

two Co-operative Unions, one in New South Wales and the other in South Australia. The former has ceased to exist, but the duties for which it was organized are now carried out by the Propaganda Committee of the New South Wales Wholesale Society. The work of these organizations has been largely confined to the arrangements for holding Conferences of Co-operative Societies. Two such Conferences for Australia have been held—the last in 1922. State Conferences have also been held in South Australia.

7.—**Other Co-operative Societies.**—In some of the largest industrial undertakings in Australia the employers have established co-operative stores at which their employees may purchase commodities at practically wholesale prices. These Societies are included in the preceding tables. In many smaller establishments, however, the practice of buying in bulk by a Committee of the employees, and retailing to the employees at practically wholesale prices, is being largely adopted. It has been found impossible to secure information as to the extent to which this practice has developed. In some cases it is confined to one or two articles such as butter, in others the list of commodities dealt in is extensive.

8.—**International Statistics of Co-operative Societies.**—In the People's Year Book for the year 1922 (the Official publication of the Co-operative Movement of the United Kingdom), statistics are given of the collective membership and trade of the Consumers' Co-operative Societies of the representative Co-operative Unions in the year 1920.

It is there shown that for 18 countries the number of distributing societies is nearly 18,000, with a membership of approximately 12,000,000, and an annual trade of about £750,000,000 in British equivalent values at par. The figures do not include Belgium and Russia, where the movement is firmly established, as the necessary information is not available. In the United Kingdom there are 1,397 Societies with a membership of 4,504,852 and an annual trade of £254,158,144.

For the year 1922 the number of Societies in the United Kingdom was 1,321 with a membership of 4,519,162 and an annual trade of £169,582,357. The decrease in the annual trade is due almost entirely to the decline in prices, and not to any falling off in trade.

#### CHAPTER IV.—FLUCTUATIONS IN EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

1. **General.**—In Chapter X. variations in rates of wage in Australia since 1891 are indicated by index-numbers, while in Chapters V. to VIII. variations in retail prices and in wholesale prices are shown by a similar method.

Employment index-numbers form a useful complement to figures showing the course of wages, prices, and purchasing-power of money, since they indicate the relative loss of time through lack of employment, and furnish a useful measure of the fluctuations of industrial activity regarded as a whole. While export statistics, for example, relate only to the margin of national production sent overseas, statistics of employment measure the relative activity or depression of the whole of the industries to which they relate.

The particulars in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions in the several States, and the membership of unions regularly reporting has now reached nearly 400,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions whose members are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.) Very few unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are in close touch with the members and with the state of trade within their

particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for members out of work to pay reduced subscriptions. It may, therefore, be affirmed that percentage results based on trade union information fairly show the general trend of unemployment.

2. **Number Unemployed.**—The following table gives particulars in respect of:—

- (a) The number of unions for which returns as to unemployment are available.
- (b) The number of members of such unions.
- (c) The number of members unemployed, and
- (d) The percentage of members unemployed (c) on total membership (b).

**Unemployment.—Australia—1891 to 1924 (1st Quarter).**

PARTICULARS.	Unions.	Membership.	UNEMPLOYED.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1891 end of year ..	25	6,445	599	9.3
1896 " " ..	25	4,227	457	10.8
1901 " " ..	39	8,710	574	6.6
1906 " " ..	47	11,299	753	6.7
1907 " " ..	51	13,179	757	5.7
1908 " " ..	68	18,685	1,117	6.0
1909 " " ..	84	21,122	1,223	5.8
1910 " " ..	109	32,995	1,857	5.6
1911 " " ..	160	67,961	3,171	4.7
1912 " " ..	464	224,023	12,441	5.6
1913 average for year ..	462	246,063	16,054	6.5
1914 " " ..	459	268,938	22,344	8.3
1915 " " ..	470	276,215	25,663	9.3
1916 " " ..	473	290,075	16,783	5.8
1917 " " ..	450	286,811	20,334	7.1
1918 " " ..	478	299,793	17,536	5.8
1919 " " ..	464	310,145	20,507	6.6
1920 " " ..	447	341,967	22,105	6.5
1921 " " ..	449	361,744	40,549	11.2
1922 " " ..	445	380,998	35,238	9.3
1923 " " ..	436	376,557	26,672	7.1
1923 1st Quarter ..	452	377,209	27,112	7.2
2nd " ..	431	378,161	26,931	7.1
3rd " ..	453	380,256	28,122	7.4
4th " ..	407	370,602	24,521	6.6
1924 1st " ..	423	338,960	29,417	7.6

