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**MONTHLY RAILWAY STATISTICS, QUARTER AND
SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, 1939.**

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, 1939, the net total tonnage carried by the mainland State and Commonwealth Railways amounted to 17.1 million tons, representing an increase of 8.4% on the tonnage carried during the six months ended December, 1938. Comparing the two periods the principal movements in particular commodities were increases in the following:- Coal and Coke 27.9%, other minerals 5.5%, other Grain and Flour 5.5%, Wool 15.1% and Livestock 7.1%, while decreases were recorded in Teat, 9.9% and Fruit 17.3%.

A similar comparison for State tonnages shows the following increases:- New South Wales 15.8%; Queensland 9.4%; and Tasmania 14.2%, while Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia showed decreases of 6.2%, 3.9% and 2.0% respectively.

The index of Total Tonnage Carried averaged 102 for the six months ended December, 1939 and 94 for the corresponding period of 1938. The figures for the last three months in these periods of 1939 and 1938 respectively, were:- October 75 and 109; November 107 and 102; December 97 and 99.

Passenger Journeys: For the six months under review daily average passenger journeys on the five mainland State railways numbered 1021.1 thousand, representing a decrease of 3.3% on the figure for the six months ended December, 1938.

Revenue: Gross revenue of the five mainland State Railways for the six months amounted to £23.1m., and net revenue to £5.9m. The gross revenue was 5.6% higher than for the six months ended December 1938 and the net revenue was higher by 26.6%.

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 I. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.

Based on latest figures, quarter ended December, 1939,
compared with the corresponding quarter of 1938.

**1. Financial and Other Statistics of Five Mainland State
Railways (from Table 2).**

Particulars	October	November	December	quarter
	%	%	%	%
Average haul per ton ..	-12.5	5.9	2.0	- 1.6
Passenger Journeys, Daily Average ..	- 3.5	- 3.2	- 1.9	- 2.9
Gross Monthly Revenue ..	16.1	4.4	2.1	7.2
Net Monthly Revenue ..	87.5	20.1	8.5	32.4

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Based on latest figures - quarter ended December, 1939 compared with the corresponding quarter of 1938.

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

Particulars	October	November	December	Quarter
	%	%	%	%
Total Tonnage Carried	44.5	- 4.4	2.0	9.6
Coal and Coke	199.6	-20.9	- 2.4	16.7
Other Minerals	58.8	- 6.6	- 2.5	10.2
Wheat	58.5	14.5	-24.6	- 6.2
Other Grain and Flour	-4.9	10.5	33.5	14.8
Wool	12.5	8.0	32.8	13.5
Livestock	17.7	4.8	22.3	13.2
Fruit	-24.9	-14.8	- 9.7	-18.0
All Other	12.3	2.9	17.6	9.3

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

Particulars	October	November	December	Quarter
	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	96.2	- 9.7	- 1.6	12.6
Victoria	2.7	- 2.3	15.4	3.8
Queensland	25.1	1.8	16.1	12.9
South Australia	15.6	9.7	9.8	10.3
Western Australia	31.3	- 6.6	-33.6	- 7.4
Tasmania	35.5	38.0	18.2	28.4

I. The average haul per ton and the daily average passenger journeys showed decreases of 1.6% and 2.9% respectively compared with the corresponding quarter of 1938.

Gross Revenue and Net Revenue showed increases of 7.2% and 32.4% respectively. For both these items all States recorded increases except Western Australia, where there was a slight decrease in the Net Revenue.

II. The large increase which appears in the Daily Average Net Tonnage of Coal and Coke during the quarter ended December 1939 as compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year is due to increased tonnages carried in all States during October. Decreases were recorded in New South Wales and Western Australia for November and December and in Victoria and Queensland for November.

Quantities of Other Minerals carried were higher in New South Wales for October and November, and in Queensland and Western Australia for October, while decreases were recorded in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia for November and December. Tonnages of Wheat carried increased in Queensland for each month of the quarter, and in Western Australia and South Australia for October and November, but decreases were recorded in Victoria for October and November, and in South Australia and Western Australia for December. Other Grain and Flour carried showed increases in New South Wales for October, November and December and in Victoria for November and December, while decreases were recorded in South Australia for October and November and in Western Australia for October and December. Quantities of Wool carried were higher in New South Wales and Western Australia for October and in South Australia for November and December, but declined in South Australia during October. Livestock carried increased in all States the chief increases being recorded in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia. Fruit carried showed decreases for each month of the quarter in New South Wales and Victoria and in Western Australia during December. Quantities of "All Other Goods" carried were higher in New South Wales and Queensland for October, November and December, in Victoria for December and in Western Australia for October.

III. Increases for the quarter ended December 1939 as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1938 were recorded in all States except Western Australia.

New South Wales increased by 12.6% due mainly to the increased tonnages of Coal and Coke and of Other Minerals during October and of Livestock and "All Other Goods" for each month of the quarter.

In Victoria increased tonnages of Coal and Coke for October, of Livestock for October and December and of "All Other Goods" for December were mainly responsible for the increase of 3.8%.

Queensland increased by 12.9%. Tonnages of Coal and Coke, Other Minerals and Livestock were higher in October and "All Other Goods" were higher in October, November and December.

In South Australia, where an increase of 10.3% was recorded, tonnages of Livestock and "All Other Goods" were higher in November and December, and Coal and Coke, Wool and Wheat were higher in October.

