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EVENING PAPERS .. WEDNESDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 1937.
MORNING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 1937.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The latest available statistics, from various sources, which offer some indication of the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) on the basis of information supplied by the State Statisticians.

ANNUAL INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES.

Base Year 1928-29 = 100.

Number of Employees in 1928-29	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	TOTAL
		180,806	156,568	45,031	36,807	20,804	10,466
1925-26	94	95	106	106	99	97	97
1926-27	99	101	98	112	93	101	100
1927-28	99	100	99	106	98	106	100
1928-29	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929-30	90	96	95	87	94	103	93
1930-31	71	80	84	65	70	84	75
1931-32	70	82	80	65	64	86	75
1932-33	77	92	83	72	71	88	82
1933-34	85	100	89	80	78	93	90
1934-35	97	108	96	91	85	101	100
1935-36	106(a)	115(a)	98(a)	102(a)	91(a)	114(a)	108(a)

(a) Preliminary - Based on returns from sample factories.

Taking the year 1928-29 as the base year (=100) the indexes shown in the above table indicate the course of factory employment during the past eleven years, and the progress through the depression years and subsequent periods of recovery. For Australia as a whole employment in factories is now about 8% greater than in the immediate pre-depression years. In Victoria and Tasmania employment has increased more rapidly than for Australia as a whole. New South Wales and South Australia have passed the pre-depression level, while Queensland is within 2% and Western Australia within 9% of that level. It must be remembered, however, that male population of working age has increased by 8% and female population of working age by 9% between 1928-29 and 1935-36.

At 15th September, 1936 it is estimated that wage-earners employed in factories represented about 22% of all persons dependent on employment in the Commonwealth. The relative proportions and the rates of increase in relation to total employment vary between States.

The following table shows the masculinity of persons employed in factories in the several States during the years 1925-26 to 1935-36.

Males employed in factories as percentage of all persons employed in factories.

YEAR	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	AUSTRALIA
1925-26	76.0	68.3	85.1	82.7	84.2	81.1	75.4
1926-27	75.5	67.4	84.1	83.0	82.2	81.1	74.6
1927-28	75.5	67.4	83.6	82.5	81.8	78.6	74.5
1928-29	75.1	66.8	82.4	82.6	81.7	78.0	74.0
1929-30	74.9	66.3	82.4	82.3	81.4	79.0	73.5
1930-31	73.6	65.8	82.2	80.9	80.2	78.4	72.6
1931-32	71.8	63.6	81.4	79.4	78.7	77.8	70.7
1932-33	72.0	63.6	80.5	79.3	79.3	77.4	70.5
1933-34	72.5	64.6	80.5	80.5	80.0	78.9	71.3
1934-35	72.6	65.4	80.4	81.4	80.2	78.8	71.7
1935-36	N.A.	65.2(b)	79.6(a)	82.1(a)	80.5(b)	78.6(b)	N.A.

(a) Preliminary- based on sample returns. (b) Revised- based on sample returns.

M = Male F = Female
T = Total

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES (a)

(Base: Average for Year 1928-29 = 100)

