

## SECTION VIII.—CURRENT RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

**1. General.**—The collection of material respecting the current rate of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries carried on in each State of the Commonwealth was first undertaken by this Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. The inquiry, which was confined to the rate of wage payable to adult workers only,\* was further limited in a degree to those industries in operation within the metropolitan area of the capital town in each State.† The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations, and industrial agreements under Commonwealth and State Acts, and related to the minimum wage prescribed. In cases where no award, determination or agreement was in force, the ruling union or predominant rate of wage being paid was ascertained from employers and secretaries of trade unions. For convenience of comparison, weekly rates of wage were adopted, though in many instances they were actually based on daily or hourly rates, as specified in awards, determinations, or agreements.‡

The information thus obtained referred to the weekly rate of wage in upwards of 400 industries, and related to 1569 male occupations or callings. These particulars furnished the necessary data for the computation of average rates of wage in various industrial groups § and in each State and all States. The average rate of wage thus computed represented the arithmetic average|| of the rate of wage payable in all classified occupations. It was not claimed that results obtained by this method are precisely correct, but owing to the difficulty in obtaining any satisfactory data as to the number of persons engaged in each of the occupations for which rates of wage had been obtained, no detailed

\* This limitation was necessary owing to the difficulty of ascertaining reliable particulars of the numbers of apprentices, improvers and other juvenile workers, to whom progressive rates of wage, fixed or otherwise, according to increasing age or experience, are payable from year to year.

† In order to make the inquiry a comprehensive one, it was necessary to include certain industries which obviously are not carried on in the capital towns, e.g., Mining, Shipping, Agricultural, and Pastoral.

‡ This precaution was necessary, in view of the fact that it is often in those industries and occupations in which employment is of an exceptionally casual or intermittent nature that wages are fixed and paid at a daily or hourly rate. Hence the average weekly earnings in such occupations will probably fall considerably short of the computed weekly rates.

§ The following industrial classification of industries was adopted:—

### Classification of Industries and Occupations.

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

|| The summation of the weekly rate of wage divided by the number of occupations included.

system of weights could be applied.\* For final results for each State and for each industrial group throughout the States, however, a careful system of weighting was adopted. For example, in computing the result for any State in any year, the computed average wage in each industrial group was multiplied by a number (weight) representing the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group of industries in the particular State. The sum of the products thus obtained, divided by the sum of the weights, represents the relative aggregate average wage for that State for the particular year.†

The whole question of weighting was referred to in some detail in Report No. 1 (*Prices, Price Indexes and Cost of Living*) of the Labour and Industrial Branch of this Bureau. With the necessary verbal modifications, many of the statements there made and the problems there considered in regard to the subject of prices, etc., refer equally to the question of weighting in other investigations, such as the present. Any inquirer wishing to thoroughly understand the subject may refer to that Report.

The results thus ascertained for the year 1913 were published in Labour Report No. 2, pp. 28-43. In the early part of the year 1914 the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended, and particulars of the weekly rates of wage in 930 specified industries and 4256 adult occupations (3948 male, and 308 female)‡ were included; and results obtained thereby to the 30th April, 1914, were published in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 44-50. These results were further analysed, and the number of working hours which constituted a full week's work in each occupation was averaged and weighted in a

\* Though a great deal of information as to the number of persons engaged in different industries and occupations was available from the Census (1911) results, it was found impracticable to bring the classification of these results into line with the detailed classification of occupations in the various industries, as set out in the awards, determinations, etc.

† The weights used in the computation of the average wage were as follows:—

**Current Rates of Wage for Adult Male Occupations. Weights used for each Industrial Group.**

Particulars.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.	XIII.	XIV.
N.S.W. . . . .	136	228	199	84	65	162	252	343	137	74	187	704	134	902
Victoria . . . . .	118	195	160	95	53	141	190	157	136	54	65	455	95	734
Queensland . . . . .	67	62	108	23	20	34	70	133	73	22	45	352	45	302
S. Australia . . . . .	24	71	45	16	13	40	68	29	48	17	44	182	24	228
W. Australia . . . . .	65	36	32	7	8	16	32	142	40	9	32	118	31	158
Tasmania . . . . .	25	14	17	6	5	7	20	49	10	6	12	104	10	80
Commonwealth . . . . .	435	606	561	231	109	400	632	853	494	182	335	1,915	339	2,399

‡ The weights used in the computation of the average wage in female occupations were as follows:

**Current Rates of Wage for Adult Female Occupations. Weights used for each Industrial Group.**

Particulars.	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I. II. V. VI. Other Manufacturers Combined.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.
New South Wales . . . . .	23	228	44	104	124
Victoria . . . . .	28	320	57	80	111
Queensland . . . . .	5	80	7	47	40
South Australia . . . . .	3	56	8	22	32
Western Australia . . . . .	1	29	2	29	..
Tasmania . . . . .	1	18	2	8	..
Commonwealth . . . . .	61	731	118	290	307

similar manner to the rates of wage. This course was adopted in order to overcome the difficulty of making comparisons of the rates of wage in any specified occupation, owing, in many instances, to a different number of working hours constituting a full week's work in separate States. By dividing the weighted average number of working hours into the weighted average weekly rate of wage, what for some purposes may be considered a more adequate standard of comparison was ascertained. Results obtained from these computations were given for each industrial group for each State.

