

CHAPTER VIII.

LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

NOTE.—References in this chapter to the basic wage relate to the position prior to the announcement by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 12th September, 1953, of its decision in the Basic Wage Inquiry, reference to which will be found in the Appendix to this volume.

A. RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

The information on retail prices and price indexes presented in this chapter is extracted from the annual *Labour Report* of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. For a full explanation of methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved see the detailed reference in Chapter I. of *Labour Report* No. 40, 1951.

The retail prices of the extensive range of commodities and services in common demand (generally referred to as the "regimen") used in compiling the "C" Series Retail Price Index have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities. The complete list of items covered by the retail price regimen is published in the annual *Labour Report*.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for earlier years extending back to 1901 were collected by this Bureau, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States as far back as 1864.

§ 2. Retail Price Indexes.

Two main series of retail price index-numbers are compiled and shown in some detail in the following pages, namely:—

- (i) the "B" Series Index relating only to food, groceries and housing, continuously available from 1907;
- (ii) the "C" Series Index relating to food, groceries, housing, clothing, household drapery and utensils, fuel and light, and other miscellaneous items of household expenditure, continuously available from 1914.

The "B" Series Index comprises only the food, groceries and housing sections of the "C" Series Index.

The "C" Series Index in total provides a reliable measure of aggregate variations in retail prices (as well as of group indexes for component sections) of a high percentage of goods and services used in wage-earner households. This index is compiled for—

- (a) the capital city of each of the six States,
- (b) four other principal towns in each of the six States,
- (c) weighted average of five towns (including the capital city) in each of the six States,
- (d) weighted average for the six capital cities combined,
- (e) weighted average for the thirty towns (including capital cities),
- (f) separate indexes for Warwick, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Canberra.

The "C" Series Index forms the basis of the "Court" Series Index used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the "cost of living" adjustments of wages prescribed by awards made by the Court. (See § 7, p. 273.)

§ 3. Retail Price Levels ("C" Series Index) 1914-1953.

The aggregate indexes for November, 1914, 1921 and the years 1929, 1939 and 1947 to 1952 for the Thirty Towns are published in summary form on page 270 of this chapter, while the following table furnishes the relevant index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities as a whole for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

1914, November	..	..	..	687 (Beginning of War I.)
1918, November	..	..	..	905 (End of War I.)
1920, November	..	..	..	1,166 (Post-War peak)
1922, November	..	..	..	975 (Post-War trough)
1929, Year	..	..	..	1,033 (Pre-Depression peak)
1933, Year	..	..	..	804 (Depression trough)
1939, September Quarter	..	..	..	916 (Pre-War II.)
1943, March Quarter	..	..	..	1,123 (Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter	..	..	..	1,143 (War II. peak)
1945, September Quarter	..	..	..	1,126 (End of War II.)
1948, September Quarter	..	..	..	1,311
1950, September Quarter	..	..	..	1,572
1952, September Quarter	..	..	..	2,238
1953, June Quarter	..	..	..	2,293

The index reveals a rise of approximately 32 per cent. during the first world war, followed by a further rise of 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918, to November, 1920). From November, 1920 to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent. and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization) the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with the March Quarter, 1943, the index-number at the close of the war was practically unchanged.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the first world war in 1914. After June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., were progressively modified and by the end of 1948 and early 1949 had been virtually eliminated. Price control was transferred from Commonwealth to State Authorities in September, 1948. In the latter part of 1950 export prices (especially for wool) rose very substantially and have remained relatively

very high. In December, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration raised the basic wage by approximately 14 per cent. Concurrently, public works expenditure and private investment rose to very high levels.

The movement in the various groups of the index and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities combined :—

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ITS "GROUP" INDEX-NUMBERS(a)
FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED, 1914 TO 1952.

(Base of Each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5-Rooms). (b)	Food, Groceries and Rent (4 and 5-Rooms) ("B" Series).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Index.
1914 (c)	641	649	644	754	749	687
1915 (c)	842	659	777	792	786	782
1916 (c)	812	665	760	881	802	795
1917 (c)	836	685	782	992	882	847
1918 (c)	861	722	812	1,097	972	905
1919 (c)	1,026	768	934	1,238	1,036	1,022
1920 (c)	1,209	851	1,082	1,365	1,194	1,166
1921 (c)	950	877	934	1,246	1,010	1,013
1922 (c)	945	929	939	1,052	999	975
1923..	1,009	950	988	1,045	999	1,003
1924..	969	988	975	1,003	1,004	987
1925..	998	1,008	1,002	991	992	997
1926..	1,023	1,026	1,024	986	998	1,011
1927..	1,000	1,030	1,011	975	1,008	1,002
1928..	985	1,066	1,014	997	1,010	1,009
1929..	1,044	1,073	1,054	996	1,007	1,033
1930..	941	1,047	978	951	999	975
1931..	826	901	852	853	973	873
1932..	796	817	803	804	958	830
1933..	751	804	768	787	950	804
1934..	783	810	792	785	944	817
1935..	806	839	818	783	946	832
1936..	825	879	844	792	947	850
1937..	851	912	872	811	960	873
1938..	886	942	906	829	961	897
1939..	927	965	939	841	962	920
1940..	939	973	950	966	998	957
1941..	947	976	956	1,118	1,060	1,008
1942..	1,031	976	1,007	1,308	1,112	1,091
1943..	1,037	975	1,011	1,440	1,160	1,131
1944..	1,026	976	1,004	1,435	1,165	1,126
1945..	1,034	975	1,009	1,425	1,161	1,126
1946..	1,036	976	1,010	1,505	1,167	1,145
1947..	1,100	977	1,050	1,566	1,199	1,188
1948..	1,256	979	1,145	1,744	1,257	1,295
1949..	1,394	982	1,230	1,997	1,338	1,415
1950..	1,566	987	1,336	2,286	1,435	1,560
1951..	2,041	1,009	1,634	2,749	1,679	1,883
1952..	2,526	1,057	1,947	3,096	1,958	2,196
1952—March Quarter ..	2,404	1,023	1,860	2,992	1,828	2,098
June ..	2,567	1,041	1,966	3,099	1,949	2,206
September ..	2,592	1,070	1,992	3,115	2,018	2,238
December ..	2,542	1,094	1,971	3,177	2,035	2,243

(a) "Group" or "Sectional" index-numbers in the various tables in this chapter cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing or Miscellaneous requirements, since each "Group" or "Section" (or combination thereof) has its own Base = 1000, viz.—the weighted average cost for the Six Capital Cities as a whole during the five-yearly period 1923-27 for that "Group" or "Section". (b) Rent.—The rent index-numbers shown in the tables in this publication measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Similarly, "average rents" where shown are indexes of "price" changes in rentals expressed in terms of pence. They are not the average of rents actually paid by all tenants of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It would be inappropriate to include the average of rents actually paid in an index price designed to measure price changes only. The average of rents actually paid is ascertained periodically by Census methods—see also pages 32 and 33 of Labour Report, No. 40. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account. (c) November.

§ 4. Increases in Retail Prices in Recent Years.

1. **Australia.**—The following statement shows, for the six capital cities combined, the percentage increases which have taken place between specified dates in respective groups included in the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX : WEIGHTED AVERAGE FOR SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

A. PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN GROUP INDEXES, AND IN INDEX AS A WHOLE.

The following table shows, for the six capital cities combined, the percentage increases in the "C" Series Retail Price Index as a whole, and in the prices of items in each group considered as a group, between the dates specified :—

Period.	Aggregate "C" Series Index.	Food and Groceries Group.	Rent Group.	Clothing Group.	Miscel- laneous Group.
	%	%	%	%	%
Sept. Qtr. 1939 to Sept. Qtr. 1945	22.9	13.0	0.8	69.3	20.8
Sept. Qtr. 1945 to Sept. Qtr. 1948	16.5	22.5	0.4	25.6	9.4
Sept. Qtr. 1948 to Sept. Qtr. 1950	19.9	24.1	0.8	30.2	12.7
Sept. Qtr. 1950 to Sept. Qtr. 1952	42.4	63.8	8.4	34.5	40.9
Sept. Qtr. 1952 to June Qtr. 1953	2.5	0.5	6.1	4.2	1.6
Sept. Qtr. 1939 to June Qtr. 1953	150.3	183.2	17.4	288.3	113.4

B. CONTRIBUTION OF EACH GROUP TO THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF THE TOTAL INDEX.

The following table dissects the percentage increases in the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index in such a way as to show the component parts of such increases due to the rise in each of the four main groups of the index :—

Group.	Sept. Qtr. 1939 to Sept. Qtr. 1945.	Sept. Qtr. 1945 to Sept. Qtr. 1948.	Sept. Qtr. 1948 to Sept. Qtr. 1950.	Sept. Qtr. 1950 to Sept. Qtr. 1952.	Sept. Qtr. 1952 to June Qtr. 1953.	Sept. Qtr. 1939 to June Qtr. 1953.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Food and Groceries ..	4.7	7.5	8.5	23.1	0.2	66.3
Rent ..	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.7	4.2
Clothing ..	13.9	7.1	9.0	11.2	1.3	57.8
Miscellaneous ..	4.1	1.8	2.3	6.9	0.3	22.0
Total ("C" Series Index) ..	22.9	16.5	19.9	42.4	2.5	150.3

This table shows that rises in prices of clothing caused the aggregate of the index to rise by 13.9 per cent. in the six years September Quarter, 1939 to September Quarter, 1945. Increased prices of food and groceries caused the aggregate "C" Series Index to rise by 4.7 per cent. For other groups, the corresponding contributory increases were :— in the miscellaneous group 4.1 per cent. and in the rent group 0.2 per cent., making a total increase of 22.9 per cent. in the aggregate "C" Series Index. Following the corresponding lines across the table it is evident that the rise in prices of food and groceries has become the major cause of the rise in the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index since September Quarter, 1950.

2. *International Comparisons.*—The following table shows the increase in recent years in Australia and certain other countries.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.
(FOOD, RENT, CLOTHING, MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.)

Date.	Australia.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.	United States of America.
1939—					(a)	
September Quarter	100	100	100	100	100	100
1940—Year (b) ..	105	119	105	104	104	100
1941— " (b) ..	110	128	111	108	109	105
1942— " (b) ..	119	129	116	111	118	116
1943— " (b) ..	124	128	117	114	126	123
1944— " (b) ..	123	129	118	(c) 116	130	125
1945— " (b) ..	123	131	119	118	133	127
1946— " (b) ..	125	131	123	118	135	138
1947— " (b) ..	130	(d) 102	134	122	141	158
1948— " (b) ..	141	108	154	132	149	170
1949— " (b) ..	154	111	160	(e) 134	154	168
1950— " (b) ..	170	114	165	142	160	171
1951— " (b) ..	206	124	183	157	172	185
1952— " ..	240	136	186	170	187	189
1952—March Quarter	229	133	189	167	183	187
June " ..	241	136	186	169	185	188
Sept. " ..	244	137	186	171	188	190
Dec. " ..	245	138	183	172	192	190

(a) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure. (b) Quarterly indexes appear in preceding issues. (c) War-time Index linked to former series. (d) New series (Base : 17th June, 1947 = 100), commencing from September Quarter, 1947. (e) Consumers' Retail Price Index from March Quarter, 1949, onwards. Index-numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (base 1926-30) with the new index.

During the second world war most of these countries introduced price control measures at an early stage and these became more stringent as the war progressed, culminating in a policy of price stabilization.

Immediately after the outbreak of war in September, 1939, the Commonwealth Government took steps to control prices, and, by proclamations issued from day to day, pegged prices of various commodities at those ruling on 31st August, 1939. The National Security (Prices) Regulations, proclaimed on 28th September, 1939, under the authority of the National Security Act, established the basic principles of war-time price control, provided for the appointment of a Commonwealth Prices Commissioner and conferred upon him extensive powers to control the price of goods declared for that purpose by the Minister for Trade and Customs. Further reference to this control appears on page 279.

§ 5. Relative "Aggregate Expenditure" of Items and Groups.

In the *base period* of the index (the years 1923 to 1927) the relative importance of each of the four main groups expressed as a percentage of the weighted average "aggregate expenditure" in the six capital cities (from which all relative index-numbers are derived) was as shown in the third column of the following table. Although the "weights" of each item in the regimen are kept virtually constant the relative "aggregate expenditure" of the various items and groups varies from time to time as relative prices change.

The percentage distribution of the weighted average "aggregate expenditure" in the six capital cities for December Quarter, 1952, is shown in the fourth column of the table for comparison with that of the *base period*.

Group.	Section.	Proportion of "Aggregate Expenditure".			
		1923-27 (Base). Six Capital Cities.		Dec. Qtr. 1952. Six Capital Cities.	
		%		%	
I. Food and Groceries	{ A Groceries	17.44	} 38.66	13.32	} 40.81
	{ B Dairy Produce	10.28		11.70	
	{ C Meat	10.94		15.70	
II. Housing	D House Rent— (4 and 5-roomed houses)	21.26	21.26	11.27	11.27
III. Clothing ..	{ E Man	8.69	} 23.04	12.80	} 31.12
	{ F Woman	9.12		13.50	
	{ G, H, J Children	5.23		4.82	
IV. Miscellaneous	{ K Household Drapery	1.09	} 17.04	2.05	} 16.80
	{ L Household Utensils	0.49		0.67	
	{ M Fuel and Light	4.92		4.53	
	{ N Other Miscellaneous	10.54		9.55	
		100.00		100.00	

§ 6. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index-Numbers.

1. **General.**—The results of inquiries into price movements are available as follows :—

(i) **Monthly.** The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date.

(ii) **Quarterly.** A statement is issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter giving the "C" Series index-numbers for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters in respect of each of the 30 cities and towns originally adopted and for certain other towns, e.g., Canberra, for which the "C" Series index-numbers are now compiled. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains the average prices of the items of food and groceries for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. Particulars of movements in certain average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.

(iii) **Annual.** The *Labour Report* contains index-numbers for past years, and the monthly and quarterly results for recent years. The average prices for the last year of the items of food and groceries and house rents are also published in this report.

2. **"C" Series Retail Price Index.**—On page 265 is published a table of "C" Series index-numbers for the weighted average of the six capital cities combined, together with index-numbers for each of the four main groups of items in the "C" Series Index for each year 1914 to 1952 and quarterly for the year 1952.

In the pages immediately following are published :—

(i) the "C" Series index-number for the last quarter of each year 1939 and 1948 to 1952 (page 269) for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four main groups of items; and

(ii) the "C" Series index-number for November, 1914 and 1921 and the years 1929, 1939 and 1947 to 1952 (page 270) for each of the 30 towns, with the weighted averages for each State, the six capital cities and 30 towns, and index-numbers for the same periods for four additional towns for which this index is tabulated.

" C " SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a) : CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base of Each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Mel-bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	940	942	859	888	926	941	927
" " 1948 ..	1,326	1,355	1,280	1,305	1,324	1,416	1,330
" " 1949 ..	1,421	1,451	1,367	1,398	1,488	1,514	1,429
" " 1950 ..	1,713	1,724	1,551	1,606	1,707	1,665	1,689
" " 1951 ..	2,401	2,334	2,145	2,175	2,134	2,252	2,311
" " 1952 ..	2,657	2,547	2,321	2,334	2,439	2,593	2,542

GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES).(c)							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	1,040	960	855	891	882	930	969
" " 1948 ..	1,047	974	866	905	890	938	980
" " 1949 ..	1,049	977	873	914	897	941	983
" " 1950 ..	1,050	979	898	937	904	941	989
" " 1951 ..	1,056	980	947	960	1,073	1,057	1,013
" " 1952 ..	1,188	985	967	1,132	1,190	1,092	1,094

GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING (" B " SERIES INDEX).

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	977	947	855	887	907	935	941
" " 1948 ..	1,214	1,203	1,116	1,146	1,152	1,226	1,190
" " 1949 ..	1,273	1,263	1,171	1,206	1,254	1,287	1,252
" " 1950 ..	1,451	1,429	1,293	1,341	1,390	1,379	1,412
" " 1951 ..	1,871	1,801	1,673	1,696	1,715	1,781	1,800
" " 1952 ..	2,078	1,932	1,788	1,860	1,946	2,002	1,971

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	854	862	865	869	840	867	858
" " 1948 ..	1,831	1,801	1,817	1,809	1,835	1,807	1,818
" " 1949 ..	2,161	2,117	2,072	2,113	2,155	2,129	2,132
" " 1950 ..	2,447	2,389	2,355	2,390	2,408	2,401	2,410
" " 1951 ..	2,964	2,886	2,864	2,962	2,977	2,942	2,930
" " 1952 ..	3,214	3,162	3,088	3,171	3,172	3,142	3,177

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	983	960	1,027	957	945	967
" " 1948 ..	1,279	1,273	1,249	1,350	1,242	1,191	1,277
" " 1949 ..	1,389	1,397	1,316	1,410	1,305	1,234	1,378
" " 1950 ..	1,527	1,482	1,418	1,555	1,374	1,383	1,492
" " 1951 ..	1,836	1,789	1,694	1,802	1,720	1,744	1,794
" " 1952 ..	2,024	2,076	1,897	2,100	2,023	2,003	2,035

GROUPS I. TO IV.—" C " SERIES INDEX.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	932	874	906	899	919	926
" " 1948 ..	1,359	1,345	1,291	1,327	1,316	1,344	1,341
" " 1949 ..	1,486	1,472	1,393	1,440	1,459	1,459	1,466
" " 1950 ..	1,680	1,646	1,546	1,608	1,607	1,601	1,643
" " 1951 ..	2,100	2,033	1,934	1,990	1,989	2,024	2,042
" " 1952 ..	2,312	2,224	2,089	2,188	2,225	2,248	2,243

(a) See footnote (a) on page 265.

(b) Weighted average.

(c) See footnote (b) on page 265.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS: THIRTY TOWNS.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	Nov. 1914.	Nov. 1921.	Year 1929.	Year 1939.	Year 1947.	Year 1948.	Year 1949.	Year 1950.	Year 1951.	Year 1952.
NEW SOUTH WALES—										
Sydney	712	1,046	1,073	936	1,212	1,318	1,439	1,593	1,933	2,265
Newcastle	1,041	1,028	901	1,167	1,279	1,402	1,543	1,901	2,209
Broken Hill	975	1,018	955	1,257	1,376	1,528	1,692	1,997	2,344
Goulburn	1,033	1,108	916	1,177	1,291	1,426	1,578	1,921	2,232
Bathurst	947	979	893	1,162	1,277	1,403	1,552	1,882	2,219
FIVE TOWNS(a)	1,042	1,067	933	1,208	1,315	1,437	1,591	1,931	2,262
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne	671	1,003	1,017	924	1,188	1,294	1,415	1,565	1,880	2,170
Ballarat	992	957	874	1,132	1,243	1,365	1,509	1,857	2,147
Bendigo	1,002	999	875	1,141	1,244	1,365	1,520	1,826	2,139
Geelong	1,019	980	911	1,170	1,278	1,397	1,549	1,871	2,154
Warrnambool	1,034	960	918	1,186	1,283	1,398	1,558	1,886	2,205
FIVE TOWNS(a)	1,003	1,011	920	1,184	1,290	1,411	1,561	1,877	2,168
QUEENSLAND—										
Brisbane	611	923	923	870	1,137	1,241	1,348	1,472	1,760	2,063
Toowoomba	949	916	858	1,152	1,246	1,360	1,486	1,773	2,083
Rockhampton	972	904	867	1,140	1,241	1,357	1,491	1,785	2,091
Townsville	1,025 ^b	939 ^b	918	1,181	1,282	1,404	1,525	1,818	2,148
Bundaberg	994 ^c	931 ^c	847	1,115	1,221	1,335	1,464	1,754	2,056
FIVE TOWNS(a)	941	922	871	1,140	1,244	1,352	1,478	1,767	2,072
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—										
Adelaide	699	989	1,037	906	1,165	1,277	1,393	1,521	1,833	2,159
Kadina, etc.	998	943	810	1,067	1,166	1,295	1,423	1,742	2,077
Port Pirie	1,025	980	896	1,152	1,260	1,369	1,500	1,811	2,135
Mount Gambier	1,029	963	872	1,134	1,235	1,340	1,499	1,863	2,145
Peterborough	948	1,043	897	1,152	1,253	1,368	1,496	1,808	2,129
FIVE TOWNS(a)	992	1,030	902	1,160	1,272	1,388	1,516	1,829	2,155
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—										
Perth, etc.	707	1,008	1,026	901	1,161	1,264	1,410	1,538	1,860	2,170
Kalgoorlie, etc.	1,048	1,032	1,066	1,265	1,368	1,502	1,636	1,940	2,262
Northam	1,030 ^d	1,022	915	1,171	1,272	1,420	1,550	1,870	2,186
Bunbury	1,045	978	936	1,173	1,277	1,424	1,559	1,870	2,195
Geraldton	1,056	1,051	965	1,221	1,327	1,475	1,611	1,956	2,293
FIVE TOWNS(a)	1,020	1,026	915	1,170	1,273	1,418	1,547	1,868	2,180
TASMANIA—										
Hobart	687	1,070	1,000	908	1,178	1,292	1,419	1,526	1,861	2,180
Launceston	1,067	967	888	1,147	1,254	1,389	1,493	1,857	2,154
Burnie	1,003 ^e	966	879	1,132	1,232	1,367	1,484	1,810	2,120
Devonport	904 ^f	948	861	1,119	1,220	1,351	1,481	1,793	2,093
Queenstown	1,031	972	903	1,179	1,280	1,400	1,494	1,808	2,119
FIVE TOWNS(a)	1,057	986	898	1,164	1,274	1,404	1,511	1,852	2,163
THIRTY TOWNS(a)	1,013	1,026	917	1,185	1,292	1,413	1,556	1,880	2,193
SIX CAPITALS(a)	687	1,013	1,033	920	1,188	1,295	1,415	1,560	1,883	2,196
Warwick (Q.)(g)	994	931	834	1,138	1,234	1,349	1,461	1,751	2,063
Port Augusta (S.A.)(g)	1,035	1,061	883	1,157	1,267	1,373	1,512	1,823	2,141
Whyalla (S.A.)(g)	1,175	1,277	1,379	1,515	1,848	2,166
Canberra (A.C.T.)(g)	956	1,210	1,327	1,456	1,600	1,931	2,247

(a) Weighted average. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick. (d) Midland Junction.
(e) Zeehan. (f) Beaconsfield. (g) Not included in weighted averages above.