Month	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			AUSTRALIA (
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M(b)	F(b)	T	
	Not available																					
1934 - July ..	88	96	90	100	106	102	89	99	91	83	90	84	77	84	78	89	89	89	89	91	100	93
August ..	89	102	92	101	109	104	94	101	95	84	92	86	78	87	80	93	84	91	92	104	95	
September ..	88	105	93	102	112	105	94	105	96	86	95	87	79	91	82	94	85	92	93	107	96	
October ..	91	108	96	106	116	109	97	108	99	87	98	89	82	95	85	96	85	93	96	110	100	
November ..	93	110(d)	97	107	117	110	95	108	97	87	100	89	83	96	86	96	91	95	97	112	101	
December ..	94	109	98	107	114	109	89	106	92	89	99	91	85	96	87	100	92	98	97	110	100	
1935 - January ..	93	101	95	104	107	105	84	102	87	88	96	89	85	92	87	104	100	103	95	103	97	
February ..	95	107	98	107	115	109	86	105	89	88	100	90	86	92	88	105	113	107	97	110	100	
March ..	96	111	100	108	117	111	89	109	92	92	102	94	86	92	87	106	107	106	98	113	102	
April ..	97	111	101	108	115	111	91	105	94	95	102	96	86	95	88	109	103	107	99	112	103	
May ..	98	110	101	108	114	110	94	107	96	99	100	99	86	95	88	112	105	110	100	110	103	
June ..	98	109	101	108	111	109	95	107	97	98	97	98	86	93	88	110	102	108	100	108	103	
July ..				101	109	110	109	96	108	99	97	98	82	91	84	108	100	106	102	107	103	
August ..				103	109	111	110	96	111	99	95	99	86	83	82	84	110	100	108	102	109	
September ..				105	110	114	111	95	114	99	98	100	98	88	92	89	111	98	108	103	111	
October ..				106	112	118	114	99	117	102	99	102	100	90	93	91	112	101	109	106	114	107
November ..				108	112	118	114	99	117	102	98	101	98	90	96	91	115	103	112	106	115	108
December ..				110	112	119	115	95	111	97	100	102	101	92	96	93	119	107	116	106	115	109
1936 - January ..				105	114	116	115	86	101	89	101	102	101	92	94	92	122	109	119	105	112	106
February ..				(c)105	117	129	121	91	108	94	105	106	105	93	94	93	123	127	124	109	123(c)	109
March ..				(c)107	121	130	124	94	109	96	108	105	108	95	95	95	121	117	120	112	123(c)	112
April ..				108	120	112	117	93	108	95	110	103	108	94	94	94	118	107	116	111	110	110
May ..				109	118	114	117	97	112	100	107	100	106	95	94	95	118	108	116	110	112	110
June ..				109	116	112	115	101	107	102	103	96	102	92	95	93	114	105	112	109	109	109
July ..				110	116	112	115	105	108	106	103	99	102	92	94	93	112	102	110	110	109	110
August ..				110	115	111	114	106	113	107	102	100	101	92	93	92	112	97	108	109	109	109
September ..				111	114	114	114	108	118	110	102	100	102	92	96	93	112	101	109	109	112	110
October ..				114	117	115	116	-	-	-	101	99	100	-	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	-
November ..				115	116	114	115	-	-	-	104	101	103	-	-	94	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Factories in Sample	1901			100			150			114			92			50			2407			
Percentage of workers in sample in 1934-35	82%			21%			47%			54%			36%			75%			52%			

(a) From July 1935 for N.S.W., Victoria, Queensland, S.A. and W.A. and from July 1934 for Tasmania, all indexes are based on sample returns. The Australian indexes for 1934-35 are final except to the almost negligible extent that they could be affected by revision of the Tasmanian figures. (b) From July 1935 the Male and Female indexes for Australia are based on five States, excluding N.S.W. In 1934-35 these States contained 60% of male factory employees and 62% of female factory employees. The index of total employees is based on six States. (c) Industrial Dispute in N.S.W. (d) Revised.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES.

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

MONTH	New South Wales	Victoria	Queens- land	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	SIX STATES
1933- July ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
August ..	97	99	99	102	93	101	98
September	99	101	97	102	93	98	99
October..	99	103	97	99	93	109	100
November.	102	111	100	100	96	108	104
December.	113	121	110	108	106	115	114
1934- January..	102	109	100	103	108	109	105
February.	104	108	99	102	99	105	104
March ..	104	109	100	102	98	107	104
April ..	103	108	100	103	100	105	104
May ..	105	108	102	105	101	105	105
June ..	105	109	103	104	100	105	106
July ..	108	109	104	106	104	107	107
August ..	105	109	103	102	102	105	105
September	107	110	103	103	100	106	107
October..	108	115	104	108	104	104	109
November.	110	122	105	107	104	107	112
December.	123	131	116	118	119	119	124
1935- January..	109	117	106	108	109	110	111
February.	112	117	106	107	103	108	112
March ..	109	118	105	107	105	107	111
April ..	111	117	105	108	103	107	111
May ..	112	121	106	109	106	107	113
June ..	112	123	105	111	107	106	114
July ..	116	120	107	107	111	109	115
August ..	113	120	108	109	105	108	113
September	113	123	104	113	106	107	114
October..	115	128	107	112	106	107	117
November.	119	131	106	115	109	110	120
December.	123	145	106	128	123	120	132
1936- January..	116	132	109	116	114	115	120
February.	119	133	107	114	110	111	120
March ..	117	132	109	113	110	111	119
April ..	118	129	108	114	109	113	119
May ..	119	132	110	114	111	112	121
June ..	120	132	110	113	109	113	121
July ..	122	130	109	116	113	107	121
August ..	120	128	109	115	111	113	120
September	120	128	109	118	113	115	120
October..	121	133	-	-	-	-	-
November.	123	139	-	-	-	-	-

The number of establishments in respect of which returns are obtained are—New South Wales, 599; Victoria, 102; Queensland, 120; South Australia, 35; Western Australia, 69; Tasmania, 14. No adjustment has been made in the indexes on account of increased population.

INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND.

