

CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1.—Collection of Returns of Retail Prices and Rents.

One of the most important functions of the Labour Section of the Bureau is the regular collection and tabulation of returns of retail prices and house rentals.

The retail prices of an extensive range of articles and services in common demand are collected at frequent intervals from representative retail establishments in the more important towns throughout the Commonwealth. The prices of a less extensive range of commodities are also collected at annual intervals from most towns of any significant size, the total number of towns so covered reaching approximately 200.

Definite standards of quality have been established for each article in order to ensure that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for articles of identical grade or quality will be recorded at all times and for all places. These standards, which are incorporated in printed "specifications", are closely watched and revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing trade practices and conditions.

The actual collection of the data is carried out, under the direct supervision of the State Statisticians, by specially qualified officers of the Bureau, while two supervising field officers are provided to assist in the co-ordination of activities in the several States. The prices of foods are obtained, where practicable, from about ten retailers in each of the capital cities, and from about five retailers in the provincial towns. Tradespeople and agents are carefully selected in order to ensure the supply of representative figures for the whole of each town, and returns are carefully verified if there should be any doubt as to the accuracy of the information supplied.

Returns of rents are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number of house-agents in each town, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to the number of rooms. These returns show the rents of individual houses, all of which are inspected by the Bureau's field officers.

§ 2. Compilation of Indexes of Retail Prices and Rents.

1. **General.**—The methods adopted for the compilation of indexes of retail prices and rents are briefly described in the following pages. For a more detailed explanation, and an analysis of the problems involved, the reader should refer to the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9.

2. The "Regimen".—The "regimen" from which the retail price indexes are compiled consists of a list of those commodities and services which most commonly enter into the consumption of the average household. The regimen is divided into the following distinct Groups and Sections:—

Group.	Section.
I. Food and Groceries	{ A.—Groceries. B.—Dairy Produce. C.—Meat.
II. Housing	D.—House Rent.
III. Clothing	{ E.—Clothing—Man. F.—Clothing—Woman. G.—Clothing—Boy (10½ years). H.—Clothing—Girl (7 years). J.—Clothing—Boy (3½ years).
IV. Miscellaneous	{ K.—Household Drapery. L.—Household Utensils. M.—Fuel and Light. N.—Other Miscellaneous.

An index (the "All Items" or "C" series) is compiled for the whole of the foregoing Groups, but for many purposes indexes are required for each Group or Section separately. For this reason the following indexes are regularly compiled at the intervals shown, and published in this Report and other publications issued by the Bureau:—

Group.	Content.	Frequency.
I.	Food and Groceries	Monthly
II.	Housing (4 and 5 rooms)	Quarterly
I. and II.	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5 rooms) ("B" Series)	Quarterly
III.	Clothing	Quarterly
IV.	Miscellaneous Household Requirements ..	Quarterly
I., II., III. and IV.	Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5 rooms), Clothing and Miscellaneous ("C" series) ..	Quarterly
I.	Food and Groceries ("200 Towns" series) ..	Yearly

For convenience of reference several of the indexes mentioned above have been given the "series" designation shown against them. These indexes are dealt with in turn in the following pages.

The articles and services included in the various regimens now used for the purposes of the indexes referred to are shown in the following table:—

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

No	Item.	Unit.	Mass Unit (per capita)	Cost of Items in Regimen as percentage of aggregate cost— Melbourne, Dec. Quarter, 1939. (a)
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.				
1	Bread, white flour (cash delivered) ..	2-lb. loaf ..	100	6.1
2	Flour, ordinary ..	2 lb. ..	25	1.2
3	Flour, self-raising ..	2-lb. pkt. ..	12	1.0
4	Tea ..	1-lb. pkt. ..	8	2.7
5	Sugar, white granulated, 1A ..	1 lb. ..	100	4.5
6	Rice, polished (Australian) ..	1 lb. ..	8	0.3
7	Sago, seed tapioca ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.1
8	Jam, plum ..	1½-lb. tin ..	8	0.8
9	Golden Syrup ..	2-lb. tin ..	1	0.1
10	Oats, flaked, loose ..	1 lb. ..	8	0.3
11	Raisins, seeded ..	1-lb. pkt. ..	5	0.6
12	Currants, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	2	0.2
13	Apricots, dried, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.2
14	Peaches, canned ..	30-oz. tin ..	3	0.3
15	Pears, canned ..	30-oz. tin ..	1	0.1
16	Salmon, in tins ..	1-lb. tin ..	3	0.4
17	Potatoes, new and old ..	7 lb. ..	18	4.2
18	Onions, brown ..	1 lb. ..	14	0.4
19	Soap ..	1 lb. ..	16	1.2
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk ..	quart ..	4	0.2

SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

21	Butter, factory "choicest" ..	1 lb. ..	30	6.6
22	Cheese, ordinary, mild ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.6
23	Eggs, standard, new laid ..	1 doz. ..	6	1.0
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle ..	1 lb. ..	12	2.7
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened ..	1 tin ..	5	0.5
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or not bottled ..	quart ..	72	5.6

SECTION C.—MEAT.

