

## 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 1,844 in 1925. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871, 1921, or 1925, 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 1925.

Year.	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 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	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	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	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,594
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	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	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,844
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,845

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, 1926.—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 1925, and May, 1926, 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 1925, AND MAY, 1926.

articulars.	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	1,509
" 1923 ..	1,658	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
" 1925 ..	1,663	1,744	1,643	1,404	1,667	1,492	1,605	1,716	1,618
May, 1926 ..	1,848	1,508	1,839	1,636	1,679	1,459	1,471	1,732	1,669

## § 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 1925.*—(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 for 1907, 1911, and 1914, and for the last five years :—

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES.  
1907 TO 1925.**

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Sydney .. ..	936	989	1,156	2,148	1,898	1,703	1,820	1,732	1,785
Melbourne .. ..	925	935	1,091	2,056	1,901	1,644	1,802	1,684	1,748
Brisbane .. ..	947	1,018	1,078	2,052	1,812	1,608	1,693	1,690	1,734
Adelaide .. ..	951	1,020	1,215	2,132	1,906	1,723	1,823	1,791	1,840
Perth .. ..	1,197	1,346	1,302	2,050	1,995	1,776	1,828	1,891	1,938
Hobart .. ..	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,162	2,025	1,794	1,863	1,849	1,810
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,144	2,101	1,902	1,684	1,805	1,732	1,785

(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 £1,156 in Sydney in 1914, £1,346 in Perth in 1911, or £1,748 in Melbourne in 1925.

In 1925 increases were experienced in all the capitals with the exception of Hobart, which showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. from the previous year. Comparing the results for 1925 with those for 1911, the extent by which prices increased varied from 87 per cent. in Melbourne to 44 per cent. in Perth. Prices, however, were abnormally high in Perth in 1911.

(iii) *Housing.* In previous issues of the Official Year Book the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under 4 rooms to 8 rooms and over. In the following tables that basis has been altered, to accord with a resolution adopted by the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand to the following effect: "that for purposes of computing price levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account." This alteration will account for the difference between index-numbers given in the following tables and those given for the same tables in previous issues of the Year Book,

The following table gives index-numbers computed for the weighted average house rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses in each of the capital cities from 1907 to 1925, 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., wooden houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms and brick houses of 4 rooms and of 5 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 4 and 5 roomed houses combined. 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 4 and 5 roomed houses combined, 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, 1907 TO 1925.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Sydney .. ..	969	1,145	1,243	1,541	1,617	1,680	1,739	1,831	1,870
Melbourne .. ..	744	931	1,027	1,272	1,340	1,448	1,534	1,574	1,604
Brisbane .. ..	463	610	762	1,018	1,030	1,128	1,151	1,157	1,165
Adelaide .. ..	835	1,155	1,071	1,240	1,322	1,377	1,450	1,540	1,576
Perth .. ..	713	857	963	1,145	1,209	1,256	1,294	1,311	1,340
Hobart .. ..	661	739	847	1,420	1,441	1,359	1,503	1,592	1,649
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,344	1,410	1,486	1,553	1,615	1,647

(a) For all capital cities.

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

(iv) *Food, Groceries, and Housing 4 and 5 roomed Houses 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 (4 and 5 roomed houses) 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 1925.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Sydney .. ..	948	1,048	1,188	1,920	1,793	1,694	1,790	1,769	1,817
Melbourne .. ..	857	934	1,067	1,762	1,690	1,571	1,702	1,643	1,694
Brisbane .. ..	765	865	959	1,664	1,519	1,427	1,490	1,490	1,521
Adelaide .. ..	908	1,070	1,161	1,797	1,687	1,593	1,683	1,697	1,741
Perth .. ..	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,710	1,700	1,581	1,627	1,673	1,714
Hobart .. ..	879	938	1,075	1,883	1,806	1,631	1,728	1,753	1,750
Weighted Average (b) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,817	1,717	1,610	1,710	1,688	1,733

(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 1920 there were increases in prices of food and groceries and housing, the combined results for 1920 being an increase of 62.1 per cent. over 1914, and 81.7 per cent. over 1911. The increase in the index-number between 1920 and 1914 varied between the capital cities from 46 per cent. in Perth to 75 per cent. in Hobart, while between 1920 and 1911 it varied between 47 per cent. in Perth and 101 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 1,610 as compared with 1,717 in 1921. The index-number for 1923 shows a rise of 6.2 per cent. on that for 1922, both food and groceries and housing contributing to the increase, that for 1924 shows a decrease of 1.3 per cent. from 1923, food and groceries having decreased 4 per cent., and housing increased 4 per cent., while that for 1925 discloses a rise of 2.7 per cent. over 1924, both food and groceries and housing again showing increases.

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 1907 to 1925 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 1907 TO 1926 (2nd 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).							
1907 .. ..	s. d. 18 9	s. d. 18 6	s. d. 18 11	s. d. 19 0	s. d. 23 11	s. d. 20 2	s. d. 19 1
1911 .. ..	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0
1914 .. ..	23 1	21 10	21 7	24 4	26 0	24 3	22 11
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
1925 .. ..	35 8	35 0	34 8	36 10	38 9	36 2	35 8
1925 { 1st Quarter ..	34 6	33 10	33 4	36 3	39 4	35 7	34 9
2nd " .. ..	35 3	34 11	34 6	37 9	40 5	35 10	35 8
3rd " .. ..	36 3	35 9	34 11	36 9	38 10	36 5	36 2
4th " .. ..	36 10	35 4	36 0	36 5	36 7	36 11	36 2
1926 { 1st " .. ..	36 9	35 0	35 6	37 3	37 1	37 7	36 2
2nd " .. ..	38 1	37 2	35 7	39 4	38 10	38 3	37 9

**HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (WEIGHTED AVERAGE—4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).**

1907 .. ..	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911 .. ..	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 9	20 0
1914 .. ..	24 10	20 6	15 3	21 5	19 3	16 11	20 8
1920 .. ..	30 10	25 5	20 4	24 10	22 11	28 5	26 11
1921 .. ..	32 4	26 10	20 7	26 5	24 2	28 10	28 2
1922 .. ..	33 7	28 10	22 7	27 6	25 1	27 2	28 9
1923 .. ..	34 9	30 8	23 0	29 0	25 11	30 1	31 1
1924 .. ..	36 7	31 6	23 2	30 10	26 3	31 10	32 4
1925 .. ..	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1925 { 1st Quarter ..	37 5	31 11	23 3	31 4	26 8	34 11	32 11
2nd " .. ..	37 5	32 0	23 3	31 7	26 8	34 4	32 11
3rd " .. ..	37 0	32 4	23 4	31 7	27 0	31 6	32 11
4th " .. ..	37 10	32 0	23 4	31 6	26 9	31 1	33 1
1926 { 1st " .. ..	36 5	33 7	26 8	30 7	29 3	32 6	33 5
2nd " .. ..	36 7	34 0	26 8	30 7	29 5	31 11	33 7

**FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY) COMBINED.**

1907 .. ..	18 11	16 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911 .. ..	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0
1914 .. ..	23 9	21 4	19 2	23 3	23 6	21 6	22 5
1920 .. ..	38 5	35 3	33 3	35 11	34 2	37 8	36 4
1921 .. ..	35 10	33 10	30 5	33 9	34 0	36 1	34 4
1922 .. ..	33 10	31 5	28 6	31 10	31 7	32 7	32 2
1923 .. ..	35 10	34 0	29 10	33 8	32 6	34 7	34 2
1924 .. ..	35 5	32 10	29 10	33 11	33 6	35 1	33 9
1925 .. ..	36 4	33 11	30 5	34 10	34 3	35 0	34 8
1925 { 1st Quarter ..	35 7	33 1	29 7	34 5	34 7	35 5	34 0
2nd " .. ..	36 0	33 10	30 4	35 6	35 3	35 3	34 8
3rd " .. ..	36 7	34 6	30 6	34 10	34 5	34 7	34 11
4th " .. ..	37 2	34 1	31 3	34 7	32 11	34 9	35 0
1926 { 1st " .. ..	36 7	34 6	32 2	34 9	34 1	35 8	35 1
2nd " .. ..	37 6	36 0	32 2	36 1	35 3	35 10	36 2

5. Variations in Index-Numbers, Retail Prices and Housing, Thirty Australian Towns, 1925.—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 1907 to 1925. The figures given in the next table show the relative cost of food and groceries, and of housing for the years 1923 to 1925 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.

INDEX-NUMBERS, THIRTY TOWNS, SHOWING RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD AND GROCERIES AND ON HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS) SEPARATELY, AND ON THESE ITEMS COMBINED. BASIS OF TABLE = WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS) IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES IN 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1923.			1924.			1925.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	1,137	653	1,790	1,082	687	1,769	1,115	702	1,817
Newcastle .. .. .	1,148	539	1,687	1,092	571	1,663	1,125	621	1,746
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,248	332	1,580	1,221	349	1,570	1,315	376	1,691
Goulburn .. .. .	1,158	578	1,736	1,104	659	1,763	1,115	634	1,749
Bathurst .. .. .	1,103	392	1,495	1,028	472	1,500	1,074	516	1,590
Weighted Average ..	1,141	632	1,773	1,086	667	1,753	1,120	685	1,805
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. .. .	1,126	576	1,702	1,052	591	1,643	1,092	602	1,694
Ballarat .. .. .	1,120	342	1,462	1,064	361	1,425	1,101	388	1,489
Bendigo .. .. .	1,121	374	1,495	1,080	370	1,450	1,111	409	1,520
Geelong .. .. .	1,097	474	1,571	1,045	475	1,520	1,081	496	1,577
Warrnambool .. ..	1,093	452	1,545	1,076	461	1,537	1,074	459	1,533
Weighted Average ..	1,124	554	1,678	1,053	569	1,622	1,092	581	1,673
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	1,057	433	1,490	1,055	435	1,490	1,083	438	1,521
Toowoomba .. .. .	1,048	369	1,418	1,000	388	1,388	1,045	428	1,473
Rockhampton .. ..	1,085	291	1,376	1,049	300	1,349	1,092	386	1,478
Charters Towers ..	1,140	335	1,475	1,150	342	1,492	1,171	346	1,517
Warwick .. .. .	1,048	368	1,416	1,014	413	1,427	1,042	408	1,450
Weighted Average ..	1,062	410	1,472	1,053	415	1,468	1,083	428	1,511
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,138	545	1,683	1,119	578	1,697	1,149	592	1,741
Kadina, &c. .. ..	1,109	400	1,509	1,097	372	1,469	1,158	326	1,484
Port Pirie .. .. .	1,130	372	1,502	1,137	377	1,514	1,208	394	1,602
Mount Gambier .. ..	1,095	302	1,397	1,057	304	1,361	1,095	308	1,403
Peterborough .. ..	1,124	379	1,503	1,135	460	1,595	1,211	477	1,688
Weighted Average ..	1,136	528	1,664	1,117	558	1,675	1,152	568	1,720
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth, &c. .. .. .	1,141	486	1,627	1,181	492	1,673	1,210	504	1,714
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. .	1,312	354	1,666	1,325	345	1,670	1,339	337	1,676
Northam .. .. .	1,225	421	1,646	1,197	499	1,696	1,257	528	1,785
Bunbury .. .. .	1,149	433	1,582	1,212	434	1,646	1,255	438	1,693
Geraldton .. .. .	1,198	507	1,705	1,239	507	1,746	1,284	525	1,809
Weighted Average ..	1,162	470	1,632	1,198	476	1,674	1,228	485	1,713
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. .. .	1,164	564	1,728	1,155	598	1,753	1,131	619	1,750
Launceston .. .. .	1,136	469	1,605	1,147	475	1,625	1,121	495	1,616
Burnie .. .. .	1,176	476	1,652	1,173	489	1,662	1,137	503	1,640
Devonport .. .. .	1,159	460	1,619	1,163	480	1,643	1,155	468	1,623
Queenstown .. .. .	1,220	304	1,524	1,259	305	1,564	1,278	304	1,582
Weighted Average ..	1,158	520	1,678	1,157	544	1,701	1,135	561	1,696
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. .. .	1,129	560	1,689	1,085	583	1,668	1,118	597	1,715
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	1,127	583	1,710	1,082	606	1,688	1,114	619	1,733

### § 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, 1923 to 1925.—The results of the investigation made in November, 1925, 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 1,675 represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,549 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four roomed houses in November, 1925. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,077 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1925. 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 1,675, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,691, while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,556.