3. "B" Series Retail Price Index: Food, Groceries and Rent.—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled for the year 1925, and retrospectively for several earlier years. It was designed to replace the "A" Series Index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index compiled in 1912. The first of the two tables following is split up into the various sections of the regimen, and covers only the six capital cities, while the second

represents the whole regimen and covers the 30 towns included in the tabulation of the "B" Series Index, with the weighted averages for the 5 towns in each State, the six capital cities and the 30 towns.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a) : CAPITAL CITIES—"B" SERIES.
(Base of Each Section : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Town.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.										
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	991	1,167	1,298	1,411	1,806	2,168
Melbourne .. .	461	521	562	1,070	957	1,153	1,206	1,416	1,739	2,031
Brisbane .. .	547	614	607	1,105	941	1,105	1,305	1,387	1,722	1,938
Adelaide .. .	510	541	598	1,076	939	1,144	1,263	1,374	1,724	1,944
Perth .. .	572	720	628	1,103	966	1,183	1,268	1,380	1,650	2,023
Hobart .. .	501	566	604	1,087	947	1,143	1,272	1,390	1,749	2,094
Six Capitals(b) .. .	499	564	599	1,093	969	1,161	1,292	1,404	1,757	2,073

SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.										
Sydney .. .	551	574	656	1,080	851	1,165	1,306	1,439	1,723	2,393
Melbourne .. .	571	567	635	1,087	885	1,189	1,330	1,441	1,715	2,227
Brisbane .. .	495	581	588	983	793	1,115	1,233	1,312	1,530	2,107
Adelaide .. .	548	651	705	1,018	800	1,136	1,258	1,353	1,611	2,110
Perth .. .	709	733	735	1,152	870	1,166	1,202	1,436	1,705	2,169
Hobart .. .	564	587	695	1,091	844	1,181	1,319	1,410	1,658	2,202
Six Capitals(b) .. .	563	591	654	1,072	853	1,165	1,301	1,418	1,688	2,265

SECTION C.—MEAT.										
Sydney .. .	519	501	668	960	935	1,456	1,571	1,899	2,836	3,520
Melbourne .. .	557	485	663	1,030	968	1,502	1,649	2,000	2,896	3,387
Brisbane .. .	535	488	610	897	822	1,343	1,453	1,605	2,231	2,968
Adelaide .. .	553	541	784	1,095	929	1,423	1,543	1,776	2,503	3,194
Perth .. .	789	824	881	1,103	958	1,411	1,785	2,025	2,608	2,961
Hobart .. .	668	638	780	1,244	961	1,662	1,945	1,962	2,624	3,257
Six Capitals(b) .. .	558	522	691	1,010	936	1,458	1,603	1,909	2,744	3,349

SECTIONS A, B AND C COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.										
Sydney .. .	523	553	646	1,062	936	1,258	1,388	1,572	2,099	2,654
Melbourne .. .	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,274	1,418	1,605	2,088	2,509
Brisbane .. .	530	569	603	1,014	864	1,208	1,332	1,462	1,823	2,328
Adelaide .. .	532	570	670	1,066	897	1,230	1,351	1,494	1,931	2,380
Perth .. .	670	753	728	1,166	938	1,251	1,437	1,597	1,963	2,359
Hobart .. .	565	592	678	1,133	923	1,316	1,495	1,574	1,992	2,487
Six Capitals(b) .. .	533	559	640	1,064	927	1,256	1,394	1,566	2,041	2,526

SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES).(c)										
Sydney .. .	593	701	760	989	1,035	1,047	1,049	1,050	1,053	1,118
Melbourne .. .	455	569	628	820	955	974	976	979	980	984
Brisbane .. .	283	373	466	630	854	866	869	883	934	958
Adelaide .. .	510	706	655	809	888	903	912	929	949	1,055
Perth .. .	458	524	589	739	881	889	895	901	1,065	1,185
Hobart .. .	405	452	518	881	925	937	940	941	1,048	1,079
Six Capitals(b) .. .	497	612	662	862	965	979	982	987	1,009	1,057

ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).										
Sydney .. .	548	606	687	1,036	972	1,173	1,252	1,365	1,686	2,049
Melbourne .. .	495	539	616	977	945	1,154	1,243	1,357	1,652	1,909
Brisbane .. .	442	590	554	877	858	1,072	1,149	1,233	1,472	1,730
Adelaide .. .	524	618	671	975	801	1,100	1,177	1,270	1,544	1,858
Perth .. .	594	672	670	952	914	1,107	1,222	1,322	1,603	1,896
Hobart .. .	508	542	621	1,044	922	1,165	1,275	1,324	1,620	1,932
Six Capitals(b) .. .	520	578	648	992	939	1,145	1,230	1,336	1,534	1,947

(a) See footnote (a) on page 265. (b) Weighted average. (c) See footnote (b) on page 265.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS : THIRTY TOWNS—" B " SERIES.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT.

(Base : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	Nov. 1914.	Nov. 1921.	1929.	1939.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
NEW SOUTH WALES—										
Sydney	680	977	1,115	972	1,082	1,173	1,252	1,365	1,686	2,049
Newcastle	944	1,068	934	1,035	1,129	1,205	1,309	1,672	1,990
Broken Hill	825	1,078	970	1,110	1,206	1,333	1,459	1,715	2,077
Goulburn	926	1,146	942	1,030	1,130	1,225	1,341	1,682	2,008
Bathurst	815	987	900	1,006	1,102	1,190	1,313	1,619	2,009
FIVE TOWNS(a)	965	1,110	969	1,078	1,169	1,249	1,362	1,685	2,044
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne	613	895	1,036	945	1,054	1,154	1,243	1,357	1,652	1,909
Ballarat	760	914	849	950	1,052	1,141	1,254	1,593	1,846
Bendigo	780	962	851	952	1,048	1,140	1,267	1,543	1,838
Geelong	844	985	917	1,012	1,116	1,204	1,318	1,633	1,877
Warrnambool	855	940	940	1,042	1,134	1,212	1,342	1,657	1,962
FIVE TOWNS(a)	876	1,026	938	1,046	1,146	1,235	1,350	1,646	1,904
QUEENSLAND—										
Brisbane	560	840	912	858	978	1,072	1,149	1,233	1,472	1,789
Toowoomba	771	855	830	1,001	1,087	1,170	1,252	1,498	1,817
Rockhampton	779	877	843	971	1,063	1,145	1,247	1,493	1,800
Townsville	820 ^b	975 ^b	920	1,036	1,125	1,214	1,286	1,525	1,882
Bundaberg	704 ^c	867 ^c	804	942	1,030	1,110	1,195	1,427	1,742
FIVE TOWNS(a)	824	906	858	982	1,074	1,153	1,238	1,478	1,796
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—										
Adelaide	658	898	1,030	891	998	1,100	1,177	1,270	1,544	1,858
Kadina, etc.	811	891	743	825	907	1,001	1,089	1,390	1,704
Port Pirie	839	963	882	971	1,063	1,141	1,241	1,522	1,825
Mount Gambier	770	866	838	931	1,022	1,091	1,232	1,576	1,799
Peterborough	844	1,042	890	973	1,067	1,144	1,224	1,504	1,790
FIVE TOWNS(a)	885	1,020	885	990	1,091	1,168	1,262	1,538	1,850
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—										
Perth, etc.	689	916	1,038	914	1,017	1,107	1,222	1,322	1,608	1,890
Kalgoorlie, etc.	928	1,010	1,178	1,174	1,266	1,382	1,489	1,739	2,026
Northam	898 ^d	1,072	936	1,034	1,131	1,257	1,358	1,673	1,977
Bunbury	907	996	979	1,056	1,148	1,269	1,380	1,679	1,979
Geraldton	942	1,090	990	1,103	1,193	1,315	1,421	1,746	2,063
FIVE TOWNS(a)	918	1,036	936	1,031	1,122	1,237	1,338	1,623	1,912
TASMANIA—										
Hobart	630	971	992	922	1,053	1,165	1,275	1,324	1,620	1,932
Launceston	858	937	887	1,001	1,113	1,227	1,274	1,634	1,907
Burnie	819 ^e	972	898	1,006	1,108	1,225	1,295	1,600	1,907
Devonport	696 ^f	930	865	976	1,078	1,197	1,283	1,571	1,860
Queenstown	871	920	933	1,067	1,173	1,267	1,299	1,586	1,884
FIVE TOWNS(a)	911	970	908	1,032	1,143	1,254	1,304	1,620	1,918
THIRTY TOWNS(a)	907	1,044	935	1,045	1,140	1,226	1,332	1,630	1,943
SIX CAPITALS(a)	644	924	1,054	939	1,050	1,145	1,230	1,336	1,634	1,947
Warwick (Q.)(g)	794	867	783	956	1,039	1,124	1,203	1,448	1,758
Port Augusta (S.A.)(g)	861	1,047	864	968	1,063	1,144	1,260	1,541	1,849
Whyalla (S.A.)(g)	1,013	1,103	1,176	1,284	1,596	1,898
Canberra (A.C.T.)(g)	1,026	1,096	1,191	1,280	1,381	1,701	2,061

(a) Weighted average. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick. (d) Midland Junction.
(e) Zeehan. (f) Beaconsfield. (g) Not included in weighted averages above.

§ 7. Retail Price Indexes and Basic Wage Variations.

Two distinct procedures are adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing and varying basic or living wages as follows:—

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

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

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

The considerations upon which the basic wage is fixed are set out in successive judgments of the Court and briefly summarized in Chapter III. (§ 4) of the *Labour Report*. On this matter, reference should be made to the Basic Wage Judgments of the Court, particularly those of 1934, 1937, 1941 and 1950, and to the general statement of principles set out in the judgment on the "Munition Workers' Case" of 1943. Certain State industrial tribunals use the index-numbers directly for automatic or quasi-automatic adjustments of the rates of wages determined by them as tribunals, while some State tribunals have regard to the index-numbers and other factors in considering what "cost of living" variations they should make in rates of wages.

The use of indexes by industrial authorities for purposes of adjusting rates of wages for changes in price level is a practice of long standing, dating in the case of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, for example, back to the year 1913. The tribunals form their own judgment as to relevance of the indexes to their purposes, and periodically hear the representatives of employers and employees on the issues involved, including questions as to whether the index is satisfactory for the purposes to which it is applied by the tribunal. In such proceedings the Statistician or his officers are called at times as witnesses on questions of fact and technical matters relating to the indexes.

The automatic adjustments in wages prescribed in awards of the Court on the basis of retail price index-numbers are sometimes referred to as "cost of living" adjustments and the index is popularly referred to as a "cost of living index". This at times creates misconceptions as to the nature of the retail price index since the term "cost of living" connotes not only change in cost of living due to changes in prices, but also changes in cost of living due to changes in standard of living. Beyond that, use of the term "cost of living index" sometimes creates the erroneous impression that the retail price index purports to embrace all that should be included in a desirable standard of living. The "C" Series Index is a retail price index of specific meaning. The regimen or list of items, on which the index is based, is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. While this statement remains broadly true, it relates (in the circumstances of 1951 and 1952) more specifically to what may be termed the basic wage portion of wage-earner expenditures. The index has hitherto been used by industrial tribunals to provide automatic adjustments in the basic wage itself and, until December, 1950, in a basic wage which did not vary very much in real terms of purchasing power in relation to "C" Series units. In 1950 and especially in 1951 various factors produced both a steep rise in prices and an increasingly wide dispersion of price movements as affecting consumer expenditures on items within and without the index. Although the

* The "needs" portion only was adjustable from July, 1937, to December, 1950.

rise in some prices became less accentuated in 1952, disparate price movements continued. There arose concurrently a tendency to assume, without inquiry, that the index (constructed primarily to measure the incidence of price changes on expenditures from incomes at or about basic wage level) is equally applicable to such diverse matters as measuring the changing incidence of price variations on secondary or marginal portions of wages, on total wages or on total incomes in groups considerably higher than the basic wage, and even on money settlements in some business transactions. While such assumptions may be reasonably reliable during periods in which all prices tend to move together, they should not be made at any time without due inquiry and particularly not in periods when price movements are very marked and are subject to wide dispersion.

Reference should be made to *Labour Report* No. 40 for the actual Automatic Adjustment Scales used for the adjustment of the Commonwealth basic wage.*

B. WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

Two indexes of wholesale prices have been compiled by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. These are :—

- (i) The Melbourne Wholesale Price Index ;
- (ii) The Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

Particulars of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, which is now obsolescent, are given in § 3 commencing on page 276 of this chapter.

After reviewing the regimen and weighting of this index the 1930 Conference of Statisticians resolved that a new index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs should be compiled. This index—the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index—which extends back to the year 1928 and is compiled monthly, is a special purpose index and one of a series of Wholesale Price Indexes designed for special purposes.

§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

1. **Price Quotations.**—The prices used in the index have in the main been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants, and, with a few important exceptions, from Melbourne sources. Apart from locally produced building materials and one or two minor commodities, however, the price movements may be taken as representative of variations in wholesale prices of basic materials in most Australian markets.

Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and in respect of imported materials as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the local price structure. Thus the price of imported goods is not taken at the time of import, but rather on an ex-bond (or into factory) basis.

* See footnote on p. 273.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX. 275

Broadly, where home-consumption prices exist for local products, they have been used in this index. During the year 1950-51 wool for local manufacture was subsidized, and the home-consumption price for wool was used to calculate the index-numbers shown in the table in paragraph 4.

2. **Commodities and Grouping.**—For purposes of this index "basic" materials (as opposed to certain of the Foodstuffs) are commodities in the primary or basic forms in which they first enter into productive processes carried out in Australia. The regimen comprises 80 commodities, divided into seven main groups. Each group is sub-divided into goods which are mainly imported, and goods which are mainly home-produced. The percentage of the "aggregate expenditure" in 1950 contributed by each group is shown in the following table :—

Group.	Percentage Value-Weight, 1950.		
	Principally Imported.	Principally Home Produced.	Total.
Metals and Coal	0.05	15.51	15.56
Oils, Fats and Waxes	10.90	0.24	11.14
Textiles	1.10	5.11	6.21
Chemicals	1.18	2.77	3.95
Rubber and Hides	1.17	0.68	1.85
Building Materials	5.07	4.31	9.38
Foodstuffs and Tobacco	12.31	39.60	51.91
All Groups	31.78	68.22	100.00

A full list of the commodities in the regimen, showing the quantity-multipliers (weights) for each commodity and the percentage of the total aggregate value in 1950 contributed by each commodity and group, is set out on page 395 of Official Year Book No. 38.

3. **Method of Construction.**—The index is constructed on the simple aggregative fixed-weights formula. The weights (quantity-multipliers) are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928-29 to 1934-35 inclusive. Changes in usage, changes of category as between "imported" and "home-produced" as affecting some commodities, and changes in the industrial structure have affected the validity of some of the weights in the index. These and other problems (e.g., dual prices for some commodities) are being examined with a view to revision of the regimen, its grouping and weighting, when conditions are more stable.

4. **Index-numbers.**—Index-numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups combined for the index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs are given in the following table. Current index-numbers, on the base: Average of three years ended June, 1939 = 100, are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*, and a table showing index-numbers computed to the base 1928 = 100 was published on page 47 of *Labour Report* No. 40, 1951.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX-NUMBERS.
(Base of Each Group : Average 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100.)

Period.	Basic Materials.							Food-stuffs and Tobacco.	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs.		
	Metals and Coal.	Oils, Fats and Waxes.	Textiles.	Chemicals.	Rubber and Hides.	Building Materials.	Total.		Goods principally Imported. (a)	Goods principally Home Produced.	Total All Groups.
1928-29	127	106	129	121	115	95	114	107	91	118	110
1929-30	126	111	99	116	87	94	107	110	94	118	111
1930-31	116	117	80	117	73	96	105	91	100	99	99
1931-32	108	113	77	119	74	95	101	86	100	92	95
1932-33	104	109	75	119	69	95	98	80	97	87	90
1933-34	103	81	102	111	80	94	92	84	89	89	90
1934-35	97	90	78	102	77	93	89	87	92	89	90
1935-36	92	95	100	99	88	93	90	92	95	92	93
1936-37	96	99	118	99	111	99	99	97	99	98	98
1937-38	101	101	100	100	97	104	102	100	102	100	101
1938-39	103	100	82	101	92	97	99	103	99	102	101
1939-40	105	115	104	107	116	108	109	101	111	103	105
1940-41	107	137	111	124	126	128	122	107	133	106	114
1941-42	117	151	118	137	135	135	133	117	153	112	124
1942-43	129	167	147	142	138	163	149	128	176	121	137
1943-44	131	170	150	143	140	174	153	129	182	122	140
1944-45	131	168	152	143	140	175	152	131	182	123	141
1945-46	130	156	152	142	140	177	149	135	178	126	141
1946-47	132	145	191	140	131	180	149	138	177	129	143
1947-48	146	161	283	148	126	190	166	153	192	145	159
1948-49	185	173	342	159	130	198	188	175	201	173	181
1949-50	214	184	434	187	143	225	214	198	223	198	205
1950-51	256	196	641	242	292	268	264	232	256	242	246
1951-52	343	220	577	314	298	370	321	281	288	305	300
1951-52											
July ..	288	209	490	300	301	314	283	283	271	289	283
Aug. ..	308	209	604	301	351	316	299	292	274	304	295
Sept. ..	314	212	566	305	348	320	301	282	276	297	291
Oct. ..	320	213	698	305	347	344	315	266	282	291	288
Nov. ..	341	223	633	307	323	362	324	261	289	290	290
Dec. ..	344	223	616	313	271	364	322	270	286	297	294
Jan. ..	346	223	605	313	270	365	322	266	286	294	292
Feb. ..	363	223	560	317	264	394	331	280	295	307	304
Mar. ..	365	223	504	327	261	394	330	289	295	313	308
Apr. ..	370	223	517	327	262	395	332	294	296	318	312
May ..	379	230	559	327	278	433	347	294	301	325	318
June ..	379	230	570	331	296	433	349	298	301	330	321

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the wholesale price index. This index does not measure changes in price of imports generally.

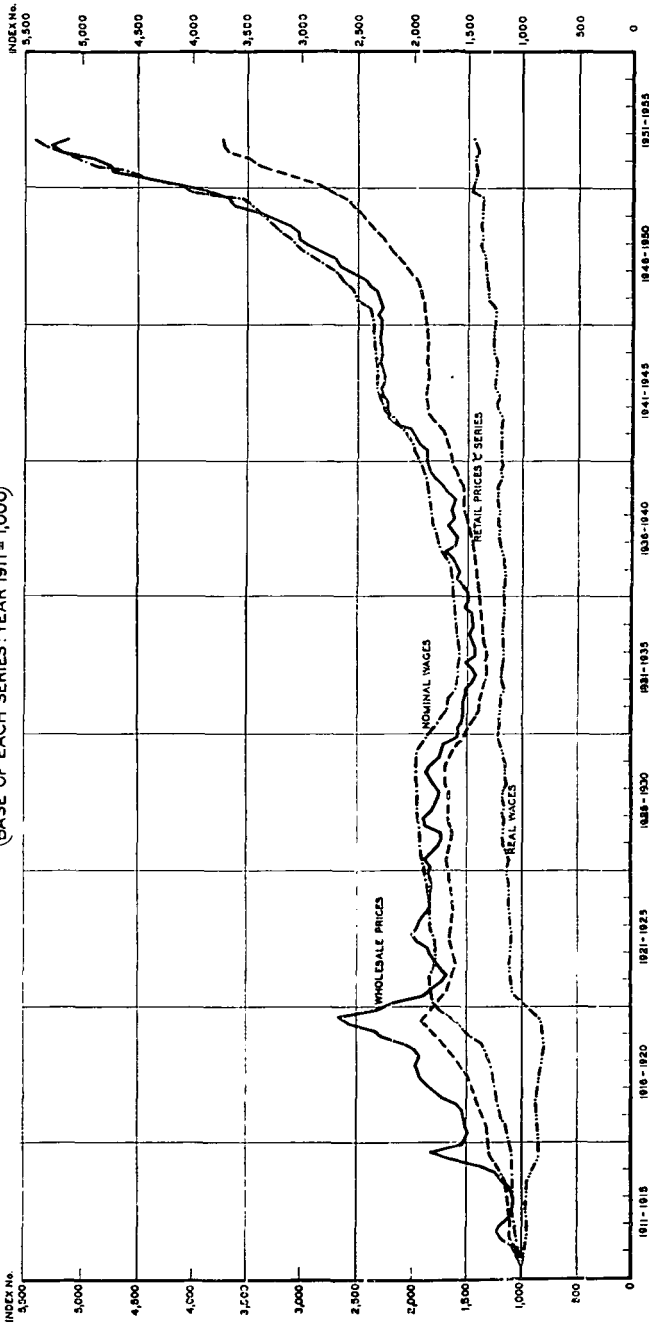
NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

1. **General.**—An index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912. It relates chiefly to basic materials and foods weighted in accordance with consumption in the years immediately preceding that date. Neither the component items of the regimen, nor the weighting have been varied. Consequently, the index is outmoded for current use and is a measure of variations in wholesale prices based on the weighting originally determined. It has some historic significance as a measure of changes in the prices of its component items combined in the proportions in which they were in common use about the year 1910. It is now published only on an annual basis and is mainly used as an approximate indication of long term trends since the year 1861, for which it was first compiled. A description of the index and a list of the commodities included in it were published on pages 43 to 45 of *Labour Report* No. 38 for 1949.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL, AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGES - INDEX-NUMBERS AUSTRALIA, 1911 to 1952

(BASE OF EACH SERIES: YEAR 1911 = 1,000)



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the graph above are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of these for Wholesale Prices up to the fourth quarter of 1927, which are for Melbourne. The wholesale prices graph shows the trend of prices according to the "old" Melbourne Index up to the fourth quarter of 1927, but thereafter, this index having been "spliced" with the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index, the curve line moves in accordance with the variations of the latter. The price quotations for this index are, in the main, obtained from Melbourne sources, but their movements may be taken as representative of fluctuations in most Australian markets. For the period 1911-1914 the "C" Series index-numbers are taken back from the true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses). Real wages are computed on the basis of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

2. Index-numbers.—Index-numbers for each group of commodities as well as for all groups combined are shown in the following table :—

MELBOURNE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base of each Group : Year 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Wool, Cotton, Leather, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Ma- terials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups.
1861..	1,438	1,381	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
1911..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1921..	2,173	1,361	1,767	2,000	1,977	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1931..	1,826	1,040	1,121	1,398	1,794	1,512	2,025	2,166	1,420
1941..	1,960	1,402	1,721	1,554	1,883	1,776	3,138	2,527	1,796
1948..	2,829	3,619	2,383	2,104	2,435	2,976	4,631	3,180	2,824
1949..	3,502	3,066	2,876	2,300	2,558	3,356	4,611	3,221	3,191
1950..	3,902	3,464	3,155	2,459	2,829	4,616	(a) 5,567	3,263	3,816
1951..	3,080	7,943	4,512	2,930	2,850	6,438	(a) 7,074	3,294	5,098
1952..	6,481	7,365	5,038	4,024	3,455	6,289	(a) 9,338	3,723	5,647

(a) The regimen and weighting of the original Building Materials group of this index have become unreal. The movement shown here for this group between 1949 and 1952 has been calculated in accordance with the movement occurring in the Building Materials group of the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns but are not directly comparable horizontally.

