Act(a) ..	80	34,401	(b)51	..	..	..	80	34,401	(b)51
By award or determination under State Acts ..	264	205,615	31,668	..	..	..	264	205,615	31,668
By agreement registered under State Acts ..	71	18,578	9,104	..	..	..	71	18,578	9,104
TOTAL(a) ..	702	845,235	40,739	16	2,420	627	718	847,655	41,366

(a) In this section of the table an Award or Agreement under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act and the Arbitration (Public Service) Act is counted as one change only, although such Award, Agreement, or Order may be operative in more than one State. (b) Decrease.

The total number of changes recorded during the year 1924 was 718, of which 264 or 36.7 per cent. of the total number were brought about by award or determination under State Industrial Acts and 211 by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

(ii) *Summary, Australia, 1920 to 1924.* So far as possible, the effect of awards or agreements is recorded in the figures for the year in which such awards or agreements are made and filed. In certain cases, however, the awards or agreements are made

retrospective as to the date on which the altered rate of wage has to be paid, and in others the particulars as to the number of workpeople affected and the effect of the change are difficult to ascertain.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA. 1920 TO 1924.

Particulars.	By Voluntary Action of Employers.	By Direct Negotiations.	By Negotiations, Intervention or Assistance of Third Party.	By Award of Court under C'wealth Act.	By Agreement Registered under C'wealth Act.	By Award or Determination under State Act.	By Agreement Registered under State Act.	TOTAL (a)
1920.								
Number of Changes	28	333	23	64	163	978	135	1,724
Number of Workpeople affected	15,193	169,973	64,691	75,048	26,733	648,083	27,565	1,027,286
Amount of Increase per week £	4,597	85,469	38,441	24,807	11,608	315,728	14,058	494,708
1921.								
Number of Changes	4	148	18	66	55	594	87	972
Number of Workpeople affected	2,000	77,210	73,704	139,773	24,166	391,215	24,197	732,265
Amount of Increase per week £	565	20,711	26,286	44,360	12,209	76,814	4,713	185,658
1922.								
Number of Changes	..	21	36	65	53	595	54	824
Number of Workpeople affected	..	7,186	54,878	125,195	43,002	376,994	20,861	628,116
Amount of Increase per week £	..	1,905	5,122	6 12,307	6 4,242	6 58,266	6 2,774	6 70,562
1923.								
Number of Changes	..	33	35	169	64	569	60	939
Number of Workpeople affected	..	18,605	52,298	334,180	46,974	503,722	35,073	990,852
Amount of Increase per week £	..	2,488	1,124	46,438	6,633	42,614	4,721	104,018
1924.								
Number of Changes	..	23	69	211	80	264	71	718
Number of Workpeople affected	..	1,939	65,653	521,469	34,401	205,615	18,578	847,655
Amount of Increase per week £	..	654	14,627	6 14,636	6 51	31,668	9,104	41,366

(a) See footnote to preceding table. (b) Decrease.

The greatest number of changes was effected through the instrumentalities of the State Acts, and these comprised 64.6 per cent. of all changes in 1920, but only 46.7 per cent. in 1924, while the changes made under the Commonwealth Acts increased from 13.2 per cent. to 40.5 per cent. "Direct negotiations" between parties shows a marked decline in the later years. In 1920, 333 changes, or 19.3 per cent., of the total affecting 17 per cent. of all persons concerned in the changes of that year, were so brought about, whereas in 1924, only 23 changes (3.2 per cent.), affecting 1,939 persons, or 0.2 per cent. of the whole, resulted from this agency.

3. Number and Effect of Changes.—(i) General. The following tables give particulars of changes which occurred in each State during the years specified. As regards the number of persons affected, the figures refer to the total number of persons ordinarily engaged in the various industries, and the results as to the amount of increase in wages are computed for a full week's work for all persons ordinarily engaged in the several industries and occupations affected. In cases of changes in existing minimum rates under awards or determinations of industrial tribunals it has been assumed (in the absence of any definite information to the contrary) that the whole of the employees in each occupation received the minimum rates of wage before and after the change.

The figures given in regard to the amount of increase per week do not relate to the increase each week, but only to the increase in a single week on the assumption that the full number of persons ordinarily engaged in the particular trade or occupation affected by the change were employed during that week. It is obvious, therefore, that the aggregate effect per annum cannot be obtained without making due allowance for unemployment and for occupations in which employment is seasonal or intermittent. It is also clear that since unemployment and activity in all branches of industry may vary from year to year, and in many branches from season to season also, no accurate estimate of the actual effect of the changes in the total amount of wages received or paid per annum can be made until the determining factors have been investigated. These factors are (a) the amount of unemployment, and (b) the period of employment in seasonal industries.

Changes brought about by awards and agreements under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Arbitration (Public Service) Act, and the Industrial

Peace Act 1920 are necessarily included hereunder as changes in each State to which such awards and agreements apply. The average increase per head per week is computed to the nearest penny.

(ii) *Summary—States, 1924.* During the year 1924 the number of increases in rates of wage recorded was in excess of the decreases.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—NUMBER AND EFFECT, 1924.

State.	INCREASES.			DECREASES.			TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Changes.	Work-people Affected.	Increase Per Week.	Changes.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease Per Week.	Changes.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase Per Week.
			£			£			£
New South Wales	138	55,652	17,512	104	140,414	9,652	242	196,066	7,860
Victoria	134	119,819	32,697	169	218,942	25,385	303	338,761	7,312
Queensland	73	49,009	14,258	11	3,966	265	84	52,975	13,993
South Australia	156	74,317	10,510	59	36,944	2,675	215	111,261	7,835
Western Australia	74	19,923	3,373	32	20,675	1,494	106	40,598	1,879
Tasmania	65	12,396	2,222	41	13,748	887	106	26,144	1,335
N. Territory	1	35	15	..	..	..	1	35	15
Federal Capital Territory	1	30	1	..	..	..	1	30	1
Common to all States	3	6,642	5,028	30	75,143	3,892	33	81,785	1,136
Total	645	337,823	85,616	446	509,832	44,250	1,091	847,655	41,366

