enced the largest rise of output and the greatest gains of productivity and, as might be expected, a decline in prices since 1899. But the hourly earnings rose relatively little, namely, 189 percent. The gains of productivity are distributed among all industries, with wage trends not closely tied to the productivity gains of each industry.

TABLE 10-6.—*Output, real hourly earnings, output per unit of input, and prices, 1899–1953*

[1899=100]

Name of industry	Output	Real hourly earnings	Output per unit of input	Prices
Electric light and power	24,550	289	1,764	62
Electrical machinery	6,264	332	338	276
Rubber products	4,943	371	878	58
Leather products	185	306	198	432
Lumber products	128	334	177	1,061
Anthracite coal	51	362	147	436

Source: Joint Economic Committee, hearings, "Employment, Growth, and Price Levels," pt. 2, pp. 336–337.

The anthracite coal industry, which actually experienced a reduction of output by about one-half in a period of 54 years, is an especially interesting case. Yet, and even though its productivity, i.e., output per unit of input, increased only by 47 percent, real hourly earnings were up by 262 percent, a rather large increase, and prices were up by 336 percent, a substantial rise as might be expected. These figures suggest, in part, that a strong trade union, despite a declining market and a rather slow rise of productivity, can achieve for its declining number of workers who can hold on to their jobs, a large increase in hourly earnings.

The extremes in real hourly earnings index from 1899 to 1953 were as follows (1899=100):

Petroleum, coal products, manufactured	577
Mining, manufactured gas (public utilities)	431
Mining, oil and gas	409
Manufactured paper	405
Electric light and power	289
Tobacco	276
Farming	247
Mining, metals	239
Beverages	224
Miscellaneous manufacturing	223
Mining, nonmetals	158

An indication of the lack of association between the rise of productivity and movement in real wages is given by the following table.

TABLE 10-7.—*Ratio, rise of real hourly earnings to the increase of the total output to the total input, 1899–1953*

1. Anthracite coal	5.58
2. Lumber	3.04
3. Petroleum coal products manufacturing	1.94
4. Transportation equipment	.59
5. Manufactured gas	.34
6. Tobacco	.34
7. Electric light and power	.11

Source: Ibid. (my calculations).