C. CONTROL OF PRICES DURING AND SINCE THE 1939-45 WAR.

1. General.—An account of the measures taken by the Commonwealth Government to control prices from September, 1939 (immediately after the outbreak of war), until 29th May, 1948 (the date of the Prices Referendum), is given in Official Year Book No. 37, pp. 458-464.

2. Transfer of Price Control to the States.—Consequent upon the rejection of the proposal embodied in the Prices Referendum held on 29th May, 1948, that permanent power to control rents and prices (including charges) be conferred on the Commonwealth Government, responsibility for price fixation was assumed by the State Governments and steps were taken to pass State Prices Acts. These acts were proclaimed to operate simultaneously on 20th September, 1948. Except in the case of Queensland, each Act was to remain in force for a specific period, but the period varied from State to State.

An amendment of the National Security (Prices) Regulations on 15th September, 1948, provided that the Minister may, by declaration published in the *Gazette*, declare that from and including a date specified prices for the sale of goods and rates for the supply of services in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth specified in the declaration shall cease to be controlled under the Regulations. In pursuance of this power, the Minister for Trade and Customs issued declarations on 17th September, 1948, providing for the relinquishment of price control by the Commonwealth in the States as from 20th September, 1948.

On 20th September, 1948, each State Government issued declarations covering uniform lists of goods and services, which were brought under price control. Existing Commonwealth Prices Regulation Orders continued to apply to these goods and services until specially varied in accordance with the terms of the State legislation. At the same time, the Commonwealth Government issued an identical list of declared items to operate in the Australian Capital Territory and other Territories of the Commonwealth.

In the operation of State price control, the State Prices Commissioners closely collaborate. Conferences of Commissioners are held at intervals of approximately two months. The Commissioners are vested with certain powers of price control under the Prices Acts, and it is the usual procedure after the administrative conference for State Prices Ministers to meet to discuss matters of policy and any specific questions referred to them for determination. Thus a large degree of uniformity is attained in controlling and decontrolling items and in the fixation of margins and prices of major items.

3. **Price Stabilization.**—Expenditure by the Commonwealth Government on Price Stabilization Subsidies reached a peak in 1947-48 and since then the Commonwealth Government has progressively reduced the range of commodities eligible for subsidy.

In addition to those subsidies which had been an integral part of the Price Stabilization Plan, the Commonwealth Government paid bounties and subsidies for assistance to primary production, and these payments also had a stabilizing influence on prices.

For details of expenditure by the Commonwealth Government on Price Stabilization and other Subsidies and Bounties, see Chapter XVII.—Public Finance.

D. WAGES.

§ 1. Arbitration and Wages Board Acts and Associated Legislation.

1. **General.**—Particulars regarding the operation of Commonwealth and State Laws for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913, and reviews to the end of each annual period appear in issues of the *Labour Report* up to and including No. 36 and of the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* up to and including No. 190 and in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 37, p. 465).

2. **The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Tribunal.**—Under placitum (xxxv) of section 51 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, the Commonwealth Parliament is empowered to make laws with respect to "conciliation and arbitration for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State". The Parliament has made such a law, namely, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

This Act defines "an industrial dispute" as a "dispute (including a threatened, impending or probable dispute) as to industrial matters, which extends beyond the limits of any one State and a situation which is likely to give rise to a dispute as to industrial matters which so extends". Such disputes are dealt with, in part, by a Court constituted under the Act, and otherwise by Conciliation Commissioners appointed under the Act. At the present time, the Court comprises a Chief Judge and six other Judges, whilst there is a Chief Conciliation Commissioner and fifteen other Conciliation Commissioners.

The Court deals with industrial disputes insofar as they concern the standard hours of work in an industry, the basic wage for both adult males and adult females and questions relating to long service leave with pay, but all other matters in dispute are dealt with by a Conciliation Commissioner. There is, however, provision for a Conciliation Commissioner to refer any dispute or any part of a dispute to the Court for determination, but a Conciliation Commissioner is only entitled to so refer a matter if he is of the opinion, and if the Chief Judge concurs in that opinion, that the matter is one of such importance that, in the public interest, it should be dealt with by the Court.

In addition to the functions outlined above, the Act empowers the Court to make orders concerning the interpretation, and relating to the enforcement, of orders and awards. The Act also makes provision for the registration of associations of employees and employers, and certain powers in connexion therewith are, by the Act, given to the Court.

Although, in certain circumstances, there is a right of appeal to the High Court with respect to decisions of the Court, the circumstances are very limited, and, for practical purposes, it can be said that decisions given by the Court are final. Decisions given by a Conciliation Commissioner, however, may be made the subject of appeal to the Court (i.e., the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration) provided the party desiring to appeal can satisfy the Chief Judge, by way of application for leave to appeal, that the order or award the subject of the application deals with a matter of such importance that leave to appeal should, in the public interest, be granted.

Whilst many of the minor powers of the Court may be exercised by a Court constituted by one Judge, in all major matters, e.g., questions relating to the basic wage, standard hours of work, long service leave, applications concerning registered organizations and also appeals from orders or awards made by Conciliation Commissioners, the Court must be constituted by at least three Judges one of whom may be the Chief Judge.

Prior to 1947, there was no division of work as between the Court and Conciliation Commissioners, a dispute being dealt with by either one or other part of the Tribunal, with the exception that questions relating to the basic wage and standard hours could only be dealt with by at least three Judges of the Court sitting together. There was also, at that time, a right of appeal to the Court against a decision of a Conciliation Commissioner. The amending Act of 1947 brought about the division of work between the two parts of the Tribunal, and, at the same time, made decisions of Conciliation Commissioners final. However, a further amending Act passed in 1952 altered the position regarding finality of decisions of Conciliation Commissioners, and provided a right of appeal, in the circumstances set out above, to the Court against any such decision.

3. **State Industrial Tribunals.**—In each State, Industrial Tribunals have been established to regulate and arbitrate in industrial matters. The chief of these are the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, the Industrial Courts of Queensland and South Australia, and the Western Australian Court of Arbitration, together with Wages Boards for specific industries or occupations which operate in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Further details concerning the functions and powers of these authorities may be found in *Labour Report* No. 40, page 54.

§ 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 this Bureau in the early part of 1913. The particulars are obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements under Commonwealth and State Industrial Acts, and are therefore the minimum rates prescribed. They refer generally to the capital city in each State, but in industries which are not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, agriculture, etc., the rates in the more important centres are taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement is in force, particulars are taken of the ruling union or predominant rate. During recent years the number of predominant rates of wage included in the tabulations has been reduced considerably, as most of the industries and occupations are now covered by awards, determinations, or industrial agreements. The statistics of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts should not be regarded as actual current average, but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

The index-numbers for male adult workers are computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000). In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for the 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 each year in the Appendix to the *Labour Report*.

2. **Weekly Rates of Wage, 1939 and 1947 to 1952.**—(i) *General.* The average rate of wage for each industrial group is computed by taking the arithmetic average of the rates of wage payable for all classified occupations within that group. These averages are weighted to give the average for the States and for Australia.

(ii) *Adult Males—States.* The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified:—

WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, STATES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK
(EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
No. of Occupations included(b) ..	870	894	615	562	477	466	3,884
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, 1939 ..	96 7	93 6	97 5	88 11	100 6	89 5	95 3
" " 1947 ..	141 3	136 10	134 9	133 10	137 8	133 0	137 11
" " 1948 ..	159 9	155 5	151 4	153 7	156 6	153 2	156 4
" " 1949 ..	171 11	168 11	167 10	165 3	171 6	165 4	169 8
" " 1950 ..	209 6	204 5	199 10	200 6	208 3	199 7	205 6
" " 1951 ..	255 0	245 5	240 10	241 8	251 4	247 3	248 7
31st March, 1952 ..	263 6	254 11	254 3	250 9	260 0	255 5	258 1
30th June, 1952 ..	270 5	258 2	262 5	256 6	269 2	261 3	264 3
30th September, 1952 ..	281 8	269 11	263 9	268 7	277 9	268 8	273 11
31st December, 1952 ..	284 8	274 5	267 9	274 6	284 7	276 2	278 2

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1939 ..	1,885	1,825	1,900	1,735	1,962	1,745	1,858
" " 1947 ..	2,757	2,670	2,630	2,612	2,686	2,595	2,690
" " 1948 ..	3,117	3,032	2,953	2,997	3,054	2,988	3,050
" " 1949 ..	3,355	3,296	3,275	3,225	3,346	3,227	3,310
" " 1950 ..	4,088	3,989	3,900	3,911	4,004	3,895	4,009
" " 1951 ..	4,975	4,789	4,699	4,715	4,904	4,825	4,850
31st March, 1952 ..	5,141	4,974	4,961	4,892	5,074	4,984	5,036
30th June, 1952 ..	5,277	5,037	5,121	5,005	5,253	5,097	5,156
30th September, 1952 ..	5,496	5,267	5,147	5,241	5,419	5,242	5,345
31st December, 1952 ..	5,555	5,354	5,224	5,356	5,553	5,388	5,428

(a) The statistics of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

(b) As at 31st December, 1952.

During the early war years nominal weekly wages advanced annually in each State, the greatest increase occurring in 1942 (11 per cent. for Australia), followed by an increase of 3 per cent. in the following year, after which they remained comparatively stable until the fourth quarter of 1946 when they advanced 5.4 per cent. mainly as a result of the increase in the "needs" wage granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its judgment of 13th December, 1946. With the relaxation of the Wage Pegging Regulations and the end of Price Stabilization wages rose rapidly during 1947 and subsequent years. At the end of 1950 the upward movement was accelerated as a result of the Basic Wage increases which followed the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 292).

Male wages at 31st December, 1952, were 192.0 per cent. higher than in December, 1939, and 53.1 per cent. higher than in September, 1950.

(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows for Australia the average weekly rates of wage and index-numbers in each industrial group and for all groups at the dates specified.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK (EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.(a)

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

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage (shillings and pence) and Index-number at—						
	31st Dec., 1939.	31st Dec., 1947.	31st Dec., 1948.	31st Dec., 1949.	31st Dec., 1950.	31st Dec., 1951.	31st Dec., 1952.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	{ Wage 100/1 Index-No. 1,953	{ Wage 140/2 Index-No. 2,735	{ Wage 155/6 Index-No. 3,034	{ Wage 166/7 Index-No. 3,250	{ Wage 199/8 Index-No. 3,890	{ Wage 238/8 Index-No. 4,656	{ Wage 270/2 Index-No. 5,272
II. Engineering, etc.	{ Wage 99/3 Index-No. 1,936	{ Wage 144/0 Index-No. 2,811	{ Wage 155/10 Index-No. 3,041	{ Wage 166/1 Index-No. 3,241	{ Wage 198/2 Index-No. 3,867	{ Wage 237/1 Index-No. 4,626	{ Wage 267/10 Index-No. 5,226
III. Food, Drink, etc.	{ Wage 96/0 Index-No. 1,888	{ Wage 134/8 Index-No. 2,628	{ Wage 151/6 Index-No. 2,956	{ Wage 166/2 Index-No. 3,243	{ Wage 199/11 Index-No. 3,901	{ Wage 239/3 Index-No. 4,668	{ Wage 271/5 Index-No. 5,296
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	{ Wage 93/2 Index-No. 1,817	{ Wage 132/8 Index-No. 2,589	{ Wage 153/7 Index-No. 2,997	{ Wage 164/2 Index-No. 3,204	{ Wage 202/10 Index-No. 3,957	{ Wage 242/10 Index-No. 4,738	{ Wage 273/6 Index-No. 5,337
V. Books, Printing, etc.	{ Wage 114/3 Index-No. 2,229	{ Wage 158/7 Index-No. 3,094	{ Wage 177/2 Index-No. 3,457	{ Wage 194/7 Index-No. 3,796	{ Wage 228/9 Index-No. 4,493	{ Wage 274/5 Index-No. 5,355	{ Wage 305/5 Index-No. 5,959
VI. Other Manufacturing	{ Wage 95/8 Index-No. 1,867	{ Wage 136/8 Index-No. 2,667	{ Wage 153/11 Index-No. 3,111	{ Wage 165/1 Index-No. 3,221	{ Wage 199/0 Index-No. 3,883	{ Wage 238/10 Index-No. 4,661	{ Wage 270/2 Index-No. 5,272
VII. Building	{ Wage 106/5 Index-No. 2,076	{ Wage 154/0 Index-No. 3,005	{ Wage 171/9 Index-No. 3,352	{ Wage 183/0 Index-No. 3,570	{ Wage 215/11 Index-No. 4,212	{ Wage 259/0 Index-No. 5,054	{ Wage 293/11 Index-No. 5,735
VIII. Mining, etc.	{ Wage 109/1 Index-No. 2,142	{ Wage 148/4 Index-No. 2,895	{ Wage 163/5 Index-No. 3,189	{ Wage 175/7 Index-No. 3,426	{ Wage 211/0 Index-No. 4,118	{ Wage 249/2 Index-No. 4,861	{ Wage 281/8 Index-No. 5,495
IX. Railways, etc.	{ Wage 96/6 Index-No. 1,884	{ Wage 142/3 Index-No. 2,775	{ Wage 156/1 Index-No. 3,045	{ Wage 167/3 Index-No. 3,263	{ Wage 199/2 Index-No. 3,887	{ Wage 238/0 Index-No. 4,643	{ Wage 269/4 Index-No. 5,256
X. Other Land Transport	{ Wage 92/10 Index-No. 1,812	{ Wage 128/6 Index-No. 2,507	{ Wage 145/8 Index-No. 2,843	{ Wage 160/0 Index-No. 3,123	{ Wage 192/7 Index-No. 3,757	{ Wage 233/2 Index-No. 4,550	{ Wage 263/11 Index-No. 5,150
XI. Shipping, etc.(b)	{ Wage 98/6 Index-No. 1,922	{ Wage 136/4 Index-No. 2,661	{ Wage 182/0 Index-No. 3,551	{ Wage 192/4 Index-No. 3,753	{ Wage 230/2 Index-No. 4,491	{ Wage 271/11 Index-No. 5,306	{ Wage 303/1 Index-No. 5,914
XII. Agricultural, etc.(c)	{ Wage 84/0 Index-No. 1,639	{ Wage 136/5 Index-No. 2,662	{ Wage 158/1 Index-No. 3,085	{ Wage 174/7 Index-No. 3,407	{ Wage 222/2 Index-No. 4,335	{ Wage 279/1 Index-No. 5,445	{ Wage 300/11 Index-No. 5,871
XIII. Domestic, etc.(c)	{ Wage 89/11 Index-No. 1,755	{ Wage 126/11 Index-No. 2,476	{ Wage 141/5 Index-No. 2,759	{ Wage 154/9 Index-No. 3,020	{ Wage 186/8 Index-No. 3,643	{ Wage 224/8 Index-No. 4,384	{ Wage 255/8 Index-No. 4,989
XIV. Miscellaneous	{ Wage 92/10 Index-No. 1,811	{ Wage 130/10 Index-No. 2,553	{ Wage 148/3 Index-No. 2,893	{ Wage 162/0 Index-No. 3,161	{ Wage 192/9 Index-No. 3,761	{ Wage 232/0 Index-No. 4,527	{ Wage 262/10 Index-No. 5,128
All Industrial Groups	{ Wage 95/3 Index-No. 1,858	{ Wage 137/11 Index-No. 2,690	{ Wage 156/4 Index-No. 3,050	{ Wage 169/8 Index-No. 3,310	{ Wage 205/6 Index-No. 4,009	{ Wage 248/7 Index-No. 4,850	{ Wage 278/2 Index-No. 5,428

(a) See note (a) on page 282. (b) Includes the value of victualling and accommodation, where supplied. (c) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1952, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 305s. 5d. per week, followed by Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), 303s. 1d., XII. (Agriculture, etc.), 300s. 11d., VII. (Building), 293s. 11d., VIII. (Mining, etc.), 281s. 8d., IV. (Clothing, Textiles, etc.), 273s. 6d. and III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 271s. 5d. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 255s. 8d. Compared with those prevailing at 31st December, 1951, rates of wage increased in all industrial groups during 1952.

(iv) *Adult Females—States.* The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work, in each State and Australia at the dates specified.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, STATES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK (EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
No. of Occupations included(b) ..	84	87	38	47	24	32	312

RATES OF WAGE.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
31st December, 1939 ..	53	3	51	9	55	2	49	7	55	8	50	8
" " 1947 ..	84	3	88	6	85	10	80	10	80	1	81	11
" " 1948 ..	100	0	103	1	98	4	95	1	93	5	96	8
" " 1949 ..	108	1	112	4	108	5	101	0	105	5	106	4
" " 1950 ..	139	11	142	11	135	11	142	1	132	3	137	2
" " 1951 ..	171	1	172	10	161	7	171	4	163	2	168	7
31st March, 1952 ..	178	3	180	7	170	9	178	10	169	10	175	0
30th June, 1952 ..	183	1	184	3	175	11	183	4	175	5	179	10
30th September, 1952 ..	191	10	193	2	181	10	192	5	182	5	186	8
31st December, 1952 ..	193	11	196	2	184	4	195	8	186	0	191	2

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1939 ..	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
" " 1947 ..	3,102	3,256	3,160	2,976	2,947	3,014	3,152
" " 1948 ..	3,681	3,795	3,618	3,499	3,438	3,559	3,694
" " 1949 ..	3,979	4,134	3,990	3,716	3,880	3,915	4,015
" " 1950 ..	5,510	5,259	5,003	5,229	4,866	5,050	5,169
" " 1951 ..	6,296	6,362	5,948	6,305	6,007	6,204	6,268
31st March, 1952 ..	6,562	6,646	6,283	6,583	6,250	6,441	6,549
30th June, 1952 ..	6,738	6,783	6,474	6,748	6,457	6,618	6,712
30th September, 1952 ..	7,061	7,108	6,691	7,082	6,714	6,872	7,020
31st December, 1952 ..	7,138	7,220	6,784	7,202	6,846	7,037	7,120

(a) See note (a) to table on page 282.

(b) As at 31st December, 1952.

It should be noted that the base of these index-numbers is 1914 and not 1911 as in the foregoing tables for adult males. This is because there is no tabulation for adult female rates prior to 1914.

As with the rates for males, increases were recorded in all States during the war years and after, especially after September, 1946 when female rates were increased under the National Security (Female Minimum Wage) Regulations. The weighted average rate for Australia at 31st December, 1946, had advanced by 37s. 4d. per week over that ruling on 31st December, 1933. Female rates have risen rapidly since September, 1950, partly because of the increase in marginal rates but mainly because of the increase in the female basic wage rates. The weighted average rate for Australia at 31st December, 1952 (193s. 5d.) was the highest recorded to that date and was 267.2 per cent. above the average at 31st December, 1939, and 64.2 per cent. above the average at 30th September, 1950.

(v) *Adult Females—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the weighted average weekly rates of wage payable in Australia to adult female workers in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK
(EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL
GROUP.(a)

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	I., II., V., and VI. All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups.
RATES OF WAGE.						
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
31st December, 1939 ..	48	9	50	9	51	11
" " 1947 ..	83	3	87	7	90	2
" " 1948 ..	95	10	101	7	103	3
" " 1949 ..	105	5	109	5	111	11
" " 1950 ..	135	9	139	2	147	1
" " 1951 ..	164	2	169	6	177	1
31st March, 1952 ..	171	10	177	0	184	9
30th June, 1952 ..	175	10	181	4	188	10
30th September, 1952 ..	184	3	189	6	198	1
31st December, 1952 ..	186	8	192	5	200	9

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1939 ..	1,795	1,869	1,910	2,003	2,085	1,938
" " 1947 ..	3,064	3,222	3,317	2,820	3,253	3,152
" " 1948 ..	3,526	3,739	3,802	3,284	3,967	3,694
" " 1949 ..	3,879	4,026	4,118	3,586	4,384	4,015
" " 1950 ..	4,996	5,121	5,412	4,861	5,512	5,169
" " 1951 ..	6,043	6,238	6,517	5,919	6,618	6,268
31st March, 1952 ..	6,323	6,514	6,801	6,197	6,912	6,549
30th June, 1952 ..	6,471	6,674	6,951	6,366	7,085	6,712
30th September, 1952 ..	6,781	6,975	7,291	6,658	7,411	7,020
31st December, 1952 ..	6,869	7,081	7,389	6,755	7,501	7,120

(a) See note (a) to table on page 282.