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax, and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes an index of employment and unemployment among men wage and salary earners. The data for this index are derived from information relating to Unemployment Insurance Contributions and other sources. The results are given below—

/ NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All available wage-earners -
(a) Including and (b) excluding as employed the full-time equivalent of
men engaged part-time on relief works.

MONTH	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers		(b) Excluding as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933 ..	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1934- June ..	81.1	18.9	78.0	22.0
1935- June ..	86.6	13.4	83.7	16.3
July ..	87.2	12.8	84.3	15.7
August ..	88.0	12.0	85.1	14.9
September ..	89.2	10.8	86.5	13.5
October..	89.6	10.4	87.0	13.0
November.	90.3	9.7	87.8	12.2
December.	92.2	7.8	89.7	10.3
1936- January..	88.1	11.9	85.9	14.1
February.	88.6	11.4	86.4	13.6
March ..	89.8	10.2	87.6	12.4
April ..	90.1	9.9	87.9	12.1
May ..	90.8	9.2	88.6	11.4
June ..	90.4	9.6	88.2	11.8
July.. ..	90.9	9.1	88.7	11.3
August ..	90.8	9.2	88.8	11.2
September	91.6	8.4	90.2	9.8
October..	92.9	7.1	91.5	8.5
November.	93.2	6.8	91.7	8.3

The indexes have been adjusted to allow for an estimated increase of 1.2 per cent. per annum in the number of persons dependent on employment. At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment, is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners employed and unemployed. The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 519,000 in June, 1934; 567,000 in June, 1935; 614,000 in June, 1936; and 641,000 in November, 1936.

QUEENSLAND.

Employment and Unemployment among Men Wage and Salary Earners. (In terms of full-time employment and unemployment excluding normal seasonal variations).

PERIOD	Percentage		Approximate Number	
	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
" 1934 ..	84.9	15.1	150,870	26,800
" 1935 ..	89.0	11.0	160,510	19,820
" 1936 (to October)	92.3	7.7	168,840	13,960
3 months ended -				
October, 1935 ..	90.1	9.9	163,140	17,970
November, " ..	90.6	9.4	164,310	17,020
December, " ..	91.3	8.7	165,840	15,720
January, 1936 ..	91.5	8.5	166,390	15,400
February, " ..	90.9	9.1	165,490	16,520
March, " ..	91.0	9.0	165,890	16,350
April, " ..	91.3	8.7	166,570	15,890
May, " ..	91.7	8.3	167,560	15,130
June, " ..	91.8	8.2	167,900	15,010
July, " ..	92.6	7.4	169,670	13,470
August, " ..	94.3	5.7	172,920	10,450
September, " ..	94.7	5.3	173,950	9,650
October, " ..	(a)93.6	6.4	172,080	11,740

(a) Relief Work: The full-time equivalent was approximately 7,740 men. Without this work the percentage unemployed would have been 10.6. Growing Population: The total of the last two columns increases with the estimated growth in the number of men dependent on 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 tables give details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

Year	Buildings for Habitation	Buildings for Other Purposes	Alterations and Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
	£	£	£	£
1928-29 (a) ..	17,455,449	4,902,928	(b) 1,932,887	24,291,264
1929-30 (a) ..	11,057,069	3,098,700	(b) 1,741,291	15,897,060
1930-21 (a) ..	1,989,167	1,547,005	(b) 799,245	4,335,417
1931-32 ..	1,533,325	1,848,257	1,225,680	4,607,262
1932-33 ..	3,185,679	1,503,877	2,161,846	6,851,402
1933-34 ..	6,105,369	2,194,162	2,885,378	11,184,909
1934-35 ..	9,606,533	3,829,676	4,173,041	17,610,590
1935-36 ..	12,342,910	5,144,668	4,484,819	21,972,397
Quarter ended -				
1935 - June ..	2,936,510	1,271,694	1,130,786	5,338,990
September	3,428,704	1,275,712	1,088,729	5,793,145
December ..	2,779,521	941,246	1,159,741	4,880,508
1936 - March ..	2,946,420	1,378,537	1,009,013	5,333,970
June ..	3,188,265	1,549,173	1,227,336	5,964,774
September	3,773,596	1,339,967	1,260,617	6,374,180

(a) Exclusive of City of Sydney. (b) Exclusive of Sydney and suburbs.

BUILDING PERMITS IN CAPITAL CITIES AND SUBURBS OF EACH STATE.

