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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL BRANCH  
REPORT No. 8.

Prices, Purchasing-Power of Money, Wages,  
Trade Unions, Unemployment, and General  
Industrial Conditions, 1917.

Prepared under instructions from the Minister of State  
for Home and Territories.

BY

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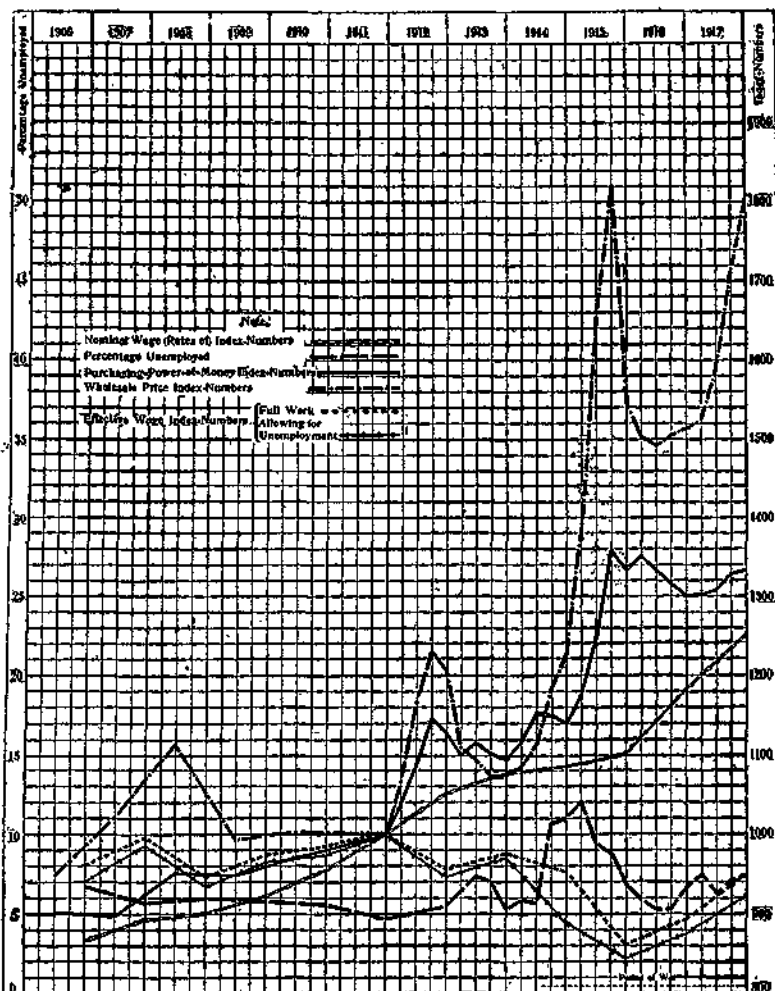
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## Purchasing-Power-of-Money, Wholesale Prices, and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-Numbers, and Percentage of Unemployed.



**EXPLANATORY NOTE.**—The figures on the left represent the scale for the percentage of persons unemployed according to trade union returns. The figures on the right represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911 the index-numbers for cost of food, groceries, and house rent (average for the six metropolitan towns) and for wholesale prices (Melbourne) are shown each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown as at the end of each year, while other index-numbers refer to the average for the whole year. Nominal and effective wage index-numbers are only computed annually. It should be observed that the purchasing-power-of-money and wholesale price index-numbers since the year 1911 show the average level during the whole of each quarter; but for purposes of convenience they have, however, been plotted on the graph as at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter. The purchasing-power-of-money index-number is based upon a constant regimen: see Report No. 1, Appendix vii., and Labour Bulletin No. 9, pp. 27 to 46.