The preceding figures for changes in wages include all those which have occurred either through the operations of wage tribunals or as the result of direct negotiations between employers and employees. Many workers in all States come under the jurisdiction of awards made by the Federal Arbitration Court. The principle of quarterly adjustments adopted by that Court led to variations in all States during the year.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—NUMBER AND EFFECT, 1920 TO 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T.	(a) All States.	Aust.	
No. of Changes	1920	734	354	300	231	209	154	7	..	10	1,999
	1921	353	247	233	166	108	77	..	..	16	1,200
	1922	444	137	132	131	60	64	..	1	3	972
	1923	578	246	65	148	90	100	1	1	24	1,253
	1924	242	303	84	215	106	106	1	1	33	1,091
No. of Persons Affected	1920	454,610	258,211	145,464	76,605	55,489	28,317	703	..	7,887	1,027,286
	1921	272,782	238,084	115,722	44,696	22,695	14,783	..	..	23,503	732,265
	1922	363,909	90,172	78,791	35,722	18,547	16,038	..	337	24,600	628,116
	1923	519,440	276,094	30,051	63,209	32,057	25,918	71	1,002	43,010	990,852
	1924	196,066	338,761	52,975	111,261	40,598	26,144	35	30	81,785	847,655
Total Net Amount of Increase per Week	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	1920	228,186	119,706	69,748	30,316	25,195	14,593	684	..	6,280	494,708
	1921	38,371	77,425	30,790	13,409	11,395	6,370	..	..	7,898	185,658
	1922	642,930	66,625	614,836	62,687	61,589	61,701	..	..	6138	670,562
	1923	53,868	36,934	62,177	9,784	669	1,755	620	298	3,645	104,018
	1924	7,860	7,312	13,993	7,835	1,879	1,335	15	1	1,136	41,366
Average Increase per Head per Week	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	1920	10 0	9 3	9 7	7 11	9 1	10 4	19 6	..	15 11	9 8
	1921	2 10	6 6	5 4	6 0	10 1	8 7	..	..	6 9	5 1
	1922	62 4	61 6	63 9	61 6	61 9	62 1	..	63 4	60 1	62 3
	1923	2 9	2 8	61 5	3 11	60 1	1 4	65 8	5 11	1 9	3 0
	1924	0 10	0 5	5 3	1 5	0 11	1 0	8 7	0 8	0 3	1 0

(a) Changes recorded in this column are common to all States, as the particulars relating to the number of workpeople affected and the net amount of increase per week in each State were not ascertainable. (b) Decrease.

The relative positions of the States in regard to the number of changes effected, and also in regard to the number of workers affected in each year naturally depend largely on the magnitude of the different industries and callings in which changes took place.

(iii) *Industrial Groups—Australia. Workpeople affected by Changes.* In the following table particulars are given of the number of changes, the number of persons (males and females) affected, and the total amount of increase per week, classified according to Industrial Groups throughout Australia during the years 1920 to 1924 :—

**CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA,
1920 TO 1924.(a)**

Particulars.	Industrial Groups.							
	I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.	II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manufacturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.
1920.								
Number of Changes	68	123	241	56	83	245	82	61
Number of Persons affected	44,732	74,853	81,876	55,345	19,757	71,671	61,552	47,865
Amount of increase per week	£ 19,015	29,145	41,383	21,271	11,088	31,126	41,059	30,385
1921.								
Number of Changes	22	31	105	45	28	156	27	22
Number of Persons affected	11,915	58,632	55,555	89,542	12,110	55,766	24,717	6,322
Amount of increase per week	£ 2,650	17,244	13,658	16,143	4,000	14,666	10,196	2,896
1922.								
Number of Changes	17	90	74	24	32	116	29	27
Number of Persons affected	14,824	68,844	34,987	13,793	13,533	64,285	48,603	17,716
Amount of decrease per week	£ 62,028	614,399	65,805	61,412	61,722	66,734	68,069	62,330
1923.								
Number of Changes	25	91	103	16	22	120	33	21
Number of Persons affected	60,724	102,475	72,851	19,593	10,445	82,785	79,685	18,223
Amount of increase per week	£ 6,209	12,258	3,594	(b)333	1,021	9,144	13,034	828
1924.								
Number of Changes	26	69	74	19	27	109	36	12
Number of Persons affected	62,728	79,067	43,685	55,155	8,803	78,843	66,596	12,100
Amount of increase per week	£ (b)2,506	(b)2,270	2,713	4,103	4,246	(b)1,881	7,806	580

Industrial Groups—continued.

Particulars.							ALL GROUPS (a)
	IX. Rail and Tram Services.	X. Other Land Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous.	
1920.							
Number of Changes	82	52	76	19	55	481	1,724
Number of Persons affected	136,854	28,532	16,842	26,580	34,235	326,542	1,027,286
Amount of increase per week	£ 54,959	11,605	11,871	20,701	12,258	158,842	494,708
1921.							
Number of Changes	67	32	44	10	39	294	972
Number of Persons affected	127,860	24,885	37,904	1,815	17,904	207,332	732,265
Amount of increase per week	£ 18,573	2,717	17,986	853	4,339	59,737	185,653
1922.							
Number of Changes	66	36	23	14	28	248	824
Number of Persons affected	86,161	12,603	28,432	56,292	15,663	152,380	628,116
Amount of increase per week	£ 615,311	62,075	6559	4,136	61,288	612,916	670,562
1923.							
Number of Changes	105	31	71	7	25	269	930
Number of Persons affected	155,830	23,510	79,466	24,720	21,724	238,821	960,852
Amount of increase per week	£ 11,990	237	6,873	9,647	3,117	26,399	104,018
1924.							
Number of Changes	44	20	54	10	24	201	718
Number of Persons affected	86,961	43,343	94,110	13,989	7,607	194,668	847,655
Amount of increase per week	£ 6,544	1,555	(b)5,350	4,749	1,834	19,243	41,366

(a) In this table an Industrial Award or Agreement under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Arbitration (Public Service) Act, the Industrial Peace Act, or an Order of the War Precautions Coal Board is counted as one change only, although such Award, Agreement or Order may be operative in more than one State. (b) Decrease.

(iv) *Male and Female Occupations.* Included in the changes in rates of wage recorded in the table on page 581 are those which in the whole or part thereof affected female occupations. Particulars in respect of these changes in so far as they relate to the numbers of male and female workers affected, etc., are set out hereunder:—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN MALE AND FEMALE OCCUPATIONS, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	All States. (a)	Australia.
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NUMBER OF MALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.

1920	385,118	202,972	126,306	66,824	48,088	24,213	703	..	7,812	862,036
1921	219,813	185,895	90,918	37,062	19,988	13,484	..	..	21,710	588,870
1922	322,813	85,005	64,473	34,085	18,248	14,473	..	337	24,600	564,034
1923	465,446	256,666	27,421	60,967	31,507	24,931	71	1,002	42,830	910,841
1924	181,779	295,591	38,271	95,743	37,185	24,100	35	30	76,994	749,725

NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.

1920	£ 207,403	£ 98,778	£ 63,432	£ 27,498	£ 22,157	£ 13,105	£ 684	£ ..	£ 6,192	£ 439,240
1921	26,735	68,087	26,649	12,079	10,737	6,119	..	..	6,891	157,297
1922	(b) 40,245	(b) 6,943	(b) 13,965	(b) 2,626	(b) 1,640	(b) 1,818	..	(b) 56	(b) 138	(b) 47,431
1923	50,954	33,902	(b) 2,290	9,270	(b) 123	1,893	(b) 20	298	3,654	97,538
1924	6,947	2,600	11,869	7,010	1,457	1,086	15	1	356	31,341

AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.

1920	s. d. 10 9	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 10 1	s. d. 8 3	s. d. 9 3	s. d. 10 10	s. d. 19 6	s. d. ..	s. d. 15 10	s. d. 10 2
1921	2 5	7 4	5 10	6 6	10 9	9 1	..	..	6 4	5 4
1922	(b) 2 6	(b) 1 8	(b) 4 4	(b) 1 6	(b) 1 10	(b) 2 6	..	(b) 3 4	(b) 0 1	(b) 2 5
1923	2 2	2 8	1 8	3 1	(b) 0 1	1 6	(b) 5 8	5 11	1 9	2 2
1924	0 9	0 2	6 2	1 6	0 9	0 11	8 7	0 8	0 1	0 10

NUMBER OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.