Since the 30th April, 1914, the number of occupations included in comparative computations have been kept constant, but the particulars of wages contained in Appendixes IV. and V. to this Report include those for many additional occupations. In most instances these have been taken from awards or determinations made subsequent to that date by industrial tribunals or from agreements registered under Commonwealth or State Acts, or as a result of direct inquiry.

**2. Weekly Rates of Wage and Wage Index-Numbers in States and in Classified Industries, 31st December, 1917.**—The particulars given in the Appendixes, referred to above, furnish the necessary data for the computation of relative rates of wage in the different States and classified industrial groups at the 31st December, 1917.

(i.) *Weighted Average Nominal Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each State, 31st December, 1917.*—The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage payable at the 31st December, 1917, to adult male workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth. These results are based on the rates of wage in a large number of important industries, and serve to indicate with a considerable degree of precision the relative conditions in the several States. For the purposes of comparison as between States it should, however, be observed that the lists of occupations to which the rates of wage refer are not by any means uniform, neither do they necessarily include all the more important industries carried on in each State, and any conclusions drawn from such comparisons must be subject to these qualifications. Taking the weighted average rate of wage for the six States as base (= 1000), index-numbers for each State are also shown.

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 31st December, 1917.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of Occupations included	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948
Weighted Average Weekly Rate of Wage	s. d. 64 5	s. d. 63 0	s. d. 65 3	s. d. 63 1	s. d. 68 11	s. d. 59 7	s. d. 64 2*
Index-Numbers	1,003	982	1,017	983	1,074	929	1,000*

\* Weighted average.

The results shew that the weighted average nominal rate of wage was highest in Western Australia, followed in the order named by Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania.

(ii.) The following table gives particulars in regard to the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage at the 31st December, 1917, for adult male workers in each of the several industrial groups and to the weighted average for all groups combined. In computing the index-number for each industrial group, the weighted average rate of wage for all groups is taken as base (= 1000).

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each Industrial Group, 31st December, 1917.**

Industrial Groups.	No. of Rates Included.	Weighted Aver. Weekly Rate of Wage (for Full Week's Work).		Index-Numbers
		s.	d.	
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	270	66	0	1,028
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . . . .	636	65	0	1,013
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	576	63	7	991
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc. . .	124	59	7	928
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	205	70	6	1,098
VI. Other Manufacturing . .	875	63	10	994
VII. Building . . . . .	190	72	5	1,129
VIII. Mining . . . . .	161	78	4	1,221
IX. Rail & Tram Services . .	224	65	11	1,027
X. Other Land Transport . .	70	62	0	966
XI. Shipping, etc. . . . .	198	61	2†	954
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	72	61	1‡	951
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	114	53	11§	840
XIV. Miscellaneous . . . . .	233	60	9	947
All Groups . . . . .	3,948	64	2	1,000*

\* Weighted average. † Including the value of victualling and accommodation (estimated at 4s. per month) where supplied. ‡ Including the value of Board and Lodging where supplied as follows:—In the agricultural industry, 14s. per week in Victoria and 15s. in the remaining States; in the pastoral industry, 15s. in West Australia, 17s. in Tasmania, and 20s. in the remaining States. § Including the value of Board and Lodging where supplied as follows:—In Sydney 15s. 0d. to 19s., in Melbourne 14s., in Brisbane 14s. and 15s., in Perth 23s., and in Adelaide and Hobart 15s.

It may be seen from the above table that the highest weighted average wage at the end of the year 1917 was paid to employees in the Mining industry (Group VIII), 78s. 4d. per week, followed by Group VII. (Building), 72s. 5d., and Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 70s. 6d. The lowest weighted average wage was that paid to persons engaged in Hotels, Restaurants, etc. (Group XIII.), 53s. 11d. The average wage paid in the Mining industry (Group VIII.) was 22 per cent. higher, while the average in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.) was 16 per cent. lower than the average wage for all groups.

(iii.) The following table shews the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage payable at 31st December, 1917, to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth. Taking the weighted average rate of wage for the whole Commonwealth as base (= 1000), index-numbers for each State are given:—

**Weighted Average-Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 31st December, 1917.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of Occupations included	85	87	37	47	24	28	308
Weighted Average Weekly Rate of Wage	s. d. 30 5	s. d. 30 4	s. d. 30 5	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 5	s. d. 30 5*
Index-Numbers	993	996	999	910	1,276	932	1,000*

\* Weighted average.

The highest weighted average nominal rate of wage for female workers was paid in Western Australia, followed in the order named by New South Wales and Queensland (equal), Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia.

(iv.) The following table gives particulars regarding the weighted average nominal rate of wage for adult females in those industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and the weighted average for all groups combined. Index-numbers based on the weighted average for all groups as base (= 1000) are also given:—

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in Industrial Groups, 31st December, 1917.**

Industrial Groups.	No. of Rates Included.	Weighted Aver. Weekly Rate of Wage (for Full Week's Work)		Index-Numbers.
		s.	d.	
III. Food, Drink, etc. . . . .	35	26	4	865
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc. . . . .	114	29	7	972
I., II., V., VI. All Other Manufacturing Combined	84	30	4	996
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	57	33	5*	1,098
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	18	30	6	1,001
All Groups . . . . .	308	30	5	1,000†

\* See footnote to table on preceding page. † Weighted average.

