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MONTHLY RAILWAY STATISTICS,
QUARTER AND SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, 1938.

The following monthly statistics of Government Railways in Australia are made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson), in continuation of the series first published on 20th May, 1937. For full information about the methods used, the original statement should be referred to.

Fresh Matter: As particulars of the goods and passenger traffic, and revenue of the Brisbane-Border Section of the Uniform Gauge Line have now been made available as from the date of opening - 27th September, 1930, Tables 2 and 3 have been amended to include them. These amendments have caused minor differences only from the original figures.

Tonnages of Goods and Livestock Carried: For the six months ended December, 1938, the net total tonnage carried by the mainland State and Commonwealth Railways amounted to 15.8 million tons, representing a decrease of 7% on the tonnage carried during the six months ended December, 1937. Comparing the two periods the principal movements in particular commodities were decreases in the following:- Coal and Coke 17.0%; Other Minerals 18.2%; Wool 6.4%; Livestock 5.6%; All Other 3.1%, while increases were recorded in Wheat; 12.2%; Fruit 17.3%, and Other Grain and Flour 6.4%.

A similar comparison for State tonnages shows increases of 9.7% in South Australia and 4.3% in Queensland, while decreases were recorded in New South Wales 12.2%, Victoria 10.4%, Western Australia 5.2% and Tasmania 8.1%

The index of Total Tonnage Carried averaged 95 for the six months ended December, 1938 and 102 for the corresponding period of 1937. The figures for the last three months in these periods of 1938 and 1937 respectively, were:- October 75 and 102; November 107 and 104; December 97 and 106.

Passenger Journeys: For the six months under review daily average passenger journeys on the five mainland State railways numbered 1055.5 thousand, representing an increase of 2.2% on the figure for the six months ended December, 1937.

Revenue: Gross revenue of the five mainland State Railways for the six months amounted to £21.8m., and net revenue to £4.7m. The gross revenue was 0.3% higher than for the six months ended December, 1937 but the net revenue was lower by 20.8%.

The Latest Figures: It will be obvious from the following tables and notes that monthly comparisons of goods tonnages are greatly affected by special circumstances, particularly crop conditions and the holding of produce in the country, and cannot safely be used alone to indicate general trends.

/TABLE 1.

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS, based on latest figures
Quarter ended December, 1938 compared with the
corresponding quarter of 1937.

1. Daily Average Net Tonnages Carried
Mainland State and Commonwealth Railways (from Table 2).

Particulars		October	November	December	Quarter
		%	%	%	%
Total Tonnage Carried	..	-26.3	+ 2.9	- 9.9	- 9.8
Coal and Coke	..	-62.7	+15.5	- 1.0	-14.5
Other Minerals	..	-42.9	-15.0	-17.6	-24.3
Wheat	..	- 6.8	- 0.5	-16.2	-10.9
Other Grain and Flour	..	+ 2.9	+ 7.6	-11.4	-
Wool	..	+ 4.0	- 2.6	- 0.9	+ 1.9
Livestock	..	-10.9	- 9.7	-16.0	-10.8
Fruit	..	+40.9	+10.5	- 7.0	+12.6
All Other	..	-10.2	+ 2.4	- 8.8	- 4.2

II. Financial and other Statistics of Five Mainland State
Railways (from Table 2).

Particulars		October	November	December	Quarter
		%	%	%	%
Average haul per ton	..	+15.0	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 3.7
Passenger Journeys, Daily Average	..	+ 6.8	- 3.1	+ 2.1	+ 1.9
Gross Monthly Revenue	..	- 5.5	+ 0.1	- 1.1	- 2.2
Net Monthly Revenue	..	-39.2	-21.0	-16.7	-25.1

III. Individual State Daily Average Total Tonnages Carried
(from Table 3).

Particulars		October	November	December	Quarter
		%	%	%	%
New South Wales	..	-46.1	+ 5.4	- 6.7	-13.7
Victoria	..	-12.2	-18.5	-27.6	-18.8
Queensland	..	- 8.0	+22.0	+11.4	+ 8.0
South Australia	..	+ 4.0	+12.7	- 4.1	+ 5.1
Western Australia	..	-10.9	- 4.1	-15.5	- 9.3
Tasmania	..	-17.9	-20.1	+ 6.5	-10.2

1. The substantial decrease which appears in the Daily Average Net Tonnage of Coal and Coke during the Quarter ended December, 1938, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of the previous year is due to the smaller quantities carried in all States during October, owing to the Coal Strike. Quantities of Other Minerals carried were lower in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland for each month of the Quarter. Tonnage of Wheat carried in Victoria were lower for each month, and in Western Australia for November and December. Livestock carried in New South Wales and Victoria also decreased for each month.