Period	Sydney and Suburbs	Melbourne and Suburbs	Brisbane and Suburbs	Adelaide and Suburbs	Perth and Suburbs	Hobart and Suburbs	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1928-29 ..	(a) 9,715	7,661	2,440	1,807	2,518	150	24,291
1929-30 ..	(a) 5,810	5,576	1,414	1,158	1,833	106	15,897
1930-31 ..	(a) 1,005	1,434	1,098	314	393	91	4,335
1931-32 ..	995	1,861	876	217	596	62	4,607
1932-33 ..	2,257	2,568	793	400	732	101	6,851
1933-34 ..	4,142	4,218	1,051	617	988	169	11,185
1934-35 ..	7,632	5,604	1,654	1,164	1,354	203	17,611
1935-36 ..	9,385	7,162	2,237	1,239	1,621	328	21,972
Quarter ended -							
1935 - June ..	2,388	1,766	521	306	337	71	5,389
September	2,528	1,788	574	304	505	94	5,793
December	1,964	1,646	533	259	335	43	4,880
1936 - March	2,456	1,784	411	252	378	53	5,334
June	2,437	1,944	719	324	403	138	5,965
September	2,840	2,021	452	313	600	148	6,374

(a) Exclusive of City of Sydney and value of alterations and additions in Sydney and suburbs.

II. UNEMPLOYMENT - QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1936

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

/The number

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 Australia as a whole for each quarter from the June Quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum, to the December Quarter of 1936, are as follows:-

AUSTRALIA.

1932 - June Quarter	30.0 per cent.
1933 - March Quarter	26.5 " "
June "	25.7 " "
September "	25.1 " "
December "	23.0 " "
1934 - March Quarter	21.9 " "
June "	20.9 " "
September "	20.4 " "
December "	18.8 " "
1935 - March "	18.6 " "
June "	17.8 " "
September "	15.9 " "
December "	13.7 " "
1936 - March "	13.4 " "
June "	12.8 " "
September "	12.0 " "
December "	10.7 " "

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 November, 1936.

The percentages given above show a continuous decline from the peak point (30.0%) in unemployment attained in the June Quarter of 1932, after an almost continuous rise since 1929, when the rate was 9.3 per cent. 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 peak the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the September quarter of 1932, and in the two following quarters the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the December quarter of 1932, and 16 per 1,000 in the March quarter of 1933. The improvement continued until unemployment stood at 10.7 per cent. for the December quarter 1936. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since May, 1929, when it was 10.0 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 19.3 per cent., or 193 per 1,000 members, i.e. from 30.0 per cent. in May, 1932, to 10.7 per cent. in November, 1936.

This improvement since May, 1932, has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- South Australia, 253; Western Australia, 247; New South Wales, 199; Victoria, 180; Tasmania, 145; Queensland, 127.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA -

AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions reporting, and
Number and Percentage of Unemployed - March Quarter, 1929 to December Quarter,
1936.

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	December Quarter 1935	June Quarter 1936	September Quarter 1936	December Quarter 1936
Number of Unions	375	396	394	394	395	394	390	390
Membership ..	420,756	413,742	415,559	422,113	439,165	446,564	436,139	437,246
Unemployed -								
Number ..	39,159	124,068	106,652	88,413	59,992	57,001	52,482	46,863
Percentage ..	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	13.7	12.8	12.0	10.7

STATES - Percentage of Members of Reporting Trade Unions reported as Unemployed
in each State - March Quarter, 1929 to December Quarter, 1936.

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	December Quarter 1935	June Quarter 1936	September Quarter 1936	December Quarter 1936
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	9.7	33.2	29.6	25.0	17.0	16.2	14.8	13.3
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	23.0	18.0	11.3	10.6	11.7	9.7
Queensland ..	7.1	19.9	15.6	12.7	7.7	8.5	7.2	7.2
South Australia	13.2	35.2	30.0	25.4	14.7	11.0	10.0	9.9
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	26.0	18.3	11.8	9.2	7.4	5.6
Tasmania ..	8.7	27.4	19.0	17.9	13.7	12.7	14.0	12.9
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	13.7	12.8	12.0	10.7

The above returns are compiled and published substantially on the basis that has been adopted in regard to Trade Union returns since 1911. It is to be noted, however, that the returns relate to members of trade unions embracing only about 20 per cent. of wage-earners, and that for some States these constitute a more representative sample of employment than for others. The percentages include persons unemployed from all causes, other than those unemployed directly as a result of industrial disputes. They may be interpreted as relating to the members of unions making returns who are not, according to the records or knowledge of the union secretary, employed within union callings.

The percentages do not exactly represent the proportion of total unemployment in Australia as a whole, though Census data and other records indicate that they give a reasonable picture of the development of the unemployment crisis in Australia and the recovery therefrom.

In view of the very definite nature of the information on which are based the indexes of employment and unemployment for New South Wales, and those relating to men for Queensland, these indexes should be the most accurate record available of unemployment in those States.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act, 1905-1930.

ROLAND WILSON
Commonwealth Statistician
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