The results set out in the above table show that the highest weighted average wage was paid in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 33s. 5d., followed in order by Group XIV. (Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.), 30s. 6d., and the combined Manufacturing group, 30s. 4d. The average wage paid to employees in Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 26s. 4d., is 14 per cent. lower, while that paid in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.) is 10 per cent. higher than the average rate of wage for all groups.

3. **Relative Weekly Wages and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and for all States, 1914-17.**—The arithmetic average of the rates of wage given in the appendixes referred to furnish the basis for the computation of relative weighted wages in different industrial groups and States. In the following tables particulars are given of the results thus obtained of the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult workers, male and female, separately, at the 30th

April, 1914, and approximately at the end of each subsequent quarterly period to the 31st December, 1917, for a full week's work, in each State and for all States.

(i) *Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each State, 1914-17.*—The following tables show the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage payable to adult male workers for a full week's work, together with index-numbers for each State at each specified interval based on the average for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1000).

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1917.**

NOTE.—Index-number based on the average wage for the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914 (55.12s.) as base (=1000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
No. of Occupations Included.	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948
30th April, 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	55 9	54 3	52 8	54 4	62 2	52 6	55 1
	Index-numbers ..	1,011	984	955	986	1,128	952
30th June, 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	55 11	54 4	52 10	54 4	62 9	52 7	55 3
	Index-numbers ..	1,014	985	958	986	1,129	954
30th Sept., 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	56 2	54 7	53 4	54 6	62 10	52 8	55 6
	Index-numbers ..	1,019	990	967	988	1,140	956
31st Dec., 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	56 2	54 7	53 6	54 5	62 10	52 8	55 7
	Index-numbers ..	1,019	990	969	988	1,140	956
31st Mar., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	56 3	54 8	53 4	54 3	63 1	52 9	55 7
	Index-numbers ..	1,021	992	967	984	1,144	957
30th June, 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	56 8	54 8	53 4	54 8	63 1	52 9	55 7
	Index-numbers ..	1,023	992	967	984	1,145	957
30th Sept., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	56 10	54 11	53 8	54 3	63 1	52 9	56 0
	Index-numbers ..	1,031	996	974	985	1,145	958
31st Dec., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	57 7	55 3	54 4	54 8	63 4	53 3	56 6
	Index-numbers ..	1,044	1,002	986	992	1,149	965
31st Mar., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	58 2	56 7	55 1	55 8	63 4	53 0	57 3
	Index-numbers ..	1,055	1,026	999	1,011	1,149	976
30th June, 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	58 11	57 0	56 5	56 1	63 4	54 4	57 11
	Index-numbers ..	1,069	1,036	1,024	1,018	1,149	986
30th Sept., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	50 6	57 9	57 11	56 6	63 8	54 9	58 8
	Index-numbers ..	1,079	1,047	1,051	1,025	1,155	993
31st Dec., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	61 11	58 10	60 4	59 0	65 2	57 0	60 8
	Index-numbers ..	1,123	1,067	1,095	1,071	1,182	1,034
31st Mar., 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	62 7	60 0	61 2	59 8	65 5	57 6	61 5
	Index-numbers ..	1,136	1,089	1,110	1,083	1,186	1,044
30th June, 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	63 5	61 2	62 4	61 0	66 4	57 7	62 5
	Index-numbers ..	1,151	1,109	1,131	1,107	1,203	1,044
30th Sept., 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	63 9	62 3	63 5	61 0	67 10	58 6	63 3
	Index-numbers ..	1,157	1,130	1,151	1,116	1,231	1,061
31st Dec., 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	64 5	63 0	65 3	63 1	68 11	59 7	64 2
	Index-numbers ..	1,165	1,143	1,188	1,144	1,250	1,081

In the preceding table it will be seen that the average weekly wage for adult male workers, as indicated by index-numbers at the 30th April, 1914, in two States, viz., New South Wales and Western Australia, exceeded the weighted average wage for the Commonwealth. This feature remained constant in varying degrees of excess throughout the

period under review until the end of September, 1917, when the index-number representing the average wage for Queensland also was higher than the weighted average wage index-number for the Commonwealth.

(ii.) *Weighted Average Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers in each State, 1914-17.*—The first part of the following table shows the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914, and at approximately quarterly periods to the 31st December, 1917: The table shows index-numbers for each State based on the average weekly wage at the end of each of the periods indicated, computed from the weighted average wage for all States at the 30th April, 1914, as base (=1000).

