

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA.

A.C.T.

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MORNING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 29TH APRIL, 1948.

EVENING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 29TH APRIL, 1948.

BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL, 1948.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICSFEBRUARY, 1948.Further Decline in Employment.

Largely owing to the effect of the railway strike in Queensland, the total number of wage and salary earners in employment (exclusive of employees in rural industry and females in private domestic service) showed a further decline in February (4,300). The number employed at the end of February was 2,320,600 (1,686,200 males and 634,400 females) as compared with 2,324,900 in January. Male employment fell by 7,500, but was offset by a rise in female employment of 3,200 due largely to seasonal increases in the fruit canning and jam making industries.

Major Decline in Queensland.

In Queensland the railway strike caused a heavy decline in employment. In Victoria and New South Wales, however, there were rises in both male and female figures. The number of males in employment increased in South Australia and Tasmania, but fell by 200 in Western Australia, while female employment moved in the opposite direction in each of these states.

Government Employment.

Although the number actually engaged in Government Employment fell by 11,100 during February, employment by Commonwealth authorities rose, and State Government employment rose in all States other than Western Australia (where there was a fall of 100 in the number of males in employment), and Queensland. As the fall in Queensland figures was less than the number of railway employees stood down or on strike, there was an effective increase in normal employment in this State also.

Change in Industrial Groups.

There was a general rise in female employment, the only exceptions being transport industries and public authority activity. The manufacturing group was affected by the fall in male employment in Queensland railway workshops, while there was a heavy fall in male employment in transport and a slight drop in the number of males employed in commerce. The major increase was a rise of 3,200 in the number of females employed in manufacturing industry.

More Workers in Food and Clothing Manufacture.

The two factory classes mainly responsible for the increase in manufacturing employment were Clothing and Food. The increase occurred mainly in New South Wales and Victoria.

S.R.CARVER

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