(b) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

During 1952 the rate of wage per week for female employees in each industrial group increased as follows:—III. (Food, etc.), 22s. 6d.; IV. (Clothing, etc.), 22s. 11d.; I, II, V. and VI. (all other manufacturing), 23s. 8d.; XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 22s. 8d. and XIV. (Miscellaneous), 24s. 0d. The weighted average for all groups increased by 23s. 1d. per week.

3. Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage and Weekly Hours of Labour, 1939 and 1947 to 1952.—(i) *General.* The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs are the minima payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in some instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. To secure what may be for some purposes a better comparison, the results in the preceding paragraphs are reduced to a common basis, namely, the rate of wage per hour. The particulars given in the following table 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 and accommodation where supplied 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.). Some of the occupations included in these 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 definite particulars for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

The downward tendency in hours of labour for Australia commenced in the December quarter of 1924, when the weighted averages were 46.66 for males and 46.02 for females, and, except for slight increases in 1929 and 1930, the reduction has continued. During the second half of 1947 hours for males and females in New South Wales were reduced owing to the introduction of the forty-hour week in occupations under the jurisdiction of State arbitration. In Australia generally, the forty-hour week operated from 1st January, 1948 and was responsible for substantial reductions in hours in that year. The weighted averages for Australia at 31st December, 1952 were 39.95 hours for males and 40.00 hours for females. More detailed information relating to the progressive reduction in working hours may be found in *Labour Report* No. 40, page 71.

(ii) *Adult Males and Females.* Particulars of the weekly and hourly wages and hours of labour for adult males and females at the close of the years 1947 to 1952 compared with 1939 are given in the table hereunder.

**WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR :
ADULT WORKERS.(a)**

31st December—	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
MALE WORKERS.								
1939	Weekly Wage(b)	96/7	93/6	97/3	88/11	100/6	89/5	95/3
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	43.92	44.01	43.46	45.83	44.33	45.33	44.29
	Hourly Wage(c)	2/3½	2/1½	2/3½	1/11½	2/4	2/0	2/2½
1947	Weekly Wage(b)	141/3	136/10	134/9	133/10	137/8	133/0	137/11
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	41.11	43.68	43.18	42.84	43.15	43.27	42.51
	Hourly Wage(c)	3/5½	3/1¼	3/0½	3/1½	3/1	3/1	3/3
1948	Weekly Wage(b)	159/9	155/5	151/4	153/7	156/6	153/2	156/4
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.57	40.00	39.96
	Hourly Wage(c)	3/11¼	3/10½	3/8½	3/9½	3/11	3/9½	3/10½
1949	Weekly Wage(b)	171/11	168/11	167/10	165/3	171/6	165/4	169/8
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
	Hourly Wage(c)	4/3	4/2½	4/0¼	4/0¼	4/3½	4/1	4/2¼
1950	Weekly Wage(b)	209/6	204/5	199/10	200/6	208/3	199/7	205/6
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
	Hourly Wage(c)	5/1¼	5/0¼	4/8½	4/9½	5/1¼	4/11	5/0
1951	Weekly Wage(b)	255/0	245/5	240/10	241/8	251/4	247/3	248/7
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
	Hourly Wage(c)	6/2¼	5/11¼	5/6½	5/9	6/2¼	5/11	6/0
1952	Weekly Wage(b)	284/8	274/5	267/9	274/6	284/7	276/2	278/2
	Weekly Hours of Labour(e)	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
	Hourly Wage(c)	6/11½	6/8½	6/4¼	6/7½	7/0¼	6/8½	6/9½
FEMALE WORKERS.								
1939	Weekly Wage(b)	53/3	51/9	55/2	49/7	55/8	50/8	52/8
	Weekly Hours of Labour	43.88	44.42	44.01	45.96	45.38	45.10	44.36
	Hourly Wage	1/2½	1/2	1/3	1/1	1/2¼	1/1½	1/2¼
1947	Weekly Wage(b)	84/3	88/6	85/10	80/10	80/1	81/11	85/8
	Weekly Hours of Labour	41.78	43.99	44.00	42.19	44.00	44.00	43.08
	Hourly Wage	2/0¼	2/0¼	1/11½	1/11	1/9½	1/10½	1/11½
1948	Weekly Wage(b)	100/0	103/1	98/4	95/1	93/5	96/8	100/4
	Weekly Hours of Labour	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	2/6	2/7	2/5½	2/4½	2/4	2/5	2/6
1949	Weekly Wage(b)	108/1	112/4	108/5	101/0	105/5	106/4	109/1
	Weekly Hours of Labour	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	2/8½	2/9½	2/8½	2/6½	2/7½	2/8	2/8½
1950	Weekly Wage(b)	139/11	142/11	135/11	142/1	132/3	137/2	140/5
	Weekly Hours of Labour	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	3/6	3/6¼	3/4¼	3/6½	3/3¼	3/5¼	3/6¼
1951	Weekly Wage(b)	171/1	172/10	161/7	171/4	163/2	168/7	170/4
	Weekly Hours of Labour	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	4/3½	4/3½	4/0½	4/3½	4/1	4/2½	4/3
1952	Weekly Wage(b)	193/11	196/2	184/4	195/8	186/0	191/2	193/5
	Weekly Hours of Labour	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	4/10¼	4/10¼	4/7½	4/10¼	4/7½	4/9¼	4/10

(a) See note (a) to table on page 282. (b) Weighted average weekly rate for all industrial groups combined. (c) Weighted average working hours per week (excluding overtime), 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 some of the occupations classified in industrial groups XI. and XII.

(iii) *Index Numbers.* The effect of changes in hours of labour on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers for all classes combined given in the following table. It should be noted that these comparative index-numbers for males and females are on the 1914 base as against the 1911 base of the earlier tables for adult males. This is because there was no tabulation for adult female rates prior to 1914:—

INDEX-NUMBERS OF WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR : ADULT WORKERS.(a)

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia, 30th April, 1914* = 1,000.)

31st December—	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
MALE WORKERS.								
1939	Weekly Wage ..	1,753	1,697	1,767	1,613	1,824	1,623	1,728
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	898	912	888	937	906	926	905
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	1,963	1,834	1,979	1,692	2,001	1,717	1,903
1947	Weekly Wage ..	2,563	2,483	2,445	2,428	2,497	2,413	2,501
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	840	893	882	876	882	884	869
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	2,974	2,709	2,638	2,692	2,754	2,648	2,797
1948	Weekly Wage ..	2,899	2,819	2,746	2,787	2,840	2,779	2,836
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	809	817	817
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	3,399	3,322	3,180	3,246	3,364	3,254	3,327
1949	Weekly Wage ..	3,119	3,064	3,045	2,998	3,111	3,000	3,077
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	808	817	817
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	3,654	3,607	3,463	3,484	3,691	3,515	3,599
1950	Weekly Wage ..	3,801	3,709	3,626	3,637	3,778	3,622	3,727
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	808	817	817
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	4,393	4,318	4,047	4,142	4,430	4,230	4,301
1951	Weekly Wage ..	4,626	4,453	4,369	4,384	4,560	4,486	4,510
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	5,318	5,142	4,756	4,948	5,319	5,079	5,153
1952	Weekly Wage ..	5,165	4,978	4,857	4,980	5,163	5,010	5,047
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
	Hourly Wage(b) ..	5,985	5,785	5,464	5,697	6,066	5,782	5,833
FEMALE WORKERS.								
1939	Weekly Wage ..	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	894	905	897	936	925	919	904
	Hourly Wage ..	2,193	2,107	2,267	1,952	2,217	2,032	2,145
1947	Weekly Wage ..	3,102	3,256	3,160	2,976	2,947	3,014	3,152
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	851	896	896	860	896	896	878
	Hourly Wage ..	3,646	3,634	3,527	3,464	3,289	3,363	3,593
1948	Weekly Wage ..	3,681	3,795	3,618	3,499	3,438	3,559	3,694
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	4,518	4,658	4,441	4,295	4,220	4,369	4,535
1949	Weekly Wage ..	3,979	4,134	3,990	3,716	3,880	3,915	4,015
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	4,884	5,074	4,898	4,562	4,762	4,806	4,929
1950	Weekly Wage ..	5,150	5,259	5,003	5,229	4,866	5,050	5,169
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	6,322	6,455	6,142	6,419	5,973	6,199	6,345
1951	Weekly Wage ..	6,296	6,362	5,948	6,305	6,007	6,204	6,268
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	7,729	7,810	7,301	7,741	7,373	7,616	7,694
1952	Weekly Wage ..	7,138	7,220	6,784	7,202	6,846	7,037	7,120
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	8,762	8,863	8,328	8,840	8,404	8,639	8,739

(a) See note (a) to table on page 282.

(b) See note (c) to previous table.

* Approximate Weekly Rates—M = 55s. 1d.; F = 27s. 2d. Hourly Rates—M = 1s. 2d.; F = 6½d. Weekly Hours of Labour—M = 48.93; F = 49.08.

4. **Nominal and Effective Wages.**—(i) *General.* Index-numbers of wage rates are said to be *nominal* when they represent changes in the wage rates themselves but are described as *effective* or *real* when they represent changes in equivalent purchasing power, that is, the purchasing power of the corresponding wages in terms of some definite composite unit or *regimen* the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between *nominal* and *effective* or *real* wages was discussed at some length in *Labour Report* No. 6, and was also referred to in *Labour Report* No. 11.

Since it is possible to measure purchasing power over more than one composite unit or regimen it is equally possible to convert any given nominal wage series into more than one series of effective or real wages. Prior to 1936 it was the practice of this Bureau to compute effective wage index-numbers by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series). While wage rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" series index-numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. When the Commonwealth Court abandoned the "A" series, the merits of the "C" series for "deflating" nominal wage rates were strengthened and real wages to the end of 1937 were measured in terms of their purchasing power over both regimens. Since 1938 when computations of the "A" series was discontinued, real wages have been measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "C" series only. The "C" series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements.

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—Adult Males, States, 1911 to 1952.* The following table shows for the period 1911 to 1952 the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable for adult males 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. The index-numbers for 1911 are based on rates current at the end of December, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and subsequent years, however, the index-numbers are based on the average rates current at the end of the four quarters of each year:—

NOMINAL WAGE(a) INDEX-NUMBERS : ADULT MALES.

(Base : Weighted Average Nominal Wage(a) for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
N.S. Wales ..	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,012	1,851	1,874	2,024	2,973	3,259	3,649	4,588	5,367
Victoria ..	985	1,062	1,803	1,964	1,683	1,808	1,984	2,909	3,200	3,584	4,458	5,158
Queensland ..	997	1,035	1,879	1,976	1,769	1,885	1,981	2,840	3,104	3,548	4,377	5,113
South Australia ..	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,891	1,580	1,725	1,897	2,841	3,150	3,503	4,370	5,124
W. Australia ..	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,960	1,745	1,956	2,106	2,888	3,226	3,638	4,557	5,325
Tasmania ..	799	1,027	1,745	1,840	1,625	1,738	1,895	2,861	3,149	3,472	4,441	5,178
Australia ..	1,000	1,081	1,826	1,972	1,752	1,846	1,997	2,914	3,210	3,596	4,495	5,241

(a) For a full week's work (excluding overtime).

(iii) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers—Adult Males, States, 1911 to 1952.* In obtaining the effective wage index-numbers in the following table, the nominal wage index-numbers shown above have been divided by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000. Since the "C" series index-numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed that fluctuations between 1911 (the base of the table) and 1914 in the "C" series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" series. A table showing effective or real wage index-numbers from 1901 to 1937 measured in terms of purchasing power over the "A" series regimen appeared in earlier issues of the *Official Year Book* (see No. 37, page 473).

EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE(a) INDEX-NUMBERS : ADULT MALES.

Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "C" series regimen.

(Base : Weighted Average Real Wage(a) in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
N.S. Wales	925	1,073	1,130	1,210	1,207	1,187	1,359	1,365	1,380	1,430	1,428
Victoria	954	1,084	1,164	1,200	1,180	1,187	1,355	1,363	1,381	1,429	1,432
Queensland	1,022	1,227	1,290	1,336	1,306	1,240	1,379	1,407	1,453	1,498	1,494
South Australia	914	1,034	1,099	1,137	1,147	1,158	1,341	1,362	1,388	1,439	1,430
W. Australia	1,043	1,096	1,152	1,189	1,308	1,279	1,377	1,379	1,426	1,477	1,479
Tasmania	902	984	1,108	1,120	1,153	1,142	1,334	1,388	1,371	1,438	1,432
Australia ..	1,000	948	1,087	1,151	1,210	1,211	1,194	1,357	1,367	1,389	1,439	1,438

(a) For a full week's work (excluding overtime).

In the table above, the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over any period of years.

(iv) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers—Adult Males, Australia, 1901 to 1950.* In previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 39, page 410) a table was included showing similar index-numbers for Australia as a whole under both the "A" and "C" series at intervals from 1901 to 1950.

§ 3. Basic Wages in Australia.

1. **General.**—Basic wages in Australia are fixed by various industrial tribunals operating under Commonwealth and State industrial legislation, and are varied from time to time according to changes in cost of living, etc. In the industrial legislation of Queensland and Western Australia, provision is made for the tribunals appointed under the Acts to determine the basic rates of wage to be paid to adult unskilled workers. In Tasmania provision for the declaration of a basic rate of wage is not included in the industrial Acts in force. The Wages Board system operates in this State, and each Wages Board determines the rate of wage to be paid to the unskilled worker when the determination for an industry or calling is under review. In Victoria, however, while a similar Wages Board system exists, the Factories and Shops Acts oblige Wages Boards to adopt Commonwealth Award rates and conditions "which such Boards are under the Factories and Shops Acts empowered to include in their determinations." In New South Wales and South Australia, in general, tribunals are required to adopt the prevailing Commonwealth basic wage. As the power of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is limited by the Constitution to the settlement, by conciliation and arbitration, of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State, no similar provision respecting the determination of a basic wage is to be found in the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. In practice, the Court does declare a Commonwealth basic wage, and uses the wage so declared as a basis for all awards made by it in the exercise of its jurisdiction, except in the case of awards made for Whyalla and Iron Knob where the basis of awards has, since 1947, been the South Australian "living" wage plus 5s. That is, upon a new basic wage being declared, the awards made in the settlement of all interstate industrial disputes are re-opened and amended accordingly. In addition to the "basic" wage, these tribunals also determine what is known as the "secondary" wage—"the extra payment to be made for trained skill or other exceptional qualities necessary for an employee exercising the functions required."* The term "minimum" wage, as distinct from the "basic" wage, is used to express the lowest rate payable in a particular industry or occupation, and is either equal to, or greater than, the "basic" wage.

2. **The Commonwealth Basic Wage.**—(i) *Early Judgments.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 but it was not until 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This was declared by Mr. Justice

* Mr. Justice Higgins—*A New Province of Law and Order.*

Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and was defined as the lowest wage which could be paid to an unskilled labourer on the basis of "the normal needs of an average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilized community."* This declaration was made by way of an order in terms of Section 2 (d) of the Excess Tariff 1906 in the matter of an application by H. V. McKay, of the Sunshine Harvester Works, Victoria, from which was derived the title of the "Harvester Wage" by which it is popularly known. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five."†

The "Harvester" basic rate was adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for incorporation in its awards, and practically the same rates continued until 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the retail price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series), for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. The basic rates for towns were thereafter fixed largely on their respective index-numbers, taking the index-number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to the "Harvester" rate of 42s. per week, or the base of the index (1,000) as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made in the case of many country towns, where certain "loadings" were applied to counter-balance their lower index-numbers due to cheaper rentals.

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s."‡ was added as a general "loading" to the weekly wage for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. In the same year the system was instituted of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to accord with variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the "A" Series retail price index-numbers, and of basing the adjustments on the index-number for the quarter in place of that for the previous calendar year or the year ended the preceding quarter.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the "basic" wage, or any alteration thereof including the principles on which it is computed, together with any variation or interpretation of any award involving any such alteration, shall be considered by a Court constituted by the Chief Judge and not less than two other Judges, and must be approved by a majority of the members of that Court. By a judgment of the High Court on 21st April, 1933, the "basic" wage is taken to mean, for the foregoing purpose, not only the "Harvester" wage but any "loadings" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer. A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill". The wage payable for skilled labour is assessed on the basis of the "basic" wage, including "loadings".

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1919 to assess a basic wage, but its recommendations were not carried out and no change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of the depression which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court by employers for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that afforded by the automatic adjustments to falling retail prices. An account of the proceedings which resulted in the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931, is given in *Labour Report* No. 23, page 74.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1934. The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued as the theoretical basis of the wage of the Commonwealth Court until 30th April, 1934, when it was superseded by a judgment delivered on 17th April, 1934, full particulars of which appear in *Official Year Book* No. 29, 1936, page 545. The basic wage declared on this occasion for the six capital cities ranged from 61s. for Brisbane to 67s. for Sydney and Hobart, the average wage for the six capital cities being 65s.

A comparison for the capital cities of the basic rates granted by the judgment and those ruling under previous practices of the Court is given in *Official Year Book* No. 38, p. 426.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the basis of the periodical adjustments to retail

* *Ibid.*

† See page 291 for Court's interpretation in 1940 *Basic Wage Inquiry* of the "family unit".

‡ Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the *Gas Workers' Case*.

price variations was transferred from the "A" and the "D" Series to the "C" Series of index-numbers. The base of the index (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. per week. This gave the above rates for the capital cities on the basis of their respective index-numbers. In effect, the new rate for the six capital cities was the same as that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s." and without the 10 per cent. reduction.

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937.* In May, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined unions for an increase in the basic wage. The unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" Series Index be increased from 81s. to 93s. which on current index-numbers would have represented an average increase of about 10s. per week. The hearing extended from 10th May to 4th June, 1937, and the Court delivered judgment on 23rd June. The chief features of the judgment were:—

(a) Various amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" on the rates payable under the 1934 judgment which were referred to in the judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wages. The loadings, commonly referred to as "Prosperity" loadings, ranged, for capital cities, from 4s. to 6s., that for the "Six Capitals" being 5s.

(b) The basis of the adjustment of wages in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index-numbers was transferred from the "C" series to a special "Court" series based upon the "C" series (*see page 273*).

(c) Female and junior rates were left for adjustment by individual Judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the judgment are reprinted in Official Year Book No. 30, and in *Labour Report* No. 28, p. 77.

(iv) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940.* On 5th August, 1940 the Full Court commenced the hearing of an application by the combined unions for an increase in the existing basic wage by raising the value of 1,000 (the base of the "C" Series Index upon which the "Court" Series are based) from 81s. to 100s. per week, and the abolition of the existing "Prosperity" loadings, which would be regarded as incorporated in the new rate mentioned. Judgment was delivered on 7th February, 1941, the Court unanimously refusing to grant any increase, and deciding that the application should not be dismissed but stood over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941. The application was refused mainly owing to the uncertainty of the economic outlook under existing war conditions (*see (v) following*). Extracts from the judgment were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (*see No. 38, p. 428*) and the *Labour Report*.

In regard to the popular idea that the basic wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was identified with a specific family unit, the Chief Judge made the following statements to clarify the position: "The Court has always conceded the 'needs' of an average family should be kept in mind in fixing a basic wage. But it has never as the result of its own inquiry specifically declared what is an average family or what is the cost of a regimen of food, clothing, shelter and miscellaneous items necessary to maintain it in frugal comfort, or that a basic wage should give effect to any such finding. In the end economic possibilities have always been the determining factor

. What should be sought is the independent ascertainment and prescription of the highest basic wage that can be sustained by the total of industry in all its primary, secondary and ancillary forms More than ever before wage fixation is controlled by the economic outlook".

The Chief Judge also suggested that the more logical system would be to grade the basic wage according to family responsibilities by means of a comprehensive system of child endowment, and that if a scheme of this nature were established,* future fixations of the basic wage would be greatly simplified.

(v) "*Interim*" *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1946.* As the result of (a) an application made by the Commonwealth Attorney-General for the restoration to the Full Court List of certain adjourned 1940 basic wage applications (*see (iv) above*), (b) a number of fresh cases which had come to the Court since 1941, and (c) an application by the combined unions for an "interim" basic wage declaration, the Court, on 25th November, 1946, commenced the hearing of this case. Judgment was delivered on 13th December, 1946 whereby an increase of 7s. per week was granted in the "needs" portion of the basic

* Legislation covering a scheme to become operative on 1st July, 1941, was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament on 3rd April, 1941—*see Chapter XIV.—Welfare Services for details.*

wage then current and based on the weighted average "Court" index-number for the Six Capital Cities (as a whole) for the September quarter, 1946. This had the effect of raising the base (1923-27) index-number of the "Court" Series Index from 81.0 to 87.0, the corresponding "needs" basic wage from 81s. to 87s. per week, and the current rate for the Six Capital Cities as a whole from 93s. to 100s. per week. All "loadings" on the basic wage were retained at their existing amounts until otherwise ordered by the Court. Further details of this judgment may be obtained from *Labour Report* No. 38, page 79.

(vi) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949-50.* This case really finalized the case begun in 1940 and continued in 1946 (*see above*). In 1946 the Chief Judge ruled that the claim for an increase in the basic wage should be heard concurrently with the "40-Hour Week" claims then before the Court. The unions, however, objected to this course being followed, and, on appeal to the High Court, that Court in March, 1947, gave a decision which obliged the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to proceed with the "Hours" case to its conclusion without the interpolation of the contemporaneous hearing of the Basic Wage case.*

Evidence was completed on 22nd August, 1950, and the three judges (Kelly, *C.J.*, Foster and Dunphy, *J.J.*) delivered separate judgments on 12th October, 1950. In these judgments, which were in the nature of general declarations, a majority of the Court (Foster and Dunphy, *J.J.*) was of the opinion that the basic wage for adult males should be increased by £1 per week, and that for adult females should be 75 per cent. of the adult male rate. Kelly, *C.J.*, dissenting, considered that no increase in either the male or female wage was justified.