3. **Employment Index-Numbers.**—For greater convenience of examination and comparison with other statistical data, the percentage of unemployed has been subtracted from 100, so as to show the percentage of members not returned as unemployed, and the results are also stated in the form of index-numbers with the year 1911 as base (=1000).

**Unemployment.—Australia, Percentages and Index-Numbers, 1891 to 1923.**

Particulars.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Percentage not returned as Unemployed	00.7	93.4	95.3	94.7	89.0	93.2	93.3	92.6	94.5	94.8	92.2	90.5	91.4	93.4
Employment Index-No., 1911=1000	952	980	1,000	994	934	978	979	972	992	995	967	950	959	980

As the employment rates available for 1912 and previous years relate to the end of the year in each case, the rates used in the foregoing table for 1913 and subsequent years are for the last quarter of each year.

Subject to this qualification the figures in the first line of the table indicate the percentage of full time worked on the average in each year, while the figures in the second line show the relative state of employment in each year compared with that in the year 1911 taken as =1000.

4. **Unemployment by Industries.**—The following table gives for various industrial groups the percentages of members of trade unions returned as unemployed during each of the four quarters of 1922 and 1923. The percentage of unemployed at the end of 1912 is also inserted for the sake of comparison. The figures do not include persons out of work through strikes or lockouts.

**Unemployment.—Australia, Percentages by Industries, 1912 ; and Quarterly, 1922 and 1923.**

INDUSTRIAL GROUP.	1912. End of Year.	1922.				1923.			
		1st Qtr. (Jan. to Mar.)	2nd Qtr. (April to June)	3rd Qtr. (July to Sept)	4th Qtr. (Oct. to Dec.)	1st Qtr. (Jan. to Mar.)	2nd Qtr. (April to June.)	3rd Qtr. (July to Sept)	4th Qtr. (Oct. to Dec.)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . . . .	3.7	10.2	11.2	5.3	2.7	3.0	3.5	2.3	2.7
II. Engineering, Metal, Works etc. . . . .	7.4	27.7	14.1	17.2	15.6	10.6	9.5	7.7	0.3
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . . . .	7.3	7.4	11.3	12.4	12.1	8.7	9.8	10.0	0.6
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . . . .	6.3	1.5	1.9	2.4	2.0	2.6	6.3	6.6	4.2
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	2.8	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.5	1.2
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	6.9	9.0	13.8	10.7	8.5	8.7	10.0	11.0	8.9
VII. Building . . . . .	5.5	5.5	4.5	4.0	2.6	2.7	2.0	3.5	2.8
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc. . . . .	5.6	12.8	16.5	11.7	13.5	11.7	5.5	6.9	8.1
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	1.1	5.9	3.9	3.8	3.5	7.1	7.4	7.4	3.3
IX., XI., XII, XIII, and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous . . . . .	6.4	10.1	9.8	11.2	9.7	8.1	7.7	8.8	7.5
AUSTRALIA . . . . .	5.6	9.2	9.6	9.6	8.6	7.2	7.1	7.4	6.6

5. **Unemployment—States.**—The results of the quarterly investigations as to unemployment in the years 1913 to 1922 were published in Labour Bulletins Nos. 1 to 18, and in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics, Nos. 70 to 94. The following table shows for each State the percentage of members of trade unions returned as unemployed during each quarter of 1922 and 1923. The percentage unemployed at the end of 1912 is also given for purposes of comparison. It must be borne in mind, however, that the classes of industry in the several States are not quite identical.