In Western Australia, the decline of 7.4% was mainly caused by decreased tonnages of Wheat in December and of "All Other Goods" carried in November.

TABLE 2. MONTHLY STATISTICS - MAINLAND GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

Period	Daily Average Net Tonnage Carried - Mainland State and Commonwealth Railways										Five Mainland State Railways ^A			
	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
		tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	miles	'000	£'000	£'000
1928-29	100	107,511	23,462	17,420	11,764	4,405	1,301	6,349	1,585	41,205	114.1	1,013	3,947	812
1929-30	89	96,194	21,075	15,186	8,075	4,118	1,222	6,648	1,544	38,326	117.6	990	3,641	539
1930-31	77	82,487	18,209	8,478	15,422	4,111	1,185	5,478	1,538	28,066	129.1	851	3,092	513
1931-32	75	80,824	17,693	5,899	16,447	4,520	1,295	5,069	1,440	28,461	133.3	823	2,981	684
1932-33	78	83,467	19,143	7,155	15,190	4,482	1,342	5,173	1,548	29,434	133.1	858	3,017	777
1933-34	77	83,227	20,518	7,763	10,605	4,482	1,178	5,830	1,641	31,210	125.8	891	2,932	751
1934-35	87	92,948	23,960	9,423	11,692	4,957	1,239	6,188	1,708	33,781	124.0	969	3,171	845
1935-36	89	95,765	25,474	9,516	11,505	4,505	1,164	6,477	1,657	35,467	125.2	999	3,259	858
1936-37	93	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
1938-39	94	101,141	28,570	9,857	10,887	4,765	1,241	7,288	1,685	36,848	127.0	1,048	3,580	694
1938-39 -														
October ..	75	81,025	11,121	6,637	4,708	4,297	3,369	8,858	1,682	40,353	134.9	1,090	3,488	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
January ..	83	89,053	25,754	8,076	15,423	4,682	362	6,365	1,218	27,173	122.2	1,044	3,451	759
February ..	98	105,873	35,374	10,554	11,291	5,611	385	5,910	1,791	34,957	118.5	1,080	3,205	506
March ..	105	112,677	35,431	10,111	12,051	4,939	561	7,105	2,943	39,636	130.3	1,012	3,740	910
April ..	95	102,235	29,659	9,920	9,227	4,948	778	8,259	2,425	37,019	132.7	1,030	3,505	791
May ..	99	106,525	33,254	11,818	11,506	5,283	737	7,924	1,768	34,235	132.9	1,051	3,806	884
June ..	91	97,394	34,053	10,597	10,014	4,620	401	7,047	1,320	29,342	126.8	1,024	3,410	184
1939-40 -														
July ..	94	101,260	34,573	10,351	7,338	5,092	811	6,649	1,206	35,238	118.0	1,048	3,386	582
August ..	103	110,557	36,605	10,921	7,156	4,258	1,910	6,632	1,193	41,882	114.9	967	3,707	869
September	106	113,777	32,312	10,786	7,742	4,501	3,641	7,505	1,268	46,022	124.1	1,033	4,037	1,210
October ..	109	117,095	33,321	10,539	7,931	4,507	3,790	10,425	1,263	45,319	118.0	1,052	4,051	1,196
November ..	102	109,534	28,486	10,185	8,998	4,681	2,432	9,595	1,236	43,921	122.9	1,006	3,837	844
December ..	99	106,398	28,377	8,381	16,885	6,031	890	7,815	1,158	36,861	135.5	1,021	4,057	1,199

* Particulars of Wheat, Other Grain and Flour, and Fruit carried on Commonwealth Railways not available separately, and therefore included in "All Other".

^A Including particulars of South Brisbane - Border Section of Uniform Gauge Line, previously not available.

TABLE 3. 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	48.6	11,351	38.8	2,032	6.1
1930-31	34,344	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
1938-39	49,089	512	19,153	389	16,776	67.5	8,529	48.0	9,164	31.3	2,705	6.3
1938-39 -												
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
January ..	42,493	526	17,706	375	10,572	67.1	9,087	48.6	10,873	27.6	2,200	6.3
February ..	55,756	528	19,557	389	12,132	84.3	8,182	45.2	11,908	34.1	3,140	6.5
March ..	56,819	474	22,873	389	11,747	59.7	10,456	51.3	12,537	38.6	3,189	5.3
April ..	48,921	505	22,204	387	11,363	63.1	9,361	48.2	11,804	27.3	3,145	7.8
May ..	55,852	503	19,801	410	13,111	66.9	9,396	43.6	9,604	27.1	2,969	5.5
June ..	54,008	494	15,561	379	13,813	61.2	7,390	54.0	7,917	36.0	3,182	6.9
1939-40 -												
July ..	53,557	492	15,152	397	20,181	89.5	6,545	44.3	6,927	25.1	2,586	4.4
August ..	56,233	461	14,974	375	25,972	66.2	7,112	38.3	7,330	26.4	2,708	5.7
September	55,096	477	17,242	403	26,876	59.8	7,928	56.7	7,919	35.5	2,965	6.9
October ..	54,301	511	19,594	403	26,818	64.4	8,731	45.7	9,215	27.7	3,026	6.3
November ..	51,892	478	18,825	401	24,191	61.6	8,511	39.1	7,638	25.9	2,900	5.4
December ..	54,498	486	21,006	387	17,235	61.4	8,366	57.6	6,312	28.8	2,810	7.6

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

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