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1917.**

NOTE.—Index-number based on the average wage for the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914 (27.19s.) as base (= 1000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Occupations Included.		85	87	37	47	24	28	308
30th April, 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 26 9	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 2
	Index-numbers	984	1,006	989	885	1,373	950	1,000
30th June, 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 26 9	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 27 0	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 2
	Index-numbers	984	1,006	993	885	1,373	950	1,000
30th Sept., 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 26 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 4
	Index-numbers	987	1,022	990	885	1,373	950	1,006
31st Dec., 1914.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 26 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 1	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 5
	Index-numbers	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
31st Mar., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 26 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 2	s. d. 24 0	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 26 3	s. d. 27 1
	Index-numbers	987	989	909	883	1,376	964	996
30th June, 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 27 2	s. d. 28 11	s. d. 27 2	s. d. 24 0	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 26 3	s. d. 27 2
	Index-numbers	995	999	900	883	1,376	964	1,000
30th Sept., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 27 3	s. d. 28 11	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 23 0	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 28 0	s. d. 27 3
	Index-numbers	1,003	990	900	883	1,376	1,031	1,002
31st Dec., 1915.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 27 5	s. d. 28 11	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 6	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 28 0	s. d. 27 4
	Index-numbers	1,007	990	900	901	1,376	1,031	1,005
31st Mar., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 27 7	s. d. 27 11	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 6	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 28 4	s. d. 27 9
	Index-numbers	1,015	1,025	991	901	1,376	1,042	1,022
30th June, 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 27 7	s. d. 27 11	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 0	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 9
	Index-numbers	1,013	1,027	991	902	1,376	1,019	1,021
30th Sept., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 27 11	s. d. 28 2	s. d. 27 2	s. d. 24 10	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 28 1
	Index-numbers	1,027	1,037	998	913	1,376	1,019	1,032
31st Dec., 1916.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 28 7	s. d. 28 6	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 24 11	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 4	s. d. 28 6
	Index-numbers	1,050	1,047	1,004	915	1,420	1,041	1,047
31st Mar., 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 29 1	s. d. 28 10	s. d. 27 6	s. d. 25 9	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 4	s. d. 28 11
	Index-numbers	1,072	1,061	1,009	947	1,430	1,042	1,064
30th June, 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 29 3	s. d. 28 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 3	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 4	s. d. 29 1
	Index-numbers	1,078	1,061	1,021	1,004	1,430	1,042	1,071
30th Sept., 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 30 2	s. d. 29 7	s. d. 30 0	s. d. 27 8	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 4	s. d. 30 0
	Index-numbers	1,109	1,090	1,105	1,019	1,430	1,042	1,105
31st Dec., 1917.	Weighted average weekly rate of wage	s. d. 30 5	s. d. 30 4	s. d. 30 5	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 5	s. d. 30 5
	Index-numbers	1,119	1,116	1,120	1,020	1,430	1,045	1,121

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the general upward-movement in the average weekly wage for adult female workers, as indicated for the whole Commonwealth, was comparatively small during

1914 and 1915. From the beginning of the year 1916, the increase in the average wage is more noticeable. The advance during the whole period under review has been 12.1 per cent., and this increase has practically taken place since the beginning of 1916.

(iii.) *Weighted Average Weekly Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Male Workers in each Industrial Group, 1914-1917.*—The following table gives particulars in regard to (a) the average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, as at 30th April, 1914, and at approximately quarterly periods to the 31st December, 1917. Index-numbers for each industrial group and all groups, based on the average wage for all groups at 30th April, 1914 (= 1000), are given.

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Male Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each Industrial Group, 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1917.†**