On 24th October, 1950, and 23rd November, 1950, the Court made further declarations regarding the "Prosperity" loading of 1937 (*see page 291*) which was being paid at rates between 3s. and 6s. per week according to localities, etc., and the future basis of quarterly adjustments. The "Prosperity" loading was standardized at a uniform rate of 5s. per week for all towns and was declared to be an adjustable part of the basic wage. The Court also declared that the "War" loadings were not part of the basic wage.

With regard to other "loadings" the Court on 17th November, 1950 proceeded to examine the individual awards in the claims before it, for the purpose of determining to what extent such "loadings" formed part of the basic wage. It should be noted that any "loading" declared to be part of the basic wage ceased to be paid as a separate entity, but apart from the special case of the Australian Capital Territory there were very few "loadings" which fell within this category.

The first payment of the new rates was expressed to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, by way of a flat-rate addition of £1 5s. in all cases to the "needs" rate (2nd Series) on the indexes of September quarter, 1950, inclusive of the standardized "Prosperity" loading of 5s. (*see above*).

The basic wage rate for the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) arrived at by the Court after applying the foregoing declarations was £8 2s., comprising £6 17s. "needs" (2nd Series) plus 5s. uniform "Prosperity" loading plus the £1 addition. For the purpose of determining the corresponding rates to be paid in respect of individual cities and towns, and combinations thereof, and their future automatic adjustment, this new rate of £8 2s. was equated to the "C" Series retail price index-number 1572 for the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) for September quarter, 1950. From this was derived a new "Court" Series Index—in future to be known as the "Court" Index (Third Series)—for automatic variation of the new basic wage in accordance with future variations in retail prices, with 103.0 equated to 1,000 in the "C" Series Index. The first automatic quarterly adjustment of the new basic wage on this basis became operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1951, on the basis of the index numbers for the December quarter, 1950.

* Printing Industry Employees Union of Australia v. Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, 73 C.L.R. 259.

The basic wage rates operative in November, 1950, are shown below in comparison with those operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950 :—

Date of Operation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<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>
November, 1950 ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December, 1950 ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0

Further details of this judgment are given in *Labour Report* No. 40, page 81.

(vii) *Rates Operative, Principal Towns.* The basic wage rates of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for adult males and females, operative as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in May, 1953, were as shown in the following table :—

COMMONWEALTH BASIC WAGE : WEEKLY RATES.(a)

City or Town.	Rate of Wage.		City or Town.	Rate of Wage.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
New South Wales—			South Australia—		
Sydney ..	241 0	180 6	Adelaide ..	228 0	171 0
Newcastle (b) ..	241 0	180 6	Whyalla and Iron Knob ..	233 0	174 6
Port Kembla—Wolongong (b) ..	241 0	180 6	Five Towns (c) ..	227 0	170 0
Broken Hill ..	246 0	184 6	Western Australia—		
Five Towns (c) ..	240 0	180 0	Perth ..	231 0	173 0
Victoria—			Kalgoorlie ..	241 0	180 6
Melbourne ..	232 0	174 0	Geraldton ..	246 0	184 6
Geelong (d) ..	232 0	174 0	Five Towns (c) ..	233 0	174 6
Warrnambool (d) ..	232 0	174 0	Tasmania—		
Mildura (d) ..	232 0	174 0	Hobart ..	239 0	179 0
Yallourn (d) ..	238 6	179 0	Launceston ..	234 0	175 6
Five Towns (c) ..	231 0	173 0	Queenstown ..	228 0	171 0
Queensland—			Five Towns (c) ..	236 0	177 0
Brisbane ..	217 0	162 6	Thirty Towns (c) ..	233 0	175 6
Five Towns (c) ..	218 0	163 6	Six Capital Cities (c) ..	234 0	174 6

(a) Operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in May, 1953. (b) Based on Sydney. (c) Weighted average. (d) Based on Melbourne.

The rate for provincial towns, other than those mentioned above, is 3s. less than that for their respective capital cities.

The following table shows the movements of this wage in all capital cities and the six capital cities as a whole during the years 1939 to 1953.

BASIC WAGE : WEEKLY RATES^(a), CAPITAL CITIES, PRESCRIBED BY COMMONWEALTH COURT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION FOR ADULT MALES.

Date Operative. ^(b)	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
September, 1939 ..	81 0	81 0	76 0	78 0	77 0	77 0	79 0
November, 1940 ..	85 0	84 0	79 0	80 0	80 0	81 0	83 0
„ 1941 ..	89 0	88 0	84 0	84 0	85 0	85 0	87 0
„ 1942 ..	97 0	97 0	91 0	93 0	91 0	92 0	95 0
„ 1943 ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	94 0	94 0	95 0	97 0
„ 1944 ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	93 0	94 0	94 0	96 0
„ 1945 ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	93 0	94 0	94 0	96 0
„ 1946 ..	101 0	99 0	94 0	95 0	95 0	97 0	98 0
December, 1946 ..	108 0	106 0	101 0	102 0	102 0	103 0	105 0
November, 1947 ..	112 0	109 0	105 0	106 0	106 0	107 0	109 0
„ 1948 ..	122 0	120 0	115 0	116 0	116 0	118 0	119 0
„ 1949 ..	132 0	130 0	125 0	126 0	129 0	128 0	129 0
„ 1950 ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December, 1950 ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0
February, 1951 ..	173 0	170 0	159 0	166 0	166 0	165 0	169 0
May, 1951 ..	180 0	177 0	166 0	171 0	176 0	173 0	176 0
August, 1951 ..	193 0	189 0	175 0	184 0	188 0	187 0	189 0
November, 1951 ..	207 0	199 0	185 0	195 0	197 0	199 0	200 0
February, 1952 ..	216 0	209 0	199 0	205 0	205 0	208 0	210 0
May, 1952 ..	223 0	212 0	207 0	211 0	214 0	214 0	216 0
August, 1952 ..	235 0	224 0	213 0	224 0	222 0	222 0	227 0
November, 1952 ..	237 0	228 0	216 0	229 0	228 0	230 0	231 0
February, 1953 ..	238 0	229 0	215 0	225 0	229 0	232 0	231 0
May, 1953 ..	241 0	232 0	217 0	228 0	231 0	239 0	234 0

(a) Rates include "prosperity" loadings where applicable.
of the first pay-period commencing in the month indicated.

(b) Generally from the beginning

3. **Australian Territories.**—A full account of the bases upon which the basic wages are determined in the Australian Capital Territory and in the Northern Territory (both north and south of the 20th parallel of South Latitude) may be found on pages 89 to 96 of *Labour Report* No. 40 for 1951.

In the Australian Capital Territory the rates payable as from the beginning of the first pay-period in May, 1953, were £11 15s. for adult males and £8 16s. for adult females.

In the Northern Territory there are two basic wages operating, one in respect of areas north of the 20th parallel of South Latitude, generally referred to as the "Darwin" rate and the other in respect of areas south of that parallel and extending down to the 26th parallel (the "Port Augusta" rate).

The basic wage rates payable as from the beginning of the first pay-period in May, 1953, were:—"Darwin" rate, adult males, £12 13s., adult females, £9 9s. 6d.; "Port Augusta" rate, adult males, £11 19s., and adult females, £8 19s.

In addition to the above rates special loadings were prescribed in Northern Territory awards following the fixation of the new basic wage rates operative from November, 1951.

4. **Basic Wage Rates for Females.**—Reference should be made to *Labour Report* No. 40, 1951 (page 86) for a statement of the general principles followed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing basic wage rates for females in relation to those of males. At the end of the 1949-50 basic Wage Inquiry (see page 292) the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by a majority decision fixed a new basic weekly wage for adult females at 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.

5. **State Basic Wages.**—(i) *New South Wales.* The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard "living" wage for adult male employees was made on 16th February, 1914, by the Court of Industrial Arbitration.

A Board of Trade established in 1918 with power to determine the "living" wage for adult male and female employees in the State made numerous declarations from 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 transferred its powers to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales as from 15th April, 1926.

The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent children. With the adoption in 1937 of the Commonwealth basic wage referred to below, however, the identification of a specified family unit with the basic wage disappeared.

A table showing the variations in the living wages determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales up to 27th April, 1937 was published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 37, page 481). Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates in this table. Since 27th April, 1937, changes have been made automatically in accordance with the procedure outlined in the next paragraph, and the latest current rate payable will be found in the table in sub-par. vi., page 299.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration referred to on page 291, the Government of New South Wales decided to make the State Basic Wage accord with the Commonwealth rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act to give effect thereto which came into operation from the commencement of the first pay-period in October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable, and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations in retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's "All Items" Retail Price Index-numbers, shortly known as the "Court" Series of Index-numbers. The Commonwealth Court's principle of treating the "prosperity" loadings as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The basic rate for adult females was fixed at 54 per cent. of the adult male rate to the nearest sixpence. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility for altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the intentions of the new Act; for defining boundaries within which the various rates are to operate; and for specifying the appropriate "Court" Series retail price index-numbers to which they are to be related.

The judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 12th October, 1950 necessitated attention by the legislature to the clauses of the Industrial Arbitration Act providing for the automatic adjustment of rates of pay based on the Commonwealth Basic Wage Judgment of 23rd June, 1937.

An amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act was assented to on 23rd November, 1950 which empowered the Industrial Commission to vary the terms of awards and industrial agreements affecting male rates of pay, to the extent to which the Commission thought fit, to give effect to the alteration in the basic wage for adult males made by the Commonwealth judgment. In the case of female rates of pay the Commission was empowered to review the terms of awards and industrial agreements and to vary such terms as in the circumstances the Commission decided proper, but no variation was to fix rates of pay for female employees lower than the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females. Further details of this amendment and recent judgments of the Commission may be found in *Labour Report* No. 40, *see* page 98.

By an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act in June, 1951, the differentiation in rates for the basic wage in different districts and for employees under Crown awards was eliminated as a general rule, making the basic wage throughout the State equal to that paid in Sydney, with the main exception of the Broken Hill district where a different basic rate still prevails.

The basic wage rates applicable in the metropolitan area from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in May, 1953, were £12 1s. per week for adult males and £9 0s. 6d. for adult females.

The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age was operative in New South Wales from July, 1927 until

superseded by the Commonwealth Government Scheme operative from 1st July, 1941, and a brief account of the main features of the system appears in Official Year Book No. 37, pp. 485-6.

(ii) *Victoria and Tasmania.* A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review. In the majority of cases the practice of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of adjusting wages in accordance with variations in retail prices has been followed in the past by these bodies. In the case of Victoria, by amendments of the Factories and Shops Act No. 4275 of 1934 and No. 4461 of 1936, it is obligatory on all Wages Boards to adopt provisions of Commonwealth Awards "which such Boards are empowered under the Factory and Shops Acts to include in their determinations". The Secretary of Labour is also empowered under this Act to make adjustments of wages according to variations in retail price index-numbers without calling the Board together.

In accordance with the decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (*see* page 292) the Wages Boards in both States met and incorporated the new Commonwealth rates in their determinations. The Commonwealth weekly adult male rate operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in May, 1953, was £11 12s. for Melbourne and £11 19s. for Hobart. Female basic wages were 75 per cent. of these rates.

(iii) *Queensland.* The first formal declaration of a basic wage by the Queensland Court of Industrial Arbitration was gazetted on 24th February, 1921. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. per week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its awards as the basic or living wage. The basic wage is nominally intended to provide for the needs of a man, his wife and three children. The variations in the adult basic wages determined by the Court up to 1st April, 1937, were published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 37, page 482). Variations since that date are shown below:—

BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN QUEENSLAND. (*State Jurisdiction.*)

Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.	
	Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st April, 1938	4 1 0	2 3 0
7th August, 1939	4 4 0	2 5 0
31st March, 1941	4 9 0	2 8 0
4th May, 1942(a)	4 11 0	2 9 6
23rd December, 1946(b)	5 5 0	3 0 6
7th December, 1950(b)	7 14 0	5 2 6

(a) Quarterly adjustments provided by judgment of 21st April, 1942—*see* below. (b) Consequent upon basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the Southern Division (Eastern District), which includes the metropolitan area; allowances are added for the following divisions—Northern (Eastern District), 10s.; Northern (Western District), 17s. 4d.; Mackay, 5s. 6d.; and Southern (Western District), 7s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.

On 15th April, 1942, the Court declared the rates operative from 31st March, 1941 as adequately meeting the requirements of Section 9 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1932, having regard to the level of the "C" Series Retail Price Index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1941 and decided to make a quarterly declaration of the basic wage on the basis of the variations in the "cost of living" as disclosed by the "C" Series Index for Brisbane, commencing with the figures for the March quarter, 1942. This declaration was duly made by the Court on 21st April, 1942, at the rates

of £4 11s. for adult males, and £2 9s. 6d. for adult females. Since then, quarterly adjustments have been made to the basic wage in accordance with changes in the "C" Series Index.

In view of the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (*see page 291*) the Queensland Industrial Court granted increases of 7s. and 5s. in the basic wages for adult males and adult females respectively to operate from 23rd December, 1946.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (*see page 292*) the Queensland Industrial Court conducted an inquiry as to what change should be made to the State basic wage for Queensland. By a majority decision on 30th November, 1950, the Industrial Court granted an increase of 15s. weekly to both adult males and adult females, the new male rate of £7 14s. corresponding to the Commonwealth basic wage for the Brisbane metropolitan area. The basic wage payable to adult females is now approximately 66 per cent. of the male rate. The judgment of the Queensland Industrial Court may be found in the supplement to the *Queensland Industrial Gazette* Vol. 35, No. 4, page 1253.

The rates payable in the Southern Division (Eastern District) in accordance with regular quarterly variations from 4th May, 1953, were £10 18s. for adult males and £7 6s. for adult females.

(iv) *South Australia.* The Industrial Code 1920-1951 provides that the Board of Industry shall after public inquiry declare the living wages to be paid to adult male and female employees. The Board has power also to fix different rates to be paid in different defined areas.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 decided that the average employee in respect of whom the living wage is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. per week.

Following on the declaration of an "interim" increase in its "needs" basic wage by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 13th December, 1946 (*see p. 291*) the South Australian Parliament provided for the "daily living wage" for adult males in the metropolitan area to be declared as one-sixth of the Commonwealth weekly basic wage for this area. The Act mentioned also provided for similar declarations in respect of any adjustment of such wage, but the powers of the Board of Industry to declare a "living wage" were retained, and any such wage so declared will supersede that declared by proclamation.

The variation in the living wages determined by the Board of Industry up to 25th November, 1937, were published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see No. 37, page 483*). Variations since that date are shown below:—

LIVING WAGE VARIATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. (*State Jurisdiction.*)

Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.	
	Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5th January, 1939	3 18 0	1 18 0
28th November, 1940	4 4 0	2 1 0
26th November, 1941	4 7 0	2 3 6
15th October, 1942	4 14 0	2 6 2
26th September, 1946	4 18 6	2 15 0
7th January, 1947(a)	5 2 0	2 17 0
21st August, 1947	5 4 0	2 18 0
13th November, 1947	5 6 0	2 19 0
7th July, 1948	5 17 0	3 6 6
19th May, 1949	6 5 0	3 8 6

(a) Commonwealth rate for metropolitan area adopted.

The Industrial Code Amendment Act No. 65 of 1949 made provision for the quarterly adjustment of the "living wage" in accordance with the variations in the Commonwealth basic wage consequent on the changes in the "Court" Series index of retail prices for Adelaide. In effect this resulted in parity between the State living wage and the Commonwealth basic wage from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1950. The prescribed adjustment to the female "living wage" was seven-twelfths of the same adjustment to the Commonwealth male basic wage. The Board of Industry retained power to amend the "living wage" but any new "living wage" was to be adjusted quarterly as above.

Following the decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 292), the South Australian legislation was amended to enable, *inter alia*, the "living wage" to be altered by proclamation, and by proclamation dated 30th November, 1950, the South Australian Living Wage in the metropolitan area was fixed at increased rates identical with the December rates fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the metropolitan area of South Australia. The female basic wage, which had been approximately 54 per cent. of the male basic wage, was increased to 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate.

The rates payable in accordance with the quarterly adjustments notified by the President of the Board of Industry, operating from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in May, 1953, were £11 8s. per week for adult males, and £8 11s. for adult females.

(v) *Western Australia.* The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952 provides that the Court of Arbitration may determine and declare a basic wage at any time on its own motion and must do so when requested by a majority of industrial unions or by the Western Australian Employers' Federation, with the limitation that no new determination shall be made within twelve months of the last preceding inquiry.

The term "basic wage" is defined in the Act as "a wage which the Court considers to be just and reasonable for the average worker to whom it applies". In determining what is just and reasonable the Court must take into account not only the "needs of an average worker" but also the "economic capacity of industry" and any other matters the Court deems relevant.

Provision is also made in the Act for quarterly adjustments of the "basic wage" by the Court of Arbitration when an official statement supplied to the Court by the State Government Statistician relating to the cost of living shows that a variation of 1s. or more per week has occurred, compared with the preceding quarter. These adjustments apply from the dates of declaration by the Court.

The first declaration of the basic wage by the Court of Arbitration, since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court in 1925, was made on 11th June, 1926. The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis for its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children. The variations in the annual declarations of the Court of Arbitration up to 1937 were published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 37, page 484). Annual and special declarations since 1937 are shown in the following table.

BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. (State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Metropolitan Area.		South-West Land Division (excluding Metropolitan Area).		Other Parts of State.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st July, 1938 ..	4 0 0	2 3 2	4 1 0	2 3 9	4 13 3	2 10 4
" " 1939 ..	4 2 2	2 4 4	4 3 1	2 14 10	4 16 4	2 12 0
" " 1940 ..	4 2 8	2 4 8	4 3 3	2 4 11	4 16 3	2 12 0
" " 1941(b) ..	4 8 0	2 7 6	4 9 3	2 8 2	5 3 6	2 15 11
" " 1942 ..	4 10 5	2 8 10	4 10 10	2 9 1	5 5 7	2 17 0
" " 1943 ..	4 19 1	2 13 6	4 18 1	2 13 0	5 5 9	2 17 1
" " 1944 ..	4 19 11	2 13 11	4 19 8	2 13 10	5 7 1	2 17 10
" " 1945 ..	5 0 1	2 14 1	4 19 7	2 13 9	5 7 5	2 18 0
" " 1946 ..	5 1 1	2 14 7	5 0 6	2 14 3	5 9 0	2 18 10
26th Feb, 1947(c) ..	5 7 1	2 17 10	5 6 6	2 17 6	5 15 4	3 2 3
1st July, 1947 ..	5 7 10	2 18 3	5 7 3	2 17 11	5 16 0	3 2 8
" " 1948 ..	5 15 9	3 2 6	5 15 2	3 2 2	6 4 9	3 7 4
" " 1949 ..	6 7 1	3 8 8	6 6 9	3 8 5	6 15 1	3 12 11
" " 1950 ..	7 0 0	3 15 7	6 19 9	3 15 6	7 7 3	3 19 6
18th Dec., 1950(c) ..	8 6 6	4 14 1	8 6 7	4 14 2	8 14 8	4 18 6

(a) Applicable from 24th April, 1939. (b) Applicable from 28th April, 1941. (c) Special declarations following basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The increased basic wage of 26th February, 1947 was granted after an inquiry by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration consequent upon the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (see page 291).

Following the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 292) the Western Australian Court of Arbitration resumed an inquiry which had been adjourned, to ascertain what change should be made in the State basic wage rates. In its judgment of 7th December, 1950 the Court decided that the basic wage should be increased by £1 per week for adult males and by 15s. per week for adult females. As the result of a subsequent inquiry the basic wage for adult females was increased to 65 per cent. of the corresponding male rate, operative from 1st December, 1951. This was subject to the condition that the increase should be offset by the reduction in or deletion of existing margins between the basic wage and the total wage as specified by the appropriate award or determination.

The judgment of the Court of 7th December, 1950, may be found on page 336 of the *Western Australia Industrial Gazette*, Volume 30, Nos. 3-4.

The rates payable in the metropolitan area in accordance with the quarterly adjustments declared by the Court, operative from 27th April, 1953, are £12 1s. 10d. for adult males and £7 17s. 2d. for adult females.

(vi) *State Basic Wage Rates.* The "basic" wage rates of State industrial tribunals operative in May, 1952 and May, 1953 are summarized in the following table:—

STATE BASIC WAGE—WEEKLY RATES.

State.	May, 1952.			May, 1953.		
	Date of Operation.	Males.	Females.	Date of Operation.	Males.	Females.
		s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales—						
Metropolitan and Country excluding Broken Hill ..	(a)	223 0	167 0	(a)	241 0	180 6
Broken Hill ..	(a)	231 0	173 0	(a)	246 0	184 6
Victoria(b) ..	(a)	212 0	159 0	(a)	232 0	174 0
Queensland—						
Southern Division (Eastern District)—including Brisbane(c) ..	28.4.52	207 0	138 6	4.5.53	218 0	146 0
South Australia ..	(a)	211 0	158 0	(a)	228 0	171 0
Western Australia—						
Metropolitan Area ..	28.4.52	223 10	145 6	27.4.53	241 10	157 2
South-West Land Division ..	28.4.52	222 5	144 7	27.4.53	243 0	157 11
Goldfields and other areas ..	28.4.52	228 10	148 9	27.4.53	247 9	161 0
Tasmania(b) ..	(a)	214 0	160 6	(a)	239 0	179 0

(a) Operative from beginning of first pay-period commencing in month shown. (b) None declared but rates (capital city) shown are those of Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration which are followed to a large extent. (c) Allowances added for other areas:—Males—Southern Division (Western District), 7s. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d.; Northern Division (Eastern District), 7s.; Northern Division (Western District), 17s. 4d.; Females—half of these allowances.