1920	69,492	55,239	19,158	9,781	7,401	4,104	..	..	75	165,250
1921	52,969	52,189	24,804	7,634	2,707	1,299	..	..	1,793	143,395
1922	41,096	5,167	14,318	1,637	299	1,565	..	..	..	64,082
1923	53,994	19,428	2,630	2,242	550	987	..	..	180	80,011
1924	14,287	43,170	14,704	15,518	3,413	2,044	..	..	4,791	97,927

NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.

1920	£ 20,783	£ 20,928	£ 6,316	£ 2,818	£ 3,038	£ 1,488	£ ..	£ ..	£ 88	£ 55,459
1921	11,636	9,338	4,141	1,330	658	251	..	..	1,007	28,361
1922	(b) 2,685	318	(b) 871	(b) 61	51	117	..	..	..	(b) 3,131
1923	2,914	3,032	113	514	54	(b) 138	..	..	(b) 9	6,480
1924	913	4,712	2,124	825	422	249	..	..	780	10,025

AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.

1920	s. d. 6 0	s. d. 7 7	s. d. 6 7	s. d. 5 9	s. d. 8 3	s. d. 7 3	s. d. ..	s. d. ..	s. d. 23 6	s. d. 6 9
1921	4 5	3 7	3 4	3 6	4 10	3 10	..	..	11 3	3 11
1922	(b) 1 4	1 3	(b) 1 4	(b) 0 9	3 5	1 6	..	..	..	(b) 1 0
1923	1 1	3 2	0 10	4 7	2 0	(b) 0 3	..	..	(b) 1 0	1 8
1924	1 3	2 2	2 11	1 1	2 6	2 5	..	..	3 3	2 1

(a) Changes recorded in this column are common to all States, as the particulars relating to the number of workpeople affected and the net amount of increase per week in each State were not ascertainable. (b) Decrease.

C. EMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Industrial Disputes.

1. *General.*—Information with regard to the collection of particulars and methods of tabulation of industrial disputes involving stoppage of work has appeared in previous issues of the Year Book, and is also given in the Annual Reports of the Labour and Industrial Branch of this Bureau.

In *annual** tabulations, particulars are included of all disputes which either *commenced* or were *current* during the year under review. As regards “number of disputes,” and “number of establishments involved,” therefore, duplication will take place in respect of those disputes which started in and were uncompleted at the end of a preceding year; the number involved will, however, be indicated in a footnote, to permit of due allowance being made therefor in any calculations made from the tables.

2. *Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1924.*—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1924, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the years 1913 to 1923 was published in Labour Reports Nos. 5 to 14.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1924.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Estab. Involved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
I.	Wood, furniture, sawmills, timber works, etc. . .	1	1	35	630	665	5,320	2,845
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	4	4	1,638	326	1,964	19,198	12,050
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution . . .	1	150	500	..	500	21,000	20,000
V.	Books, printing, bookbinding, etc. . . .	1	2	26	..	26	26	30
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	1	1	18	..	18	4,030	3,027
VII.	Building . . .	1	1	28	..	28	364	324
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	395	407	112,301	16,362	128,663	632,306	698,944
IX.	Railway and tramway services . .	1	1	23	..	23	23	18
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	6	12	1,117	318	1,435	22,184	16,252
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . .	1	1	51	..	51	459	250
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	4	4	350	12	362	1,886	1,402
Total . . .		(a) 416	584	116,087	17,648	133,735	706,796	755,142
VICTORIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	4	4	624	184	808	2,682	1,869
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	1	7	28	..	28	448	360
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	4	4	142	11	153	991	751
VII.	Building . . .	5	5	793	145	938	7,541	5,262
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	6	6	4,275	..	4,275	10,791	12,825
IX.	Railway and tramway services . .	2	2	2,684	..	2,684	37,485	24,565
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	2	2	176	..	176	326	263
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . .	2	2	357	50	407	1,099	770
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	4	4	542	26	568	5,204	4,070
Total . . .		(a) 30	36	9,621	416	10,037	66,567	50,735

(a) Six disputes in New South Wales (involving 6 establishments and 633 workers), one dispute in Victoria (1 establishment and 27 workers), one dispute in Queensland (1 establishment and 125 workers), one dispute in Tasmania (1 establishment and 88 workers), commenced in 1923.

* In respect of years prior to 1922, the figures include complete particulars of industrial disputes which commenced during any calendar year; and where any such dispute extended into a subsequent year, the relative figures were also incorporated in those for the year in which the dispute commenced.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS,
1924—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No of Disputes.	No. of Estab. In-volved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
QUEENSLAND.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	13	..	13	188	160
III.	Food, drink, etc. ..	2	2	180	88	268	5,428	4,484
VII.	Building ..	3	3	506	..	506	2,830	2,025
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	7	7	663	88	751	11,141	14,180
IX.	Railway and tramway services	3	3	459	..	459	17,702	14,450
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	1	6	132	..	132	132	215
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	1	7	..	7	35	16
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	7	7	929	70	999	9,758	6,488
	Total ..	(a) 25	30	2,889	246	3,135	47,214	42,018
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	24	23	47	363	330
VII.	Building ..	4	33	763	..	763	12,681	9,638
IX.	Railway and tramway services	2	2	195	..	195	450	360
X.	Other land transport	1	2	80	12	92	92	70
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	3	4	87	53	140	2,285	1,790
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	1	1	27	33	60	600	629
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	2	9	370	26	396	2,988	2,034
	Total ..	14	52	1,546	147	1,693	19,459	14,851
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmills, timber, etc.	3	11	372	1,200	1,572	26,299	13,072
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	236	..	236	4,484	3,363
V.	Books, printing, etc.	1	27	214	..	214	12,840	9,495
VI.	Other manufacturing	2	5	186	66	252	9,543	6,265
VII.	Building ..	2	110	518	..	518	4,788	4,110
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	8	195	100	295	4,800	3,840
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	2	71	410	..	410	3,980	2,184
	Total ..	13	233	2,131	1,366	3,497	66,734	42,329
TASMANIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmills, timber, etc.	2	2	65	51	116	3,492	2,560
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	19	..	19	95	85
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	2	2	184	3	187	8,019	9,623
	Total ..	(a) 5	5	268	54	322	11,606	12,268
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	1	1	27	..	27	270	356
	Total ..	1	1	27	..	27	270	356
ALL STATES.								
I.	Wood, sawmills, timber, etc.	6	14	472	1,881	2,353	35,111	18,477
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	11	11	2,318	533	2,851	22,526	14,494
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution ..	5	160	944	88	1,032	31,360	28,207
V.	Books, printing, etc.	2	29	240	..	240	12,866	9,525
VI.	Other manufacturing	7	10	346	77	423	14,564	10,043
VII.	Building ..	15	152	2,608	145	2,753	28,204	21,359
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	410	422	117,423	16,453	133,876	662,257	735,572
IX.	Railway and tramway services	7	6	3,306	..	3,306	55,660	39,393
X.	Other land transport	1	2	80	12	92	92	70
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	15	34	1,762	471	2,233	29,727	22,360
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	4	4	435	83	518	2,158	1,649
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	1	7	..	7	35	16
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	20	96	2,628	134	2,762	24,086	16,534
	Total for Australia ..	(a) 504	941	132,569	19,877	152,446	918,646	917,699

(a) See footnote (a), page 584.