Beef (fresh)—				
27	Sirloin (Roast) ..	1 lb. ..	18	2.1
28	Prime Rib (Roast) including bone ..	1 lb. ..	22	2.1
29	Steak—Rump ..	1 lb. ..	11	1.0
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing) ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.6
31	Sauages ..	1 lb. ..	7	0.4
Beef (corned)—				
32	Silverside ..	1 lb. ..	14	1.4
33	Brisket, rolled ..	1 lb. ..	15	1.1
Mutton (fresh)—				
34	Leg ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.7
35	Forequarter ..	1 lb. ..	15	0.8
36	Loin ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.3
37	Chops—Loin ..	1 lb. ..	30	2.7
38	Chops—Leg ..	1 lb. ..	10	1.0
Pork (fresh)—				
39	Leg ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.5
40	Loin ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.5
41	Chops ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.5

GROUP II.—HOUSING.—SECTION D.—RENT.

42	House Accommodation(b) ..	week ..	52(c)	39.5
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(a) "B" Series.

(b) Four and five roomed houses.

(c) Per household.

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.*

No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita).	No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita).
SECTION E.—CLOTHING—MAN.			SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS)—contd.		
1	Suit, ready-made, Worsted (Australian)	0.67	46	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
2	Trousers, working, Cotton Tweed (Australian)	2.00	47	Cap, Skull, Cloth	1.50
3	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.25	48	Shirt, Sports	5.00
4	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)	1.00	49	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1.00
5	Shirt, Fashion, with two collars	1.67	50	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1.00
6	Shirt, working—Drill	4.00	51	Braces	1.00
7	Collar, semi-soft, white	6.00	52	Stockings, Golf, All Wool	4.00
8	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1.00	53	Pyjamas, Winceyette	1.50
9	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1.00	54	Pullover, All Wool	0.50
10	Underpants, Wool and Cotton (full length)	1.00	55	Shoes (for best wear), Box Yearling	3.00
11	Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" (plain)	1.00	56	..	..
12	Sox, All Wool (fancy)	2.00	57	..	..
13	Sox, Wool and Cotton (fancy)	4.00			
14	Braces	1.33	SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS).		
15	Handkerchief, Cotton	6.00	58	Tunic, Wool	1.00
16	Pyjamas, Winceyette	1.50	59	..	..
17	Pullover, All Wool	1.00	60	Dress, Cotton	5.00
18	Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf	0.50	61	Top Coat, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
19	Boots, working, Box Hide	1.50	62	Hat, Wool Felt (Australian)	1.00
			63	Hat, Straw	2.00
			64	..	..
SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN.			65	Petticoat, Art Silk	1.00
20	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.50	66	Singlet, Silk and Wool	0.50
21	Skirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.25	67	Singlet, Art Silk	0.50
22	..	..	68	Bloomers, Cotton and Art Silk, fleecy-lined	2.00
23	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)	0.75	69	Bloomers, Art Silk	1.00
24	Hat, Straw	1.50	70	Stockings, Cashmere	4.00
25	Frock, ready-made, Cotton	1.50	71	Pyjamas, Winceyette	0.33
26	Frock, ready-made, Art Silk	1.50	72	Pyjamas, Art Silk	0.33
27	Brassiere, Cotton Brocade	4.50	73	Pullover, All Wool	0.50
28	Undervest, Wool and Art Silk	1.50	74	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	0.67
29	Undervest, Art Silk	1.50	75	Shoes (school), Box Yearling	1.50
30	..	..	
31	Bloomers, Art Silk	4.50	SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS)		
32	Princess Slip, Art Silk	1.00	76	Blouse Coat	3.00
33	Stockings, Silk	6.00	77	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00
34	Stockings, Lisle	3.00	78	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
35	Gloves, Fabric	2.25	79	Hat, Cloth	1.33
36	Gloves, Nappa	0.75	80	Singlet, Wool and Cotton	1.00
37	Nightdress, Art Silk	1.50	81	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1.00
38	Pyjamas, Winceyette	1.50	82	Sox, Art Silk and Lisle	4.00
39	Dressing Gown, Art Silk	0.50	83	Pyjamas, Winceyette	2.00
40	Apron, Cotton	6.00	84	Pullover, All Wool	0.50
41	Cardigan, All Wool	0.50	85	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	1.00
42	Shoes (for best wear), Glace Kid	1.50	86	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling	2.00
43	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf	1.50			
SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).					
44	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.00			
45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00			

* The total cost of each section is multiplied by a section "weight" representing the proportion of the population covered by the section.