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 six capital cities given in the preceding section, i.e. the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing accommodation in the six capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1,000.

**INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS IN 1923, 1924, AND 1925, 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.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. 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
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney ..	1,087	1,608	1,705	1,022	1,559	1,690	1,072	1,623	1,759
Newcastle ..	1,120	1,531	1,676	1,006	1,447	1,599	1,090	1,603	1,733
Broken Hill ..	1,227	1,510	1,587	1,145	1,467	1,525	1,244	1,570	1,648
Goulburn ..	1,095	1,570	1,661	1,020	1,521	1,694	1,086	1,607	1,695
Bathurst ..	1,045	1,325	1,414	941	1,264	1,376	1,043	1,418	1,486
Albury ..	1,060	1,636	1,754	990	1,648	1,785	1,082	1,812	1,954
Armidale ..	1,073	1,424	1,536	986	1,371	1,469	1,095	1,464	1,674
Ballina ..	1,169	1,511	1,564	1,052	1,546	1,678	1,175	1,644	1,742
Bega ..	1,132	1,408	1,530	1,029	1,322	1,437	1,114	1,432	1,561
Berry ..	1,117	1,413	1,512	1,065	1,331	1,496	1,151	1,464	1,595
Blackheath ..	1,199	1,633	1,725	1,130	1,623	1,738	1,203	1,677	1,779
Bourke ..	1,228	1,426	1,505	1,055	1,266	1,292	1,201	1,382	1,474
Bowral ..	1,141	1,701	1,760	1,060	1,530	1,672	1,118	1,684	1,790
Casino ..	1,133	1,541	1,643	1,063	1,490	1,611	1,157	1,617	1,708
Cessnock ..	1,111	1,576	1,659	1,014	1,529	1,683	1,094	1,664	1,774
Cobar ..	1,152	1,251	1,284	1,073	1,162	1,208	1,156	1,245	1,291
Cooma ..	1,220	1,611	1,709	1,083	1,425	1,537	1,131	1,474	1,615
Coonamble ..	1,142	1,405	1,475	1,077	1,406	1,472	1,143	1,459	1,569
Cootamundra ..	1,098	1,558	1,690	976	1,447	1,549	1,100	1,669	1,807
Corrimal ..	1,106	1,435	1,527	975	1,304	1,370	1,077	1,471	1,498
Cowra ..	1,074	1,505	1,599	1,017	1,438	1,511	1,102	1,536	1,668
Cronulla ..	1,155	1,748	1,879	1,071	1,713	1,845	1,099	1,740	1,878
Cudgegong ..	1,167	1,364	1,463	1,053	1,289	1,355	(a)	(a)	(a)
Deniliquin ..	1,087	1,405	1,474	1,009	1,336	1,429	1,078	1,412	1,529
Dubbo ..	1,204	1,657	1,791	1,065	1,537	1,641	1,141	1,630	1,741
Forbes ..	1,105	1,559	1,737	1,000	1,491	1,651	1,098	1,609	1,756

(a) Figures not available.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.		1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. 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	1,146	1,398	1,556	
Glen Innes ..	1,015	1,326	1,423	925	1,254	1,401	1,000	1,337	1,505	
Grafton ..	1,149	1,544	1,643	1,035	1,324	1,430	1,093	1,611	1,734	
Grenfell ..	1,179	1,541	1,771	1,038	1,498	1,630	1,120	1,571	1,696	
Griffiths ..	1,214	1,572	2,004	1,006	1,796	1,862	1,166	1,877	2,186	
Gulgong ..	1,092	1,388	1,451	995	1,291	1,354	1,093	1,297	1,350	
Gunnedah ..	1,039	1,434	1,566	962	1,333	1,439	1,051	1,437	1,545	
Hay ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	1,085	1,392	1,531	1,175	1,513	1,683	
Inverell ..	1,102	1,452	1,521	1,011	1,373	1,451	1,103	1,513	1,607	
Juncie ..	1,117	1,561	1,676	972	1,564	1,696	1,068	1,699	1,788	
Katoomba ..	1,205	1,728	1,859	1,129	1,619	1,737	1,147	1,603	1,779	
Kempsey ..	1,021	1,350	1,383	1,004	1,398	1,484	1,046	1,472	1,547	
Kiama ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	1,145	1,492	1,651	
Kurri Kurri ..	1,181	1,477	1,550	1,068	1,424	1,496	1,148	1,576	1,658	
Lecton ..	1,196	1,914	1,949	1,097	1,867	1,886	1,172	1,896	1,932	
Lismore ..	1,162	1,517	1,678	1,049	1,404	1,566	1,088	1,490	1,680	
Lithgow ..	1,166	1,547	1,655	1,023	1,422	1,502	1,037	1,489	1,581	
Maitland ..	1,086	1,554	1,596	952	1,409	1,491	1,078	1,578	1,700	
Moree ..	1,288	1,692	1,797	1,104	1,556	1,692	1,183	1,657	1,782	
Moss Vale ..	1,112	1,622	1,704	1,034	1,516	1,670	1,121	1,648	1,779	
Mudgee ..	1,115	1,515	1,611	982	1,398	1,485	1,086	1,503	1,601	
Narrabri ..	1,109	1,427	1,563	960	1,309	1,436	1,096	1,403	1,518	
Narrandera ..	1,187	1,621	1,746	1,069	1,516	1,694	1,164	1,592	1,727	
Norwa ..	1,164	1,559	1,717	1,036	1,481	1,595	1,105	1,553	1,681	
Orange ..	1,032	1,432	1,535	992	1,447	1,565	1,057	1,476	1,561	
Parkes ..	1,120	1,604	1,696	1,020	1,480	1,595	1,110	1,586	1,693	
Penrith ..	1,083	1,440	1,557	1,025	1,340	1,436	1,090	1,491	1,666	
Port Kembla ..	1,145	1,467	1,540	1,057	1,380	1,450	1,120	1,442	1,537	
Portland ..	1,106	1,402	1,494	1,042	1,423	1,535	1,122	1,583	1,623	
Queanbeyan ..	1,172	1,577	1,676	1,057	1,551	1,704	1,136	1,682	1,815	
Quirindi ..	1,128	1,437	1,562	1,034	1,350	1,507	1,134	1,446	1,647	
Richmond ..	1,121	1,492	1,588	1,075	1,493	1,569	1,135	1,547	1,645	
Scone ..	1,028	1,462	1,587	965	1,335	1,491	1,058	1,475	1,607	
Singleton ..	1,117	1,479	1,548	988	1,353	1,442	1,080	1,445	1,534	
Tamworth ..	1,065	1,427	1,582	947	1,380	1,465	1,047	1,519	1,610	
Taree ..	1,088	1,598	1,687	979	1,538	1,686	1,076	1,586	1,750	
Temora ..	1,099	1,555	1,667	1,057	1,584	1,692	1,160	1,703	1,861	
Tenterfield ..	1,137	1,499	1,565	1,010	1,383	1,436	1,079	1,473	1,546	
Tumut ..	1,149	1,511	1,643	1,039	1,533	1,632	1,158	1,619	1,783	
Ulmara ..	1,163	1,571	1,623	1,075	1,470	1,602	1,101	1,549	1,601	
Wagga Wagga ..	1,132	1,356	1,988	1,016	1,740	1,838	1,068	1,776	1,989	
Walcha ..	1,009	1,305	1,436	994	1,257	1,405	1,111	1,471	1,572	
Wellington ..	1,129	1,414	1,506	1,018	1,308	1,421	1,109	1,404	1,486	
Weston ..	1,198	1,487	1,527	1,066	1,356	1,395	1,155	1,519	1,583	
Windora ..	1,108	1,483	1,634	1,052	1,488	1,562	1,143	1,554	1,653	
Wollongong ..	1,137	1,560	1,652	1,045	1,508	1,595	1,092	1,599	1,678	
Wyalong ..	1,148	1,595	1,681	1,099	1,494	1,626	1,125	1,520	1,619	
Yass ..	1,249	1,567	1,648	1,080	1,458	1,524	1,211	1,653	1,737	
Young ..	1,014	1,412	1,511	942	1,376	1,475	1,085	1,671	1,727	
Weighted Average for State	1,099	1,585	1,686	1,023	1,527	1,653	1,083	1,607	1,737	
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne ..	1,062	1,547	1,689	963	1,455	1,600	1,053	1,556	1,691	
Ballarat ..	1,080	1,356	1,463	987	1,268	1,384	1,066	1,366	1,506	
Bendigo ..	1,075	1,375	1,473	988	1,293	1,378	1,070	1,403	1,524	
Geelong ..	1,054	1,427	1,556	945	1,318	1,448	1,049	1,475	1,590	
Warrnambool ..	1,067	1,448	1,578	987	1,370	1,497	1,040	1,424	1,545	
Ararat ..	1,150	1,472	1,540	1,049	1,372	1,455	1,174	1,518	1,613	
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,081	1,489	1,640	961	1,389	1,520	1,050	1,498	1,642	
Bairnsdale ..	1,166	1,528	1,692	1,052	1,414	1,578	1,151	1,545	1,677	
Beechworth ..	1,114	1,364	1,433	1,040	1,303	1,369	1,116	1,373	1,440	
Benalla ..	1,081	1,413	1,489	993	1,325	1,421	1,086	1,448	1,560	
Camperdown ..	1,055	1,450	1,581	1,001	1,404	1,527	1,098	1,515	1,647	
Casterton ..	1,073	1,345	1,446	1,013	1,300	1,425	1,111	1,424	1,517	
Castlemaine ..	1,069	1,358	1,454	1,056	1,389	1,505	1,111	1,427	1,550	
Colac ..	1,135	1,675	1,793	1,042	1,574	1,667	1,070	1,591	1,728	
Creswick ..	1,035	1,154	1,206	962	1,107	1,126	1,072	1,230	1,289	
Dalesford ..	1,080	1,376	1,458	986	1,216	1,282	1,064	1,327	1,426	
Dunolly ..	1,067	1,212	1,288	996	1,147	1,180	1,056	1,214	1,267	

(a) Figures not available.



INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. 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.
<b>VICTORIA—<i>continued.</i></b>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Echuca .. ..	1,069	1,364	1,464	1,026	1,355	1,470	1,116	1,438	1,570
Euroa .. ..	1,131	1,414	1,476	1,070	1,389	1,465	1,143	1,479	1,604
Hamilton .. ..	1,140	1,557	1,667	1,086	1,590	1,744	1,141	1,623	1,744
Healesville .. ..	1,147	1,588	1,700	1,016	1,430	1,542	1,075	1,469	1,568
Horsham .. ..	1,103	1,673	1,827	1,065	1,668	1,865	1,117	1,732	1,907
Kerang .. ..	1,126	1,652	1,784	1,061	1,620	1,752	1,118	1,688	1,797
Koroit .. ..	1,096	1,372	1,458	988	1,251	1,357	1,075	1,345	1,404
Korumburra .. ..	1,124	1,387	1,519	1,037	1,497	1,629	1,084	1,545	1,660
Kyneton .. ..	1,064	1,380	1,459	980	1,316	1,410	1,062	1,397	1,532
Lilydale .. ..	1,127	1,555	1,653	1,012	1,440	1,572	1,138	1,582	1,747
Maffra .. ..	1,146	1,738	1,870	1,019	1,622	1,732	1,023	1,615	1,747
Maldon .. ..	1,086	1,242	1,279	1,000	1,158	1,206	1,061	1,214	1,278
Maryborough .. ..	1,108	1,315	1,407	1,000	1,214	1,309	1,104	1,337	1,456
Mildura .. ..	1,163	1,769	1,920	1,084	1,693	1,805	1,152	1,784	1,926
Morwell .. ..	1,108	1,733	1,832	1,041	1,764	1,830	1,129	1,700	1,853
Nhill .. ..	1,149	1,518	1,639	1,124	1,550	1,699	1,174	1,700	1,832
Orbost .. ..	1,104	1,433	1,499	1,047	1,442	1,573	1,127	1,522	1,785
Portland .. ..	1,097	1,412	1,525	1,067	1,357	1,498	1,187	1,525	1,680
Port Fairy .. ..	1,090	1,358	1,424	1,016	1,292	1,352	1,096	1,391	1,458
St. Arnaud .. ..	1,122	1,451	1,591	1,040	1,435	1,514	1,193	1,632	1,752
Sale .. ..	1,072	1,487	1,643	987	1,432	1,582	1,074	1,537	1,677
Seymour .. ..	1,090	1,370	1,462	1,062	1,400	1,490	1,145	1,476	1,555
Shepparton .. ..	1,092	1,487	1,566	1,007	1,476	1,590	1,080	1,633	1,760
Stowell .. ..	1,180	1,452	1,548	1,087	1,372	1,451	1,179	1,500	1,595
Swan Hill .. ..	1,086	1,612	1,777	1,052	1,710	1,809	1,098	1,690	1,822
Terang .. ..	1,105	1,447	1,552	1,041	1,449	1,567	1,125	1,546	1,651
Traralgon .. ..	1,167	1,426	1,518	1,024	1,386	1,485	1,115	1,461	1,612
Wangaratta .. ..	1,066	1,618	1,686	1,061	1,458	1,563	1,149	1,590	1,720
Warracknabeal .. ..	1,065	1,512	1,634	1,020	1,536	1,645	1,131	1,657	1,745
Warragul .. ..	1,099	1,595	1,735	969	1,429	1,561	1,080	1,551	1,716
Wonthaggi .. ..	1,204	1,674	1,761	1,049	1,474	1,566	1,145	1,623	1,693
Weighted Average for State	1,069	1,525	1,660	973	1,437	1,574	1,062	1,539	1,671
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. ..	1,039	1,376	1,487	970	1,303	1,423	1,068	1,405	1,523
Toowoomba .. ..	1,049	1,339	1,423	905	1,223	1,324	1,051	1,359	1,505
Rockhampton .. ..	1,085	1,329	1,375	972	1,211	1,278	1,075	1,372	1,474
Charters Towers .. ..	1,132	1,390	1,474	1,065	1,322	1,411	1,156	1,422	1,510
Warwick .. ..	1,023	1,296	1,404	931	1,291	1,352	1,039	1,377	1,450
Ayr .. ..	1,195	1,611	1,732	1,125	1,546	1,691	1,224	1,685	1,849
Barcaldine .. ..	1,237	1,582	1,681	1,116	1,477	1,609	1,184	1,579	1,727
Bowen .. ..	1,103	1,498	1,597	1,079	1,507	1,655	1,184	1,579	1,645
Bundaberg .. ..	959	1,211	1,293	947	1,232	1,327	1,044	1,364	1,439
Cairns .. ..	1,163	1,602	1,738	1,139	1,596	1,710	1,238	1,786	1,913
Charleville .. ..	1,145	1,573	1,671	1,077	1,537	1,702	1,183	1,571	1,676
Chillagoe .. ..	1,138	1,467	1,533	1,063	1,326	1,392	1,277	1,513	1,540
Cloncurry .. ..	1,174	1,510	1,653	1,178	1,540	1,636	1,212	1,592	1,708
Cooktown .. ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	1,072	1,173	1,221	1,141	1,273	1,330
Cunnamulla .. ..	1,155	1,484	1,550	1,074	1,403	1,468	1,186	1,515	1,581
Daibly .. ..	1,031	1,268	1,321	981	1,310	1,375	1,051	1,412	1,495
Gayndah .. ..	1,031	1,360	1,426	952	1,245	1,310	1,093	1,383	1,455
Gladstone .. ..	1,040	1,303	1,435	1,020	1,283	1,415	1,109	1,385	1,437
Goondiwindi .. ..	1,145	1,428	1,540	1,033	1,362	1,471	1,139	1,554	1,643
Gympie .. ..	1,054	1,305	1,405	990	1,286	1,352	1,087	1,399	1,493
Hughenden .. ..	1,194	1,638	1,770	1,101	1,583	1,682	1,197	1,734	1,866
Innisfail .. ..	1,309	1,814	1,923	1,211	1,649	1,803	1,316	1,842	1,974
Ipswich .. ..	1,063	1,406	1,458	963	1,246	1,331	1,044	1,373	1,439
Longreach .. ..	1,221	1,552	1,647	1,073	1,446	1,591	1,177	1,561	1,646
Mackay .. ..	1,066	1,448	1,571	987	1,407	1,511	1,087	1,536	1,671
Maryborough .. ..	998	1,251	1,353	953	1,233	1,351	1,051	1,347	1,449
Mount Morgan .. ..	1,127	1,357	1,384	1,023	1,300	1,346	1,071	1,282	1,321
Nambour .. ..	1,054	1,400	1,498	994	1,410	1,498	1,085	1,458	1,541
Roma .. ..	1,132	1,484	1,534	1,010	1,326	1,434	1,109	1,468	1,545
Stanthorpe .. ..	1,134	1,503	1,575	1,075	1,431	1,503	1,153	1,548	1,614
Townsville .. ..	1,149	1,603	1,731	1,085	1,569	1,719	1,176	1,655	1,797
Winton .. ..	1,235	1,735	1,834	1,108	1,656	1,722	1,199	1,802	1,912
Weighted Average for State	1,063	1,393	1,492	987	1,320	1,430	1,085	1,430	1,540

(a) Figures not available.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. 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
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,072	1,518	1,667	1,020	1,516	1,645	1,067	1,567	1,688
Kadina, etc. . . . .	1,059	1,334	1,435	1,014	1,281	1,373	1,110	1,369	1,450
Port Pirie .. . . .	1,110	1,433	1,530	1,060	1,399	1,479	1,154	1,500	1,596
Mount Gambier .. . .	1,051	1,286	1,354	994	1,233	1,316	1,040	1,266	1,362
Peterborough .. . . .	1,079	1,395	1,470	1,103	1,502	1,584	1,116	1,520	1,596
Freeling .. . . .	1,006	1,269	1,375	1,083	1,379	1,445	1,105	1,473	1,539
Gawler .. . . .	1,014	1,326	1,400	1,016	1,398	1,457	1,050	1,386	1,458
Kapunda .. . . .	1,041	1,304	1,403	1,004	1,215	1,327	1,073	1,284	1,349
Korinna .. . . .	1,110	1,505	1,571	1,053	1,448	1,514	1,101	1,298	1,386
Millicent .. . . .	1,099	1,428	1,520	966	1,427	1,440	986	1,299	1,388
Murray Bridge .. . .	1,079	1,524	1,623	1,023	1,474	1,582	1,070	1,491	1,543
Port Augusta .. . . .	1,112	1,437	1,540	1,123	1,448	1,551	1,209	1,565	1,648
Quorn .. . . .	1,065	1,529	1,651	1,028	1,518	1,620	1,100	1,536	1,643
Victor Harbour .. . .	1,031	1,580	1,711	1,050	1,642	1,774	1,102	1,635	1,777
Renmark .. . . .	1,166	1,640	1,759	1,116	1,613	1,749	1,231	1,708	1,840
Weighted Average for State	1,073	1,498	1,639	1,024	1,494	1,616	1,074	1,545	1,661
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Ferth and Fremantle ..	1,046	1,446	1,538	1,114	1,527	1,618	1,065	1,476	1,569
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,233	1,580	1,645	1,258	1,590	1,651	1,235	1,556	1,611
Northam .. . . .	1,154	1,510	1,610	1,074	1,496	1,612	1,161	1,556	1,732
Bunbury .. . . .	1,056	1,420	1,525	1,137	1,507	1,601	1,134	1,504	1,598
Geraldton .. . . .	1,131	1,570	1,654	1,192	1,632	1,704	1,172	1,619	1,751
Albany .. . . .	1,172	1,468	1,557	1,204	1,498	1,609	1,230	1,532	1,626
Beverley .. . . .	1,072	1,281	1,360	1,132	1,366	1,423	1,119	1,384	1,472
Bridgetown .. . . .	1,149	1,560	1,626	1,193	1,538	1,604	1,232	1,643	1,709
Broome .. . . .	1,306	1,964	2,030	1,330	1,988	2,053	1,322	1,980	2,045
Carnarvon .. . . .	1,249	1,743	1,841	1,184	1,710	1,776	1,329	1,823	1,921
Collie .. . . .	1,105	1,467	1,553	1,172	1,567	1,632	1,236	1,598	1,664
Greenbushes .. . . .	1,193	1,378	1,404	1,242	1,440	1,466	1,251	1,435	1,474
Katanning .. . . .	1,009	1,404	1,467	1,077	1,459	1,577	1,089	1,473	1,553
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,355	1,513	1,552	1,399	1,557	1,597	1,354	1,512	1,551
Meekatharra .. . . .	1,162	1,425	1,491	1,364	1,627	1,693	1,430	1,693	1,759
Narrogin .. . . .	1,136	1,636	1,794	1,154	1,628	1,812	1,160	1,643	1,792
Wagin .. . . .	1,104	1,338	1,453	1,185	1,491	1,537	1,144	1,467	1,575
York .. . . .	1,125	1,487	1,540	1,176	1,522	1,574	1,213	1,558	1,637
Weighted Average for State	1,078	1,466	1,555	1,138	1,536	1,624	1,103	1,499	1,590
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. . . .	1,114	1,574	1,762	1,051	1,579	1,724	1,077	1,554	1,718
Launceston .. . . .	1,112	1,490	1,657	1,057	1,444	1,610	1,064	1,459	1,619
Burnie .. . . .	1,176	1,583	1,746	1,042	1,485	1,621	1,110	1,575	1,689
Devonport .. . . .	1,146	1,566	1,683	1,080	1,524	1,641	1,098	1,501	1,651
Queenstown .. . . .	1,214	1,478	1,556	1,185	1,448	1,527	1,225	1,488	1,567
Beaconsfield .. . . .	1,113	1,205	1,225	1,099	1,218	1,257	1,069	1,174	1,201
Campbelltown .. . . .	1,052	1,260	1,308	1,045	1,259	1,333	1,094	1,298	1,349
Deloraine .. . . .	1,019	1,197	1,457	1,014	1,363	1,396	1,023	1,352	1,418
Franklin .. . . .	1,082	1,314	1,351	1,061	1,298	1,325	1,063	1,300	1,326
New Norfolk .. . . .	1,043	1,372	1,465	1,032	1,361	1,460	1,057	1,393	1,449
Scottsdale .. . . .	1,129	1,392	1,458	1,039	1,336	1,418	1,060	1,367	1,429
Ulverstone .. . . .	1,128	1,450	1,558	1,030	1,380	1,477	1,082	1,411	1,510
Zeehan .. . . .	1,251	1,415	1,468	1,154	1,364	1,430	1,256	1,454	1,519
Weighted Average for State	1,120	1,526	1,689	1,059	1,509	1,647	1,083	1,506	1,652
Weighted Average for Australia .. . . .	1,083	1,526	1,642	1,012	1,472	1,597	1,077	1,549	1,675

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus, for November, 1925, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1053. Subtracting this from 1,556 (column B) gives a difference of 503, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,691 (column C) gives a difference of 638, 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 60 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.

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\* 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 immediate 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 69.7 per cent. The increase for the year 1925, compared with November, 1914, was 45.1 per cent. Further, in 1925 the cost of the commodities and services included was greatest in Adelaide and Hobart (1,496) and least in Brisbane (1,344).

#### INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.— 1914 TO 1925.

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

Cities.	November.				Year.		
	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Sydney .. .. .	1,036	1,736	1,523	1,486	1,488	1,458	1,478
Melbourne .. ..	976	1,706	1,460	1,402	1,460	1,420	1,432
Brisbane .. .. .	889	1,534	1,344	1,276	1,343	1,332	1,344
Adelaide .. .. .	1,018	1,693	1,440	1,388	1,467	1,476	1,496
Perth .. .. .	1,029	1,617	1,467	1,355	1,422	1,430	1,446
Hobart .. .. .	999	1,765	1,556	1,450	1,517	1,529	1,496
Weighted Average ..	1,000	1,697	1,474	1,420	1,460	1,436	1,451

## § 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, 1925.

\* In Labour Report No. 16, index-numbers are given showing the relative cost from November 1921, to end of 1925, in 30 of the principal towns in Australia.

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each quarter for the years 1924 and 1925 :—

**AWARDS, DETERMINATIONS, AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS, 1924 AND 1925.**

State and Commonwealth.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Full Year.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.
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
Cwltl. Court	2	17	7	11	13	6	22	11	44	45
Cwltl. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	4	..
Total ..	79	41	59	44	74	40	109	39	321	164
1925.										
New South Wales	1	8	11	6	15	5	5	16	32	35
Victoria ..	13	..	20	..	12	..	22	..	67	..
Queensland ..	..	7	19	9	26	9	60	8	105	33
South Australia	12	1	9	..	18	1	8	3	47	5
Western Australia	..	20	..	16	2	16	2	14	4	66
Tasmania ..	2	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	5	1
Cwltl. Court	6	11	11	11	4	10	35	10	56	42
Cwltl. Pub. Ser. Arbitrator ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	4	..
Total ..	34	47	71	43	79	41	136	51	320	182

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, 1924, AND 1925.**

Dates.	Boards Autho- rized.	Boards Con- stituted.	Boards which had made Awards or Deter- minations.	Awards or Deter- minations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agre- ments in Force.
31st December, 1913 .. ..	505	501	387(b)	575(c)	401
30th June, 1924 .. ..	575	567	528	1,095	635
31st December, 1924 .. ..	575	538(d)	520	1,111	549
30th June, 1925 .. ..	571	537	518	1,121	583
31st December, 1925 .. ..	575	541	524	1,181	607

(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 period under review. At the end of 1925, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 606 and 206 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

(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, 1924, AND 1925.**

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
	1924	..	..	274	176	2	75	..	48	575
	1925	..	..	269	180	2	75	..	49	575
Boards constituted ..	1913	..	..	(b) 223	132	74	51	..	21	501
	1924	..	..	274	174	2	46	..	42	538
	1925	..	..	260	178	2	49	..	43	541
Boards which have made Awards or Determina- tions ..	1913	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	1924	..	..	259	158	..	65	..	38	520
	1925	..	..	253	166	..	66	..	39	524
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
Awards and Determina- tions* in force ..	1913	17	..	(c) 265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	1924	146	20	320	174	221	81	91	49	1,111
	1925	179	32	321	177	223	101	99	49	1,181
<i>State Awards and Determina- tions—</i>										
Applying to Whole State	1913	..	..	32	8	3	..	..	15	58
	1924	..	..	31	65	65	7	5	39	212
	1925	..	..	32	66	66	15	4	40	223
Applying to Metropolitan area ..	1913	..	..	58	..	28	53	13	1	153
	1924	..	..	90	1	50	50	51	..	242
	1925	..	..	91	1	52	62	56	..	262
Applying to Metropolitan and Country areas ..	1913	..	..	49	105	1	..	1	5	161
	1924	..	..	136	94	44	2	8	7	291
	1925	..	..	136	97	45	2	8	7	295
Applying to Country areas ..	1913	..	..	126	14	41	1	4	..	186
	1924	..	..	63	14	62	22	27	3	191
	1925	..	..	62	13	60	22	31	2	190
<i>Commonwealth Court Award—</i>										
Awards in force in each State ..	1913	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	1924	..	..	87	110	32	80	38	62	..
	1925	..	..	115	131	35	99	36	66	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Determinations in force in each State ..	1924	..	..	28	26	25	25	25	24	..
	1925	..	..	31	27	26	26	26	25	..
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	1913	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	1924	221	..	135	..	62	44	85	2	549
	1925	229	..	142	..	86	46	101	3	607
Commonwealth Agreements in force in each State ..	1913	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	1924	..	..	68	96	24	24	11	19	..
	1925	..	..	80	93	27	26	19	24	..

(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. 16.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1920 to 1925.—(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 1925 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 1925.**

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.	Aus- tralia. (a)
No. of Occupations Included ..	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948
RATES OF WAGE.							
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
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 December, 1924 ..	93 6	95 5	95 9	91 10	94 8	92 6	94 3
31st March, 1925 ..	93 8	95 3	95 10	92 0	95 0	92 9	94 4
30th June, 1925 ..	93 11	95 6	95 10	92 6	96 3	92 11	94 8
30th September, 1925 ..	94 11	96 1	99 0	94 1	96 10	93 1	95 10
31st December, 1925 ..	96 0	97 2	99 11	94 4	97 0	93 5	96 9
INDEX-NUMBERS.							
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 December, 1924 ..	1,824	1,862	1,868	1,791	1,847	1,805	1,839
31st March 1925 ..	1,827	1,858	1,869	1,795	1,853	1,809	1,840
30th June, 1925 ..	1,832	1,864	1,870	1,804	1,877	1,812	1,846
30th September, 1925 ..	1,853	1,874	1,931	1,835	1,889	1,817	1,869
31st December, 1925 ..	1,873	1,897	1,950	1,841	1,893	1,823	1,887

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1925, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania. 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. Nominal wages showed a progressively upward trend in all States during 1925, with the sole exception of Victoria, where the weighted average nominal weekly rate at 31st March, 1925, showed a slight decrease as compared with the rate at 31st December, 1924. Subsequently, however, wages in Victoria rose steadily. The largest percentage increase during the period under review was in South Australia with 14.1 per cent., followed by Victoria, 12.9 per cent., Queensland 9.3 per cent., Tasmania 8.9 per cent., Western Australia 8.1 per cent., and New South Wales 2.1 per cent. The increase in the weighted average for Australia was 7.7 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, 1921 TO 1925.**

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., 1921.	31st Dec., 1922.	31st Dec., 1923.	31st Dec., 1924.	31st March, 1925.	30th June, 1925.	30th Sept., 1925.	31st Dec., 1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage .. 98.2 Index-No. 1,916	95.4 1,860	99.2 1,935	99.7 1,943	100.0 1,951	99.7 1,944	100.9 1,965	101.2 1,973
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage .. 98.2 Index-No. 1,915	93.10 1,832	97.4 1,900	97.5 1,901	97.6 1,902	97.9 1,907	99.6 1,941	100.4 1,957
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage .. 93.10 Index-No. 1,832	91.10 1,792	94.2 1,837	94.0 1,835	94.5 1,842	94.8 1,847	95.8 1,867	96.6 1,883
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage .. 93.3 Index-No. 1,819	91.1 1,777	93.11 1,833	93.0 1,815	92.7 1,807	92.7 1,807	93.0 1,814	93.2 1,817
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage .. 104.7 Index-No. 2,040	102.9 2,004	104.5 2,037	108.3 2,113	107.9 2,102	107.9 2,102	108.2 2,110	109.6 2,137
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage .. 95.0 Index-No. 1,854	91.11 1,793	96.2 1,876	95.6 1,863	95.9 1,868	96.3 1,877	97.5 1,901	98.2 1,915
VII. Building	Wage .. 102.5 Index-No. 1,999	100.5 1,960	103.8 2,023	105.6 2,058	105.7 2,060	106.3 2,074	107.10 2,104	108.5 2,115
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage .. 105.4 Index-No. 2,056	103.8 2,022	104.5 2,037	104.2 2,033	104.0 2,030	104.11 2,047	105.2 2,052	108.7 2,119
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage .. 97.5 Index-No. 1,901	93.4 1,821	97.8 1,906	96.11 1,892	97.0 1,892	98.4 1,918	99.6 1,941	100.6 1,962
X. Other Land Transport	Wage .. 90.2 Index-No. 1,760	88.5 1,725	92.6 1,806	89.4 1,744	89.8 1,750	90.2 1,759	92.6 1,804	93.3 1,820
XI. Shipping, etc. (a)	Wage .. 101.8 Index-No. 1,984	99.9 1,947	102.4 1,997	97.10 1,908	98.3 1,917	99.2 1,935	103.0 2,010	104.8 2,043
XII. Agricultural, etc. (b)	Wage .. 89.0 Index-No. 1,736	83.11 1,637	85.8 1,671	85.10 1,675	85.11 1,676	85.11 1,676	86.4 1,685	87.4 1,704
XIII. Domestic, etc. (b)	Wage .. 84.2 Index-No. 1,642	82.4 1,606	84.6 1,648	86.0 1,678	86.3 1,682	86.6 1,688	88.9 1,732	89.1 1,738
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage .. 91.1 Index-No. 1,778	88.8 1,730	92.3 1,800	92.2 1,798	92.1 1,797	92.4 1,801	93.9 1,828	93.11 1,833
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage .. 94.6 Index-No. 1,844	91.6 1,785	94.4 1,840	94.3 1,839	94.4 1,840	94.8 1,846	95.10 1,869	96.9 1,887

(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, 1921 to 1925, was greatest in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 5.9 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups VII. (Building), 5.8 per cent., V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 4.7 per cent., and X. (Other Land Transport), 3.4 per cent. The smallest



increase occurred in Group II. (Engineering, etc.), 2.2 per cent., whilst two groups (Clothing, Boots, etc., and Agricultural, etc.), showed decreases of 0.09 and 1.86 per cent. respectively. In eleven of the groups the increase was more, and in three groups less than the increase in the weighted average for all groups. During the year 1925, increases in average wages occurred in all industrial groups, the greatest being 7.1 per cent. in Group XI. (Shipping, etc.), followed by 4.4 per cent. in Group X. (Other Land Transport), 4.2 per cent. in Group VIII. (Mining) and 3.7 per cent. in Group IX. (Railways, etc.). The percentage increase during the year was least in Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 0.1 per cent. The weighted average wage for all groups combined increased by 2.6 per cent.

(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 1925.**

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	57	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 December, 1924 ..	49	1	49	7	50	10	46	6	56	11	50	3	49	7
31st March, 1925 ..	49	0	49	7	50	8	47	3	56	11	50	1	49	7
30th June, 1925 ..	49	0	49	9	50	8	47	5	57	2	50	1	49	8
30th September, 1925 ..	49	6	49	11	51	7	48	4	57	6	50	1	50	2
31st December, 1925 ..	49	8	50	8	51	9	48	10	57	6	50	2	50	7

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

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 December, 1924 ..	1,807	1,824	1,872	1,710	2,094	1,850	1,826
31st March, 1925 ..	1,803	1,825	1,865	1,738	2,094	1,843	1,826
30th June, 1925 ..	1,803	1,830	1,865	1,745	2,104	1,844	1,829
30th September, 1925 ..	1,821	1,837	1,898	1,779	2,116	1,844	1,845
31st December, 1925 ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861

(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 wages remained stationary. The upward tendency was continued during 1924 with increases in all States with the exception of New South Wales. During 1925, the Australian average rose from 49s. 7d. to 50s. 7d., each State, with the exception of Tasmania, showing increases. The advance in the Australian average during the period under review was 13.6 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 1925.**

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.						All Groups. (b).
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V. and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. (a).	XIV. Miscel- laneous.		
RATES OF WAGE.							
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
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 December, 1924 ..	45 2	49 7	49 6	49 7	50 7	49 7	
31st March, 1925 ..	45 1	49 6	49 4	49 8	50 11	49 7	
30th June, 1925 ..	45 2	49 6	49 5	49 10	51 2	49 8	
30th September, 1925	45 4	49 7	50 0	50 8	52 0	50 2	
31st December, 1925 ..	45 8	50 1	51 2	51 0	52 0	50 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 December, 1924 ..	1,661	1,826	1,821	1,824	1,862	1,826	
31st March, 1925 ..	1,658	1,821	1,815	1,829	1,873	1,826	
30th June, 1925 ..	1,662	1,821	1,817	1,834	1,882	1,829	
30th September, 1925	1,668	1,824	1,841	1,865	1,914	1,845	
31st December, 1925 ..	1,682	1,844	1,884	1,877	1,914	1,861	

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

(b) Weighted average.