3. Industrial Disputes;* Australia, 1920 to 1924.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages caused by disputes which either commenced or were current during each calendar year 1920 to 1924, classified according to industrial groups:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES—AUSTRALIA, 1920 TO 1924.(a)

Calendar Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)	Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
1920..	89	17	316	75	57	554
1921..	30	9	509	46	30	624
1922..	69	4	307	45	20	445
1923..	44	8	171	28	23	274
1924..	31	15	410	23	25	(a) 504
1920 to 1924 ..	263	53	1,713	217	155	2,401

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1920..	21,092	6,527	81,043	15,043	31,861	155,566
1921..	3,161	1,421	133,547	22,694	4,278	165,101
1922..	15,215	287	96,151	2,882	1,797	116,332
1923..	9,884	577	58,043	2,257	5,560	76,321
1924..	6,899	2,753	133,876	5,631	3,287	152,446
1920 to 1924 ..	56,251	11,565	502,660	48,507	46,783	665,766

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

1920..	367,296	103,373	1,944,038	626,826	545,734	3,587,267
1921..	47,385	36,406	467,867	666,517	68,010	1,286,185
1922..	366,134	3,720	383,414	85,693	19,724	858,685
1923..	153,053	6,886	907,767	32,609	45,662	1,145,977
1924..	116,427	28,204	662,257	85,479	26,279	918,646
1920 to 1924 ..	1,050,295	178,589	4,365,343	1,497,124	705,409	7,706,760

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

1920..	£ 215,057	£ 70,006	£ 1,418,193	£ 357,786	£ 309,345	£ 2,370,387
1921..	39,416	24,719	459,450	397,169	49,721	970,475
1922..	242,159	3,280	427,363	64,597	14,108	761,507
1923..	120,127	6,284	1,086,901	29,580	32,611	1,275,906
1924..	80,746	21,359	735,572	61,823	18,199	917,699
1920 to 1924 ..	697,505	125,648	4,127,482	910,955	423,084	6,285,574

(a) See footnote (a), page 584.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1920 to 1924 (a).—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in various years from 1920 to 1924, together with the number of workpeople involved, the number of working days lost, and the total estimated loss in wages.

(*) This table shows the full effect of all disputes which either occurred or were current during each calendar year, and the footnote * on page 584 does not, therefore, apply.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.(a)

State or Territory.	Year.	No. of Disputes.	Establishments Involved in Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
New South Wales ..	1920	349	650	68,033	22,349	90,382	587,156	£ 432,988
	1921	535	567	108,573	29,921	138,494	547,838	493,267
	1922	342	657	88,257	14,042	102,299	586,520	579,491
	1923	200	601	54,809	5,390	60,199	892,306	1,038,519
	1924	(b) 416	584	116,087	17,648	133,735	706,796	755,142
Victoria ..	1920	53	809	15,274	24,534	39,808	783,286	465,244
	1921	20	118	4,119	2,161	6,280	109,595	69,629
	1922	29	412	5,819	311	6,130	84,701	47,695
	1923	29	133	6,279	771	7,050	98,880	108,512
	1924	(b) 30	36	9,621	416	10,037	66,567	50,735
Queensland ..	1920	55	71	3,775	2,033	5,808	68,298	44,943
	1921	33	97	3,367	1,512	4,879	95,560	69,793
	1922	38	49	2,611	620	3,231	36,730	32,589
	1923	25	36	2,724	340	3,064	55,131	53,981
	1924	(b) 25	30	2,889	246	3,135	47,214	42,018
South Australia ..	1920	40	126	4,732	1,067	5,799	232,402	140,326
	1921	19	45	2,158	1,002	3,160	57,038	37,315
	1922	19	229	2,294	929	3,223	114,334	43,222
	1923	10	23	806	975	1,781	25,971	20,440
	1924	14	52	1,546	147	1,693	19,459	14,851
Western Australia ..	1920	45	434	9,095	2,918	12,013	146,640	108,055
	1921	12	56	1,906	10,157	12,063	145,103	86,038
	1922	8	91	643	163	806	43,472	38,208
	1923	6	88	1,255	2,752	4,007	72,274	53,408
	1924	13	233	2,131	1,366	3,497	66,734	42,329
Tasmania ..	1920	12	14	1,610	146	1,756	54,283	32,160
	1921	5	5	75	150	225	1,483	986
	1922	5	5	382	4	386	9,284	7,497
	1923	3	3	197	..	197	1,093	1,296
	1924	(b) 5	5	268	54	322	11,606	12,268
Fed. Cap. Territory	1922	2	2	217	..	217	2,604	2,035
	1923	1	1	23	..	23	322	250
Northern Territory	1920	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1922	2	2	40	..	40	1,040	770
	1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia ..	1920	554	2,104	102,519	53,047	155,566	1,872,065	1,223,716
	1921	624	888	120,198	44,903	165,101	956,617	757,028
	1922	445	1,447	100,263	16,069	116,332	858,685	751,507
	1923	274	885	66,093	10,228	76,321	1,145,977	1,275,506
	1924	(b) 504	941	132,569	19,877	152,446	918,646	917,699

(a) See footnote *, page 584.

(b) See footnote (a), page 584.

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during these and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

The number of disputes in 1924 was almost double that in 1923, the stoppages in the coal-mining industry chiefly accounting for the increase. The principal dispute in 1924 was that in which the coke workers in New South Wales were concerned, the trouble being due to a demand by the employees for a reduction of the working week by five hours. The dispute lasted 97 days and involved the workers in a loss of 126,100 working days and £96,750 in wages. Of the disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales,

the more important were those which occurred at the Wallsend Colliery (yardage rates); Stockton Borehole, Boolaroo (increase in wages); Bellbird Colliery, Cessnock (hours); Mount Kembla Colliery (working conditions); Wallarah Colliery, Catherine Hill Bay (dismissal); and Richmond Main (seniority). The only other disputes of note were those in connexion with the bakers, Sydney, over the question of day-baking; the seamen on the *Katoomba*, *Karoola*, and *Komura*, Sydney, the object of which was to enforce payment of compensation for an injury to a fireman; the employees of the electric tramways, Melbourne, over the dismissal of an employee; and the construction workers, Ingham railway, Queensland, for the reinstatement of seven men and the removal of an engineer.

A dispute which threatened to reach very serious dimensions occurred on the waterfront in October, 1924, and was known as the "Overtime" Dispute. Owing to the difficulties of obtaining even an approximate estimate of losses involved, coupled with the fact that there was no actual stoppage, the dispute was not included in the foregoing tabulations.