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per household).	No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per household).
SECTION K.—HOUSEHOLD DRAPERY.			SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS—continued.		
1	Blankets, D.B. (pair)	0.07	26	Knife, Table (stainless)	0.10
2	Blankets, S.B. (pair)	0.14	27	Spoon, Tea (stainless)	0.08
3	Quilt, D.B. Marcella	0.25	28	Spoon, Dessert (stainless)	0.08
4			29	Fork, Table (stainless)	0.10
5	Sheets, D.B. (pair)	0.50	30	Globe, Electric Light (gas-filled)	1.00
6	Sheets, S.B. (pair)	1.00	31	Iron, Electric (full size)	0.10
7	Pillow Slip, Cotton	5.00	SECTION M.—FUEL AND LIGHT.		
8	Towel	2.00			
9	Table Cloth	0.20	32	Firewood (blocks) (cwt.) (a)	40
10	Tea Towel (yard)	4.00	33	Gas, cooking (units) (a)	1,518
SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.			34	Electric lighting (units)	130
11	Cup and Saucer (Stone China)	2.00	35	Electric power (units) (a)	130
12	Plate, Dinner (Stone China)	2.00	SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS.		
13	Jug, Quart (Earthenware)	1.00	No.	Item.	Amount per week (per household).
14	Teapot, Brownware (2-pint)	0.25			
15	Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 6½-inch	1.00			
16	Tumbler (8-oz.)	1.00			
17	Kettle, Enamel (6-pint)	0.20			
18	Kettle, Aluminium (6-pint)	0.20	36	Union Dues	d. (b)
19	Saucepan, Aluminium (3-pint)	0.40	37	Lodge Dues	24
20	Bucket, Galvanized (12-inch)	0.10	38	Medicine	(b)
21	Dipper, Galvanized (2-quart)	0.20	39	Newspapers	24
22	Broom, Millet	0.50	40	Recreation	(b)
23	Broom, Hair, complete (12-inch)	0.33	41	Smoking	(b)
24	Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch)	1.50	42	Pares	(b)
25	Mop, Polishing, complete	0.20	43	School requisites	3

(a) Standard mass-units. In certain provincial towns where gas and/or electricity are not used the mass-units differ from the standard.

(b) A definite basic amount per week is provided for each of these items, and varied in accordance with Resolution 20 of the Conference of Statisticians, 1936

3. The Mass Units.—The "mass units" or "multipliers" represent the estimated annual consumption per head or per household as the case may be in Australia of the units of quantity shown. Thus the *per capita* consumption of bread in Australia is estimated to be 100 2-lb. loaves and of sugar 100 lb., and the consumption of towels per household is estimated to be three. In the case of Food and Groceries (Group I.) the "mass units" adopted are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes of the various articles during the years 1927 to 1929. In the case of Housing (Group II.), the "mass unit" is the multiplier applied to the weekly rental to raise it to an annual basis. In the case of Sections E to J, the "mass units" represent the estimated annual consumption per head of the articles mentioned. In the case of Sections K to M, the "mass units" represent the estimated consumption per household; while in Section N are shown the actual amounts provided to cover the estimated cost of the services included for an average household.

It will be noted that the "mass units" are all shown on the basis of consumption per head or per household. In the tabulation for index-number purposes, the figures are raised to a "total population" basis, by multiplying the aggregate cost of each Group or Section by the numbers of the population

properly applicable to it. Thus Group I. (Food and Groceries) is multiplied by the whole population; Group II. (Housing) by the total number of households; Sections E to J (Clothing) by the proportions of the population applicable to each; and Sections K to N (Miscellaneous) by the total number of households. The resultant index-numbers measure changes, therefore, in the cost to the whole population of the commodities and services included.

The five sections into which the clothing group is divided are somewhat arbitrary, but they are those adopted by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage (see § 7, p. 31). The sections for men and women are now regarded as being applicable to persons aged seventeen years and upwards. The section for a boy aged ten and a half years is taken as representative of both sexes from ten to sixteen years; the section for a girl aged seven as representative of both sexes from five to nine years; and the section for the boy aged three and a half years is taken as representative of children aged four years and under.