The greatest increase in the weekly rate of wage during the period under review occurred in Groups I., II., V., and VI. (All Other Manufacturing), 16.3 per cent., followed in the order named by Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 15.4 per cent., XIV. (Miscellaneous), 12.6 per cent., XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 10.3 per cent., and III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 9.3 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for all groups was 13.6 per cent. higher at the end of 1925 than at the 31st December, 1920.

Average wages for females in each industrial group increased during the year 1925, the largest increase being 3.5 per cent. in Groups I., II., V., and VI., followed in the order named by Groups XIII., 2.9 per cent., XIV., 2.8 per cent., III., 1.3 per cent., and IV. 1.0 per cent. The weighted average for all groups increased by 1.9 per cent.

**3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1921 to 1925.—(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 1921 to 1925. 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, 1921 TO 1925.**

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
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)	.. 91 6	91 4	93 10	87 6	93 9	88 5	91 6
	Working Hours (b)	.. 46.05	46.99	45.51	47.00	46.41	46.93	46.38
	Hourly Wage (b)	.. 2/0½	1/11½	2/1½	1/10½	2/0½	1/10½	2/-
31st Dec., 1923	Weekly Wage (a)	.. 96 6	98 0	95 9	91 8	95 2	93 3	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)	.. 93 6	95 5	95 9	91 10	94 8	92 6	94 3
	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
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage (a)	.. 96 0	97 2	99 11	94 4	97 0	93 5	96 9
	Working Hours (b)	.. 46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	Hourly Wage (b)	.. 2/1½	2/1½	2/3½	2/0½	2/1½	2/-	2/1½
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
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	47.86	45.69
	Hourly Wage	.. 1/1	1/0½	1/1½	11½	1/2½	1/-	1/0½
31st Dec., 1922	Weekly Wage	.. 47 8	48 0	48 2	44 0	56 4	47 7	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	.. 49 3	49 5	50 5	46 4	56 4	48 6	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	.. 49 1	49 7	50 10	46 6	56 11	50 3	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
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage	.. 49 8	50 8	51 9	48 10	57 6	50 2	50 7
	Working Hours	.. 46.17	45.83	44.00	46.10	45.57	47.86	45.78
	Hourly Wage	.. 1/1	1/1½	1/2	1/0½	1/3½	1/0½	1/1½

(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 was a diminution in each of the States during the year 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. The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924 and 1925 has been towards a slight reduction in hours of labour, particularly in Queensland where a 44-hour week became operative on 1st July, 1925. 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,  
1921 TO 1925.

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., 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	1,589	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	1,708	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
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,741	1,763	1,813	1,712	1,760	1,695	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,808	1,823	1,988	1,761	1,827	1,723	1,829

FEMALE WORKERS.

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
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weekly Wage ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
	{ Hourly Wage ..	1,944	2,000	2,125	1,913	2,280	1,893	1,995

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, 1921 to 1925. 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,  
1921 TO 1925.

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., 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	46.60	46.27	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
31st Dec., 1925	{ Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	{ Index-numbers ..	956	960	897	960	945	966	949

(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 year 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 both 1924 and 1925. The weighted average weekly hours index-number for Australia at the 31st December, 1925, was 949, as compared with 1,000 at 30th April, 1914, a reduction of 5.1 per cent. The lowest weighted average nominal weekly hours index-number at the 31st December, 1925, was that for Queensland (897), followed in the order named by Western Australia (945), New South Wales (956), South Australia and Victoria (960), and Tasmania (966).

5. *Nominal and Effective Wages, 1901 to 1925.*—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate 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 1925.

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

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901. to 1912.	1913 to 1924.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1924.														
New South Wales ..	158	874	858	1,003	1,096	1,257	1,286	1,498	1,835	1,869	1,785	1,844	1,824	1,873		
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,065	1,229	1,278	1,404	1,679	1,826	1,783	1,865	1,862	1,897		
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,042	1,273	1,356	1,534	1,785	1,886	1,830	1,837	1,868	1,950		
South Australia ..	134	567	819	1,013	1,062	1,231	1,278	1,373	1,613	1,745	1,708	1,770	1,791	1,841		
Western Australia ..	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,226	1,345	1,372	1,516	1,751	1,853	1,829	1,838	1,847	1,893		
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,028	1,163	1,193	1,346	1,674	1,788	1,726	1,802	1,805	1,823		
Australia (a) ..	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,085	1,252	1,296	1,462	1,752	1,844	1,785	1,840	1,839	1,887		

(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 1925 the average weekly rate of wage in New South Wales increased 87 per cent., in Victoria 93 per cent., in Queensland 96 per cent., in South Australia 82 per cent., in Western Australia 64 per cent., and in Tasmania 128 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 89 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 1925.

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 1925.(a)**

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
New South Wales ..	961	973	906	882	890	875	911	1,079	1,113	1,040	1,069	1,048
Victoria ..	915	1,037	961	929	925	904	875	1,038	1,102	1,036	1,097	1,073
Queensland ..	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,041	1,042	990	1,036	1,244	1,273	1,214	1,232	1,241
South Australia ..	948	957	929	961	934	901	853	1,027	1,090	1,036	1,051	1,053
Western Australia ..	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,051	1,095	1,008	1,012	1,139	1,226	1,192	1,161	1,162
Tasmania ..	827	838	942	876	869	840	830	977	1,053	1,000	1,017	1,044
Australia (b) ..	964	1,000	948	930	932	907	911	1,076	1,126	1,062	1,095	1,081

(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 1925 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 in 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. 4), 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 normal 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 1925.(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
1925	1,861	8.9	1,695	1,779	1,722	1,081	1,033

(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. A rise in wages coincided with a fall in prices during 1924 and the effective wage increased, but as the average unemployment was higher than in the preceding year the increase in the effective wage was greater for full work than allowing for unemployment. Wages and prices both rose during 1925, the latter reaching their highest point since the "peak" of 1920. Unemployment remained stationary, but as prices rose more rapidly than the rise in nominal wages, effective wages decreased. In 1925 the effective wage allowing for unemployment was 3.3 per cent., and working full time 8.1 per cent., higher than in 1911.

### § 3. Changes in Rates of Wage.

1. *General.*—A change in rate of wages 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 may 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. *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 unemployment 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, 1925.* During the year 1925 the number of increases in rates of wage recorded was in excess of the decreases.



## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN EACH STATE, 1925.

State.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Week.
		£		£		£	s. d.
New South Wales ..	493,080	41,751	21,043	971	514,123	40,780	1 7
Victoria ..	271,642	27,146	71,482	7,178	343,123	19,968	1 2
Queensland ..	180,940	44,126	3,655	151	184,595	43,975	4 9
South Australia ..	84,334	11,530	29,387	1,837	113,721	9,693	1 8
Western Australia ..	36,276	3,398	3,876	199	40,152	3,199	1 7
Tasmania ..	10,604	675	7,962	382	18,566	292	0 4
Northern Territory ..	16		10	9	26	(a) 9	(a) 6 11
Federal Capital Territory	243	133			243	133	10 11
Common to all States (b)	46,960	1,461	700	66	47,660	1,395	0 7
Total ..	1,124,095	130,220	138,114	10,793	1,262,209	119,427	1 11

(a) Decrease.

(b) See footnote (a) at bottom of page.

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.

(iii) *Australia, 1921 to 1925.* The following table gives separate particulars of the effect of increases and decreases in rates of wage in Australia during the years 1921 to 1925 :—

## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Head per Week.
		£		£		£	s. d.
1921 ..	605,295	205,086	126,970	19,428	732,265	185,658	5 1
1922 ..	156,017	22,412	472,099	92,974	628,116	(a) 70,562	(a) 2 3
1923 ..	820,856	125,379	169,906	21,361	990,852	104,018	3 0
1924 ..	337,823	85,616	509,832	44,250	847,655	41,366	1 0
1925 ..	1,124,095	130,220	138,114	10,793	1,262,209	119,427	1 11

(a) Decrease.

## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT, 1921 TO 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T.	(a) All States.	Aust.
No. of Persons Affected	1921 272,782 1922 363,909 1923 519,440 1924 196,066 1925 514,123	238,084 90,172 276,094 338,761 343,123	115,722 78,791 30,051 52,975 184,595	44,696 35,722 63,209 111,261 113,721	22,695 18,547 32,057 40,598 40,152	14,783 16,038 25,918 26,144 18,566	.. .. 71 35 36	.. 337 1,002 30 243	23,503 24,600 43,010 81,785 47,660	732,265 628,116 990,852 847,655 1,262,209
Total Net Amount of Increase per Week	1921 £ 38,371 1922 £ 429,930 1923 £ 53,868 1924 £ 7,860 1925 £ 40,780	1921 £ 77,425 1922 £ 66,625 1923 £ 36,934 1924 £ 7,312 1925 £ 19,968	1921 £ 30,790 1922 £ 14,836 1923 £ 22,177 1924 £ 13,993 1925 £ 43,975	1921 £ 13,409 1922 £ 22,687 1923 £ 9,784 1924 £ 7,835 1925 £ 9,693	1921 £ 11,395 1922 £ 1,589 1923 £ 669 1924 £ 1,879 1925 £ 3,199	1921 £ 6,370 1922 £ 1,701 1923 £ 1,755 1924 £ 1,335 1925 £ 293	1921 £ .. 1922 £ .. 1923 £ 71 1924 £ 35 1925 £ 36	1921 £ .. 1922 £ 337 1923 £ 1,002 1924 £ 30 1925 £ 243	1921 £ 7,898 1922 £ 6188 1923 £ 3,645 1924 £ 1,136 1925 £ 1,395	1921 £ 185,658 1922 £ 70,562 1923 £ 104,018 1924 £ 41,366 1925 £ 119,427
Average Increase per Head per Week	1921 s. d. 2 10 1922 s. d. 2 4 1923 s. d. 2 9 1924 s. d. 0 5 1925 s. d. 1 7	1921 s. d. 6 6 1922 s. d. 6 6 1923 s. d. 2 8 1924 s. d. 0 5 1925 s. d. 1 2	1921 s. d. 5 4 1922 s. d. 6 9 1923 s. d. 6 1 1924 s. d. 5 3 1925 s. d. 4 9	1921 s. d. 6 0 1922 s. d. 6 1 1923 s. d. 3 11 1924 s. d. 0 5 1925 s. d. 1 8	1921 s. d. 10 1 1922 s. d. 1 9 1923 s. d. 1 1 1924 s. d. 0 11 1925 s. d. 1 7	1921 s. d. 8 7 1922 s. d. 1 589 1923 s. d. 1 755 1924 s. d. 1 335 1925 s. d. 293	1921 s. d. .. 1922 s. d. .. 1923 s. d. 71 1924 s. d. 35 1925 s. d. 36	1921 s. d. .. 1922 s. d. 337 1923 s. d. 1,002 1924 s. d. 30 1925 s. d. 243	1921 s. d. 7,898 1922 s. d. 6188 1923 s. d. 3,645 1924 s. d. 1,136 1925 s. d. 1,395	1921 s. d. 5 1 1922 s. d. 2 3 1923 s. d. 3 0 1924 s. d. 1 0 1925 s. d. 1 11

(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 workers affected in each year naturally depend largely on the magnitude of the different industries and callings in which changes took place.

(iv) *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 1921 to 1925:—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA,  
1921 TO 1925.