6. **Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.**—Only one comprehensive attempt has been made by the Commonwealth authorities to ascertain specifically what the actual requirements were in the various States according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household, in respect of a family consisting of a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age. This was made by a Royal Commission which in its report, in 1920, made recommendations for the various capital cities which were not carried out owing largely to the marked advance of the amounts suggested over ruling rates and the grave doubts expressed as to the ability of industry to pay such rates. Further details of these recommendations are given in *Labour Report* No. 40 (see page 106).

§ 4. Child Endowment in Australia.

1. **General.**—The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under sixteen years of age became prominent in Australia following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and was implemented in Australia as described in the following paragraphs. The system has been in force in various forms in England and on the Continent as far back as 1795, the first instance occurring in England in that year.

2. **National Scheme.**—Details of the appointment of another Royal Commission in 1927 and a brief summary of its findings and of consequent Government decisions were given in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 39, page 425).

In 1941, the Commonwealth Government introduced a scheme of child endowment throughout Australia. The main features of the scheme and a summary of the operations under the scheme from 1st July, 1947 to 30th June, 1952, are given in Chapter XIV.—Welfare Services.

3. **Earlier Schemes.**—Consequent upon the operation of the Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme, appropriate steps were taken for the termination of the schemes operating in the Commonwealth Public Service and in New South Wales. The Commonwealth Public Service Scheme was the first system instituted in Australia and came into operation on 1st November, 1920. In New South Wales an abortive attempt to institute the system was made in 1919 and a scheme was adopted under the Family Endowment Act 1927 which operated from 23rd July, 1927. For further details of these schemes reference may be made to Official Year Book No. 37, pages 485 and 486.

E. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Employment.

1. **Total Occupied Persons.**—(i) *General.* The following estimates of the total numbers of occupied males and females are based principally on data from the 1933 Census (June), the National Register (July, 1939), the Civilian Register (June, 1943), the Occupation Survey (June, 1945) and the 1947 Census (June). These sources of information have been supplemented by Pay-roll Tax returns, which commenced in July, 1941. Owing to some difference in coverage, 1947 figures in the following tables differ slightly from Census figures as shown in Chapter IX.—Population. The 1947 figures are subject to revision.

(ii) *Australia.* The estimates in the table below are divided into three categories (a) Defence Forces; (b) all persons fully occupied as employers, or as self-employed in businesses or on farms; and (c) wage or salary earners fully employed, or occupied as casual, part-time, intermittent or seasonal workers. Wage earners unemployed, in the sense that they are incapacitated or have no work to go to, are excluded, as also are persons engaged on Government relief works.

All unpaid "helpers" in non-rural industry have been included with wage and salary earners. Male unpaid "helpers" in rural industry have been included with employers and self-employed persons, as it is considered that the majority of these are sons or other close relatives of farmers working in an unofficial partnership, or as learners with the farm owner. Unpaid female "helpers" on farms are very numerous, but their exact number is not known. Generally, they combine part-time dairy or other farm work with part-time duties in the home. Together with women occupied in unpaid home duties they have been excluded from the category of occupied persons.

Statistics of net enlistments in the Defence Forces shown in the table below represent total enlistments for full-time duty less deaths and discharges. Prior to December, 1941, men in certain age-groups were called-up for short training courses but these men are excluded from the figures. In July, 1941, the number of such men was approximately 50,000.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS : AUSTRALIA.

('000.)

Year and Month.	De- fence Forces (Net Enlist- ments). (a)	Employers and Self- employed.			Wage and Salary Earners.			Total Occupied Civilians.	Total Occupied Persons, including Forces. (a)
		Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.	Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.		
MALES.									
1933—June ..	5.8	292.4	248.3	540.7	200.0	992.0	1,192.0	1,732.7	1,738.5
1939—July ..	12.9	300.0	299.0	599.0	202.0	1,293.1	1,495.1	2,094.1	2,107.0
1941—July ..	282.8b	284.0	208.0	492.0	188.0	1,363.4	1,551.4	2,043.4	2,326.2
1943—June ..	685.0	262.0	150.0	412.0	120.9	1,273.2	1,394.1	1,806.1	2,491.1
1945—June(c) ..	603.5	287.5	187.1	474.6	130.2	1,294.2	1,424.4	1,899.0	2,502.5
1947—June ..	53.2	278.9	286.8	565.7	148.2	1,649.4d	1,797.6d	2,363.3d	2,416.5d
FEMALES.									
1933—June ..	..	15.1	56.2	71.3	4.4	(e) 447.5	451.9	523.2	523.2
1939—July ..	..	16.0	62.0	78.0	4.0	561.6	565.6	643.6	643.6
1941—July ..	1.8	14.0	56.8	70.8	6.0	656.2	662.2	733.0	734.8
1943—June ..	44.0	11.7	34.4	46.1	28.1	682.1	710.2	756.3	800.3
1945—June(e) ..	45.4	17.0	43.1	60.1	23.0	667.1	690.1	750.2	795.6
1947—June ..	0.8	13.8	55.8	69.6	8.1	659.9d	668.0d	737.6d	738.4d
PERSONS.									
1933—June ..	5.8	307.5	304.5	612.0	204.4	1,439.5	1,643.9	2,255.9	2,261.7
1939—July ..	12.9	316.0	361.0	677.0	206.0	1,854.7	2,060.7	2,737.7	2,750.6
1941—July ..	284.6b	298.0	264.8	562.8	194.0	2,019.6	2,213.6	2,776.4	3,061.0
1943—June ..	729.0	273.7	184.4	458.1	149.0	1,955.3	2,104.3	2,562.4	3,291.4
1945—June(c) ..	648.9	304.5	230.2	534.7	153.2	1,961.3	2,114.5	2,649.2	3,298.1
1947—June ..	54.0	292.7	342.6	635.3	156.3	2,309.3d	2,465.6d	3,100.9d	3,154.9d

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 50,000 men called up for short training courses. (c) Occupation Survey, 1st June, 1945. (d) Subject to revision. (e) Includes females, in thousands, in private domestic service as follows:—106.7 in June, 1933; 124.5 in July, 1939; 100.0 in July, 1941; 41.5 in June, 1943; 47.6 in June, 1945; and 40.3 in June, 1947.

From June, 1933 to July, 1939, the number of occupied persons of both sexes increased by 488,900, due to the increase of 223,700 in the number of available bread-winners and to the decrease of 265,200 in the number unemployed from 563,200 to 298,000. During the war years from July, 1939 to June, 1943, the number of males occupied as civilians decreased by 288,000, while females occupied as civilians increased by nearly 113,000, representing a net decrease of 175,000 persons. This decrease, together with decrease of unemployment (272,000), normal increase of breadwinners (91,000) and an abnormal war-time increase of 178,000 bread winners (persons who would not otherwise have been working), balanced the net intake into the Defence Forces at June, 1943 (716,000). The estimate of 659,000 female wage and salary earners employed in non-rural industries as at June, 1947, includes 40,300 private domestics (the Census figure). The remaining 619,600 females in the estimate include females working part-time. The 1947 Census figure for the same industries (i.e., excluding rural and private domestic) was 579,200. Persons working regularly but for considerably less than normal working hours were instructed on the Census Schedule to exclude themselves from the work force, unless their earnings from such work formed their principal means of livelihood.

(iii) *States.* The following table shows total occupied males and females in each State in July, 1939, and June, 1947, divided into Defence Forces, Employers and Self-employed, and Wage and Salary Earners.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS : STATES.
(*000.)

State.	Defence Forces (Net Enlistments). (a)		Employers and Self-employed.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons, including Forces. (a)	
	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947.(b)	July, 1939.	June, 1947.(b)
MALES.								
New South Wales ..	4.9	23.1	216.2	197.5	596.2	723.6	817.3	944.2
Victoria ..	4.4	15.9	162.9	158.1	399.5	480.9	566.8	654.9
Queensland ..	1.0	5.9	95.1	96.9	218.6	255.4	314.7	358.2
South Australia ..	1.1	2.6	54.6	51.8	127.7	154.4	183.4	208.8
Western Australia ..	1.0	3.4	47.4	39.8	99.7	115.6	148.1	158.8
Tasmania ..	0.5	0.8	21.5	20.1	46.9	58.1	68.9	79.0
Australia(c) ..	12.9	53.2	599.0	565.7	1,495.1	1,797.6	2,107.0	2,416.5
FEMALES.								
New South Wales ..	..	0.3	28.4	25.4	220.8	268.8	249.2	294.5
Victoria ..	..	0.4	25.5	22.4	175.3	203.4	200.8	226.2
Queensland ..	..	0.1	11.1	10.2	71.2	83.2	82.3	93.5
South Australia ..	..	..	6.0	5.2	47.4	52.9	53.4	58.1
Western Australia ..	..	..	4.8	4.3	33.2	38.4	38.0	42.7
Tasmania ..	..	..	2.2	1.9	16.3	19.0	18.5	20.9
Australia(c) ..	..	0.8	78.0	69.6	565.6	668.0	643.6	738.4
PERSONS.								
New South Wales ..	4.9	23.4	244.6	222.9	817.0	992.4	1,066.5	1,238.7
Victoria ..	4.4	16.3	188.4	180.5	574.8	684.3	767.6	881.1
Queensland ..	1.0	6.0	106.2	107.1	289.8	338.6	397.0	451.7
South Australia ..	1.1	2.6	60.6	57.0	175.1	207.3	236.8	266.9
Western Australia ..	1.0	3.4	52.2	44.1	132.9	154.0	186.1	201.5
Tasmania ..	0.5	0.8	23.7	22.0	63.2	77.1	87.4	99.9
Australia(c) ..	12.9	54.0	677.0	635.3	2,060.7	2,465.6	2,750.6	3,154.9

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia.

(b) Subject to revision.

(c) Includes Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

Between July, 1939 and June, 1947, the occupied population of Australia (including Defence Forces but excluding unemployed, pensioners, retired persons of independent means and dependants) increased by approximately 14.7 per cent. The proportionate increase in each State was as follows: New South Wales, 16.1; Victoria, 14.8; Queensland, 13.8; South Australia, 12.7; Western Australia, 8.3; Tasmania, 14.3.

2. *Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment.*—(i) *Australia and States.* Estimates are made monthly of wage and salary earners in employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female domestics in private homes), based on Pay-roll Tax returns and supplementary returns of Government employment. Pay-roll Tax returns cover only a small proportion of wage earners on rural holdings, and practically no private domestic servants. It is not possible to obtain actual numbers of farm employees and private domestic servants except when a Census or quasi-Census such as

Occupation Survey (1st June, 1945) is taken, but estimates have been made from time to time using available data. The next table shows for each State and for Australia as a whole the trend in that section of wage and salary earning employment which it is possible to estimate monthly. Figures are shown as at June, 1933 (Census) and July, 1939 (based on National Register). From July, 1941 (commencement of Pay-roll Tax returns) the estimates are available for each month, and the table shows the level in June of the years 1947 and 1948, in May, 1949, and in June, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Year and Month.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia. (a)
MALES.							
1933—June	380.6	288.6	139.8	80.5	70.1	29.0	992.0
1939—July	529.9	357.5	172.8	106.7	82.9	37.4	1,293.1
1947—June(b)	671.8	452.6	220.2	140.9	103.9	51.1	1,649.4
1948—June(b)	702.3	473.3	232.6	149.0	109.2	54.5	1,730.9
1949—May(b)(c)	721.4	489.3	239.8	155.0	112.8	57.4	1,787.1
1950—June(b)	740.8	510.7	250.4	165.7	120.5	58.4	1,858.7
1951—June(b)	758.2	525.8	259.3	170.0	125.3	60.2	1,911.5
1952—June(b)	754.4	524.4	258.1	171.5	126.0	61.0	1,908.1
FEMALES.							
1933—June	125.8	118.2	40.5	26.0	20.6	9.1	340.8
1939—July	168.0	142.9	53.2	34.0	26.2	11.6	437.1
1947—June(b)	252.1	190.5	74.5	48.0	35.6	16.9	619.6
1948—June(b)	261.9	196.7	77.9	50.1	37.0	18.0	644.0
1949—May(b)(c)	269.9	202.5	80.1	52.2	37.8	18.8	664.1
1950—June(b)	278.5	210.0	83.1	54.3	39.9	19.4	688.2
1951—June(b)	290.9	219.6	86.1	57.0	41.6	20.3	718.8
1952—June(b)	270.5	206.6	83.8	54.9	40.5	19.8	679.4
PERSONS.							
1933—June	506.4	406.8	180.3	106.5	90.7	38.1	1,332.8
1939—July	697.9	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	1,730.2
1947—June(b)	923.9	643.1	294.7	188.9	139.5	68.0	2,269.0
1948—June(b)	964.2	670.0	310.5	199.1	146.2	72.5	2,374.9
1949—May(b)(c)	991.3	691.8	319.9	207.2	150.6	76.2	2,451.2
1950—June(b)	1,019.3	720.7	333.5	220.0	160.4	77.8	2,546.9
1951—June(b)	1,049.1	745.4	345.4	227.0	166.9	80.5	2,630.3
1952—June(b)	1,024.9	731.0	341.9	226.4	166.5	80.8	2,587.5

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. (b) Subject to revision. (c) Figures for May, 1949 have been used for purposes of annual comparison because of the effects of the coal dispute in June, 1949.

Estimates for recent months for Australia, corresponding to the foregoing, together with details for certain industrial groups, are published regularly in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and the *Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics*.

(ii) *Industrial Groups*. The following table shows the total male and female wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry, female private domestics, persons on the paid strength of the Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in camp) subdivided to show the extent of employment provided by Governmental authorities and by private employers respectively. Some principal industrial groups included in the total are shown separately and include both Governmental and private employees, except in the case of retail trade, where there are no Governmental employees.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT : INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1948. (a)	May, 1949. (a)(b)	June, 1950. (a)	June, 1951. (a)	June, 1952. (a)
MALES.						
Mining and Quarrying	52.2	52.7	52.3	53.9	55.8	58.8
Manufacturing, etc.(c)	456.1	680.5	692.6	716.4	733.0	721.4
Building and Construction	149.7	167.8	180.9	197.2	212.7	214.0
Rail and Air Transport	73.0	96.5	99.1	100.9	100.9	106.9
Other Transport and Communication	112.9	173.4	182.6	191.9	193.8	193.0
Retail Trade	259.7	123.3	125.6	127.1	129.7	124.8
Other Commerce and Finance		161.7	169.9	178.0	188.4	191.2
Health	17.8	24.5	24.7	24.8	24.8	25.3
Education	22.1	28.6	29.7	30.7	31.9	33.2
Entertainment, Sport and Recreation	17.4	17.7	18.4	18.0	18.0	18.1
Personal Services	37.0	52.9	54.4	55.9	54.6	53.2
Other	95.2	151.3	156.9	163.9	167.9	168.2
Total	1,293.1	1,730.9	1,787.1	1,858.7	1,911.5	1,908.1
Governmental (d)	349.8	494.4	518.9	553.5	570.4	577.4
Private Employers	943.3	1,236.5	1,268.2	1,305.2	1,341.1	1,330.7
Total	1,293.1	1,730.9	1,787.1	1,858.7	1,911.5	1,908.1
FEMALES.						
Mining and Quarrying	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Manufacturing, etc.(c)	169.0	213.9	221.9	230.4	241.1	206.3
Building and Construction	1.2	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.8	4.2
Rail and Air Transport	2.5	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.6
Other Transport and Communication	10.1	27.2	29.0	30.8	31.9	30.9
Retail Trade	114.9	109.3	111.1	113.3	119.1	112.6
Other Commerce and Finance		56.9	59.8	64.8	71.3	72.9
Health	34.0	59.6	62.0	65.0	67.4	68.7
Education	32.0	37.1	37.7	39.1	39.7	41.8
Entertainment, Sport and Recreation	4.0	8.4	8.8	8.4	8.7	8.6
Personal Services	43.0	70.4	71.3	72.8	72.1	68.9
Other	26.1	49.9	50.7	51.6	54.7	55.0
Total	437.1	644.0	664.1	688.2	718.8	679.4
Governmental (d)	55.2	94.9	99.2	107.6	113.8	115.2
Private Employers	381.9	549.1	564.9	580.6	605.0	564.2
Total	437.1	644.0	664.1	688.2	718.8	679.4
PERSONS.						
Mining and Quarrying	52.5	53.3	53.0	54.6	56.6	59.7
Manufacturing, etc.(c)	625.1	894.4	914.5	946.8	974.1	927.7
Building and Construction	150.9	170.7	184.0	200.5	216.5	218.2
Rail and Air Transport	75.5	104.3	107.1	108.9	109.1	115.5
Other Transport and Communication	123.0	200.6	211.6	222.7	225.7	223.9
Retail Trade	374.6	232.6	236.7	240.4	248.8	237.4
Other Commerce and Finance		218.6	229.7	242.8	259.7	264.1
Health	51.8	84.1	86.7	89.8	92.2	94.0
Education	54.1	65.7	67.4	69.8	71.6	75.0
Entertainment, Sport and Recreation	21.4	26.1	27.2	26.4	26.7	26.7
Personal Services	80.0	123.3	125.7	128.7	126.7	122.1
Other	121.3	201.2	207.6	215.5	222.6	223.2
Total	1,730.2	2,374.9	2,451.2	2,546.9	2,630.3	2,587.5
Governmental (d)	405.0	580.3	618.1	661.1	684.2	692.6
Private Employers	1,325.2	1,794.6	1,833.1	1,885.8	1,946.1	1,894.9
Total	1,730.2	2,374.9	2,451.2	2,546.9	2,630.3	2,587.5

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Figures for May, 1949, have been used for purposes of annual comparison because of the effects of the coal dispute in June, 1949. (c) Estimates (subject to revision) based on Pay-roll Tax returns, etc., of employees predominantly engaged in secondary production. The figures include a considerable number of employees outside the scope of the factory employment figures as defined and published in Chapter XXIV.—Manufacturing Industry. (d) Includes employees of Commonwealth, State and Local Government Authorities.

A graph showing wage and salary earners in civilian employment by main industrial groups appears on page 311.

(iii) *Factories.* Actual mid-monthly factory employment derived from the results of annual factory censuses is published in the *Secondary Industries Bulletin* issued by this Bureau.

Additional tables regarding employment in factories may be found in Chapter XXIV. "Manufacturing Industry".

An index of factory employment in Australia, published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*, shows that in 1951-52 factory employment was 70 per cent. higher than the average employment for the three years ended June, 1939.

3. Government Employees.—(i) *Australia, 1939 and 1948 to 1952.* The following table shows at June in each of the years 1948 to 1952, in comparison with 1939, the number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State, Semi-Governmental and Local Government authorities. These include all employees of Governmental authorities on services such as railways, tramways, banks, post office, air transport, education, broadcasting, police, public works, factories and munitions establishments, migrant hostels, etc., as well as administrative employees, within Australia.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES(a) : AUSTRALIA.

June—	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Governmental.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.
1939(b) ..	56,099	11,764	67,863	235,066	40,586	275,652	58,637	2,887	61,524	349,802	55,237	405,039
1948 ..	130,420	38,375	168,795	306,835	52,563	359,398	56,808	3,946	60,754	494,063	94,884	588,947
1949 ..	142,019	40,197	182,216	321,992	55,718	377,710	58,703	4,277	62,980	522,714	100,192	622,906
1950 ..	156,332	44,970	201,302	337,196	58,146	395,342	59,988	4,453	64,441	553,516	107,569	661,085
1951 ..	160,690	48,063	208,753	347,598	61,001	408,599	62,096	4,751	66,847	570,384	113,815	684,199
1952 ..	157,880	45,117	202,997	358,322	64,948	423,270	61,167	5,111	66,278	577,369	115,176	692,545

(a) See explanation above.

(b) July.

(ii) *Commonwealth and States, etc., June 1951 and 1952.* The numbers of employees of Commonwealth Government authorities in Australia as at June, 1951 and 1952, are shown in the following table, together with the numbers of employees of State, Semi-Governmental and Local Government authorities in each State.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES(a), JUNE, 1951 AND 1952.

Employed by—	June, 1951.			June, 1952.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Commonwealth ..	160,690	48,063	208,753	157,880	45,117	202,997
New South Wales ..	151,391	24,078	175,469	159,464	26,088	185,552
Victoria ..	105,290	19,998	125,288	104,145	20,785	124,930
Queensland ..	67,503	6,922	74,425	67,986	7,191	75,177
South Australia ..	36,186	6,772	42,958	38,389	7,437	45,826
Western Australia ..	34,389	5,090	39,479	34,352	5,386	39,738
Tasmania ..	14,935	2,892	17,827	15,153	3,172	18,325
Total ..	570,384	113,815	684,199	577,369	115,176	692,545

(a) See explanation in para. 3 (i) above.

§ 2. Unemployment.

1. **Total Persons Unemployed.**—The total number of persons unemployed has been recorded only at the dates of the various censuses. The Census records include all persons who state that they are unemployed, and distinguish between unemployment on account of sickness, accident, scarcity of work, industrial dispute, and all other causes combined.

The following table sets out the number of unemployed at the Censuses of 1911, 1927, 1933 and 1947, the National Register, 1939, and the Occupation Survey, 1945. The percentage which the unemployed bore at each date to all wage and salary earners of the same sex, comprising those estimated to be in employment and those unemployed, is also shown.

UNEMPLOYMENT (ALL CAUSES) : AUSTRALIA.