In estimating the annual average consumption per head of food and groceries for household purposes, small adjustments in the crude average consumption were made in two ways. Consumption by factories, when the product did not go into household use in Australia, was deducted. On the other hand, the weights given to some foods, such as dried apricots and canned peaches, cover also the consumption of other similar foods. Foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions, are not included in the regimen, owing to the fact that comparable prices for a standard grade for these items cannot be obtained; a further difficulty arises from the seasonal character of their production and consumption. The inclusion of such items, therefore, would impair the accuracy and stability of the index, and even if accurate information could be obtained, the index would probably not be materially affected by their inclusion. In the original regimen certain omissions were made partly on account of the difficulty of securing comparable prices. Some of the joints of meat, for example, are not only insufficiently standardized, but anomalies in price are not uncommon. In making these omissions, however, the appropriate total weight for meat is distributed amongst the more standardized joints.

The estimated annual consumption per head of articles of clothing and miscellaneous household requirements is based largely on the results of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. After exhaustive inquiries the Commission established what it considered a desirable "regimen" for an average working family of five persons, and set out the constituent items in its "Indicator List". This list, so far as it related to the articles in question, was followed substantially in the original compilation of the "All Items" index, but, as old articles were deleted and new ones substituted, appropriate modifications were introduced. In these revisions the principle has been followed of redistributing the mass-units in the manner most conformable to the original findings of the Commission.

The mass-units used for fuel and light are also based, indirectly, on the findings of the Commission. Until the September quarter of 1936 flat amounts were used for the miscellaneous items of Section N, their chief function—apart from a slight stabilizing influence on the index-numbers—being to vary in accordance with the Commission's findings the relative heights of the index-numbers for the several States. Since the date mentioned, provision has been made to vary the amounts set down for three of these items periodically, in accordance with ascertained changes.

4. **Relative Importance of the Items and Groups.**—The relative importance in the grand aggregate of any item of the regimen will, of course, change slightly with the variation of prices. In the last column of the regimen for Groups I. (Food and Groceries) and II. (Housing) shown on page 3, the approximate relative importance of the items in these two groups can be gauged from the figures shown for Melbourne for the December quarter of 1939. The relative importance of all the groups and sections in the "All Items" ("C" series) index for Melbourne for the same quarter was as follows:—

Group.	Section.	Percentage of Total Aggregate Cost.
I. Food and Groceries	A Groceries	15.0
	B Dairy Produce	10.2
	C Meat	11.2
II. Housing	D House Rent (4 and 5 rooms) ..	23.8
	E Man	8.2
	F Woman	8.8
III. Clothing	G Boy, 10½ years	1.6
	H Girl, 7 years	1.1
	J Boy, 3½ years	0.6
	K Household Drapery	1.3
	L Household Utensile	0.5
IV. Miscellaneous ..	M Fuel and Light	5.0
	N Other Miscellaneous	12.7
		100.0

5. **Base Periods of the Indexes.**—The base period originally adopted by the Bureau for its retail price indexes was the year 1911. When the collection of the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items was undertaken for the purposes of the "All Items" ("C" series) index, the month of November, 1914, was adopted as the base period for this series. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians in 1929, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the five years 1923-27 should be adopted as the base period. Commencing with Labour Report No. 21 for 1930, therefore, the retail price indexes have been published on this base. The aggregate to which all index-numbers are related is the weighted aggregate cost of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base.

Index-numbers on the earlier bases mentioned will be found in previous issues of the Labour Report, as follows:—

(i) 1911 Base.—Food and groceries; rent of all houses; and food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series)—Labour Reports Nos. 1 to 15.* Food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; and food, groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses ("B" series)—Labour Reports Nos. 16 to 20.

(ii) 1914 Base.—Food and groceries; rent of all houses; clothing; miscellaneous; all items of household expenditure (subsequently retrospectively revised to include rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses only)—Labour Reports Nos. 12 to 16. Food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing; miscellaneous; all items of household expenditure ("C" series)—Labour Reports Nos. 17 to 20.

* These index-numbers appear in the Appendix to each Labour Report from Nos. 16 to 28 and also in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics up to No. 155, June, 1938.

The conversion of these index-numbers from one base to another may be readily effected by multiplying the index-number to be converted by the appropriate factor shown in the following table:—

Group.	1911 to 1914 (a).	1914 (a) to 1911.	1911 to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1911.	1914 (a) to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1914 (a).
Food and Groceries ..	0.87230	1.14639	0.55929	1.78800	0.64116	1.55970
Rent (4 and 5 Rooms) ..	0.94279	1.06068	0.61161	1.63500	0.64872	1.54150
Food, Groceries and Rent ("B" Series)	0.89750	1.11420	0.57785	1.73060	0.64384	1.55320
Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	0.75412	1.32610
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	0.74891	1.33530
All Items ("C" Series)	..	..	..	..	0.68715	1.45530

(a) November.

The results obtained by the method above will, of course, be only approximate, but the error will not be greater than one point in the unit figure.