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.
1921.								
Number of Persons affected	11,915	58,632	55,555	89,542	12,116	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 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	66,784	68,069	62,330
1923.								
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	6333	1,021	9,144	13,034	828
1924.								
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	£ 62,506	62,270	2,713	4,103	4,246	61,881	7,806	580
1925.								
Number of Persons affected	95,720	123,669	68,596	40,202	16,224	115,692	121,549	31,373
Amount of Increase per week	£ 7,905	9,500	7,009	1,444	1,128	8,407	10,149	4,108

Particulars.	Industrial Groups—continued.						
	IX. Rail and Tram Services.	X. Other Land Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous.	ALL GROUPS.
1921.							
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	185,658
1922.							
Number of Persons affected	86,161	12,603	28,432	56,292	15,663	152,380	628,116
Amount of Increase per week	£ 215,311	22,075	2559	4,136	21,288	212,316	270,562
1923.							
Number of Persons affected	155,830	23,510	79,466	24,720	21,724	238,821	990,852
Amount of Increase per week	£ 11,990	237	6,873	9,647	3,117	26,399	104,018
1924.							
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	25,350	4,749	1,834	19,243	41,366
1925.							
Number of Persons affected	188,752	27,249	77,285	55,495	37,472	262,931	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week	£ 18,196	3,435	5,656	10,577	4,239	27,074	119,427

(a) Decrease.

(v) *Male and Female Occupations.* Included in the changes in rates of wage recorded in the table on page 524 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, 1921 TO 1925.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	All States. (a)	Australia.
NUMBER OF MALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.										
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	749,728
1925	429,300	322,075	162,071	98,337	36,651	17,848	26	243	40,854	1,108,305

NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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) 67,431
1923	50,954	33,902	(b) 2,290	9,270	(b) 123	1,893	(b) 20	298	3,654	97,638
1924	6,947	2,600	11,869	7,010	1,457	1,086	15	1	356	31,341
1925	37,480	18,448	41,893	8,748	2,767	293	(b) 9	133	1,213	110,966

AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO MALE EMPLOYEES.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
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
1925	1 9	1 2	5 2	1 10	1 6	0 4	(b)6 11	10 11	0 7	2 0

NUMBER OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED.

1921	52,060	52,189	24,804	7,634	2,707	1,299	..	..	1,793	143,395
1922	41,006	15,167	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
1925	84,823	21,048	21,624	15,384	3,501	718	..	..	6,806	153,904

NET AMOUNT OF INCREASE PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1925	3,300	1,520	2,082	945	432	..	..	..	182	8,461

AVERAGE INCREASE PER HEAD PER WEEK TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
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
1925	0 9	1 5	1 11	1 3	2 6	..	0 6	..	..	1 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.

3. Methods by which Changes were Effected, and Results.—(i) *Summary, Australia, 1925.* The following table gives for Australia 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 1925, 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, 1925.

Methods by which Changes were Effected.	Without Stoppage of Work.		After Stoppage of Work.		All Changes.	
	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.	No. of Work-people Affected.	Total Net Amount of Increase per Week.
By direct negotiations .. ..	15,001	£ 1,775	109	£ 105	15,110	£ 1,880
By negotiations, intervention or assistance of third party ..	23,317	1,959	..	..	23,317	1,959
By award of Court under Commonwealth Act .. ..	581,291	29,991	15	5	581,306	29,996
By agreement registered under Commonwealth Act .. ..	64,849	4,524	..	..	64,849	4,524
By award or determination under State Acts .. ..	547,986	80,322	..	..	547,986	80,322
By agreement registered under State Acts .. ..	29,641	746	..	..	29,641	746
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>1,262,085</b>	<b>119,317</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,262,209</b>	<b>119,427</b>

(ii) *Summary, Australia, 1921 to 1925.* 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, 1921 TO 1925.

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.
<b>1921.</b>								
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
<b>1922.</b>								
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	a 12,307	a 4,242	a 58,266	a 2,774	a 70,562
<b>1923.</b>								
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
<b>1924.</b>								
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	a 14,636	a 51	31,668	9,104	41,366
<b>1925.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	..	15,110	23,317	581,306	64,849	547,986	29,641	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week £	..	1,880	1,959	29,996	4,524	80,322	746	119,427

(a) 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, 1925.**—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1925, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the years 1913 to 1924 was published in Labour Reports Nos. 5 to 15.

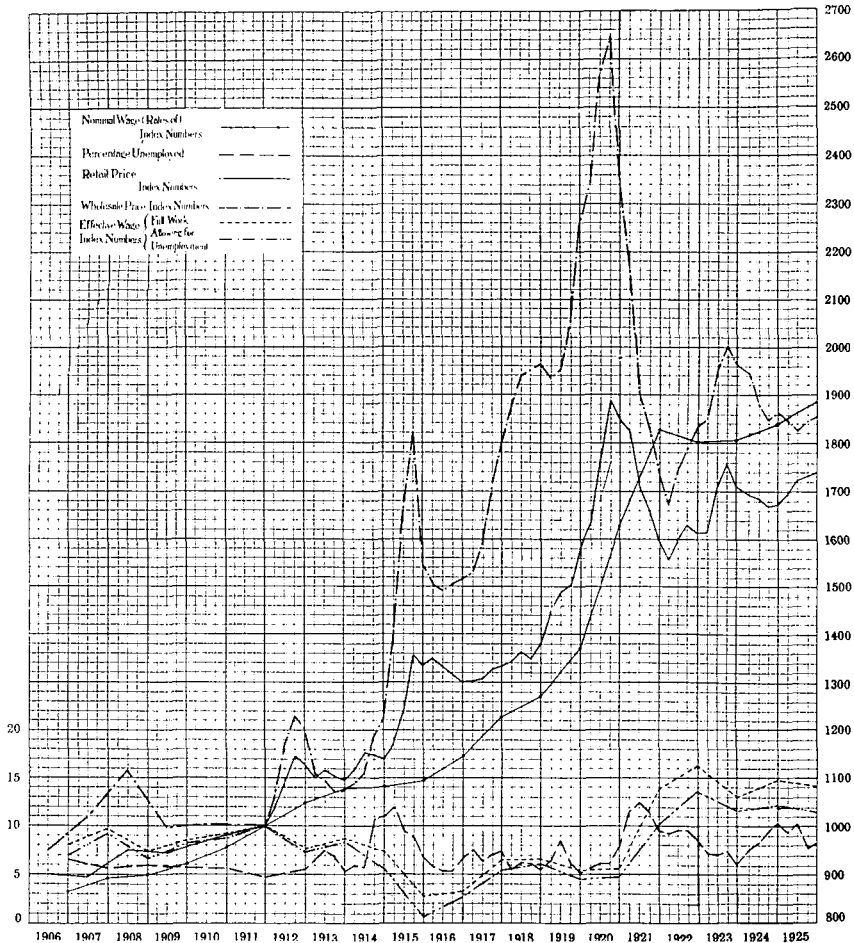
## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1925.

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.							£
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	13	13	1,964	306	2,270	21,282	17,173
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution ..	3	10	247	12	259	381	361
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. ..	1	1	25	..	25	38	25
VI.	Other manufacturing ..	3	3	1,228	43	1,271	12,292	6,711
VII.	Building ..	2	2	203	..	203	630	480
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. ..	384	384	117,527	14,958	132,485	562,428	673,018
IX.	Railway and tramway services ..	3	3	134	500	634	1,227	1,081
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	7	20	1,097	886	1,983	43,835	31,649
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. ..	4	4	56	29	85	245	388
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	10	18	811	203	1,014	7,482	5,715
	Total ..	(a) 430	458	123,292	16,937	140,229	649,840	736,601
	VICTORIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	3	3	295	1,668	1,963	61,738	72,963
III.	Food, drink, etc. ..	3	9	620	..	620	4,920	2,505
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. ..	1	1	29	7	36	180	231
VI.	Other manufacturing ..	1	3	204	..	204	3,108	2,214
VII.	Building ..	3	121	536	260	796	21,806	23,602
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. ..	2	2	1,830	..	1,830	1,856	2,196
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	2	15	785	693	1,478	28,914	20,240
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. ..	1	1	84	..	84	252	86
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	3	3	1,045	544	1,589	8,963	6,780
	Total ..	19	158	5,428	3,172	8,600	131,737	130,817

(a) Four disputes in New South Wales (involving 4 establishments and 587 workers), commenced in 1924.

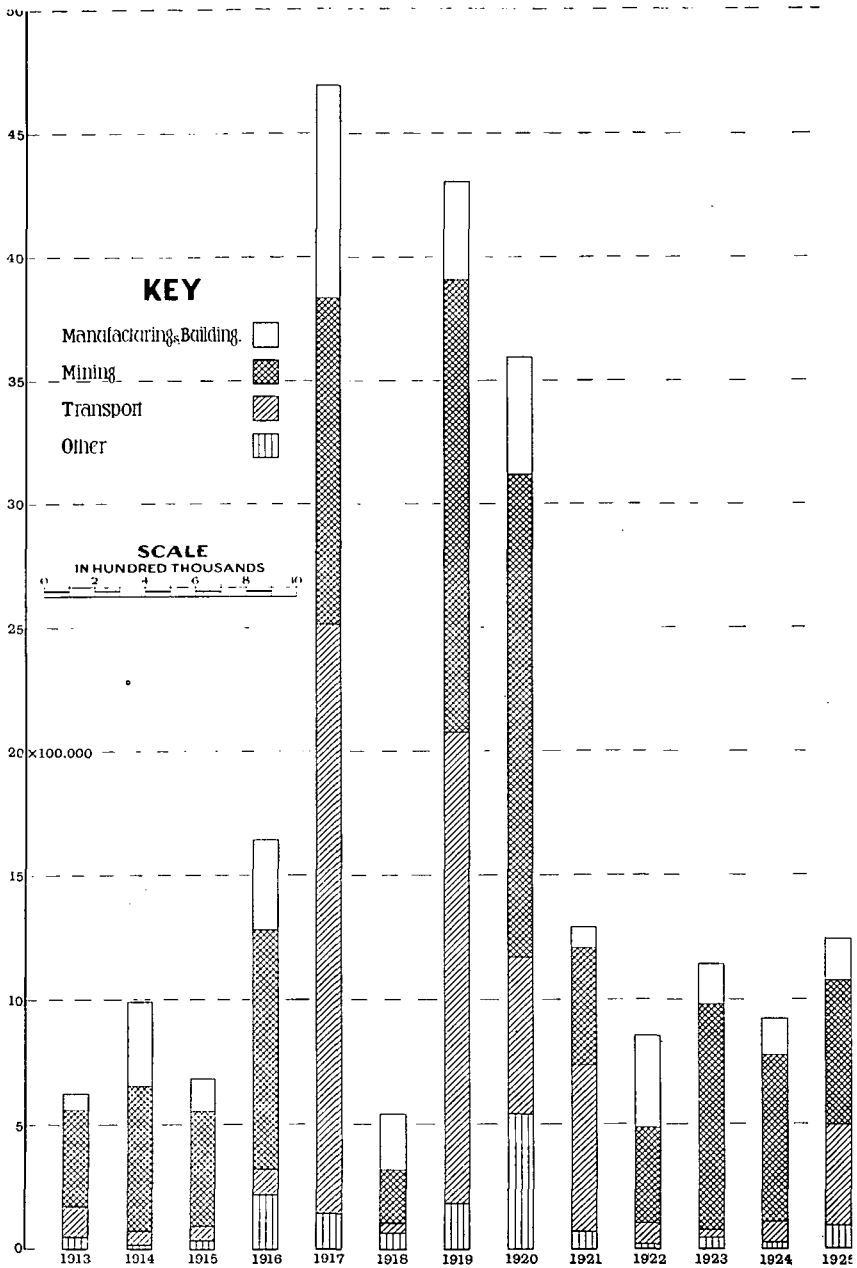
\* In respect of years prior to 1922, the figures include complete particulars of industrial disputes which commenced during any calendar year; and where any such dispute extended into a subsequent year, the relative figures were also incorporated in those for the year in which the dispute commenced.

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1906 TO 1925.



