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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Statistics from various sources, which offer some indication of the change in the intensity of unemployment, and in the volume of factory employment, are made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E.T. McPhee).

1. UNEMPLOYMENT, 3RD QUARTER, 1934.

The figures relating to unemployment are similar to those published quarterly in the past, and are derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. Generally it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season, though the food preserving industries have some effect in this connection. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for each quarter since the 3rd Quarter of 1931 are as follows:-

1931	3rd Quarter	..	28.3 per cent
	4th "	..	28.0 " "
1932	1st "	..	28.3 " "
	2nd "	..	30.0 " "
	3rd "	..	29.6 " "
	4th "	..	28.1 " "
1933	1st "	..	26.5 " "
	2nd "	..	25.7 " "
	3rd "	..	25.1 " "
	4th "	..	23.0 " "
1934	1st "	..	21.9 " "
	2nd "	..	20.9 " "
	3rd "	..	20.4 " "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of August, 1934.

The percentages given above show the almost continuous rise in unemployment up to the 2nd Quarter of 1932, which had been uninterrupted since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931, to February, 1932 - the maximum point was reached in May, 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the apex the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the third quarter of 1932, and in the two quarters following the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the fourth quarter of 1932, and 16 per 1,000 in the first quarter of 1933. The improvement continued, though at a reduced rate, until unemployment stood at 20.4 per cent. for August, 1934. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since May, 1930, when it was 18.5 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 9.6 per cent., or 96 per 1,000 members, i.e., from 30.0 in May, 1932, to 20.4 per cent. in August, 1934.

This improvement since the 2nd Quarter of 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- Western Australia, 131; Victoria, 102; South Australia, 98; New South Wales, 87; Tasmania, 85; Queensland, 85. The more recent improvement during the 3rd quarter of 1934 over the previous quarter was shared by four States in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - Queensland, 13; Western Australia

Western Australia, 11; New South Wales, 5; Victoria, 5. The figure for South Australia remained unaltered, while Tasmania was adversely affected to the extent of 10 per thousand, due mainly to the seasonal effect on the jam and fruit preserving industry.

The improvement in unemployment, since the peak in 1932, has been general throughout all those classes of industry for which information is available. The improvement per 1,000 members has been as follows:- "Other" Manufacturing (undefined), 189; Building, 161; Engineering, Metal Works, etc., 113; Wood, Furniture, etc., 103; Land Transport (other than Railways and Tramways), 94; Clothing, etc., 83; Miscellaneous, 63; Books, Printing, etc., 60; Mining, Quarrying, etc., 39; Food, Drink, etc., 15.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended:

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed - 1st quarter, 1929, to 3rd quarter, 1934.

AUSTRALIA	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934
Number of Unions ..	375	396	394	394	394	394	394
Membership ..	420,756	413,742	416,426	416,560	422,056	422,113	425,104
Unemployed - Number ..	39,152	124,068	104,560	95,745	92,297	88,413	86,652
Percentage	9.3	30.0	25.1	23.0	21.9	20.9	20.4

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed in each State - 1st Quarter, 1929, to 3rd Quarter, 1934.

State	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934
New South Wales ..	9.7	33.2	28.8	27.0	25.6	25.0	24.5
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	22.5	19.9	18.6	18.0	17.5
Queensland ..	7.1	19.9	15.1	13.8	13.7	12.7	11.4
South Australia ..	13.2	35.2	30.3	28.9	28.5	25.4	25.4
Western Australia ..	8.5	30.3	25.6	20.5	19.5	18.3	17.2
Tasmania ..	8.7	27.4	19.2	18.2	17.7	17.9	18.9
AUSTRALIA:	9.3	30.0	25.1	23.0	21.9	20.9	20.4

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - AUSTRALIA - 1st Quarter, 1929, to 3rd Quarter, 1934.

Industrial Group	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	6.5	30.6	34.8	32.9	31.7	31.1	29.3
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	11.2	33.9	25.6	25.8	24.8	24.2	22.6
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco &c.	5.4	19.4	18.1	16.5	15.5	17.1	17.9
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots &c.	9.8	22.6	19.1	16.1	16.0	12.5	13.6
V. Books, Printing, etc.	2.6	16.8	15.5	13.2	11.8	11.7	10.8
VI. Other Manufacturing	13.8	43.0	39.9	30.4	26.8	24.7	24.1
VII. Building ..	10.6	42.1	35.1	32.2	30.8	28.2	26.0
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	13.2	34.2	29.0	29.1	27.9	28.3	30.3
X. Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services ..	7.6	29.6	24.8	23.0	22.1	21.1	20.2
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous	7.3	22.2	18.8	17.1	16.7	16.5	15.9
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	25.1	23.0	21.9	20.9	20.4

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - STATES - 3rd Quarter, 1934.