6. The Methods of Tabulation.—The prices (converted to pence) received from each retailer for each item of the regimen are added together and divided by the number of individual prices. These averages are then multiplied by their respective "mass units". The sum of these products for each section or group of the regimen is then multiplied by the population factor applicable to such section or group. The aggregate so produced for any section, group or combination thereof for the period taken as the base of the indexes is regarded as equal to 1,000. The index-number for any other period is then calculated by applying to 1,000 the ratio which the aggregate for such period bears to the base aggregate. The various base periods adopted for retail price indexes from time to time are set out in paragraph 5 of this section.

7. Relative Population Weights for Towns.—Weighted averages for any combination of towns or States may be calculated approximately by multiplying the index-numbers* of the towns or States to be included by their population weights, and dividing the sum of the products by the sum of the multipliers. The population weights used in the computations of these weighted averages for 1934 and succeeding years are as follows:—

Relative Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney ..	1235	Melbourne	992	Brisbane	300	Adelaide	313	Perth, etc	208	Hobart	60
Newcastle	105	Ballarat	38	T'woomba	26	Kadina, etc	11	Kalgo'lie, etc	17	Launceston	33
Broken Hill	27	Bendigo	29	Rockham'n	29	Pt. Pirie	12	Northam	5	Burnie ..	4
Goulburn	15	Geelong	39	Townsville	26	Mt. Gamb'r	5	Bunbury	5	Devonport	5
Bathurst	10	W'nambool	9	Bundaberg	11	Peterbor'gh	3	Geraldton	5	Queenst'wn	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	†Total ..	392	Total ..	344	Total ..	240	Total ..	106

† Townsville and Bundaberg were substituted for Charters Towers (?) and Warwick (?) in the "five towns" tabulation in the March Quarter of 1937.

* The official index-numbers are calculated by operating on the "aggregates" of the towns concerned, a procedure which may produce slightly different results from the above.

The weights used are based on the 1933 Census results, and represent to the nearest 1,000 the actual populations at that date.

The new weights given above produce results which differ only very slightly from those obtained from the weights previously in use. The latter were based upon the 1921 Census results, and were last published in Labour Report, No. 23.

§ 3. The Food, Groceries and Rent ("B" Series) Index of Retail Prices.

1. **General.**—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled in respect of the year 1925, and index-numbers were retrospectively computed for the several earlier years shown below. It was designed to replace the "A" series index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index first compiled by this Bureau in 1912. Owing, however, to the continued use of the latter index by Industrial Tribunals for the purpose of adjusting wages to variations in retail prices, the "B" series index never replaced the "A" series in this connexion.

2. **Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities, 1907 to 1939.**—Index numbers computed separately for each section of the regimen, and the weighted average for all sections together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table.

Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities. ("B" Series.)

The index-numbers given in the separate sections of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of housing and food and groceries, since each section or combination has its own base, viz., the weighted average cost for the six capital cities taken together during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 for that section or combination.

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	875	859	872	887	994
Melbourne	461	521	562	1,070	824	829	829	835	957
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,105	846	868	860	871	944
Adelaide	510	541	598	1,076	804	814	838	831	939
Perth	572	720	628	1,103	852	864	906	897	966
Hobart	501	566	604	1,087	812	840	871	874	947
Weighted Average (a) ..	499	564	599	1,093	846	846	857	864	960

SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	788	791	817	850	851
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,087	750	773	813	861	885
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	691	709	768	791	793
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	715	728	774	802	800
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	801	816	830	864	870
Hobart	564	587	695	1,091	701	702	765	802	844
Weighted Average (a) ..	563	591	654	1,072	758	771	807	843	853

(a) For Six Capital Cities

Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities—"B" Series—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
SECTION C.—MEAT.									
Sydney	519	501	668	960	835	881	906	960	935
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	755	809	857	960	968
Brisbane	535	488	610	897	719	764	825	834	822
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,095	804	830	851	930	929
Perth	780	824	881	1,103	788	867	887	926	958
Hobart	668	638	780	1,244	849	928	964	957	961
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	792	842	877	948	936

SECTIONS A, B AND C COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	820	848	868	904	930
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	784	809	836	884	942
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	763	791	828	838	864
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	780	798	826	861	897
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	821	853	881	899	938
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	792	827	870	880	923
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	806	825	851	886	927

SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).

Sydney	593	701	760	989	891	930	965	1,004	1,035
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	850	882	909	935	955
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	720	766	822	841	851
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	756	795	832	868	888
Perth	458	524	589	739	702	844	861	872	881
Hobart	405	452	518	881	890	908	899	913	925
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	839	879	912	942	965

ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	858	878	904	941	972
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	808	835	862	902	945
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	747	781	824	838	858
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	764	796	826	862	891
Perth	594	672	679	982	810	849	871	887	911
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	827	856	879	891	922
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	818	844	872	906	939

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

3. Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns, 1935 to 1940.—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the prices of food and groceries (41 commodities) in 30 of the more important towns at yearly, quarterly and monthly intervals. In addition, index-numbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents (4 and 5-rooms) and in the combined prices of food, groceries and housing.