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 (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers 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 1925.



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.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS,  
1925—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Dis- putes.	No. of Estab. In- volved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- directly.	Total.		
QUEENSLAND.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	3	3	63	..	63	650	526
III.	Food, drink, etc.	3	3	563	580	1,143	21,044	19,685
VII.	Building	4	4	166	14	180	1,583	1,349
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	3	3	251	7	258	8,616	8,632
IX.	Railway and tramway services	2	2	17,557	..	17,557	122,904	123,972
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	7	49	1,832	239	2,071	65,029	10,316
	Total	22	64	20,432	840	21,272	219,826	164,480
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	13	6	19	893	650
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	355	..	355	2,485	1,000
VII.	Building	3	3	169	50	219	5,268	3,314
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	1	1	196	..	196	392	301
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	3	16	340	225	565	10,352	6,958
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	2	45	..	45	73	17
	Total	11	24	1,118	281	1,399	19,463	12,240
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc.	1	1	70	..	70	515	420
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	32	..	32	192	160
VII.	Building	1	8	137	100	237	8,058	6,598
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	1	2	80	560	640	3,840	4,608
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	195	..	195	2,145	2,000
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	3	16	304	148	452	14,110	11,275
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	150	2,500	..	2,500	70,000	31,250
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	3	6	9	81	47
	Total	10	180	3,321	814	4,135	98,941	56,358
TASMANIA.								
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	90	..	90	90	270
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	15	79	70	149	2,899	2,030
	Total	3	16	169	70	239	2,989	2,300
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
VII.	Building	1	1	16	..	16	39	39
	Total	1	1	16	..	16	39	39
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.								
VII.	Building	1	2	231	..	231	231	292
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	3	592	33	625	5,504	4,417
	Total	3	5	823	33	856	5,735	4,709
ALL STATES.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc.	1	1	70	..	70	515	420
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	20	20	2,335	1,980	4,315	84,563	91,312
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution	11	24	1,875	592	2,467	28,920	23,821
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc.	2	2	54	7	61	218	256
VI.	Other manufacturing	5	7	1,464	43	1,507	15,592	9,085
VII.	Building	15	141	1,458	424	1,882	37,615	35,674
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc.	391	392	119,884	15,525	135,409	577,132	688,755
IX.	Railway and tramway services	6	6	17,886	500	18,386	126,276	127,053
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	24	131	4,437	2,261	6,698	165,139	82,468
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	4	4	50	29	85	245	388
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	2	151	2,584	..	2,584	70,252	31,336
XIV.	Miscellaneous	18	27	2,496	786	3,282	22,103	16,976
	Total Australia (a)	499	906	154,599	22,147	176,746	1,128,570	1,107,644

(a) See note (a) to table on page 528.



3. Industrial Disputes,\* Australia, 1921 to 1925.—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 1921 to 1925, classified according to industrial groups :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1925.\*

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.						
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	504
1925 ..	39	15	391	30	24	(a) 499
1921 to 1925 ..	213	51	1,788	172	122	2,346

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.						
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	677	58,043	2,257	5,560	76,321
1924 ..	6,899	2,753	133,876	5,631	3,287	152,446
1925 ..	8,420	1,882	135,409	25,084	5,951	176,746
1921 to 1925 ..	43,579	6,920	557,026	58,548	20,873	686,946

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.						
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
1925 ..	129,808	37,615	577,132	291,415	92,600	1,128,570
1921 to 1925 ..	812,807	112,831	2,998,437	1,161,713	252,275	5,338,063

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.						
1921 ..	£ 39,416	£ 24,719	£ 459,450	£ 397,169	£ 49,721	£ 970,475
1922 ..	242,159	3,280	427,363	64,597	14,108	751,507
1923 ..	120,127	6,284	1,086,904	29,580	32,611	1,275,906
1924 ..	80,746	21,350	735,572	61,823	18,199	917,699
1925 ..	124,894	35,674	688,755	209,521	48,700	1,107,544
1921 to 1925 ..	607,342	91,316	3,398,044	762,690	163,339	5,022,731

(a) See footnote (a), page 528.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1921 to 1925.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in various years from 1921 to 1925, 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 528 does not, therefore, apply.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.(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.	Indirectly.	Total.		
New South Wales	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	416	584	116,087	17,648	133,735	706,796	755,142
	1925	(b) 430	458	123,292	16,937	140,229	649,840	736,601
Victoria	1921	20	118	4,119	2,161	6,280	109,595	69,629
	1922	29	412	5,819	311	6,130	64,701	47,695
	1923	29	133	6,279	771	7,050	98,880	108,512
	1924	30	36	9,621	416	10,037	66,567	50,735
	1925	19	158	5,428	3,172	8,600	131,737	130,817
Queensland	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	59,081
	1924	25	30	2,889	236	3,135	47,214	42,918
	1925	22	64	20,432	840	21,272	219,826	164,480
South Australia	1921	19	45	2,158	1,002	3,160	57,038	37,315
	1922	19	229	2,294	929	3,223	114,334	47,222
	1923	10	23	806	975	1,781	25,971	20,440
	1924	14	52	1,546	147	1,693	19,459	14,851
	1925	11	24	1,118	281	1,399	19,463	12,240
Western Australia	1921	12	56	1,906	10,157	12,063	145,103	86,038
	1922	8	91	643	163	806	43,472	33,208
	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
	1925	10	180	3,321	814	4,135	98,941	56,358
Tasmania	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	5	5	268	54	322	11,606	12,268
	1925	3	16	169	70	239	2,989	2,300
Fed. Cap. Territory	1922	2	2	217	..	217	2,604	2,035
	1923	1	1	23	..	23	322	250
	1925	3	5	823	33	856	5,735	4,709
Northern Territory	1921	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1922	2	2	40	..	40	1,040	770
	1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1924	1	1	27	..	27	270	356
	1925	1	1	16	..	16	39	39
Australia	1921	624	888	120,198	44,003	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	1,275,508
	1924	504	941	132,569	19,577	152,146	918,646	917,699
	1925	(b) 499	906	154,599	22,147	176,746	1,128,570	1,107,544

(a) See footnote \*, page 528.

(b) See footnote (a), page 528.

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

The figures given in the tables show that of the total number of disputes (499) which occurred in 1925 no less than 391 occurred in connexion with the mining industry, and of these 384 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £1,107,544. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £673,018, or more than half the total loss in wages for Australia.

(i) *New South Wales*.—The following are some of the principal disputes which occurred in the coal-mining industry in this State:—Aberdare Central (objection to a certain employee), Abermain No. 2 (improvement in working conditions), Pelaw Main (non-employment of four wheelers on a certain day), Richmond Main (sympathy with employees at Pelaw Main), Ayrfield (dispute as to kind of explosives supplied), South Bulli (ceased work because of arrest of seven employees for non-payment of fines imposed by Civil Court), Seaham No. 2 (refusal of two employees to pay levy to *Labor Daily*), Abermain No. 1 (temporary dismissal of two machinemèn because of breakdown), South Bulli (refusal of work on certain extension, endorsed by employees who ceased work), Stockton Borehole and Stanford Merthyr (dispute as to kind of safety lamps), Pelaw Main (dispute as to rate paid to a wheeler). The disputes in other industries (apart from shipping, which is referred to later) were unimportant in respect to time or wages lost.

(ii) *Victoria*.—The principal disputes in this State, apart from shipping disputes, occurred in connexion with the Engineering and Building trades. The engineers at the State Coal Mine at Wonthaggi ceased work on the refusal of the management to grant the demands made in a new log of wages and conditions. This affected not only the engineers but also the miners. The dispute was finally settled by the Coal Tribunal functioning under the provisions of the Industrial Peace Act. In the building trades a cessation of work occurred in consequence of the refusal by bricklayers and plasterers to accept reductions in wages. The wages being paid and those suggested were both above award rates.

(iii) *Queensland*.—The principal disputes were—Babinda Sugar Mill (demand of employees that at least 75 per cent. of the cane cutters should be British); Railway Employees (restoration of a 5 per cent. reduction in wages made in 1922). This dispute was settled by the Government granting an increase of 5s. per week. Waterside Workers (attempt to enforce "rotary" system of employing waterside workers).

(iv) *South Australia*.—A stoppage of work occurred in connexion with the Government's "Thousand Homes Scheme" owing to the dismissal of a foreman plasterer on the ground of incompetence.

(v) *Western Australia*.—Two important disputes occurred in this State, that of Hotel, Club, and Restaurant employees in reference to the operation of the preference clause in the agreement, and that of Timber Mill employees in Perth for the 44 hours week.

(vi) *Tasmania*.—The disputes in this State numbered only three and were of minor importance.

(vii) *Shipping*.—Two important disputes occurred in this industry. The first commenced at the end of 1924 and had reference to the place where members of the union should be engaged by the representatives of the shipowners. The practice up to this time had been for the seamen to be "picked up" at the ship's side. The union demanded that the engagement should be made at the Union's office. Upon the matter coming before the Commonwealth Arbitration Court the President fixed the Mercantile Marine Office in each of the capital cities as the "picking up" place.

The second dispute arose after the deregistration of the Seamen's Union by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court.

The union demanded that the rates of wages and conditions provided under the Award of the Commonwealth Court should be included in the articles of each member of the Union engaged. After negotiations by the parties the employers consented to do this, subject to certain modifications upon the officials of the Union agreeing not to exercise job control in the future.

A strike of British seamen occurred about the middle of the year which, however, had only an indirect effect on Australian workers. As the tabulations of the Bureau refer to purely Australian disputes, no account of this strike has been taken, either directly or indirectly.

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, 1925.—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 1925, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1925.(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 .. .. .	218	65,918	8,505	74,423	73,790	£ 88,819
2 days and more than 1 day	66	20,156	4,160	24,316	47,223	55,605
3 days and more than 2 days	29	8,615	578	9,193	27,298	30,877
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. .. .	41	10,648	1,322	11,970	52,614	62,353
1 week and less than 2 weeks	59	28,541	2,040	30,581	227,314	232,731
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	35	8,032	1,051	9,083	150,598	163,305
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	28	8,130	2,745	10,875	322,294	303,077
8 weeks and over .. .. .	23	4,559	1,746	6,305	227,439	170,777
Total .. .. .	499	154,599	22,147	176,746	1,128,570	1,107,544

(a) See footnote (a) on page 528.

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1924 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports.

6. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1914 to 1925 (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 1920 to 1925, classified according to principal cause :—

### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1925.(b)

Causes of Dispute.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.(b)
<b>NUMBER OF DISPUTES.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	50	94	19	15	35	44	33
(b) Against decrease ..	3	..	2	18	4	7	5
(c) Other wage questions ..	67	106	161	83	37	95	99
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	1	16	12	12	10	2	4
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	13	9	16	2	2	4	6
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	13	20	5	6	4	6	8
(b) Other union questions ..	11	27	22	15	11	31	27
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	83	135	169	155	68	137	118
5. Working Conditions ..	7	106	162	89	57	111	106
6. Sympathetic ..	3	2	13	8	9	8	16
7. Other Causes ..	21	39	43	42	37	59	77
Total ..	337	554	624	445	274	504	499(b)

### NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	7,362	41,748	2,659	843	9,816	8,312	23,443
(b) Against decrease ..	534	..	850	4,432	174	1,113	1,123
(c) Other wage questions ..	15,243	21,139	52,704	24,459	8,696	30,585	31,387
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	220	20,758	2,313	5,935	6,488	1,328	462
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	3,237	2,137	2,113	124	485	1,172	2,668
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,807	2,752	1,353	1,072	473	1,005	1,592
(b) Other union questions ..	1,593	7,534	6,607	4,264	2,310	12,078	10,957
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	14,863	26,163	45,408	36,194	11,269	39,839	36,075
5. Working Conditions ..	17,053	21,204	35,790	27,334	15,605	36,630	35,034
6. Sympathetic ..	675	1,397	3,251	1,119	875	436	5,328
7. Other Causes ..	4,462	10,734	12,053	10,556	20,130	19,948	28,677
Total ..	71,049	155,566	165,101	116,332	76,321	152,446	176,746

### NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	99,451	793,935	13,731	8,694	64,493	120,317	209,356
(b) Against decrease ..	32,965	..	25,700	154,791	1,012	13,553	24,352
(c) Other wage questions ..	169,847	101,219	192,858	149,129	81,749	111,613	154,169
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	9,240	534,458	13,315	164,704	101,807	130,440	12,816
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	16,855	37,486	13,260	1,701	36,092	42,441	16,173
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-un-onlists ..	92,720	24,900	17,890	5,485	784	2,555	14,784
(b) Other union questions ..	6,968	21,999	117,199	18,976	17,743	40,046	105,195
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	64,367	129,215	431,130	198,256	63,094	253,779	214,738
5. Working Conditions ..	584,289	128,967	69,732	123,665	134,830	124,041	150,325
6. Sympathetic ..	2,125	72,940	6,150	9,438	6,357	926	41,046
7. Other Causes ..	11,568	26,946	55,652	23,756	638,016	78,935	185,616
Total ..	1,090,395	1,872,065	956,617	858,685	1,145,977	918,646	1,123,570

(a) See footnote \*, page 518.