Industrial Group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	AUST.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	25. 8	35. 6	10. 4	44. 1	25. 3	18. 1	29. 3
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	24. 9	20. 4	11. 5	36. 0	15. 4	11. 1	22. 6
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	19. 7	16. 4	18. 6	14. 5	11. 5	21. 9	17. 9
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	22. 1	10. 0	7. 2	15. 7	28. 1	8. 5	13. 8
V. Books, Printing, etc.	15. 7	6. 2	4. 7	17. 6	12. 7	9. 3	10. 8
VI. Other Manufacturing	33. 2	16. 2	5. 0	16. 1	14. 9	17. 6	24. 1
VII. Building ..	25. 8	24. 0	24. 3	41. 7	17. 7	33. 6	26. 0
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	32. 2	14. 6	21. 0	-	17. 3	29. 1	30. 3
X. Land Transport, other than Rail- way & Tramway Services	28. 8	15. 8	6. 1	31. 6	25. 2	29. 9	20. 2
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous	20. 3	14. 3	7. 8	11. 2	12. 7	14. 9	15. 9
ALL GROUPS:	24. 5	17. 5	11. 4	25. 4	17. 2	18. 9	20. 4

II. EMPLOYMENT.

As a supplement to the figures of unemployment given above, some figures indicating the changes in employment in factories are given below for four States. The figures for New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia have been supplied by the Government Statisticians for those States, (for convenience of comparison the figures for New South Wales have been converted to a percentage basis) while the figures for Queensland have been taken from the "Economic News" issued by the Queensland Bureau of Industry. Similar figures are not available for Victoria or Tasmania.

The figures given immediately below for New South Wales are based on 42 factories representing about 11 per cent. of all factory employment in that State; the South Australian figures are based on not less than 50 per cent. of all factory employment; while Western Australian figures cover 35 per cent. of all persons similarly employed.

INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

Base:— New South Wales and South Australian results are shown as percentages on the numbers employed in January, 1930; Western Australian figures are related to the average monthly employment for the year 1929-30.

No allowance has been made in the following figures for increased population.

Month	New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia
January, 1930	100	100	100 (a)
January, 1931	75	71	(b)
January, 1932	76	70	65
January, 1933	84	79	62
January, 1934	91	87	89
April, 1932	87	84	84
May, 1933	87	83	80
June, 1933	86	80	80
July, 1933	89	84	79
August, 1933	90	84	83
September, 1933	93	83	85
October, 1933	95	84	87
November, 1933	97	87	89
December, 1933	96	87	91
February, 1934	96	93	90
March, 1934	97	94	93
April, 1934	98	95	96
May, 1934	99	99	93
June, 1934	99	96	92

(a) Base - Year 1929-30. (b) Not available

Δ Dispute in Textile Industry.

A more recent investigation by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, which was extended to 98 of the larger factories, indicates that there were 45,144 employees on the pay sheets in the middle week of June, compared with 39,344 in the corresponding week of 1933, and 35,794 in 1932. This represents an increase in factory employment of 26 per cent. in two years. These results are slightly lower than the figures obtained from the 42 factories referred to above.

QUEENSLAND. (From "Economic News")

Employment and Unemployment - Men Wage-Earners.

(Full-time, including its equivalent in "rationed" employment and unemployment).

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on employment		Approximate number (including the equivalent of rationing)	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Average 1929 ..	89.9	10.1	148,340	16,660
" 1930 ..	86.4	13.6	144,630	22,850
" 1931 ..	77.2	22.8	131,270	38,730
" 1932 ..	77.8	22.2	134,130	38,320
" 1933 ..	79.8	20.2	139,720	35,310
3 months ended -				
June, 1933 ..	75.0	21.0	135,190	36,730
September, 1933	79.6	20.2	140,040	35,540
December, 1933	82.2	17.8	144,920	31,310
March, 1934 ..	81.3	18.7	143,790	33,100
April, 1934 ..	82.9	17.1	146,770	30,340
May, 1934 ..	84.2	15.8	149,270	28,000
June, 1934 ..	85.0	15.0	150,910	26,640

The Director of the Queensland Bureau of Industry remarks that the further improvement is due entirely to increased private employment.

BUILDING PERMITS.

A further index of the relative activity in industry is furnished by Building Permits issued, and the estimated amount to be spent on the proposed buildings and repairs.

The following table gives details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

YEAR	New Dwellings	Other New Buildings	Alterations & Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
	£	£	£	£
1926 ..	17,547,032	4,923,432	873,282	23,344,546
1929 ..	15,185,875	4,442,764	931,410	20,560,049
1930 ..	4,454,420	1,861,174	1,190,754	7,526,357
1931 ..	1,249,421	1,816,764	1,128,938	4,195,123
1932 ..	2,414,454	1,710,965	1,680,790	5,806,219
1933 ..	4,272,974	1,578,095	2,368,824	8,220,893
1931, 2nd Qtr.	304,198	720,471	273,804	1,298,473
1932 " "	465,379	660,532	381,802	1,527,713
1933 " "	936,060	660,208	655,630	2,251,896
1934 " "	1,864,639	573,129	946,409	3,414,377