With the exception of a small increase in the Daily Average Net Tonnage of Wool, Fruit was the only commodity to show an increase for the December quarter, 1938. The quantities carried increased in each State during October and November.

II. Average haul per ton showed an increase of 3.7% while the daily average passenger journeys increased by 1.9%.

Gross Revenue showed a decrease of 2.2% and net Revenue, due to increased working expenses in all States, showed a decrease of 25.1%.

III. Decreases for the December Quarter of 1938 as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1937 were recorded in the Daily Average Total Tonnages carried in all States except Queensland and South Australia.

New South Wales decreased by 13.7% due largely to the decreased tonnages of Coal and Coke and Other Minerals carried in October.

In Victoria reduced tonnages of Coal and Coke for October and Other Minerals and Wheat for each of the three months were mainly responsible for the decline.

The increase in Queensland was due to increased tonnages of Livestock in November and "All Other" in November and December, while that in South Australia was the result of heavier tonnages of wheat in the month of November.

"All Other" goods carried in Western Australia during October and December, 1938 decreased considerably compared with the quantities carried in the same months of 1937.

TABLE 2. MONTHLY STATISTICS - MAINLAND GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Period	Daily Average Net Tonnage Carried - Mainland State and Commonwealth Railways										Five Mainland State Railways [▲]			
	Index of Total Tonnage 1928-29 = 100	Total Tonnage Carried	Coal and Coke	Other Minerals	Wheat	Other Grain and Flour	Wool	Live-stock	Fruit	All Other	Average haul per ton	Passenger Journeys Daily Average	Gross Monthly Revenue	Net Monthly Revenue
1928-29	100	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	miles	'000	£'000	£'000
1929-30	89	107,511	23,482	17,420	11,764	4,405	1,301	6,349	1,585	41,205	114.1	1,013	3,947	812
1930-31	77	96,194	21,075	15,186	8,075	4,118	1,222	6,648	1,544	38,326	117.6	990	3,641	539
1931-32	75	82,487	18,209	8,478	15,422	4,111	1,185	5,478	1,538	28,066	129.1	851	3,092	513
1932-33	78	80,824	17,693	5,899	16,447	4,520	1,295	5,069	1,440	28,461	133.3	823	2,981	684
1933-34	77	83,467	19,143	7,155	15,190	4,482	1,342	5,173	1,548	29,434	133.1	858	3,017	777
1934-35	87	83,227	20,518	7,763	10,605	4,462	1,176	5,830	1,641	31,210	125.8	891	2,932	751
1935-36	89	92,946	23,960	9,423	11,692	4,957	1,239	6,188	1,708	33,781	124.0	969	3,171	845
1936-37	93	95,765	25,474	9,516	11,505	4,505	1,164	6,477	1,657	35,467	125.2	999	3,259	858
1937-38	103	100,421	27,528	9,699	11,024	4,321	1,224	6,931	1,626	38,068	125.9	1,028	3,407	886
1937-38 -	103	110,219	30,329	11,378	13,095	4,847	1,284	7,619	1,673	39,994	125.0	1,048	3,632	886
October ..	102	109,963	29,815	11,633	5,050	4,176	3,238	9,942	1,194	44,915	117.3	1,021	3,690	1,050
November ..	104	111,318	31,210	12,817	7,898	3,938	2,312	10,139	1,312	41,692	115.9	1,072	3,674	890
December ..	108	115,680	29,365	10,434	26,732	5,100	676	7,607	1,379	34,387	134.1	1,020	4,020	1,326
January ..	100	107,468	24,997	10,156	27,143	4,899	237	7,991	1,537	30,508	135.1	1,023	3,734	1,148
February ..	105	112,808	31,735	11,135	18,286	5,388	381	6,929	2,102	36,852	124.7	1,095	3,376	832
March ..	112	120,417	30,454	11,266	16,970	5,419	643	7,617	3,193	44,855	132.6	1,035	3,875	1,147
April ..	106	114,419	29,460	10,509	15,124	5,723	729	7,282	2,305	43,287	130.9	1,077	3,781	1,075
May ..	105	113,279	32,589	11,559	13,505	6,146	543	7,313	1,962	39,662	132.1	1,091	3,717	807
June ..	98	105,544	33,215	11,392	11,859	4,977	310	6,465	1,471	35,855	123.0	1,067	3,322	-261
1938-39 -														
July ..	97	104,490	33,826	10,155	10,582	4,544	551	6,174	1,406	37,252	122.9	1,042	3,433	657
August ..	96	103,360	27,247	10,101	8,296	4,581	1,594	6,866	1,447	43,228	120.7	1,050	3,662	806
September ..	85	91,789	12,221	10,943	6,771	4,981	3,185	7,409	1,526	44,753	135.5	1,071	3,609	752
October ..	75	81,025	11,121	6,637	4,708	4,297	3,369	8,858	1,682	40,353	134.9	1,090	3,468	638
November ..	107	114,581	36,033	10,899	7,858	4,238	2,251	9,153	1,450	42,699	116.1	1,039	3,676	703
December ..	97	104,274	29,066	8,593	22,405	4,519	670	6,390	1,283	31,348	132.9	1,041	3,975	1,105

