



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,  
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

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# LABOUR REPORT, 1940.

No. 31.

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Prepared under Instructions from  
THE HONORABLE THE TREASURER,

by

S. R. CARVER,

Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

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## PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the thirty-first of the series and deals chiefly with 1940 and previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1941.

The Report follows the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five Chapters, covering information in regard to Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes), and Associations (Labour Organizations). The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

For the purpose of tabulating the results of the investigations which have been made in regard to rates of wage, labour organizations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following classification of industries and occupations has been adopted:—

### Classification of Industries and Occupations.

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

It is gratifying to record that secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail dealers, house agents, and others have readily responded to the somewhat heavy demands made upon them.

Without the help so rendered, the investigations contained herein would have been impossible, and an expression of thanks is tendered to all who have thus assisted.

The valuable assistance rendered to the Bureau by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices, is acknowledged, and thanks are expressed to the officers concerned.

Special acknowledgment is made to Mr. H. G. Downing, the officer in charge of Labour Statistics in this Bureau, for the care and attention which he has bestowed on the compilation of this Report and to the staff under his control for their many special services.

Owing to the exigencies of war-time administration, some matter which appeared in previous issues has been omitted and publication of the Report has been delayed beyond the normal date. It is possible that conditions may necessitate considerable abridgement of the Report for 1941, consequently recipients of this issue should preserve it for reference.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,  
Canberra, A.C.T., May, 1942.

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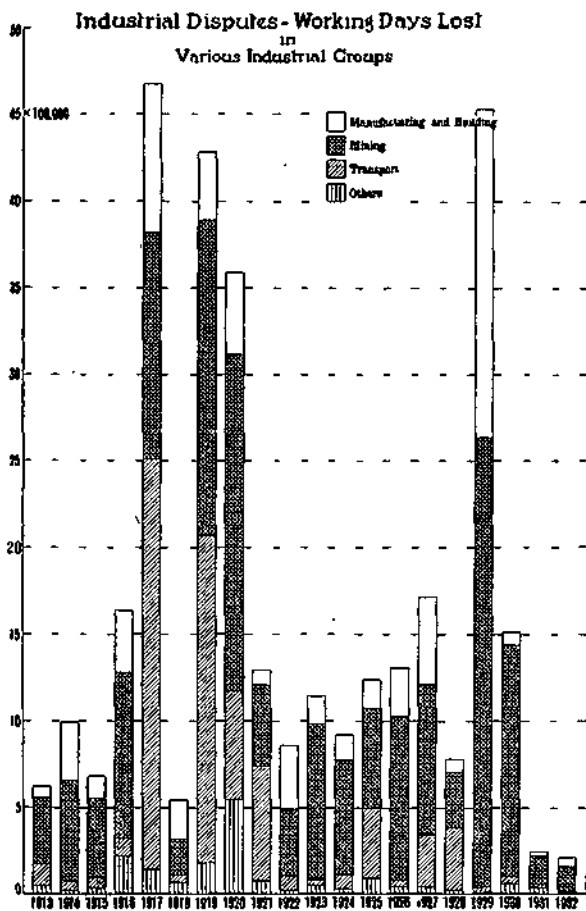
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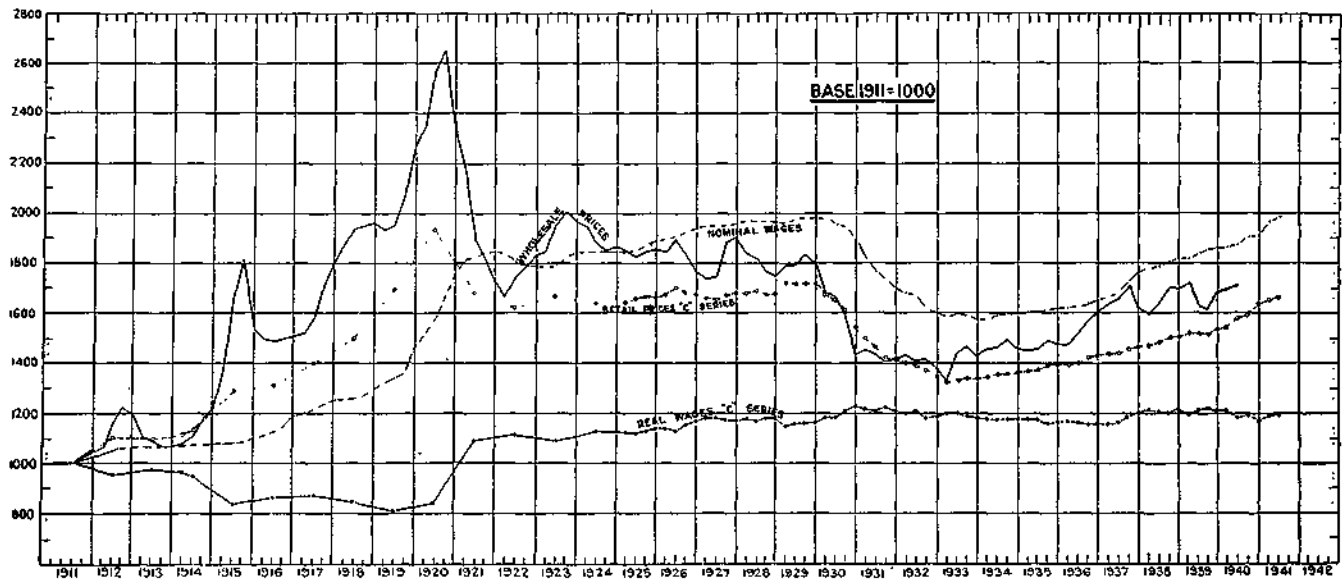
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**EXPLANATION.**—The scale refers to working days lost in hundred thousands. Thus, taking the year 1927, and comparing the shaded and blank sections with the scale, it will be observed that about 870,000 working days were lost in Manufacturing and Building, over 1,300,000 in Mining, over 2,300,000 in Transport, and about 150,000 in other industries.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1941.



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the above graph are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. They are shown quarterly from 1912 to 1939 and thereafter annually in the case of the Wholesale Prices (Melbourne). The "C" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5 rooms, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown quarterly from 1925. Nominal Wages are shown quarterly from 1914, and Real Wages quarterly from 1925.