Retail Price Index-Numbers ("B" Series).

(Base of each Section (a) : Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney	Newcastle	Broken Hill	Goulburn	Bathurst	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne	Ballarat	Bendigo	Geelong	Warrnambool	Weighted Average, Victoria.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	816	786
1936 ..	848	866	949	841	838	851	806	839	824	806	823	810
1937 ..	868	880	1,001	874	855	872	836	857	851	834	834	837
1938 ..	904	925	1,092	933	898	909	884	882	889	889	891	884
1939 ..	936	965	1,106	991	940	942	942	939	930	946	955	942
1939 Mar. Qtr.	944	973	1,160	998	942	951	951	933	938	947	948	950
June ..	930	962	1,121	991	938	936	942	941	929	945	953	942
Sept ..	930	958	1,068	986	936	935	932	940	916	943	957	933
Dec ..	940	968	1,074	990	944	946	942	942	937	947	963	943
1940 Mar. Qtr.	933	964	1,052	978	928	938	922	918	919	918	933	922
June ..	957	985	1,074	1,013	960	962	954	943	956	946	962	954
1939.												
January ..	937	964	1,144	984	932	943	931	914	920	924	944	930
February ..	957	982	1,174	1,006	948	964	964	936	947	937	951	960
March ..	938	973	1,163	1,002	940	946	961	954	946	961	959	960
April ..	937	975	1,158	995	944	944	962	957	945	962	959	961
May ..	924	952	1,144	990	936	931	936	935	922	942	952	956
June ..	928	953	1,064	887	935	933	927	931	920	932	948	947
July ..	928	952	1,070	972	933	933	935	945	919	946	962	936
August ..	926	950	1,069	991	939	932	931	939	915	942	952	932
September ..	934	962	1,065	994	937	940	930	937	911	941	955	930
October ..	949	989	1,086	1,003	962	955	947	944	933	946	970	947
November ..	943	969	1,079	996	947	948	958	963	952	973	974	959
December ..	929	946	1,058	972	924	933	920	920	926	921	944	921
1940												
January ..	925	953	1,046	973	919	930	909	911	907	907	928	909
February ..	931	960	1,050	979	921	936	922	920	916	920	932	921
March ..	912	972	1,057	985	947	947	935	923	933	929	938	934
April ..	968	986	1,074	1,001	962	972	947	939	953	941	953	947
May ..	952	986	1,073	1,010	959	953	958	946	957	948	964	957
June ..	951	983	1,074	1,015	958	957	959	944	958	948	970	958
HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1935 ..	891	829	641	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	843	838
1936 ..	930	827	653	879	814	918	882	683	702	861	830	869
1937 ..	965	839	660	873	816	947	909	699	720	836	859	894
1938 ..	1,001	860	730	873	812	985	935	695	700	851	915	917
1939 ..	1,035	890	764	871	843	1,015	955	714	731	876	921	938
1939 Mar. Qtr.	1,047	879	756	872	841	1,007	949	713	725	870	916	932
June ..	1,033	889	757	870	839	1,014	954	713	725	875	916	930
Sept ..	1,039	891	768	871	845	1,019	957	722	735	878	924	940
Dec ..	1,040	897	773	871	846	1,021	960	708	739	880	929	942
1940 Mar. Qtr.	1,041	899	776	870	845	1,022	964	706	735	880	934	946
June ..	1,041	899	778	871	845	1,022	967	704	734	883	933	949
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.												
1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	766	802	826	805	805
1936 ..	878	858	837	854	829	875	835	780	825	827	811	831
1937 ..	904	858	869	872	838	899	866	794	833	842	857	857
1938 ..	941	895	948	908	867	937	902	806	817	872	895	895
1939 ..	972	934	970	942	900	969	945	849	851	917	940	938
1939 Mar. Qtr.	974	934	1,000	946	900	971	948	845	853	915	934	941
June ..	968	931	977	941	898	964	944	850	848	916	936	937
Sept ..	970	931	948	939	899	966	940	853	813	916	942	933
Dec ..	977	938	954	944	904	973	917	848	858	919	948	940
1940 Mar. Qtr.	973	935	942	934	893	968	936	833	815	901	930	929
June ..	988	949	956	955	943	983	957	848	867	919	949	950

(a) See explanatory note at top of table on page 9.

Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("B" Series).—continued.