(b) See footnote (a), page 528.

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 1925, 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 1921 to 1925, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA,  
1921 TO 1925.(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.
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	8	18,050	77,785	16,366	81	175,379	383,342	132,615	735
1923 ..	77	156	24	8	12,951	54,926	5,787	1,784	65,625	917,162	132,135	2,392
1924 ..	146	201	48	45	32,762	89,709	13,843	15,432	153,533	416,174	291,039	29,445
1925.. <sup>b</sup>	130	335	20	6	50,983	116,658	4,844	2,829	448,136	549,796	52,321	12,92d

(a) See footnote (a), page 528.

(b) The following particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1925, 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 .. ..	6	6	1,285	57,078	£ 65,866
Queensland .. ..	1	1	10	370	290
Western Australia .. ..	1	1	137	7,946	6,960
Total .. ..	8	8	1,432	65,394	73,116

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 1920 to 1925, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA, 1914 TO 1925.(a)

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.(b)
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	247	380	412	249	140	264	209
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	11	25	65	52	25	20	24
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	7	33	18	7	4	11	12
By reference to Board or Court	17	8	4	7	2	7	2
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	5	8	11	5	2	12	13
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	16	22	10	11	5	5	4
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	4	4	2	6	1	2	1
By Other Methods	30	74	102	96	86	179	226
Total	337	554	624	433	265	500	(c) 491

## NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	48,204	101,404	93,912	62,000	30,213	70,895	75,961
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	8,054	6,278	20,775	15,554	10,277	4,448	12,767
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	770	9,312	11,229	1,222	615	2,519	1,781
By reference to Board or Court	7,308	1,711	1,083	1,128	544	2,952	208
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	205	766	12,037	446	53	4,262	3,251
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	629	2,141	334	790	315	130	160
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	86	182	53	171	18	170	28
By Other Methods	5,793	33,772	25,678	30,971	33,408	66,370	81,158
Total	71,049	155,566	165,101	112,282	75,448	151,746	175,314

## NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	803,799	827,985	245,765	353,336	229,503	373,155	470,110
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	128,231	217,916	156,076	187,164	582,929	103,005	320,046
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4,256	69,436	136,735	16,016	25,531	41,900	17,650
By reference to Board or Court	120,085	19,236	22,752	13,767	8,484	142,939	4,388
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,421	34,205	327,048	8,081	473	74,376	67,272
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	4,402	160,562	3,542	11,759	2,517	3,040	1,163
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	3,646	12,919	538	603	18	1,250	1,932
By Other Methods	23,955	529,806	64,161	101,348	267,859	150,526	180,665
Total	1,090,395	1,872,065	956,617	692,074	1,117,314	890,191	1,063,176

(a) See footnote \*, page 528.

(b) See footnote (a), page 528.

(c) See footnote (b), page 537.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA,  
1914 TO 1925 (a)—continued.

Methods of Settlement.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.(b)
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## ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Negotiation—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	402,729	534,760	240,442	283,515	252,059	398,628	505,563
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	66,225	154,093	146,929	200,835	676,288	114,830	230,771
Under State Industrial Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	1,841	46,831	79,233	14,663	24,158	34,151	15,395
By reference to Board or Court	64,208	11,205	19,452	10,541	7,536	110,559	3,499
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	712	19,285	198,887	5,701	350	56,766	68,880
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	2,076	94,235	2,203	8,670	1,737	2,111	1,225
By Closing-down Establishment Permanently	1,651	7,125	355	635	13	970	2,318
By Other Methods	11,786	356,182	69,527	92,308	279,104	167,149	206,775
Total	551,228	1,223,716	757,028	616,868	1,241,245	885,164	1,034,428

(a) See footnote \*, page 528.

(b) See footnote (a), page 528.

(c) See footnote (b), page 537.

The majority of the disputes were settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled ranging between 47 per cent. in 1924 and 76 per cent. in 1921. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration Acts has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging from 2 per cent. in 1923 to 15 per cent. in 1920. The proportion in 1925 was 8 per cent. 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,



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, 1925.

State.	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. ..	102	166,062	18,252	11.0
Victoria .. ..	84	122,595	10,484	8.6
Queensland .. ..	44	35,852	2,365	6.6
South Australia .. ..	54	36,843	1,569	4.3
Western Australia .. ..	60	22,805	1,383	6.1
Tasmania .. ..	36	7,223	567	7.8
Australia .. ..	380	391,380	34,620	8.8

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

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1925.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
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
1925 .. ..	380	391,380	34,620	8.8
1925 1st Quarter .. ..	405	406,859	37,836	9.3
2nd „ .. ..	355	355,133	36,490	10.2
3rd „ .. ..	372	376,278	29,861	7.9
4th „ .. ..	388	423,248	34,287	8.1

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, 1925.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	17	20,198	1,311	6.5
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	61	61,118	7,004	11.5
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	50	38,251	3,730	9.8
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	20	39,649	2,445	6.2
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	12	16,468	366	2.2
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	63	33,884	4,847	14.3
VII. Building ..	45	50,621	3,612	7.2
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	27,098	2,132	7.9
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services	9	11,690	671	5.7
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous ..	82	93,003	8,502	9.1
All Groups .. ..	380	391,380	34,620	8.8

### § 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, 86 industrial unions of employees with approximately 113,739 members; South Australia, 19 organizations of employees with 31,590 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 May, 1926, there were on the register 16 organizations of employers with 7,461 persons, firms or corporations affiliated, and 143 organizations of employees with 666,154 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 1925 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1925.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales .. .. .	188	715	309,002
Victoria .. .. .	154	367	220,941
Queensland .. .. .	107	287	127,735
South Australia .. .. .	101	85	73,611
Western Australia .. .. .	114	152	48,855
Tasmania .. .. .	75	45	15,130
Northern Territory .. .. .	4	..	448
Total .. .. .	743	1,651	795,722
Australia (a) .. .. .	382 (a)	2,012 (b)	795,722

(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 382 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,012 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 795,722 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, 1921 TO 1925.

Industrial Groups.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	19	19	18	18	18 (4) <sup>a</sup>
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	75	69	70	69	68 (21)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	66	68	64	65	65 (39)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . .	25	25	24	24	22 (10)
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	18	17	14	14	14 (10)
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	85	84	79	78	78 (36)
VII. Building . . .	57	54	52	51	51 (31)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	19	19	16	16	15 (12)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . .	49	52	51	51	50 (33)
X. Other Land Transport . . .	20	20	14	13	13 (8)
XI. Shipping, etc. . .	70	74	94	91	56 (31)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	9	10	8	8	8 (3)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	24	26	26	23	22 (16)
XIV. Miscellaneous . . .	260	276	267	270	263 (128)
Total . . .	796	813	797	791	743 (382) <sup>a</sup>
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	25,541	23,582	24,465	23,859	32,279
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	57,012	53,637	59,032	68,243	72,750
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	51,698	54,497	58,603	55,402	58,326
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . .	42,069	44,540	45,842	46,521	44,632
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	15,059	15,341	16,249	15,856	16,532
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	38,873	37,942	38,554	40,376	41,689
VII. Building . . .	42,244	42,177	46,231	51,819	55,314
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	39,967	38,082	37,063	40,996	44,403
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . .	88,731	92,152	89,405	90,365	108,037
X. Other Land Transport . . .	16,944	20,376	16,386	17,785	18,219
XI. Shipping, etc. . .	40,840	41,510	38,006	37,823	39,309
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	47,893	43,538	36,584	46,081	48,157
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	20,442	21,130	20,713	22,861	24,251
XIV. Miscellaneous . . .	175,696	174,434	172,550	171,168	191,824
Total . . .	703,009	702,938	699,743	729,155	795,722

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

Particulars are given in Labour Report No. 16 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 1925 :—

## INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1925.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions . .	19	16	9	23	37	104
Number of Members . .	22,250	49,234	72,977	171,908	326,624	642,993

(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 104 out of the 382 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an inter-state basis. The membership of these 104 unions amounts to 642,993, or 81 per cent. of the total membership (795,772) of all unions.

**3. Central Labour Organization.**—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 organisation, 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 of 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 1925 :—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1925.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	2	6	4	2	9	2	1	26
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated ..	88	190	83	62	209	52	3	687

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 occupation 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 1922 to 1925 :—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—STATES, 1922 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.								
1922 ..	115	167	60	46	62	17	..	467
1923 ..	137	132	85	48	54	24	..	480
1924 ..	127	135	80	49	53	25	..	469
1925 ..	133	141	78	52	51	25	..	480

NUMBER OF BRANCHES.								
1922 ..	135	71	39	..	12	5	..	262
1923 ..	102	49	54	..	12	8	..	225
1924 ..	79	41	70	..	12	8	..	210
1925 ..	480	621	194	1	17	2	..	1,315

MEMBERSHIP.								
1922 ..	18,187	18,963	7,648	2,888	1,713	2,307	..	51,706
1923 ..	27,027	19,813	12,918	5,101	2,477	2,751	..	70,087
1924 ..	28,667	21,095	17,060	5,746	2,646	2,716	..	77,930
1925 ..	38,931	34,274	17,831	6,346	3,369	2,599	..	103,350

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. On the other hand, the inclusion of additional associations accounts for the increased membership.

The large increase shown for "No. of Branches" for the year 1925 is wholly due to the inclusion of associations representing agricultural interests, while the increase in total membership is partly attributable to a more complete collection of statistics relating to these organizations.

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 1924 and 1925.

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS—AUSTRALIA, 1924 AND 1925.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	23	20	2	2	1,398	1,384
II. Engineering, etc. ..	14	14	12	11	3,435	3,456
III. Food, Drink, etc. ....	101	100	40	25	15,556	17,865
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ....	20	22	..	9	4,462	2,832
V. Books, Printing, etc. ....	35	34	..	3	3,509	3,310
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	49	49	2	1	3,142	3,234
VII. Building ..	28	27	10	12	2,754	2,983
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	13	13	1	..	344	320
X. Other Land Transport ..	14	18	..	1	2,240	3,009
XI. Shipping, etc. ....	16	16	2	2	310	256
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	25	30	139	1,243	22,280	46,487
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	18	17	..	..	3,696	1,727
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	113	120	2	6	14,804	16,487
Total ..	469	480	210	1,315	77,930	103,350

The female membership of these associations was 3,119 for 1924, and 4,924 for 1925.

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 to 1925 :—

## INTER-STATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, 1923 TO 1925.

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
1925 .. ..	3	5	4	10	8	30
No. OF MEMBERS.						
1923 .. ..	679	2,028	465	16,521	26,832	46,525
1924 .. ..	427	595	829	29,612	26,523	57,986
1925 .. ..	3,899	535	634	20,549	25,778	51,395

Of the total membership, amounting to 103,350, of these associations, 49.7 per cent. is organized on an inter-state basis.