The objective of the Waterside Workers was to secure the abolition of the Overseas Shipping Bureau in Sydney, which since its formation as the result of the 1917 ("Railway") dispute had employed and paid its labour on a basis not in consonance with the principles recognized by the Waterside Workers' Federation. The initial action taken by the Federation was to prohibit the working of "overtime" on all vessels after 5 p.m., but subsequently all vessels loaded through the Bureau were declared "black," and cargo operations thus rendered almost impossible.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration which intervened in the dispute declared its inability to abolish the Bureau, but as the result of a conference of the parties called by the Commonwealth Government, the owners finally decided to abolish the Bureau as from the 28th February, 1925, and the dispute accordingly ended on the 15th December, 1924. The losses incurred by the workers were mostly in "overtime" payments, but no satisfactory estimate of the total is obtainable.

It is, of course, obvious that the mere number of disputes cannot by itself be accepted as a proper basis of comparison, nor does the number of workpeople afford a satisfactory basis. A better idea as to the significance and effect of industrial disputes may be obtained from the number of working days lost and the estimated loss in wages.

The position which New South Wales occupies in comparison with the other States is almost entirely due to the prevalence of disputes in connexion with coal-mining, and attention has frequently been drawn to the preponderating influence exercised by these disputes on the total number of industrial disputes. In making any comparison as to the number of disputes in this industrial class in each State, it should be observed that the number of workers engaged in the mining industry is very much larger in New South Wales than in any of the other States.

Apart from these stoppages, the number of disputes in all other industries, whilst still in excess of that for each of the other States, does not compare unfavourably if the number of workpeople in each State is taken into consideration.

In regard to extensive dislocations of industry prior to the institution of systematic inquiries by this Bureau, efforts were made to obtain statistical data relating to the shearers' disputes in 1890, 1891, and 1894, and the maritime dispute in the early part of 1891, but precise information was not obtainable.

5. **Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1924.**—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated amount of loss in wages respectively, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1924, classified under the adopted limits of duration:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1924.(a)

Limits of Duration.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			Number of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less ..	216	61,542	9,230	70,772	70,679	£ 35,328
2 days and more than 1 day ..	71	23,023	2,301	25,324	49,618	56,746
3 days and more than 2 days ..	42	11,563	862	12,425	36,795	43,230
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) ..	45	7,567	2,003	9,570	40,255	46,245
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	55	13,322	1,443	14,765	110,882	109,118
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	31	9,958	1,917	11,875	186,462	170,419
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	26	3,395	803	4,198	158,941	163,775
8 weeks and over ..	18	2,190	1,318	3,517	265,014	242,838
Total ..	504	132,569	19,877	152,446	918,646	917,699

(a) See footnote (a), page 584.

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1923 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports.

6. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1914 to 1924 (a).—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the total number of working days lost in disputes during the years 1914 and 1919 to 1924, classified according to principal cause:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1924.(b)

Causes of Disputes.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924(b).
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	50	99	94	19	15	35	44
(b) Against decrease ..	3	2		2	18	4	7
(c) Other wage questions ..	67	100	106	161	83	37	95
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	1	4	16	12	12	10	2
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	13	5	9	16	2	2	4
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	13	19	20	5	6	4	6
(b) Other union questions ..	11	29	27	22	15	11	31
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	83	118	135	169	155	68	137
5. Working Conditions ..	72	54	106	162	89	174	111
6. Sympathetic ..	3	6	2	13	8	9	8
7. Other Causes ..	21	24	39	43	42	37	59
Total ..	337	460	554	624	445	274	504(b)
NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	7,362	58,532	41,748	2,659	843	9,816	8,312
(b) Against decrease ..	534	667		850	4,432	174	1,113
(c) Other wage questions ..	15,243	26,222	21,139	52,704	24,459	8,096	30,585
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	220	578	20,758	2,313	5,935	6,488	1,328
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	3,237	961	2,137	2,113	124	485	1,172
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,807	9,001	2,752	1,353	1,072	473	1,005
(b) Other union questions ..	1,593	17,509	7,534	6,607	4,264	2,310	12,078
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	14,863	21,488	26,163	45,408	36,194	11,269	39,839
5. Working Conditions ..	17,053	11,582	21,204	35,790	27,334	15,605	36,630
6. Sympathetic ..	675	3,080	1,397	3,251	1,119	875	436
7. Other Causes ..	4,462	7,971	10,734	12,053	10,556	20,130	19,948
Total ..	71,049	157,591	155,566	165,101	116,332	76,321	152,446

(a) See footnote *, page 584.

(b) See footnote (a), page 584.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA 1914 TO 1924—*continued.*

Causes of Disputes.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	99,451	5,403,581	793,935	13,731	8,694	64,493	120,317
(b) Against decrease ..	32,965	10,013	..	25,700	154,791	1,012	13,553
(c) Other wage questions	169,847	96,118	101,219	192,858	149,129	81,749	111,613
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	9,240	10,372	534,458	13,315	164,794	101,807	130,440
(b) Other disputes <i>re</i> hours	10,855	15,760	37,486	13,260	1,701	36,092	42,441
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	92,720	279,804	24,900	17,890	5,485	784	2,555
(b) Other union questions	6,968	329,205	21,999	117,199	18,976	17,743	40,046
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	64,367	87,225	129,215	431,130	198,256	63,094	253,779
5. Working Conditions ..	584,289	32,029	128,967	69,732	123,665	134,830	124,041
6. Sympathetic ..	2,125	21,050	72,940	6,150	9,438	6,357	926
7. Other Causes ..	11,568	23,069	26,946	55,652	23,756	638,016	78,925
Total ..	1,090,395	6,308,226	1,872,065	956,617	858,685	1,145,977	918,646

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the ten years, 1914 to 1924, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. The majority of the disputes classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages of work for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while the figures under "Hours of Labour" show a steady decrease. "Sympathetic" disputes represent only a small proportion of the total disputes, varying over the years shown from one-quarter to three per cent.

7. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the number of working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the five years 1920 to 1924, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA, 1920 TO 1924.(a)

Year.	No. of Disputes.				Number of Workpeople Involved in Disputes.				Total Number of Working Days Lost by Disputes.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1920 ..	183	199	168	4	30,399	61,947	62,811	409	180,345	911,156	777,175	3,389
1921 ..	126	274	216	8	25,244	63,380	73,887	2,590	76,381	162,331	714,501	3,404
1922 ..	81	268	82	2	18,050	77,785	16,366	81	175,379	383,342	132,615	738
1923 ..	77	156	24	8	12,951	54,026	5,787	1,784	65,625	917,162	132,135	2,392
1924 a b	146	261	48	45	32,762	89,709	13,843	15,432	153,533	416,174	291,039	20,445

(a) See footnote (a), page 584.