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and all industrial groups, based on the average wage for all groups at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—								
	30th April, 1914.	31st Dec., 1914.	31st Dec., 1915.	31st Dec., 1916.	31st Dec., 1917.	30th June, 1917.	30th Sept., 1917.	31st Dec., 1917.	
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 58 6	s. d. 59 6	s. d. 60 2	s. d. 63 10	s. d. 63 11	s. d. 63 11	s. d. 65 2	s. d. 66 0
	Index-No.	1,062	1,080	1,092	1,159	1,160	1,160	1,183	1,198
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 57 9	s. d. 60 2	s. d. 62 1	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 63 3	s. d. 64 6	s. d. 65 0
	Index-No.	1,035	1,048	1,092	1,127	1,141	1,148	1,171	1,180
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 55 0	s. d. 55 8	s. d. 57 9	s. d. 61 2	s. d. 62 1	s. d. 62 7	s. d. 63 1	s. d. 63 7
	Index-No.	999	1,011	1,043	1,111	1,127	1,136	1,145	1,154
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 52 3	s. d. 53 0	s. d. 53 2	s. d. 56 7	s. d. 57 1	s. d. 57 8	s. d. 59 2	s. d. 59 7
	Index-No.	949	962	965	1,027	1,036	1,047	1,074	1,082
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 63 3	s. d. 63 10	s. d. 64 6	s. d. 68 1	s. d. 68 9	s. d. 69 10	s. d. 70 2	s. d. 70 4
	Index-No.	1,150	1,159	1,171	1,236	1,248	1,263	1,274	1,280
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage ..	s. d. 55 1	s. d. 56 0	s. d. 57 8	s. d. 61 8	s. d. 62 2	s. d. 62 8	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 63 10
	Index-No.	1,000	1,017	1,047	1,120	1,129	1,138	1,141	1,159
VII. Building ..	Wage ..	s. d. 65 0	s. d. 65 5	s. d. 65 10	s. d. 69 8	s. d. 70 3	s. d. 70 11	s. d. 71 9	s. d. 72 5
	Index-No.	1,180	1,188	1,195	1,265	1,275	1,288	1,303	1,315
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 65 1	s. d. 65 2	s. d. 66 7	s. d. 72 9	s. d. 76 8	s. d. 77 3	s. d. 77 4	s. d. 78 4
	Index-No.	1,182	1,183	1,209	1,321	1,392	1,403	1,404	1,422
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 59 8	s. d. 59 8	s. d. 60 10	s. d. 63 4	s. d. 63 7	s. d. 64 0	s. d. 65 11	s. d. 65 11
	Index-No.	1,083	1,083	1,104	1,150	1,154	1,162	1,197	1,197
X. Other Land Transport	Wage ..	s. d. 51 0	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 53 4	s. d. 57 10	s. d. 58 1	s. d. 58 6	s. d. 61 8	s. d. 62 0
	Index-No.	926	956	963	1,050	1,054	1,062	1,120	1,126
XI. Shipping, etc.*	Wage ..	s. d. 48 10	s. d. 49 10	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 59 1	s. d. 61 0	s. d. 61 0	s. d. 61 0	s. d. 61 2
	Index-No.	887	905	955	1,073	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,111
XII. Agricultural, etc.*	Wage ..	s. d. 40 5	s. d. 40 5	s. d. 40 8	s. d. 55 0	s. d. 55 4	s. d. 58 4	s. d. 58 9	s. d. 61 1
	Index-No.	897	897	902	999	1,005	1,059	1,067	1,109
XIII. Domestic, etc.*	Wage ..	s. d. 47 0	s. d. 47 11	s. d. 48 7	s. d. 51 0	s. d. 52 2	s. d. 52 11	s. d. 53 9	s. d. 53 11
	Index-No.	853	870	882	926	947	961	976	979
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage ..	s. d. 53 7	s. d. 54 0	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 58 3	s. d. 58 8	s. d. 59 1	s. d. 60 2	s. d. 60 9
	Index-No.	973	980	991	1,058	1,065	1,072	1,092	1,103
All Industrial Groups	Wage ..	s. d. 55 1	s. d. 55 7	s. d. 56 6	s. d. 60 8	s. d. 61 5	s. d. 62 5	s. d. 63 8	s. d. 64 2
	Index-No.	1,000	1,008	1,023	1,100	1,115	1,132	1,147	1,164

\* See footnote to table on page 69.

† Particulars for the quarters omitted from this

table will be found on page 423 of Report No. 7.



The above table shews that the rate of increase in the weighted average weekly wage in occupations and callings classified in the fourteen industrial groups was greatest in Group XI. (Shipping), 25.3 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups XII. (Agricultural. etc.), 23.6 per cent., and X. (Other Land Transport), 21.6 per cent. In ten of the groups the increase was less, and in four groups more than the increase in the weighted average for all groups.

(iv.) *Weighted Average Rate of Wage Payable to Adult Female Workers in Industrial Groups, 1914-17.*—The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers at the 30th April, 1914, and at approximately quarterly periods to the 31st December, 1917, in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined. Taking the average wage for all groups at the 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000), index-numbers are given, computed on the average rate of wage ruling at the end of each period indicated.

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-numbers in each Industrial Group, 30th April, 1914, to 31st December, 1917.†**

NOTE.—Index-number for each Industrial Group and all Industrial Groups, based on the Average Wage for all groups at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—							
	30th April, 1914.	31st Dec., 1914.	31st Dec., 1915.	31st Dec., 1916.	31st Mar., 1917.	30th June, 1917.	30th Sept., 1917.	31st Dec., 1917.
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 22 6	s. d. 23 5	s. d. 24 6	s. d. 25 4	s. d. 25 6	s. d. 25 8	s. d. 25 11
	Index-No.	828	862	899	932	939	945	954
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage ..	s. d. 24 9	s. d. 24 11	s. d. 25 1	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 27 7	s. d. 28 10
	Index-No.	911	917	923	991	1,006	1,015	1,061
I., II., V. and VI. All Other Manufacturing	Wage ..	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 27 6	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 29 5	s. d. 29 8	s. d. 30 0	s. d. 30 3
	Index-No.	991	994	1,006	1,083	1,092	1,104	1,113
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.*	Wage ..	s. d. 31 1	s. d. 30 2	s. d. 30 9	s. d. 31 2	s. d. 31 8	s. d. 32 0	s. d. 33 3
	Index-No.	1,144	1,110	1,132	1,147	1,166	1,178	1,224
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	Wage ..	s. d. 30 2	s. d. 31 4	s. d. 30 1	s. d. 29 10	s. d. 30 4	s. d. 30 6	s. d. 30 6
	Index-No.	1,110	1,153	1,107	1,098	1,116	1,123	1,123
All Groups ..	Wage ..	s. d. 27 2	s. d. 27 5	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 28 6	s. d. 28 11	s. d. 29 1	s. d. 30 0
	Index-No.	1,000	1,008	1,005	1,047	1,064	1,071	1,105

\* See footnote to table on page 69. † Weighted average. ‡ Particulars for the quarters omitted from this table will be found on page 424 of Report No. 7.