(Base of each Section (a): Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba	Rockhampton.	Townsville	Bundaberg	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moolta, and Wallaroo	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1935 ..	763	732	803	849 ^b	754 ^c	765	780	860	813	777	812	784
1936 ..	791	761	846	880 ^b	781 ^c	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
1937 ..	828	794	863	901	869	835	826	901	912	845	870	832
1938 ..	838	794	879	931	884	846	861	907	937	877	900	866
1939 ..	864	823	904	961	912	872	897	973	956	937	981	904
1939 Mar. Qtr.	884	841	922	985	928	892	907	965	1,005	923	981	913
June ..	857	822	901	960	910	866	904	969	997	950	977	910
Sept. ..	855	812	892	950	904	863	888	981	997	925	982	896
Dec. ..	859	817	899	950	906	866	868	976	984	951	984	896
1940 Mar. Qtr.	874	831	918	961	921	882	881	951	965	895	961	887
June ..	883	852	927	977	932	892	913	969	995	926	984	918
1939												
January ..	868	819	914	973	912	876	888	946	983	914	943	894
February ..	868	859	931	992	940	906	914	978	1,018	929	1,004	921
March ..	887	843	922	989	933	895	919	971	1,013	927	995	925
April ..	883	850	922	982	934	892	919	971	1,005	930	986	924
May ..	848	815	897	952	901	858	899	969	995	978	975	907
June ..	838	802	884	946	896	848	892	966	991	941	970	890
July ..	851	810	892	949	899	859	889	983	995	920	978	897
August ..	855	812	893	948	906	862	882	980	1,001	930	983	891
September ..	860	814	893	953	906	867	893	980	996	926	984	900
October ..	873	823	906	955	909	879	902	990	999	918	1,000	910
November ..	854	815	885	948	904	862	883	981	986	976	984	892
December ..	849	814	906	946	906	859	878	958	967	931	969	885
1940.												
January ..	868	823	918	959	914	876	872	956	951	897	957	879
February ..	877	820	917	956	925	883	883	948	961	893	960	880
March ..	877	839	919	966	926	885	888	946	980	894	963	894
April ..	880	858	934	982	938	898	900	961	995	910	988	906
May ..	882	850	929	982	935	892	919	969	991	932	980	924
June ..	877	847	920	967	922	885	919	977	999	935	985	925
HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS)												
1935 ..	720	746	596	530 ^b	645 ^c	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
1936 ..	766	798	608	510 ^b	622 ^c	748	795	381	629	648	721	772
1937 ..	822	840	728	844	575	810	832	371	659	685	737	808
1938 ..	841	834	741	837	626	828	868	386	659	687	739	843
1939 ..	854	847	753	861	640	840	888	388	710	686	753	862
1939 Mar. Qtr.	852	848	753	860	638	839	884	388	701	688	747	857
June ..	853	836	753	861	638	839	888	388	704	685	748	861
Sept. ..	855	851	753	861	642	841	890	388	715	685	753	863
Dec. ..	855	851	754	861	642	841	891	388	719	687	762	865
1940 Mar. Qtr.	855	850	754	862	643	841	892	387	716	687	774	864
June ..	857	850	755	861	643	843	892	387	716	690	774	866
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
1935 ..	747	737	730	736 ^b	716 ^c	745	764	694	746	723	759	791
1936 ..	781	774	757	741 ^b	721 ^c	777	796	689	775	745	793	794
1937 ..	824	810	808	877	732	823	826	604	811	780	816	841
1938 ..	838	806	825	900	751	837	862	702	838	801	836	855
1939 ..	858	830	843	920	804	858	891	743	882	838	890	885
1939 Mar. Qtr.	870	842	854	934	813	869	896	738	884	810	887	889
June ..	853	826	841	919	802	853	891	740	881	844	886	880
Sept. ..	853	825	836	913	800	853	887	748	885	830	890	881
Dec. ..	855	828	840	913	801	855	887	745	878	846	895	882
1940 Mar. Qtr.	865	836	852	920	811	864	883	729	865	812	886	877
June ..	871	849	858	929	817	871	903	710	881	831	900	896

(a) See note at top of table on page 9.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick.

Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("B" Series)—continued.

