

CHAPTER XIV.—STATE FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

1. **General.**—As pointed out in Labour Report No. 6 (page 130), the systems of registration of applications for work and applications from employers are not uniform in the States, and comparisons of the figures relating to the operations of the Labour Bureaux, are, therefore, subject to limitations.

2. **Applications and Positions Filled.**—The following table shows the number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in Australia during the years 1919 to 1923. The figures for Western Australia included in this table and in subsequent tables refer to the year ending 30th June, 1923; those for other States are for calendar years:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in Australia, during the Years 1919 to 1923.

Year.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Period.*	Received during Period.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Period.	Received during Period.	Total.	
1919	5,994	98,527	104,521	†459	†43,775	44,234	53,040
1920	7,475	124,429	131,904	†356	†61,328	61,684	62,699
1921	7,669	131,867	139,536	†797	†49,824	50,621	58,328
1922	8,304	134,750	143,054	†744	†59,968	60,712	58,351
1923	8,848	116,752	125,600	†655	†56,627	57,282	57,438

* Exclusive of W.A.

† Exclusive of Vic., S.A., W.A. and Tas.

‡ Exclusive of Vic., S.A. and Tas.

Compared with 1922 the number of applications for employment received during 1923 decreased by 13.4 per cent., while the decrease in the number of positions filled was 1.6 per cent. In regard to applications from employers, the number received during 1923 shows a decrease of 5.6 per cent.

3. **Details for each State.**—The following table shows the number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in each State during the year 1923:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled, 1923.

State.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	
New South Wales	80	35,442	35,522	478	32,802	33,280	27,831
Victoria ..	883	11,714	12,597	*	*	*	2,104
Queensland ..	7,156	47,994	55,150	177	15,451	15,628	14,864
South Australia ..	215	10,097	10,312	*	*	*	3,978
Western Australia	*	9,985	9,985	*	8,374	8,374	6,989
Tasmania ..	514	1,520	2,034	*	*	*	1,672
Total ..	†8,848	†116,752	†125,600	†655	†56,627	†57,282	†57,438

* Not available. † Exclusive of W.A. ‡ Exclusive of Vic., S.A., W.A., and Tas. § Exclusive of Vic., S.A., and Tas.

The percentages of applicants who obtained employment through the Bureaux in the various States were :—New South Wales, 78 ; Victoria, 17 ; Queensland, 27 ; South Australia, 39 ; Western Australia, 70 ; Tasmania, 82 ; and all States combined 46 per cent.

4. **Details in Industrial Groups.**—The next table gives details for the year 1923 in industrial groups :—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled—Industrial Groups, 1923.

Industrial Group.	*Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.†	Received during Year.‡	Total.	
I. Wood, Furniture, Saw-mill, Timber Workers, etc. ..	17	259	276	..	166	166	211
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	436	4,674	5,110	44	665	709	1,058
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	82	928	1,010	1	438	439	142
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	9	985	994	28	373	401	287
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	5	142	147	..	34	34	37
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	8	333	341	..	272	272	227
VII. Building ..	378	4,747	5,125	10	2,858	2,868	2,982
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	131	888	1,019	4	460	464	497
IX. Rail and Tram Services	312	16,943	17,255	..	7,827	7,827	11,341
X. Other Land Transport	4	765	769	1	457	458	430
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. ..	4	123	127	..	284	284	288
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, etc. ..	879	10,313	11,192	116	10,962	11,078	10,183
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	68	10,638	10,706	445	17,739	18,184	13,242
XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous ..	6,515	55,029	61,544	6	14,092	14,098	16,513
Total ..	8,848	†116,752	†125,600	655	56,627	57,282	57,438

* Exclusive of W.A. † Inclusive of W.A. ‡ Exclusive of Vic., S.A., W.A. and Tas. § Exclusive of Vic., S.A., and Tas.

As pointed out previously, the work of the Bureaux in the various States is not on uniform lines. For example, in States in which Government Departments obtain workers from the Labour Bureaux, the numbers of workers are larger in comparison than in the same groups in other States. Thus, of the positions filled in Group IX. (Rail and Tramway Services), 15 per cent. were filled in New South Wales, 54 per cent. in Queensland, and 30 per cent. in South Australia. In Victoria, in this group, only 52 positions were filled, and in Tasmania only 25, and in Western Australia none. Practically the whole of the positions filled in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.) were in New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia. Of the positions filled in this group, 11,189, or 84 per cent., as against 11,557, or 85 per cent. in 1922 were for female domestic workers, and the whole of these positions, with the exception of 55 in Tasmania, were filled in the three States mentioned, which alone make special provisions for female workers.

5. **Details by Sexes.**—The following table gives particulars, for male and female workers separately, of the number of applications for employment, and from employers, and the number of positions filled in Australia during the year 1923.

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, Australia, 1923.

Particulars.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.*	Received during Year.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.†	Received during Year.‡	Total.	
Males	8,839	104,559	113,398	201	39,641	39,842	45,366
Females	9	12,193	12,202	454	16,986	17,440	12,072
Total	8,848	116,752	125,600	655	56,627	57,282	57,438

* Exclusive of W.A.

† Exclusive of Vic., S.A., W.A. and Tas.

‡ Exclusive of Vic., S.A. and Tas.

Of the total number of registrations for employment during the year 1923, 90.3 per cent. (against 91.4 per cent. in 1922) were made by males, and 9.7 per cent. by females. The percentage of positions filled for males was 79.0 per cent. (against 78.6 per cent. in 1922), and for females, 21.0 per cent.

For every 1,000 applications for employment from male workers, 400 positions were filled in 1923, as against 354 in 1922, while the number of positions found for female workers for every 1,000 applications was 989.