(b) The following particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1924, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding table :—

State.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Establishments.	Workpeople Involved.	Working Days Lost.	Wages Lost.
New South Wales ..	4	4	700	28,455	£ 32,535

8. *Methods of Settlement.*—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and number of working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1914 and 1919 to 1924, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1924.(a)

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.(b)
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	247	291	380	412	249	140	264
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	11	35	25	65	52	25	20
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	7	33	33	18	7	4	11
By reference to Board or Court	17	5	8	4	7	2	7
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	5	9	8	11	5	2	12
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	16	22	22	10	11	5	5
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	4	7	4	2	6	1	2
By Other Methods	30	58	74	102	98	86	179
Total	337	460	554	624	433	265	(c)500

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	48,204	76,070	101,404	93,912	62,000	30,213	70,895
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	8,054	47,849	6,278	20,775	15,554	10,277	4,448
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	770	6,926	9,312	11,229	1,222	615	2,519
By reference to Board or Court	7,308	1,380	1,711	1,083	1,128	544	2,952
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	205	1,997	766	12,037	446	58	4,262
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	629	2,202	2,141	334	790	315	130
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	86	401	182	53	171	18	170
By Other Methods	5,793	20,766	33,772	25,678	30,971	33,408	66,370
Total	71,049	157,591	155,566	165,101	112,282	75,448	151,746

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	803,799	632,269	827,985	245,765	353,336	229,503	373,155
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	128,231	5,379,655	217,916	156,076	187,164	582,929	103,005
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4,256	94,557	69,436	136,735	16,016	25,531	41,900
By reference to Board or Court	120,685	8,460	19,236	22,752	13,767	8,484	142,939
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,421	74,018	34,205	327,048	8,081	473	74,376
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	4,402	46,029	160,562	3,542	11,759	2,517	3,040
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	3,646	5,737	12,919	538	603	18	1,250
By Other Methods	23,955	67,501	529,806	64,161	101,348	267,859	150,526
Total	1,090,395	6,308,226	1,872,065	956,617	692,074	1,117,314	880,191

(a) See footnote *, page 584. (b) See footnote (a), page 584. (c) See footnote (b), page 587.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.
1914 TO 1924 (a)—continued.

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.(b)
ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Negotiation—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives ..	402,729	419,573	534,760	240,442	283,515	252,059	398,623
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party — not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act ..	66,225	3,342,611	154,093	146,929	200,835	676,288	114,830
Under State Industrial Act—							
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference..	1,841	59,167	46,831	79,233	14,663	24,158	34,151
By reference to Board or Court ..	64,208	4,425	11,205	19,452	10,541	7,536	110,559
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference..	712	46,472	19,285	198,887	5,701	350	56,766
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out ..	2,076	29,586	94,235	2,203	8,670	1,737	2,111
By Closing down Establishment Permanently ..	1,651	3,106	7,125	355	635	13	970
By other methods ..	11,786	46,996	356,182	69,527	92,308	279,104	167,149
Total ..	551,228	3,951,936	1,223,716	757,028	616,868	1,241,245	885,164

(a) See footnote *, page 584.

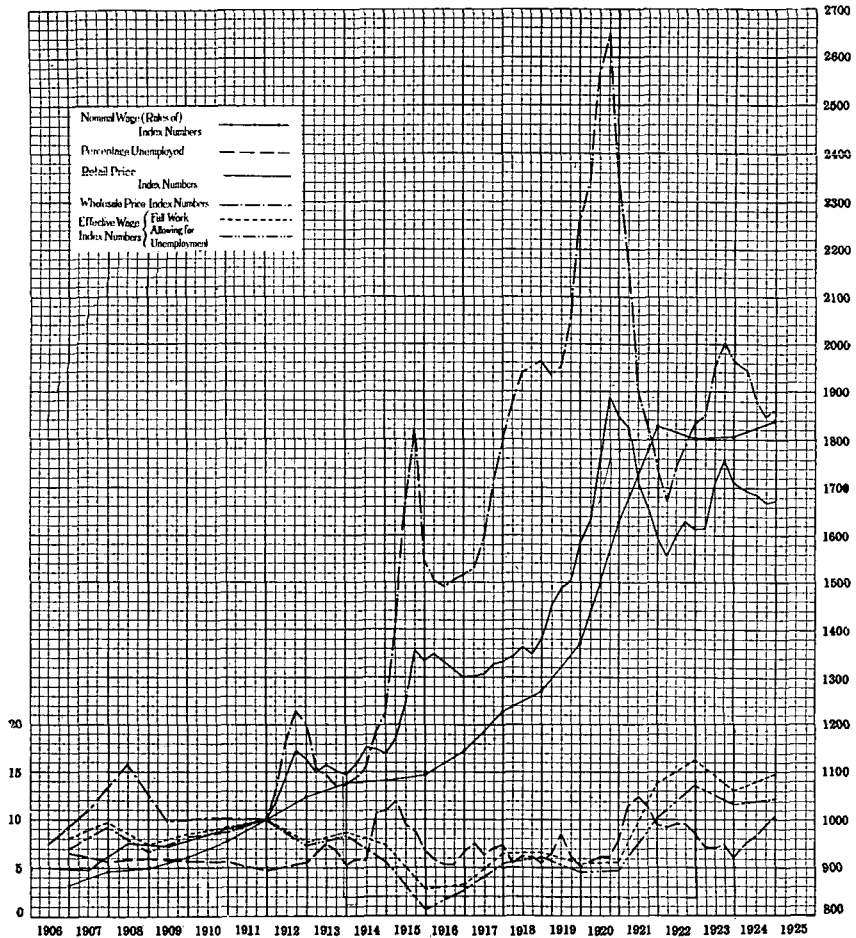
(b) See footnote (a), page 584.

The majority of the disputes were settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled ranging between 53 per cent. in 1917 and 76 per cent. in 1921; in 1924 the proportion was 57 per cent. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration Acts has slightly decreased during the period under review. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause for such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