It may be seen from the above table that the greatest increase in the weekly rate of wage has occurred in Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 19.5 per cent., followed in the order named by Groups III. (Food, Drink, etc.) 17.0 per cent., I, II, V and VI. (All Other Manufacturing), 12.6 per cent., XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), 7.5 per cent., and the last group (Miscellaneous), 1.2 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate of wage for all groups was 12.1 per cent. higher at the end of 1917 than on the 30th April, 1914.

**4. Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 31st December, 1917.**—The rates of wage referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Section relate to the minimum rates payable for a full week's work. It should be observed, however, that the number of hours which constitute a full week's work differs in many instances, not only as between various trades and occupations in each State, but also as between the same trades and occupations in the several States. In order to secure what may be for some purposes a more adequate standard of comparison, the results given in the preceding paragraphs are herein reduced to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour, classified according to industrial groups in each State and all States. In Appendixes IV. and V. of this Report, particulars in detail regarding the number of hours worked per week in the various industries in the several States are shewn. It will there be seen that the specified number of hours of labour per week cover a very wide range. In the following tables the average number of hours per week for each State, according to industrial groups, is given.

The tables on page 76 and 77 shew (a) the average weekly wage, (b) the average number of working hours per week for a full week's work, and (c) the average hourly wage for adult male and female workers in each State and industrial group except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Owing to the fact that many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and that the hours of labour are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, the necessary particulars for the computation of average working time and hourly rates of wage are not available.

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

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, Payable to Adult Male  
Workers, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1917.**

Industrial Groups.	Particulars.†	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Robert.	Average for Six Capital Towns.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Weekly Wage	67/6	63/1	67/11	61/9	69/1	62/-	66/-
	Working Hours	48.02	48.07	46.24	47.90	48.00	48.00	47.76
	Hourly Wage	1/4½	1/3½	1/5½	1/3½	1/5½	1/3½	1/4½
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	Weekly Wage	65/11	64/6	64/11	62/1	68/0	61/6	65/-
	Working Hours	48.00	48.00	45.74	48.00	47.95	48.00	47.77
	Hourly Wage	1/4½	1/4½	1/5	1/3½	1/5½	1/3½	1/4½
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Weekly Wage	64/1	62/3	60/2	63/5	62/10	56/1	63/7
	Working Hours	48.56	48.53	47.71	48.43	49.85	49.26	48.47
	Hourly Wage	1/3½	1/3½	1/4½	1/3½	1/3	1/1½	1/3½
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Weekly Wage	61/6	56/11	64/5	58/10	63/9	52/11	59/7
	Working Hours	47.79	48.00	47.33	48.00	48.00	48.00	47.86
	Hourly Wage	1/3½	1/2½	1/4½	1/2½	1/4	1/11	1/3
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Weekly Wage	72/2	70/1	67/9	69/-	70/-	69/3	70/6
	Working Hours	46.73	45.03	45.30	47.56	45.77	46.00	46.28
	Hourly Wage	1/6½	1/0½	1/6	1/5½	1/6½	1/6	1/6½
VI. Other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	65/-	62/4	63/3	63/10	66/2	62/3	63/10
	Working Hours	47.98	48.13	46.91	48.09	48.09	48.16	47.98
	Hourly Wage	1/4½	1/3½	1/4½	1/4	1/4½	1/3½	1/4
VII. Building	Weekly Wage	75/6	70/10	71/6	68/11	70/1	68/2	72/5
	Working Hours	47.28	44.32	44.00	45.19	47.90	47.26	45.83
	Hourly Wage	1/7½	1/7½	1/7½	1/6½	1/5½	1/5½	1/7
VIII. Mining‡	Weekly Wage	75/5	74/3	84/4	91/4	85/8	66/11	78/4
	Working Hours	45.18	44.94	43.03	44.44	47.50	47.18	45.28
	Hourly Wage	1/8	1/7½	1/11½	2/0½	1/9½	1/5	1/8½
IX. Rail & Tram Services	Weekly Wage	65/11	64/7	70/7	64/8	64/11	59/11	65/11
	Working Hours	48.29	48.15	48.79	48.50	48.40	49.80	48.39
	Hourly Wage	1/4½	1/4	1/5½	1/4	1/4	1/2½	1/4½
X. Other Land Transport	Weekly Wage	50/7	63/2	65/4	61/9	66/	64/5	62/-
	Working Hours	54.89	51.58	50.92	49.45	48.00	51.88	52.47
	Hourly Wage	1/1	1/2½	1/3½	1/3	1/4½	1/3	1/2½
XI. Shipping, etc.	Weekly Wage	60/1	64/1	58/7	64/10	57/8	64/-	61/2
	Working Hours	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hourly Wage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	Weekly Wage§	61/1	59/6	62/11	60/7	66/3	58/2	61/1
	Working Hours	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hourly Wage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage§	56/9	51/5	49/8	52/-	60/1	43/6	53/11.
	Working Hours	56.55	56.86	56.00	54.70	55.53	58.00	56.38
	Hourly Wage	1/-	-/10½	-/10½	-/11½	1/1	-/9	-/11½
XIV. Miscellaneous	Weekly Wage	60/3	61/11	59/4	60/6	62/5	57/0	60/9
	Working Hours	48.61	48.59	48.26	47.82	46.98	48.20	48.37
	Hourly Wage	1/3	1/3½	1/2½	1/3½	1/4	1/2½	1/3
All Groups	Weekly Wage	64/5	63/-	65/3	63/1	68/11	59/7	64/2
All Groups excepting XI and XII	Weekly Wage	65/5	63/9	68/5	63/8	70/1	60/10	65/1
	Working Hours	48.41	48.14	47.19	47.82	48.10	48.48	48.10
	Hourly Wage	1/4½	1/4	1/5	1/4	1/5½	1/3	1/4½