Particulars of Wheat, Other Grain and Flour, and Fruit carried on Commonwealth Railways not available separately, and therefore included in "All Other". [▲] Including particulars of South Brisbane - Border Section of Uniform Gauge Line, previously not available.

TABLE 2. MONTHLY STATISTICS - STATE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Total Tonnage Carried and Passenger Journeys.

Daily Average Basis.

Period	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
	Goods	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Passenger Journeys (a)	Goods	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Passenger Journeys
	tons	'000	tons	'000	tons	'000	tons	'000	tons	'000	tons	'000
1928-29	46,828	414	26,410	441	14,704	67.8	8,909	48.8	11,839	40.8	2,131	6.1
1929-30	39,071	405	24,160	430	14,560	67.0	8,582	48.8	11,351	38.8	2,032	6.1
1930-31	34,544	347	19,612	369	12,424	60.4	6,993	42.3	10,140	32.1	1,499	5.1
1931-32	32,729	351	19,827	344	12,374	56.7	7,789	42.6	9,127	28.4	1,439	4.6
1932-33	35,845	364	20,078	357	11,851	60.9	7,720	44.0	9,132	32.1	1,642	4.6
1933-34	36,541	390	18,837	360	13,551	62.7	6,928	44.7	8,528	33.2	1,803	4.9
1934-35	42,005	439	19,387	383	15,739	66.6	7,570	45.7	9,366	35.3	2,188	5.8
1935-36	44,356	469	20,590	312	14,947	69.1	7,954	47.8	9,252	34.0	2,467	6.3
1936-37	47,218	487	21,907	387	15,997	69.8	7,718	48.7	8,998	34.8	2,649	6.4
1937-38	52,991	519	23,339	378	16,272	70.4	9,316	48.3	9,845	32.9	2,754	6.2
1937-38 -												
October ..	51,406	513	21,711	367	23,313	63.3	7,264	46.0	7,874	32.0	2,719	5.8
November ..	54,498	530	23,635	401	19,468	68.2	6,885	42.6	8,527	29.7	2,631	5.9
December ..	59,372	507	25,239	357	13,320	64.7	7,944	59.2	11,251	32.5	2,232	5.0
January ..	49,586	534	27,954	344	9,631	69.0	10,433	46.2	11,392	29.6	2,431	5.8
February ..	53,907	526	26,197	401	10,986	89.8	10,984	42.7	12,400	36.0	3,046	8.2
March ..	55,001	498	27,350	378	12,262	63.4	12,911	54.4	14,648	40.5	3,085	5.7
April ..	52,199	549	25,919	385	12,386	67.2	13,026	45.8	12,404	29.1	2,937	6.8
May ..	56,461	542	25,561	407	12,509	68.3	10,357	43.7	9,973	29.2	2,907	7.6
June ..	53,118	523	21,256	382	13,605	65.1	9,860	56.9	8,966	39.1	2,595	5.7
1938-39 -												
July ..	53,220	504	19,310	380	18,032	90.0	8,408	41.7	7,096	27.2	2,616	5.5
August ..	45,422	510	18,425	395	25,764	74.4	8,136	41.1	7,115	29.4	2,539	5.7
September ..	35,885	516	17,959	400	24,021	60.4	8,983	56.2	6,742	38.7	2,823	7.3
October ..	27,683	551	19,072	399	21,445	62.0	7,553	48.3	7,019	31.0	2,233	6.3
November ..	57,459	517	19,260	393	23,756	60.8	7,760	39.9	8,181	28.0	2,101	5.4
December ..	55,393	514	18,273	377	14,840	61.5	7,620	58.2	9,504	30.6	2,378	7.1

(a) Including particulars of South Brisbane-Border Section of Uniform Gauge Line, previously not available.