§ 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

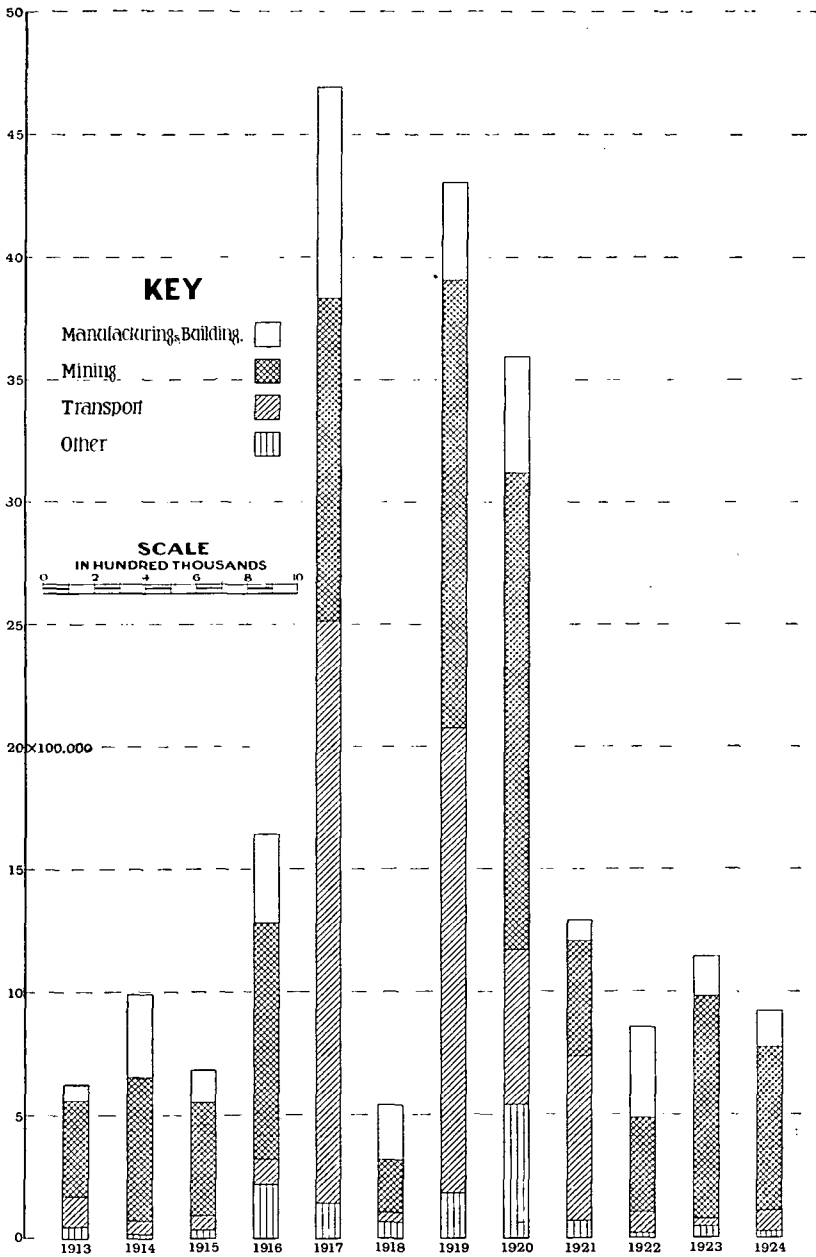
1. **General.**—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting is approximately 400,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received,

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS,
AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED—AUSTRALIA, 1906 TO 1924.



NOTE.—The figures on the left represent the scale for the percentage unemployed according to trade union returns. The figures on the right represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (=1,000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and housing for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price Index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—WORKING DAYS LOST IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS,
AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1924.



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

percentage unemployment results based on the information supplied may be taken to show the general trend of unemployment. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

2. *Unemployment.*—(i) *States.* In addition to the qualifications referred to above, allowance must be made for the circumstance that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not quite identical in the various States. The results may, however, be taken as representing fairly well labour conditions generally.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—STATES, 1924.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales	112	164,273	20,749	12.6
Victoria	89	130,052	9,197	7.1
Queensland	49	36,393	2,343	6.4
South Australia	60	34,740	1,612	4.6
Western Australia	65	23,443	1,278	5.5
Tasmania	38	8,712	328	3.8
Australia	413	397,613	35,507	8.9

(ii) *Summary for Australia.* The following table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years:—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA, 1920 TO 1924.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1920	447	341,967	22,105	6.5
1921	449	361,744	40,549	11.2
1922	445	380,945	35,219	9.2
1923	436	376,557	26,672	7.1
1924	413	397,613	35,507	8.9
1924 1st Quarter	423	388,960	29,417	7.6
2nd „	407	394,809	32,708	8.3
3rd „	412	403,960	38,482	9.5
4th „	408	402,722	41,420	10.3

NOTE.—Similar figures for each of the four quarters of the years since 1912 will be found in the Labour Reports. The quarterly figures show the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter, and the annual figures the average of the four quarters; they do not include persons out of work through strikes or lock-outs.

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (12.5) was reached in the second quarter of 1921.

(iii) *Industrial Groups.* The next table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries in which employment is either unusually stable or exceptionally casual, such as railways, shipping, agricultural, pastoral, etc., and domestic, hotels, etc., are insufficiently represented in the returns owing to the impossibility of securing the necessary information from the trade unions. Particulars are not,

therefore, shown separately for these groups, such returns as are available being included in the last group, "Other and Miscellaneous."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1924.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	18	23,134	1,076	4.7
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	64	60,617	6,916	11.4
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	55	43,884	5,045	11.5
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	22	38,584	2,911	7.5
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	15,751	270	1.7
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	70	35,380	4,766	13.5
VII. Building ..	47	45,815	2,213	4.8
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	22	29,636	3,262	11.0
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway services ..	11	11,439	841	7.1
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous ..	91	93,373	8,207	8.8
All Groups ..	413	397,613	35,507	8.9

§ 3. Apprenticeship.

In *Year-Book* No. 16, pp. 602-3, information was given with regard to legislation relating to the question of apprenticeship. Tables were included showing the periods of apprenticeship fixed in the awards of the various industrial tribunals of the States and Commonwealth, and also the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and journeywomen. This information has been omitted from the present issue, but further investigations are being made, and additional and more comprehensive information will be incorporated in a later issue.

D. ASSOCIATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations.

1. **Registration.**—(i) *Under Trade Union Acts.* The benefits obtained by registering trade unions under the Trade Union Acts in force in the various States are not considered of much value; consequently the statistics of registered trade unions of employees do not accurately represent the position of unionism. Further, the returns for past years are so defective as to be practically valueless, inasmuch as no reliable indication is afforded of the numerical and financial position of the unions. Some of the registered unions fail to supply returns; this non-supply may lead to cancellation of the registration. Others have obtained the cancellation of their certificates of registration, the apparent reason being that they proposed to register under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act or a State Arbitration Act. In Queensland, some of the largest labour unions withdrew from registration during 1911, mainly on account of the necessity for closer restriction of their objects as set forth in their rules, consequent on legal decisions affecting trade unions. In Victoria and in South Australia very few of the existing unions are registered under the Trade Union Acts. It will be seen, therefore, that the available information under this heading is too meagre for statistical purposes.

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.*—Information with regard to registrations of trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the *Year Book*. The latest information available as to registrations

is as follows:—New South Wales, 119 industrial unions of employers and 153 industrial unions of employees; Queensland, 76 industrial unions of employees with approximately 92,444 members; South Australia, 16 organizations of employees with 11,800 members; Western Australia, 43 organizations of employers with 900 members, and 125 organizations of employees with 34,084 members. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. In August, 1923, there were on the register 10 organizations of employers with 5,663 persons, firms or corporations affiliated, and 147 organizations of employees with 573,095 members.

2. Particulars regarding Trade Unions.—(i) *Types*. The trade unions in Australia are very diverse in character, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be merely a branch of a British or international union. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations, viz. :—(i) the local independent, (ii) the State, (iii) the interstate, and (iv) the Australasian or International, but a number of variations occur from each of these classes. The leading characteristics of each of these types were briefly outlined in Labour Report No. 2 (pp. 7 to 9) issued by this Bureau.

(ii) *Number and Membership*. As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912 the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established, and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations, comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1924 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1924.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales	202	726	274,831
Victoria	158	386	217,044
Queensland	117	271	112,238
South Australia	109	84	65,812
Western Australia	117	149	43,270
Tasmania	84	60	15,516
Northern Territory	4	..	444
Total	791	1,676	729,155
Australia(a)	376(a)	2,091(b)	729,155

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. (b) Number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations, which are practically independent and self-governing. (See below.)