Year and Month.	Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed.			Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	'000.	'000.	'000.	%	%	%
1911—April (Census) ..	48.0	8.3	56.3	4.3	2.7	4.0
1921—April ..	139.4	21.5	160.9	10.7	5.7	9.6
1933—June(a) ..	460.2	103.1	563.3	27.9	19.1	25.8
1939—July(b) ..	264.0	34.0	298.0	15.0	5.7	12.6
1945—June(c) ..	39.9	16.2	56.1	2.7	2.3	2.6
1947—June (Census)(d)	66.6	16.9	83.5	3.6	2.5	3.3

(a) The figures shown for 1933 are in excess of those actually recorded at the Census, through an allowance having been made for a number of youths and girls who would normally have been wage and salary earners, but who, on account of the economic depression, having never been employed, were not classed as wage and salary earners. (b) Derived from National Register, 1939. (c) Derived from Occupation Survey, 1945. (d) Persons in the work force who were not at work at the time of the Census.

The estimates and percentages of unemployment given above for periods subsequent to the Census of 1933 should be interpreted in conjunction with the notes below.

The estimates for 1939 were based on the National Register, which covered males aged 18–64 years, and data available from other sources. The proportion of wage earners unemployed in July, 1939, immediately prior to the 1939–45 War, was estimated at approximately 12½ per cent. In July, 1941, it was about 4 per cent. and by June, 1943, under conditions of intensive mobilization of manpower for war purposes, involuntary unemployment was practically nil. Owing to the use on the Occupation Survey (1945) card of the definition “a person normally working for wages but without a job on 1st June”, it appears that the 1945 figures exclude some persons who were temporarily absent from their jobs at the date of the survey.

Of the numbers at the 1947 Census shown above 25.6 per cent. were not at work owing to sickness or accident and 26.6 per cent. stated that they were resting. Of the latter, approximately half said they expected to resume their former jobs.

2. **Unemployment in Reporting Trade Unions.**—(i) *General.* The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The percentages of unemployment derived from trade union returns are an indication of the trend of unemployment among trade unionists as estimated or recorded by secretaries of trade unions which supply returns. The membership of the reporting unions consists predominantly of males and represents at present about 55 per cent. of the total trade union membership, and between 25 and 30 per cent. of all wage and salary earners. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions whose members are predominantly in permanent employment (Governmental, etc.) or casual employment (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 in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In some cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since 1st January, 1913. The quarterly figures relate to persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter: they include persons out of work through sickness but exclude persons out of work through strikes and lock-outs, except those outside the industry who are indirectly affected. The yearly figures quoted represent the average of the four quarters.

(ii) *Summary for Australia, 1939 to 1952.* The following table gives a summary for Australia for the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952 and quarterly for the year 1952. Particulars of unemployment percentages at intervals since 1911 will be found on page 324 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT IN REPORTING TRADE UNIONS : AUSTRALIA.

Period.	Unions Reporting.	Number of Members.	Members Unemployed.	
			Number.	Proportion of Membership.
1939 (Average for year)	396	476,918	45,967	9.7
1948	380	761,104	6,533	0.9
1949	377	790,630	(a) 15,342	(a) 2.0
1950	375	827,256	6,659	0.8
1951	374	860,525	5,776	0.7
1952	366	856,126	24,247	2.9
1952 March Quarter	366	862,607	9,078	1.1
June	366	857,126	19,023	2.2
September	366	844,848	33,907	4.0
December	366	859,925	34,920	4.1

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

NOTE.—Similar figures for each of the four quarters of the years since 1912 will be found in the *Labour Report*.

The highest percentage of unemployed (30.0) was recorded in the quarter ended June, 1932.

(iii) *Australia, Industrial Groups, 1951 and 1952.* Below are shown the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries or occupations in which employment is stable, such as railways, and those which are subject to exceptional fluctuations, such as wharf labour, agricultural, pastoral, etc., are not included. Other occupations—domestic, hotel employees, etc.—are included in the "Other and Miscellaneous" group, as their returns are not sufficiently representative. The figures are averages of four quarters for the years stated :—

UNEMPLOYMENT IN REPORTING TRADE UNIONS IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group.	Unions Reporting.				Unemployed.			
	Number.		Members.		Number.		Proportion of members.	
	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.
Manufacturing—							%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	16	16	28,486	28,464	98	885	0.3	3.2
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	57	57	234,027	241,674	601	3,922	0.3	1.6
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	53	53	51,496	50,544	613	2,261	1.2	4.5
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	17	11	68,938	39,376	393	1,017	0.6	2.6
V. Books, Printing, etc.	10	10	30,514	32,056	48	277	0.2	0.9
VI. Other Manufacturing	60	59	67,438	63,904	1,088	4,964	1.6	7.9
VII. Building	51	51	102,416	109,383	1,003	3,501	1.0	3.2
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	16	15	24,391	23,838	691	680	2.8	2.9
X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway Services	20	20	54,611	57,573	366	2,785	0.7	4.8
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous	74	74	198,208	209,314	875	3,955	0.4	1.9
All Groups	374	366	860,525	856,126	5,776	24,247	0.7	2.9

(iv) *States, 1951 and 1952.* In making interstate comparisons of unemployment percentages, allowance must be made for the circumstances that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not quite identical in the various States, and that for some States the returns are more representative than for others. The State percentages shown below, therefore, should not be read as indicating the relative degree of unemployment amongst unionists in the individual States but as an indication of the trend of unemployment within each State as estimated or recorded by secretaries of those trade unions which supply returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN REPORTING TRADE UNIONS.

State.	Unions Reporting.				Unemployed.			
	Number.		Members.		Number.		Proportion of members.	
	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.
New South Wales	101	99	354,408	352,245	2,714	11,382	0.8	0.8
Victoria	76	75	240,643	236,767	1,410	7,285	0.6	0.6
Queensland	51	50	110,659	114,354	470	2,079	0.4	0.4
South Australia	54	53	80,222	79,130	605	1,949	0.8	0.8
Western Australia	60	58	53,532	53,368	385	796	0.7	0.7
Tasmania	32	31	21,061	20,262	192	756	0.9	0.9
Australia	374	366	860,525	856,126	5,776	24,247	0.7	0.7

(v) *States, 1939, 1948 to 1952.* The following table gives the percentages in each State for 1939 and from 1948 to 1952 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT IN REPORTING TRADE UNIONS : PROPORTION UNEMPLOYED. (Per cent.)

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1939 Year	11.0	10.4	5.9	9.3	7.1	8.1	9.7
1948 "	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9
1949(a) "	3.2	0.7	0.9	2.3	0.9	0.6	2.0
1950 "	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.8
1951 "	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7
1952 "	3.2	3.1	1.8	2.5	1.5	3.7	2.9
1952 March Quarter	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.1
June "	2.8	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.6	3.4	2.2
Sept. "	4.2	4.9	2.5	3.8	2.4	5.2	4.0
Dec. "	4.8	4.8	1.8	3.2	1.5	5.2	4.1

(a) See note (a) to table on page 307.

3. **Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.**—Details of conditions governing the payment of unemployment and sickness benefits under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947–1952, and tables showing numbers on benefit and payments made, may be found in Chapter XIV.—Welfare Services.

§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service.

The Commonwealth Employment Service was established under Section 47 of the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945, and under the Social Services Legislation Declaratory Act 1947.

The principal function of this Service, as set out in Section 48 of the first-mentioned Act, is to provide services and facilities in relation to employment for the benefit of persons seeking to change employment, or to engage labour, and to provide facilities

to assist in bringing about and maintaining a high and stable level of employment throughout the Commonwealth. The Act also gives the Service a number of specific functions in relation to the re-establishment of ex-servicemen.

The Service also assists in the administration of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits, provided under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947-1952, as well as the Re-employment Allowance, provided under the Re-establishment and Employment Act for certain classes of discharged members of the Forces. All persons who wish to claim unemployment benefits or re-employment allowances must register with their residential Employment Office which is responsible for checking their claim and for certifying whether or not suitable employment can be offered to them.

In addition to giving advice on employment problems through a network of District Employment Offices, the Service provides free vocational guidance in each State other than New South Wales by means of a staff of qualified psychologists. (In New South Wales a similar service is provided by officers of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry and Social Welfare who act as agents for the Service in this regard.) While vocational guidance is available to any individual, it is provided particularly for juveniles entering employment for the first time, for ex-servicemen and for physically and mentally handicapped persons. Invalid pensioners being considered by the Department of Social Services for training under the provisions of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947-1952 are examined by the Vocational Guidance Branch before training is provided. During the twelve months ended June, 1952, the Service provided vocational guidance for 9,840 individuals.

Under the scheme operated by the International Refugee Organization for the resettlement of Displaced Persons from Europe following the 1939-45 War, the Commonwealth Employment Service is responsible for placing the workers amongst these people in employment where their services will be of most use in increasing production. Up to 30th June, 1952, a total of 101,913 Displaced Persons had been so placed.

Towards the middle of 1950 the Service assumed a new responsibility, that of placing migrants from Great Britain under the Commonwealth-Nominated Migration Scheme. Following the agreements entered into with the Dutch, West German and Italian Governments for the entry of selected European workers into the country, the Commonwealth Employment Service has undertaken the initial placement of such persons.

Since early in 1951, the Commonwealth Employment Service has been responsible for the registration, medical examination, interview and call-up of young men for training in the Armed Forces under the National Service Acts 1951, which are administered by the Department of Labour and National Service. The Service is also responsible for administering the provisions of the Act relating to the protection of the rights of National Service trainees in relation to their civil employment.

In association with its placement activities, the Commonwealth Employment Service carries out regular surveys of the labour market in all areas and supplies detailed information on the employment situation to Government Departments and instrumentalities and to the public. In order to assist in making effective placements, job analysis studies of Australian occupations are also made.

The Service operates within the Employment Division of the Department of Labour and National Service, and is under the control of the Permanent Head of that Department. It functions on a decentralized basis. The Central Office is in Melbourne, and there is a Head Office in the capital city of each State, with 118 District Employment Offices and Branches in suburban and the larger provincial centres, and with 246 agents in the smaller country centres who are responsible to the various District Employment Offices. The District Offices and Branches are distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 46; Victoria, 29; Queensland, 19; South Australia, 9 (including Darwin); Western Australia, 11; Tasmania, 4.

The Service completed its sixth year of operation in May, 1952, and statistics of the principal items of business transacted during the year ended June, 1952, were as follows:—applicants for employment—new registrations 500,178, referred to employers 381,991, placed in employment 271,125; vacancies—new notifications 387,888, unfilled at end of year 37,930; persons receiving advice or information 567,017.

With the setting up of the Commonwealth Employment Service most of the State Labour Exchange Organizations existing previously were superseded. Details of the organization and administration of these exchanges in the several States were given in *Labour Report* No. 30, page 133.

§ 4. Industrial Disputes.

1. **General.**—Information with regard to the collection of particulars and the methods of tabulation of industrial disputes involving stoppage of work are given in previous issues of the Official Year Book, and also in the annual *Labour Report*.

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", "establishments involved", and "workpeople involved", therefore, duplication will take place in respect of those disputes which started in and were unsettled at the end of a preceding year; the number involved will, however, be indicated in a footnote, to permit of due allowance being made in any calculations made from the tables.

2. **Industrial Disputes involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1951 and 1952.**—The following table gives for Australia as a whole particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during 1951 and 1952, classified according to industrial groups. Figures for States and Territories on a comparable basis may be found in the issues of the *Labour Report* for these years.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS: AUSTRALIA, 1951 AND 1952.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages (£.)
				Directly.	In-directly. (a)	Total		
1951.(b)								
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc.	1	2	105	..	105	420	800
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	87	3,297	49,425	3,190	52,615	197,466	480,459
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	19	44	11,808	43	11,851	67,636	151,932
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc.	2	2	248	..	248	974	1,758
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	2	4	139	..	139	943	1,929
VI.	Other Manufacturing	31	33	4,109	2,539	6,648	39,734	115,441
VII.	Building	25	38	3,558	109	3,667	23,750	59,961
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	912	1,745	157,828	14,904	172,732	330,447	863,928
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	4	6	2,170	673	2,843	36,255	189,200
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	25	36	15,689	4,171	19,860	15,055	34,611
X.	Other Land Transport	13	13	10,003	2,457	12,460	15,101	38,911
XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	204	1,412	124,203	85	124,288	135,281	308,913
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc.	1	1	10	..	10	40	80
XIV.	Miscellaneous	18	43	1,126	..	1,126	3,872	8,105
	Total	1,344	6,676	380,421	28,171	408,592	872,974	2,256,028
1952.(b)								
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc.	2	6	117	..	117	1,026	2,965
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	112	3,960	129,561	7,368	136,929	458,760	1,282,634
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	24	59	7,147	2,975	10,122	43,314	143,857
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	3	3	829	75	904	5,554	13,079
VI.	Other Manufacturing	23	25	5,903	3,895	9,798	63,515	151,347
VII.	Building	27	46	1,620	242	1,862	20,079	56,034
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	1,219	1,898	192,248	818	193,066	286,749	932,480
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	7	10	2,888	1,881	4,769	19,743	94,743
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	21	24	10,601	27	10,628	92,357	260,878
X.	Other Land Transport	8	8	2,248	..	2,248	7,436	18,745
XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. (c)	173	1,324	131,882	275	132,157	161,316	472,501
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc.	1	1	40	..	40	80	247
XIV.	Miscellaneous	7	7	3,094	..	3,094	3,575	10,320
	Total (c)	1,627	7,371	488,178	17,556	503,734	1,163,504	3,439,850

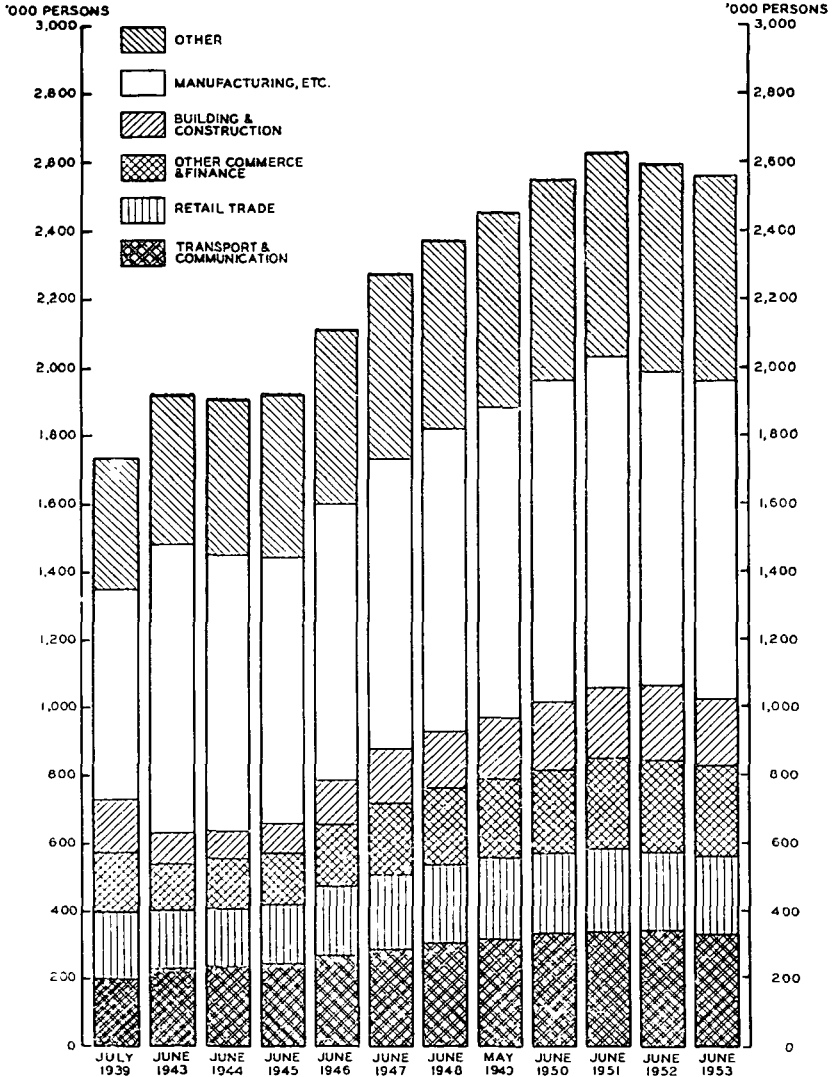
(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. (b) Three disputes in Queensland and one in Tasmania involving respectively five and one establishments and 357 and twenty workpeople commenced in 1950 and were uncompleted in that year. Particulars of these disputes have been included in statistics of disputes for both 1950 and 1951. Particulars of three disputes involving three establishments and 271 workpeople (directly), have been included in the statistics of both 1951 and 1952. These disputes occurred in New South Wales. (c) These figures exclude approximately 85,000 working days lost in all States as a result of the ban on overtime in the stevedoring industry during April, May and June, 1952.

3. **Industrial Disputes, States and Territories, 1939 and 1948 to 1952.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State and Territory,

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: AUSTRALIA 1939 AND 1943 TO 1953

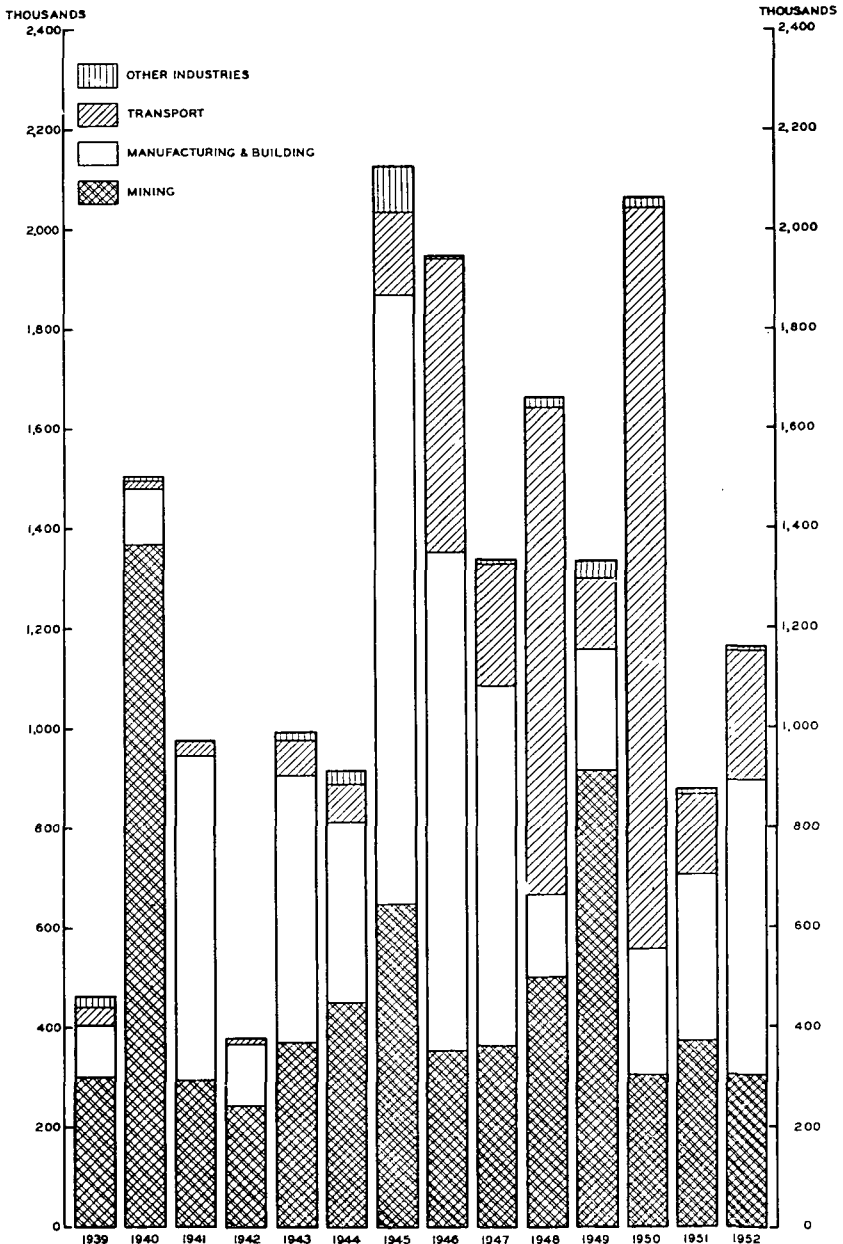
BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

(EXCLUDING RURAL AND PRIVATE DOMESTIC WORKERS)