† Particulars relate to the Average Weighted weekly wage, working hours and hourly wage, respectively. ‡ Average rates of wage and hours prevailing at the principal mining centres in each State. § Average rates of wage are for occupations other than Masters, Officers, and Engineers in the Merchant Marine Service, and include value of victualling and accommodation, where provided, at 45s. per month, but does not include value of commission on bar sales to stewards. ¶ In the recent award for Masters and Officers on inter-State and intra-State merchant vessels, the annual value of victualling and accommodation, which was estimated in 1910 at £30, was computed to be £43 17s. § See footnotes to table on page 69.

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage payable to Adult  
Female Workers, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1917.**

Industrial Groups.	Particulars.*	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Average for Six Capital Towns.
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Weekly Wage	26/1	27/1	26/5	23/3	21/3	24/9	26/4
	Working Hours	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00
	Hourly Wage	-7/6½	-7/6½	-7/6½	-7/5½	-7/5½	-7/6½	-7/6½
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Weekly Wage	30/3	29/3	30/-	26/7	35/11	26/3	29/7
	Working Hours	47.79	48.00	47.64	48.00	48.00	46.50	47.84
	Hourly Wage	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/8½	-7/9	-7/6½	-7/7½
I. II. V. & VI. All other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	29/10	30/11	26/-	33/3	..	32/-	30/4
	Working Hours	47.17	47.90	47.43	47.50	..	48.00	47.57
	Hourly Wage	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/8½	-7/8½	..	-7/8	-7/7½
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	Weekly Wage †	33/5	31/5	38/10	28/8	42/5	32/8	33/5
	Working Hours	51.01	50.46	52.50	50.67	49.60	58.00	51.13
	Hourly Wage	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/6½	-7/10½	-7/6½	-7/7½
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	Weekly Wage	29/1	33/4	28/0	28/3	..	..	30/6
	Working Hours	50.29	48.00	48.00	49.00	..	..	49.03
	Hourly Wage	-7/7	-7/8½	-7/7½	-7/7	..	..	-7/7½
All Groups	Weekly Wage	30/5	30/4	30/5	27/9	38/10	28/5	30/6
	Working Hours	48.98	48.32	48.99	48.73	48.78	49.83	48.71
	Hourly Wage	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/7½	-7/6½	-7/9½	-7/6½	-7/7½

\* The particulars relate to the Average Weighted weekly rates of wage, working hours and hourly wage, respectively. † See footnote to table on page 69.

5. **Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1914 to 1917.**—Particulars are given in the following table, classified according to States for male and female occupations separately at 30th April, 1914, at the 31st December, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average weekly wage, (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work, and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. It should be observed that the weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial classes combined, and includes the value of board and lodging where supplied in land occupations and the value of victualling in marine occupations, § whereas the number of working hours, and the hourly wage relate to all industrial classes other than Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Owing to the fact that many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and that the hours of labour in these occupations are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

§ See footnotes to table on page 76.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage payable to Adult Workers, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 30th April, 1914, 31st December, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
MALE WORKERS.								
30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage*	s. d. 55 9	s. d. 54 3	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 62 2.	s. d. 52 6	s. d. 55 1
	Working Hours†	49.42	48.80	48.78	48.60	47.78	48.62	48.93
	Hourly Wage†	13.93d.	13.68d.	13.45d.	13.84d.	16.33d.	13.02d.	13.96d.
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage*	s. d. 56 2	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 54 5	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 55 7
	Working Hours†	49.35	48.66	48.64	48.59	48.15	48.62	48.87
	Hourly Wage†	14.11d.	13.82d.	13.75d.	13.86d.	16.37d.	13.07d.	14.09d.
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage*	s. d. 57 7	s. d. 55 3	s. d. 54 4	s. d. 54 8	s. d. 63 4	s. d. 53 2	s. d. 56 6
	Working Hours†	49.28	48.50	48.56	48.50	48.12	48.56	48.77
	Hourly Wage†	14.50d.	14.05d.	14.07d.	13.98d.	16.50d.	13.20d.	14.38d.
31st Dec., 1916.	Weekly Wage*	s. d. 61 11	s. d. 58 10	s. d. 60 4	s. d. 59 0	s. d. 65 2	s. d. 57 0	s. d. 60 8
	Working Hours†	48.51	48.22	48.27	48.14	48.11	48.55	48.33
	Hourly Wage†	15.73d.	14.99d.	15.32d.	15.01d.	16.84d.	14.11d.	15.43d.
31st Dec., 1917.	Weekly Wage*	s. d. 64 5	s. d. 63 0	s. d. 65 3	s. d. 63 1	s. d. 68 11	s. d. 59 7	s. d. 64 2
	Working Hours†	48.41	48 14	47.19	47.82	48.10	48.48	48.10
	Hourly Wage†	16.22d.	15.89d.	16.86d.	15.98d.	17.48d.	15.06d.	16.25d.