In the preceding table the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and 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. There are therefore 376 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,091 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 729,155 members.

(iii) *Classification in Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the number of unions and members thereof in Australia at the end of each of the last five years. The number of unions specified refers to the number of different unions represented in each State; and, while interstate or federated unions are counted once in each State in which they are represented, sub-branches within a State are not counted.

TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA, 1920 TO 1924.

Industrial Groups.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	19	19	19	18	18
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	76	75	69	70	69
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	71	66	68	64	65
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	26	25	25	24	24
V. Books, Printing, etc.	26	18	17	14	14
VI. Other Manufacturing	84	85	84	79	78
VII. Building	56	57	54	52	51
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	18	19	19	16	16
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	43	49	52	51	51
X. Other Land Transport	22	20	20	14	13
XI. Shipping, etc.	69	70	74	94	91
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	9	9	10	8	8
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	23	24	26	26	23
XIV. Miscellaneous	254	260	276	267	270
Total	796	796	813	797	791

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	23,691	25,541	23,582	24,465	23,859
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	53,870	57,012	53,637	59,032	68,243
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	49,447	51,698	54,497	58,663	55,402
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	40,325	42,069	44,540	45,842	46,521
V. Books, Printing, etc.	15,136	15,059	15,341	16,249	15,856
VI. Other Manufacturing	39,710	38,873	37,942	38,554	40,376
VII. Building	40,348	42,244	42,177	46,231	51,819
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	41,777	39,967	38,082	37,063	40,996
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	89,069	88,731	92,152	89,405	90,365
X. Other Land Transport	17,822	16,944	20,376	16,389	17,785
XI. Shipping, etc.	41,668	40,840	41,510	38,006	37,823
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	42,923	47,893	43,538	36,584	46,081
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	19,353	20,442	21,130	20,713	22,861
XIV. Miscellaneous	169,271	175,696	174,434	172,550	171,168
Total	684,450	703,009	702,938	699,743	729,155

Particulars are given in Labour Report No. 15 of the number of male and female members of unions and the percentage of such members on the total number of adult wage-earners. Other tables in the same Report show the classification of unions according to the number of members and the number of central labour organizations.

(iv) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1924 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1924.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions	19	13	13	21	39	105
Number of Members	21,831	35,037	77,665	148,834	294,681	578,048

(a) Certain unions in this group have, in addition to branches in each of the six States, a branch in the Northern Territory.

It appears, therefore, that 105 out of the 376 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 105 unions amounts to 578,048, or 79.3 per cent. of the total membership (729,155) of all unions.

3. Central Labour Organizations.—In each of the capital cities, and in a number of industrial centres elsewhere, 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 most of the towns where such central organizations exist, the majority 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. In this State there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils, to which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other five States, however, the organization is not so close, and, while provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at 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 table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto, in each State at the end of the year 1924 :—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	4	3	9	2	1	27
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	93	185	81	76	189	41	3	668

The figures given in the preceding table as to number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated to 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, the interests of the members of which are closely connected by reason of the occupations of their members. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters, and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the iron, steel, or brass trades, or with the building trades may be so classed.

4. Laws relating to Conditions of Labour.—In Official Year Book No. 16, pp. 538 to 566, a conspectus was given of Labour Laws in force in Australia at the end of the year 1922, and of Acts and Regulations relating to Factories and Shops.

Information was contained in the same issue with regard to employment under Mining Acts, followed by a brief reference to Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts and miscellaneous legislation relating to conditions of labour enacted by the States. A conspectus of the Tribunals for the Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Labour was also included. Owing to considerations of space these references have been omitted from the present issue.

§ 2. Employers' Associations.

1. **General.**—Recent investigations show that the spirit of association is no less manifest in the case of employers than in the case of workers. Associations for trade purposes merely are not included in the present chapter, which deals with those associations only whose members are united for their own protection, and for representation in cases before Arbitration Courts, Wages Boards and other wage-fixing tribunals. Associations of employers and employees are recognized under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act as well as under several State Acts, and organizations of these bodies may be registered.

2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1923 and 1924 :—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—STATES, 1923 AND 1924.

State.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
New South Wales	137	127	102	79	27,027	28,667
Victoria	132	135	49	41	19,813	21,095
Queensland	85	80	54	70	12,918	17,060
South Australia	48	49	..	..	5,101	5,746
Western Australia	54	53	12	15	2,477	2,646
Tasmania	24	25	8	5	2,751	2,716
Total	480	469	225	210	70,087	77,930

The decrease in 1924 in the number of associations is partly explained by the exclusion of certain associations which have been found to be not strictly employers' associations, while in some cases associations have become either inactive or defunct. The year 1922 was the first for which information was collected, and particulars for that year will be found in Year Book No. 17.

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the table hereunder refer to Australia at the end of the years 1923 and 1924.

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS—AUSTRALIA, 1923 AND 1924.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	22	23	2	2	1,183	1,398
II. Engineering, etc. ..	17	14	18	12	2,889	3,435
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	102	101	29	40	13,583	15,556
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	21	20	6	..	5,278	4,462
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	36	35	4	..	3,953	3,509
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	43	49	..	2	2,004	3,142
VII. Building	30	28	9	10	2,173	2,754
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	13	13	1	1	372	344
X. Other Land Transport ..	14	14	..	..	2,356	2,240
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	17	16	2	2	300	310
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	25	25	151	139	18,058	22,280
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	22	18	..	..	3,994	3,696
XIV. Miscellaneous	118	113	3	2	13,944	14,804
Total	480	469	225	210	70,087	77,930

The female membership of these associations was 936 for 1923, and 3,119 for 1924.

The organization of employers is relatively strongest in the pastoral and agricultural industries and in the manufacture and distribution of articles of food and drink. In the former case there has been considerable growth in organization among small farmers, and in the latter the number of small shops purveying foodstuffs of which the proprietors are members of grocers', butchers', and other similar associations accounts for the large membership.

4. Federations of Employers' Associations.—In addition to the associations in various industries, there are central associations in each State, to which many of these separate organizations are affiliated. Examples of this kind of association are provided in the Chamber of Manufactures, Chamber of Commerce, and Employers' Federation in each State. Further, these State associations are, in some cases, organized on a federal basis, *e.g.*, there is an Associated Chamber of Manufactures, an Associated Chamber of Commerce, or a Central Employers' Association, to which State branches are affiliated.

The affiliation of these associations is, however, of a very loose nature when compared with that of the Federated Trade Unions. Whereas in the latter case the central body has complete control of its state branches, in the case of the Employers' Associations each state body enjoys complete independence, the central body acting in a more or less advisory capacity only.

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of inter-state or federated associations having branches in two or more States in 1923 and 1924 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, 1923 AND 1924.

Particulars.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
No. of Associations.						
1923	4	4	4	5	12	29
1924	2	6	6	11	9	34
No. of Members.						
1923	679	2,028	465	16,521	26,832	46,525
1924	427	595	829	29,612	26,523	57,986