**Unemployment.—States, Percentages at the end of 1912 ; and Quarterly, 1922 and 1923.**

STATE.	1912. end of Year.	1922.				1923.			
		1st Qtr. (Jan. to Mar.)	2nd Qtr. (April to June.)	3rd Qtr. (July to Sept.)	4th Qtr. (Oct. to Dec.)	1st Qtr. (Jan. to Mar.)	2nd Qtr. (April to June.)	3rd Qtr. (July to Sept.)	4th Qtr. (Oct. to Dec.)
New South Wales . . . . .	5.0	11.1	11.4	11.9	11.4	10.2	8.8	9.3	8.4
Victoria . . . . .	0.7	6.2	7.8	7.4	5.2	4.4	5.7	6.4	5.2
Queensland . . . . .	4.6	11.1	7.7	8.6	12.4	8.0	7.3	6.6	6.3
South Australia . . . . .	5.1	6.6	6.4	6.6	3.3	2.7	4.9	4.6	6.1
Western Australia . . . . .	5.8	8.5	11.4	11.1	8.9	6.9	6.2	5.8	3.8
Tasmania . . . . .	3.4	13.7	10.4	6.7	3.9	4.2	4.9	3.9	2.0
AUSTRALIA . . . . .	5.6	9.2	9.6	9.6	8.6	7.2	7.1	7.4	6.6

As is the case with the preceding table the figures do not include persons out of work through strikes or lockouts.

6. Causes of Unemployment.—The following tables give, for Australia the membership of the unions reporting, and the number and percentage of those unemployed under three main heads for the four quarters of the years 1919 to 1923 :—

Unemployment.—Australia, Causes, Quarterly, 1919 to 1923.

Particulars.	No. of Members of Unions reporting.	Number of and Percentage Unemployed through—								
		Lack of Work.		Sickness and Accident.		Other Causes.		Total.		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1919.										
1st quarter (Jan. to March) ..	302,727	14,167	4.7	4,771	1.6	839	0.2	19,777	6.5	
2nd quarter (April to June) ..	302,299	15,917	5.3	7,702	2.5	2,030	0.7	25,658	8.5	
3rd quarter (July to September) ..	284,317	11,777	4.1	4,154	1.5	850	0.3	16,781	5.9	
4th quarter (Oct. to December) ..	292,420	11,423	3.9	2,535	0.9	966	0.3	14,924	5.1	
1920.										
1st quarter (Jan. to March) ..	317,549	14,304	4.5	2,430	0.8	656	0.2	17,480	5.5	
2nd quarter (April to June) ..	323,074	16,169	4.7	2,383	0.7	618	0.2	18,170	5.6	
3rd quarter (July to September) ..	313,693	14,135	4.5	2,430	0.8	400	0.1	16,965	5.4	
4th quarter (Oct. to December) ..	333,027	23,147	7.0	2,341	0.7	790	0.2	26,278	7.9	
1921.										
1st quarter (Jan. to March) ..	334,155	34,555	10.4	2,802	0.8	578	0.2	37,935	11.4	
2nd quarter (April to June) ..	348,654	41,071	11.8	2,287	0.6	611	0.3	44,269	12.7	
3rd quarter (July to September) ..	360,512	37,786	10.5	2,733	0.7	680	0.2	41,199	11.4	
4th quarter (Oct. to December) ..	346,703	31,429	9.1	2,385	0.7	643	0.2	34,457	9.9	
1922.										
1st quarter (Jan. to March) ..	361,394	30,605	8.5	2,547	0.7	845	0.2	33,997	9.4	
2nd quarter (April to June) ..	361,901	31,724	8.7	2,693	0.7	582	0.2	34,999	9.6	
3rd quarter (July to September) ..	371,582	33,295	8.9	2,548	0.7	726	0.2	36,569	9.8	
4th quarter (Oct. to December) ..	390,304	30,441	7.8	2,415	0.6	687	0.2	33,543	8.6	
1923.										
1st quarter (Jan. to March) ..	377,209	24,005	6.4	2,465	0.7	552	0.1	27,112	7.2	
2nd quarter (April to June) ..	378,161	23,272	6.2	2,713	0.7	946	0.2	26,931	7.1	
3rd quarter (July to September) ..	380,256	24,647	6.5	2,947	0.8	528	0.1	28,122	7.4	
4th quarter (Oct. to December) ..	362,129	20,194	5.6	2,531	0.7	947	0.3	23,673	6.6	