FEMALE WORKERS.

30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage	s. d. 26 9	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 2
	Working Hours	49.34	48.54	49.32	49.33	48.69	50.76	49.08
	Hourly Wage	6.51d.	6.78d.	6.48d.	5.85d.	9.20d.	6.11d.	6.64d.
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage	s. d. 26 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 1	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 5
	Working Hours	49.34	48.54	49.82	49.33	49.44	50.76	49.11
	Hourly Wage	6.53d.	6.87d.	6.53d.	5.85d.	9.06d.	6.11d.	6.70d.
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage	s. d. 27 5	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 26 11	s. d. 24 6	s. d. 37 5	s. d. 28 0	s. d. 27 4
	Working Hours	49.45	48.46	49.84	49.35	49.86	50.14	49.12
	Hourly Wage	6.65d.	6.67d.	6.48d.	5.96d.	9.01d.	6.71d.	6.62d.
31st Dec., 1916.	Weekly Wage	s. d. 28 7	s. d. 28 5	s. d. 27 3	s. d. 24 10	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 3	s. d. 28 5
	Working Hours	49.44	48.36	49.85	49.02	49.08	49.83	49.02
	Hourly Wage	6.93d.	7.06d.	6.58d.	6.08d.	9.50d.	6.82d.	6.96d.
31st Dec., 1917.	Weekly Wage	s. d. 30 5	s. d. 30 4	s. d. 30 5	s. d. 27 0	s. d. 38 10	s. d. 28 5	s. d. 30 5
	Working Hours	48.96	48.32	48.99	48.73	48.78	49.83	48.71
	Hourly Wage	7.45d.	7.53d.	7.45d.	6.82d.	9.66d.	6.83d.	7.50d.

\* Weighted average weekly wage in all industrial classes combined.

† Weighted average working hours per week, and computed hourly rates of wage for all industrial classes excepting Classes XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in industrial Classes XI. and XII.

From the foregoing table it may be seen that with the exception of Western Australia, there has been a diminution in each of the States in the number of working hours constituting a full week's work in both male and female occupations. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared to the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table. In each instance (male and female occupations separately) the basis taken is the weighted average for the Commonwealth at the 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Relative Index-numbers for Weekly and Hourly Weighted Average Wage, 30th April, 1914, 31st December, 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917.\*

NOTE.—Weighted Average for the Commonwealth at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1000).

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
MALE WORKERS.								
30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	1,011	984	955	986	1,128	952	1,000
	Hourly Wage ..	998	950	963	991	1,170	933	1,000
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	1,019	990	969	988	1,140	956	1,008
	Hourly Wage ..	1,010	990	985	998	1,173	936	1,009
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage ..	1,044	1,002	986	992	1,149	965	1,023
	Hourly Wage ..	1,039	1,006	1,008	1,001	1,182	946	1,030
31st Dec., 1916.	Weekly Wage ..	1,123	1,067	1,095	1,071	1,182	1,034	1,100
	Hourly Wage ..	1,127	1,074	1,097	1,075	1,206	1,011	1,105
31st Dec., 1917.	Weekly Wage ..	1,168	1,143	1,183	1,144	1,250	1,081	1,164
	Hourly Wage ..	1,162	1,138	1,209	1,145	1,252	1,079	1,164

FEMALE WORKERS.

30th April, 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	984	1,006	980	885	1,373	950	1,000
	Hourly Wage ..	980	1,021	976	881	1,386	920	1,000
31st Dec., 1914.	Weekly Wage ..	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
	Hourly Wage ..	983	1,035	983	881	1,364	929	1,009
31st Dec., 1915.	Weekly Wage ..	1,007	990	990	901	1,376	1,031	1,005
	Hourly Wage ..	1,002	1,005	976	898	1,357	1,011	1,009
31st Dec., 1916.	Weekly Wage ..	1,050	1,047	1,004	915	1,429	1,041	1,047
	Hourly Wage ..	1,044	1,063	991.	916	1,431	1,027	1,048
31st Dec., 1917.	Weekly Wage ..	1,119	1,116	1,120	1,020	1,430	1,045	1,121
	Hourly Wage ..	1,122	1,134	1,122	1,027	1,440	1,029	1,130

\* For details as to previous publications see footnote to table on page 80.

SECTION IX.—VARIATIONS IN NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGES.

1: **General.**—From the beginning of the year 1913, records have been kept of all changes in rates of wage and hours of labour, the number of workers affected, and the methods by which such changes are brought about. The results of these records have been published in the quarterly Labour Bulletins and in Labour Reports Nos. 5, 6, and 7. In order to supplement the results thus obtained, investigations have been made regarding rates of wage in past years with a view to showing their general trend in each State and in various industrial groups. The methods adopted for the collection of the data and computation of the results were explained in Report No. 2 (see pages 23-4), and will not be repeated here. The particulars given in this Section shew variations in nominal wages from year to year in each State and in various industrial groups. Index-numbers are also given shewing variations in effective wages in each State.