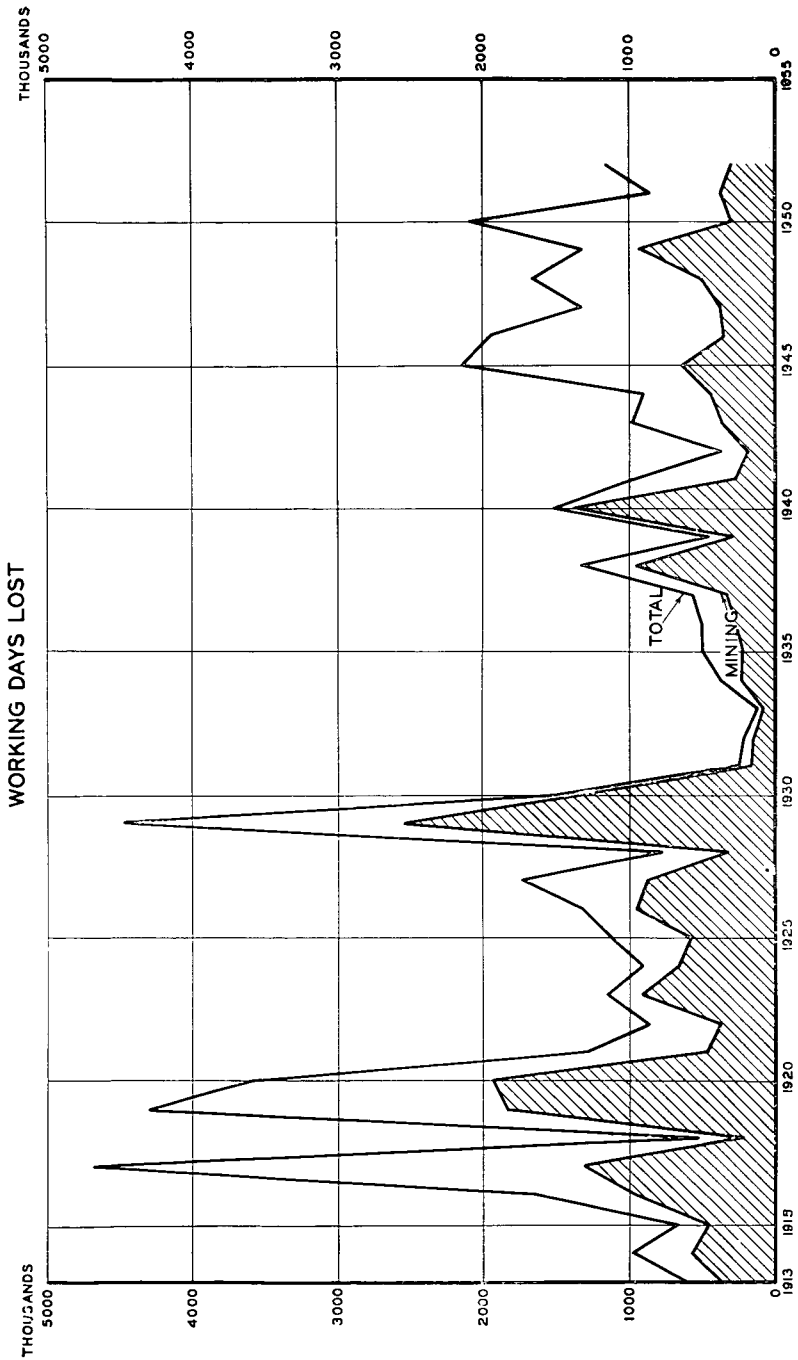


INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA, 1939 to 1952

WORKING DAYS LOST - INDUSTRIAL GROUPS



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1952



together with the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages caused by disputes which either commenced or were current during each of the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND TERRITORIES.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£.)
				Directly.	Indirectly. (a)	Total.		
New South Wales ..	1939	386	460	139,301	9,230	148,531	410,183	419,330
	1948	1,071	1,832	235,473	7,036	242,509	644,961	1,155,940
	1949	739	3,428	197,367	3,526	200,893	1,005,285	1,981,769
	1950	1,030	7,365	289,269	22,498	311,767	639,305	1,333,938
	1951	1,052	5,414	279,823	23,738	303,561	682,418	1,803,947
1952b	1,316	4,433	333,990	13,106	347,096	763,860	2,279,619	
Victoria ..	1939	10	10	1,989	180	2,169	27,313	19,946
	1948	21	82	41,734	155	41,889	159,903	240,634
	1949	20	193	22,018	..	22,018	60,112	115,883
	1950	33	1,142	59,161	14,826	73,987	1,208,365	2,395,691
	1951	41	220	27,219	..	27,219	42,210	104,038
1952b	33	1,441	60,753	1,167	61,920	116,339	339,109	
Queensland ..	1939	5	6	373	2	375	1,870	1,753
	1948	12	27	13,734	7,797	21,531	815,107	833,269
	1949	38	234	26,184	87	26,271	183,333	351,985
	1950	147	285	24,157	2,483	26,640	74,007	142,721
	1951	191	751	51,685	4,412	56,097	96,307	218,454
1952b	195	571	39,298	1,624	40,922	76,286	235,914	
South Australia ..	1939	2	2	170	5	175	1,880	1,416
	1948	21	28	5,891	1,136	7,027	30,264	47,138
	1949	18	45	5,845	147	5,992	28,318	51,541
	1950	29	251	13,766	402	14,168	126,538	264,704
	1951	27	188	12,713	21	12,734	34,057	88,286
1952b	32	494	24,408	1,623	26,031	64,738	175,043	
Western Australia ..	1939	7	7	1,108	145	1,253	14,100	9,578
	1948	9	26	2,356	..	2,356	7,836	15,296
	1949	16	33	5,564	97	5,661	26,287	52,421
	1950	15	31	1,952	..	1,952	5,728	11,491
	1951	10	40	4,179	..	4,179	5,101	12,394
1952b	21	271	19,154	2	19,156	127,826	369,658	
Tasmania ..	1939	4	4	53	..	53	166	93
	1948	4	5	468	..	468	950	1,473
	1949	15	48	3,503	..	3,503	29,316	55,319
	1950	19	45	3,089	11	3,100	8,447	16,296
	1951	21	56	4,644	..	4,644	10,401	23,949
1952b	26	157	10,298	34	10,332	14,143	39,640	
Northern Territory	1939	2	16	234	40	274	3,642	3,600
	1948	3	82	1,369	..	1,369	3,665	5,364
	1949	2	2	200	..	200	1,261	2,522
	1950	1	1	43	..	43	430	1,450
	1951	1	1	48	..	48	60	120
1952b	3	3	257	..	257	272	762	
Australian Capital Territory	1939	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1949	1	1	39	..	39	78	96
	1950	2	2	44	..	44	68	127
	1951	6	6	110	..	110	2,420	4,840
1952b	1	1	20	..	20	40	105	
Australia ..	1939	416	505	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1948	1,141	2,082	301,025	16,124	317,149	1,662,686	2,299,114
	1949	849	3,984	260,720	3,857	264,577	1,333,990	2,611,536
	1950	1,276	9,122	391,481	40,220	431,701	2,062,888	4,166,418
	1951	1,344	6,676	380,421	28,171	408,592	872,974	2,256,028
1952b	1,627	7,371	488,178	17,556	505,734	1,163,504	3,439,850	

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. (b) See note (c) on page 310.

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during the above-mentioned and previous years is given in the *Labour Report*.

4. Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1952.—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes during 1952 according to certain adopted limits of duration. A table giving details for 1951 may be found in *Labour Report*, 1951, No. 40, page 134.

DURATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA, 1952.

Limits of Duration.	Number.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£.)
		Directly.	Indirectly. (a)	Total.		
1 day and less	1,064	345,076	4,369	349,445	330,392	966,835
2 days and more than 1 day	242	78,735	1,665	80,400	125,510	393,737
3 " " " 2 days	100	20,289	377	20,666	55,177	168,541
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	54	13,124	1,855	14,979	53,470	178,187
1 week and less than 2 weeks	86	16,979	3,455	20,434	124,761	357,836
2 weeks " " 4 weeks	46	6,362	3,844	10,206	123,475	329,810
4 " " " 8 weeks	18	2,290	1,637	3,927	91,805	290,768
8 weeks and over	17	5,323	354	5,677	258,914	754,136
Total	1,627	488,178	17,556	505,734	1,163,504	3,439,850

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

5. Causes of Industrial Disputes.—(i) *General*. In previous issues of the Official Year Book the causes of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. Commencing with this issue a new classification has been introduced and stoppages in industries other than "coal-mining" and "stevedoring" have been analysed separately. This segregation has been made because in these two industries the pattern of the disputes differs significantly from that in other industries.

Under the new classification, causes are grouped under four main headings:—(1) Wages, Hours and Leave; (2) Physical Working Conditions and Questions of Managerial Policy; (3) Trade Unionism; (4) Other Causes. The first group is restricted to disputes involving general principles relating to wages, hours and leave, minor questions regarding the claims to pay or leave by individual employees being included under managerial policy. The second group comprises disputes regarding physical working conditions and general questions of managerial policy, which term covers those arising from disciplinary action, the promotion of employees, the employment of particular individuals, personal disagreements between employees and supervisory staff and disputes arising from the computations of wages, leave, etc., in individual cases. The third group, Trade Unionism, includes only stoppages against employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes, and sympathy stoppages in support of employees in another industry. The last group comprises disputes by way of protest against situations not arising from the usual relationship of employer and employee, e.g., political matters, and cases (mainly occurring in the coal-mining industry) where the cause of the stoppage is not officially made known to the management.

As the items included under these headings differ somewhat from those included under the similar headings used for classifying causes of disputes in years prior to 1950 the figures for the years 1950 to 1952 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

(ii) *Causes of Disputes, Australia*. The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes according to causes for the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA.

Cause of Dispute.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.(a)	1951.(a)	1952.(a)
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
Wages, Hours and Leave	96	196	187	128	186	161
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	197	541	328	894	803	967
Trade Unionism	50	76	84	114	159	204
Other	73	328	250	140	196	295
Total	416	1,141	849	1,276	1,344	1,627

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

Cause of Dispute.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.(a)	1951.(a)	1952.(a)
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	29,290	81,430	67,821	104,075	117,409	201,274
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	56,783	110,945	48,962	173,705	151,655	183,123
Trade Unionism ..	18,651	26,251	14,234	15,651	27,684	51,819
Other ..	48,106	98,523	133,560	138,270	111,844	69,518
Total	152,830	317,149	264,577	431,701	408,592	505,734
WORKING DAYS LOST.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	128,525	1,015,041	1,019,757	1,448,462	338,026	545,017
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	189,510	360,611	118,755	443,493	359,383	444,286
Trade Unionism ..	54,749	144,377	37,154	37,580	67,280	93,133
Other ..	86,370	142,657	158,324	133,353	108,285	81,068
Total	459,154	1,662,686	1,333,990	2,062,888	872,974	1,163,504

(a) Owing to the use of a new classification, figures for 1950 to 1952 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

The following table shows the causes of industrial disputes during 1951 and 1952 in two broad groups of industries:—(i) Coal-mining and stevedoring, (ii) all other industries. These figures are not available for earlier years.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA.

Cause of Dispute.	Coal-mining and Stevedoring.		Other Industries.		All Industries.	
	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.	1951.	1952.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	110	90	76	71	186	161
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	668	831	135	136	803	967
Trade Unionism ..	142	174	17	30	159	204
Other ..	189	278	7	17	196	295
Total	1,109	1,373	235	254	1,344	1,627
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	72,974	72,817	44,435	128,457	117,409	201,274
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	114,301	141,466	37,354	41,657	151,655	183,123
Trade Unionism ..	19,321	45,437	8,163	6,382	27,684	51,819
Other ..	89,896	62,764	21,948	6,754	111,844	69,518
Total	296,692	322,484	111,900	183,250	408,592	505,734
WORKING DAYS LOST.						
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	159,702	66,111	178,324	478,906	338,026	545,017
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	194,274	242,028	165,109	202,258	359,383	444,286
Trade Unionism ..	26,222	66,556	41,058	26,577	67,280	93,133
Other ..	90,255	68,326	18,030	12,742	108,285	81,068
Total	470,453	443,021	402,521	720,483	872,974	1,163,504

6. Results of Industrial Disputes.—In previous issues of the Official Year Book, tables were included showing analyses of the results of industrial disputes over a period of years. Under a new method of collection of the basic data, the information on which these analyses were based is no longer available for the majority of disputes and the compilation has therefore been discontinued.

7. Methods of Settlement.—In the following table industrial disputes for the years 1939, 1951 and 1952 have been classified according to method of settlement. As disputes occurring in the coal-mining and stevedoring industries constitute the majority of all disputes, separate tabulations have been made for such disputes for the years 1951 and 1952 and these are shown in the table:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.(a)

Method of Settlement.	1939.	1951.			1952.		
		Coal-mining and Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.	Coal-mining and Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
By Private Negotiation	294	193	78	271	282	86	368
Under State Industrial Legislation	7	6	42	48	8	41	49
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation	6	111	64	175	126	43	169
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
By Closing Down Establishment permanently	2	1	..	1	..	1	1
By Other Methods	106	798	48	846	957	79	1,036
Total	416	1,109	232	1,341	1,373	250	1,623
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
By Private Negotiation	82,684	24,707	20,984	45,691	25,196	23,093	48,289
Under State Industrial Legislation	5,354	819	20,967	21,786	1,199	11,186	12,385
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation	3,268	35,200	15,242	50,442	34,535	8,415	42,950
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
By Closing Down Establishment permanently	178	29	..	29	..	353	353
By Other Methods	61,326	235,937	54,436	290,373	261,554	138,630	400,184
Total	152,830	296,692	111,629	408,321	322,484	181,677	504,161
WORKING DAYS LOST.							
By Private Negotiation	298,652	42,628	84,164	126,792	43,420	228,245	271,665
Under State Industrial Legislation	39,013	2,761	131,143	133,904	1,705	97,233	98,938
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation	46,450	88,854	112,055	200,909	82,260	111,734	193,994
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
By Closing Down Establishment permanently	3,892	203	..	203	..	6,001	6,001
By Other Methods	71,127	336,007	54,710	390,717	315,636	269,408	585,044
Total	459,154	470,453	382,072	852,525	443,021	712,621	1,155,642

(a) As there are usually unfinalized disputes at the end of each year, totals in the above table will not necessarily agree with those shown in preceding tables.

Prior to 1947 the majority of disputes were settled by private negotiation, the proportion so settled since 1913 ranging between 59 per cent. in 1942 and 81 per cent. in 1937. In 1947 and subsequent years, however, the majority of disputes have been settled by "other methods". The percentage settled by private negotiation was 20 in 1951 and 22 in 1952. The proportion of dislocations settled under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging between 3 per cent. in 1915 and 22 per cent. in 1913. The proportion was 17 per cent. in 1951 and 13 per cent. in 1952. 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, the cause of which 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. In 1951 the percentage of disputes settled by "other methods" rose to 63 while the percentage in 1952 was 65.

F. LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia.

1. **Registration.**—(i) *Under Trade Union Acts.* In previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 39, page 448) reference was made to the registration of trade unions under the Trade Union Acts. In general the available information under this heading is regarded as inadequate for statistical purposes.

(ii) *Under State Industrial Legislation.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 39, page 448).

(iii) *Under the (Commonwealth) Conciliation and Arbitration Act.* Under Part VI. of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act any employer or association of employers in any industry who has employed not less than 100 employees during the six months preceding application for registration, or any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry may be registered.* Registered unions include both interstate associations and associations operating within one State only. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four years following, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered in 1906 were 20, with 41,413 members. At the end of 1952 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act was 53. The number of unions of employees registered at the end of 1952 was 151, with a membership of approximately 1,344,950 representing 82 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia.

2. **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 a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or international; but a number of variations occur from each of these classes. The schemes of organization of interstate or federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. The leading characteristics of each of these types were briefly outlined in *Labour Report* No. 2 (pp. 7-9) issued by this Bureau.

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

(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 1939, 1951 and 1952 :—

TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.			Number of Members.			Percentage Increase in Membership.(a)		
	1939.	1951.	1952.	1939.	1951.	1952.	1939.	1951.	1952.
New South Wales	200	225	223	358,391	678,338	649,163	3.4	5.6	- 4.3
Victoria ..	149	156	159	216,803	433,407	416,349	0.8	6.7	- 3.9
Queensland ..	114	128	129	180,653	277,037	274,908	6.5	5.5	- 0.8
South Australia ..	117	137	139	67,282	140,067	137,495	8.7	1.9	- 1.8
Western Australia	141	152	151	67,833	105,507	105,462	0.1	1.9	- 0.0
Tasmania ..	79	101	98	22,062	47,413	46,948	4.8	5.3	- 1.0
Northern Territory	4	17	15	761	2,764	2,340	5.6	13.4	-15.3
Australian Capital Territory ..	15	29	31	1,685	5,738	4,877	9.6	0.2	-15.0
Australia ..	(b) 380	(b) 359	(b) 360	915,470	1,690,271	1,637,542	3.4	5.3	- 3.1

(a) On preceding year. (b) Without interstate duplication. See letterpress below.

NOTE.—Minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

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

Because of the difficulties involved, the collection of statistics relating to the "Number of Branches" of Trade Unions appearing in issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 39 has now been discontinued.

(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 years 1939, 1951 and 1952. Compared with 1939, membership in 1952 had increased by 79 per cent.

TRADE UNIONS : INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group.	1939.		1951.		1952.	
	No. of Unions.(a)	No. of Members.	No. of Unions.(a)	No. of Members.	No. of Unions.(a)	No. of Members.
Manufacturing—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	4	27,990	6	42,180	6	42,439
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	22	99,731	15	242,800	15	245,831
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	35	80,328	35	104,605	35	93,847
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	12	68,847	6	131,873	6	100,056
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	8	22,303	6	35,211	6	34,494
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	37	52,074	37	80,581	37	75,019
VII. Building ..	28	45,651	26	134,198	26	115,837
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	13	48,812	12	48,646	12	49,991
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	29	105,938	25	139,405	25	144,710
X. Other Land Transport ..	6	19,488	9	58,918	9	60,111
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	21	28,760	13	45,972	13	42,703
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	5	40,276	4	59,911	3	59,055
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	18	13,177	14	34,485	14	37,749
XIV. Miscellaneous—						
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical ..	20	39,013	17	104,162	17	104,486
(ii) Public Service ..	50	89,848	58	183,541	60	187,255
(iii) Retail and Wholesale ..	8	36,290	12	60,847	12	58,917
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring ..	11	46,552	12	75,926	12	72,858
(v) Other Miscellaneous ..	53	50,392	52	107,010	52	111,584
Total ..	380	915,470	359	1,690,271	360	1,637,542

(a) Without interstate duplication. See letterpress above.

(iv) *Trade Unions : Numbers of Male and Female Members and Ratio to Wage and Salary Earners, Australia.* The following table shows the estimated percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who are members of trade unions. As current estimates of wage and salary earners in employment do not include employees engaged in rural industry or females in private domestic service the percentages have been calculated on figures obtained by adding to the end of year estimates (see page 303 above) the number of employees in rural industry and females in private domestic service recorded at the Census of June, 1947. For this reason, and also because the membership of trade unions includes some persons not in employment, the percentages shown in the table must be regarded as approximations.

TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS AND RATIO TO TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS(a), AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1939.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
MALES.						
Number of Members of Unions ..	778,336	1,172,676	1,226,818	1,301,868	1,368,694	1,354,248
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	52	62	63	65	66	67
FEMALES.						
Number of Members of Unions ..	137,134	283,132	294,096	303,476	321,577	283,294
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	24	40	41	40	42	40
PERSONS.						
Number of Members of Unions ..	915,470	1,455,808	1,520,914	1,605,344	1,690,271	1,637,542
Estimated ratio of Members to Number of Wage and Salary Earners in Employment %	44	56	57	58	60	60

(a) Includes allowance for unemployed.

(v) *Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.* The following table gives particulars of the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1952 :-

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED TRADE UNIONS : AUSTRALIA(a), 1952.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
Number of Unions ..	14	14	17	38	59	142
„ „ Members ..	34,878	46,061	121,121	420,240	827,331	1,449,631

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

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

3. **Central Labour Organizations.**—In each of the capital cities and in a number of industrial centres elsewhere, delegate organizations, consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions, have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a per capita tax on the members of each affiliated union. In most of the towns where such central organizations exist, the majority of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State. In this State there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils, to which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other five States, however, the organization is not so close, and, while provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils or for the representation of the central council on 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 therewith in each State at the end of the year 1952 :—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS : NUMBER, AND UNIONS AND BRANCH UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1952.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total.
Number of Councils . .	11	9	12	6	10	5	1	1	55
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	272	283	141	130	395	104	3	19	1,347

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

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

from the Metropolitan Councils, the Executive consists of four officers—the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:—(a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australasian Trade Union Movement from the craft to an industrial basis by the establishment of one Union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes; and (d) educational propaganda among unions. The Australasian Council of Trade Unions is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the Trade Union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines, and composed of delegates from separate unions whose members' interests are closely connected because of their occupations. 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.

§ 2. International Labour Organization.

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

G. COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS.

In order to show the relative movements of certain price and related data, the following table of annual and quarterly index-numbers for the six capital cities combined has been compiled with a common base 1911 = 1,000.

COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

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

Period.	Retail Price Index-numbers.						Nominal Wages, Adult Males.	Real Wages. (c)	Proportion of Trade Unionists Unemployed.
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms). (b)	Food, Housing (4 and 5 Rooms) ("B" Series).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Index.			
Year—									%
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	(d)1,000	(d)1,000	(d)1,000	1,000	1,000	4.7
1914 ..	1,144	1,082	1,121	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,081	948	8.3
1921 ..	1,902	1,410	1,717	1,883	1,537	1,680	1,826	1,087	11.2
1928 ..	1,761	1,743	1,755	1,507	1,537	1,675	1,963	1,172	10.8
1932 ..	1,425	1,336	1,390	1,215	1,458	1,377	1,639	1,190	29.0
1938 ..	1,584	1,540	1,568	1,253	1,463	1,488	1,799	1,209	8.7
1939 ..	1,657	1,577	1,626	1,271	1,465	1,526	1,846	1,210	9.7
1945 ..	1,849	1,595	1,746	2,155	1,767	1,868	2,339	1,252	1.2
1946 ..	1,852	1,596	1,748	2,276	1,776	1,900	2,400	1,263	1.4
1947 ..	1,967	1,597	1,816	2,367	1,825	1,971	2,598	1,318	1.2
1948 ..	2,245	1,601	1,982	2,637	1,913	2,148	2,914	1,357	0.9
1949 ..	2,492	1,605	2,128	3,019	2,037	2,349	3,210	1,367	(e) 2.0
1950 ..	2,800	1,613	2,313	3,455	2,184	2,589	3,596	1,389	0.8
1951 ..	3,649	1,649	2,827	4,156	2,555	3,124	4,495	1,439	0.7
1952 ..	4,516	1,728	3,370	4,657	2,980	3,645	5,241	1,438	2.9
Quarter—									
1952.									
March ..	4,298	1,672	3,219	4,523	2,783	3,481	5,036	1,447	1.1
June ..	4,589	1,702	3,402	4,685	2,967	3,661	5,156	1,408	2.2
September ..	4,633	1,750	3,448	4,709	3,072	3,714	5,345	1,439	4.0
December ..	4,544	1,789	3,411	4,712	3,098	3,722	5,428	1,458	4.1

(a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of housing and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination of groups is made equal to 1,000. (b) See footnote (b) on page 265.

(c) Index of nominal weekly wage rates for adult males divided by "C" Series Retail Prices Index-number. (d) Taken back from true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of all Houses).

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