(Base of each Section (a): Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.						Weighted Average, 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston	Burnie	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
FOOD AND GROCERIES.														
1935 ..	821	977	852	850	846	834	792	789	830	808	905	797	806	810
1936 ..	853	998	898	866	910	866	827	806	847	831	898	824	825	828
1937 ..	881	1,012	928	891	901	892	870	857	902	891	927	870	851	854
1938 ..	899	1,049	935	918	925	911	880	869	916	908	975	889	886	890
1939 ..	938	1,092	972	967	947	951	923	914	941	933	1,018	925	927	931
1939 Mar. Qtr.	931	1,092	966	950	947	944	913	913	932	926	1,012	918	935	939
June ..	950	1,095	982	977	955	962	921	916	939	936	1,024	924	925	929
Sept. "	944	1,098	979	974	952	957	916	908	940	930	1,017	919	920	924
Dec. "	926	1,084	960	966	933	939	941	917	951	940	1,018	937	927	930
1940 Mar. Qtr.	920	1,072	951	945	923	932	918	907	930	929	1,010	919	917	921
June ..	956	1,089	981	975	941	966	935	932	945	945	1,024	938	944	947
1939 January ..	910	1,077	949	932	934	924	903	905	919	913	1,001	908	921	925
February ..	940	1,108	971	947	952	953	917	921	942	941	1,016	923	947	950
March ..	942	1,091	978	971	955	954	920	912	935	925	1,020	922	938	942
April ..	961	1,104	991	983	962	972	922	917	941	937	1,028	925	939	943
May ..	944	1,089	984	978	952	956	925	917	940	937	1,022	927	919	924
June ..	945	1,093	971	970	951	957	917	913	957	934	1,021	921	916	920
July ..	945	1,092	977	972	951	957	914	910	933	930	1,021	918	920	923
August ..	947	1,102	981	975	958	960	914	905	912	930	1,018	917	918	922
September ..	941	1,106	978	974	948	954	920	900	944	931	1,011	921	922	925
October ..	947	1,110	980	983	956	961	942	918	953	935	1,018	927	936	940
November ..	919	1,076	954	961	926	932	944	921	961	938	1,018	940	932	935
December ..	911	1,067	947	954	917	924	937	912	938	940	1,017	933	912	916
1940 January ..	912	1,065	945	941	921	925	913	897	921	921	1,003	912	908	912
February ..	919	1,074	952	944	924	932	924	910	930	927	1,007	923	917	920
March ..	928	1,075	954	946	923	939	918	913	935	934	1,018	921	927	930
April ..	953	1,080	971	964	930	962	932	933	947	940	1,020	926	945	948
May ..	954	1,091	983	981	942	965	936	911	936	941	1,026	938	944	947
June ..	961	1,095	989	981	952	972	938	933	953	953	1,026	941	944	947
HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).														
1935 ..	792	1,050	767	810	940	813	890	778	698	736	730	836	539	828
1936 ..	844	1,174	794	836	1,010	872	908	811	750	726	755	858	879	866
1937 ..	861	1,309	860	983	1,064	901	899	826	816	723	798	861	912	897
1938 ..	872	1,319	879	994	1,055	911	913	838	830	756	788	875	942	925
1939 ..	881	1,318	886	1,005	1,064	919	925	851	836	763	806	887	965	947
1939 Mar. Qtr.	878	1,317	883	1,003	1,058	916	920	847	831	757	803	882	959	941
June ..	881	1,321	886	1,000	1,066	919	924	840	830	763	803	885	963	946
Sept. "	881	1,317	886	1,008	1,067	920	927	853	835	765	803	889	967	950
Dec. "	882	1,317	887	1,007	1,065	920	930	855	840	767	814	892	969	951
1940 Mar. Qtr.	883	1,314	888	1,005	1,065	921	932	855	850	767	814	893	971	953
June ..	882	1,316	890	1,004	1,067	920	932	855	843	767	812	893	972	954
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.														
1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	735	785	783	843	811	818	816
1936 ..	849	1,064	858	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	844	835	844	841
1937 ..	871	1,126	899	924	999	894	879	804	866	824	874	865	872	869
1938 ..	887	1,152	911	945	974	909	891	867	880	846	900	882	900	902
1939 ..	914	1,178	936	979	990	936	922	887	898	865	933	908	939	935
1939 Mar. Qtr.	908	1,177	931	968	988	931	914	885	890	858	929	902	942	938
June ..	921	1,181	912	984	996	943	920	888	895	866	936	907	938	944
Sept. "	918	1,181	940	985	995	940	918	884	897	864	931	905	936	932
Dec. "	907	1,173	929	980	982	929	935	891	909	870	935	917	941	936
1940 Mar. Qtr.	903	1,166	924	966	976	926	922	885	897	864	931	907	936	931
June ..	925	1,175	943	984	988	946	932	900	905	873	939	919	953	948

(a) See note at top of table on page 9

§ 4. The All Items ("C" Series) Index of Retail Prices.

1. General.—This index measures the prices of food and groceries, rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements, and for convenience of reference has been designated the "All Items" ("C" series) index. It has become more important in recent years because of its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from 1st May, 1934, for the adjustment of wages controlled by that Court. It is used at present as the basis of the "Court" series of index-numbers adopted from July, 1937, by the same Court.

The compilation of this series was undertaken by the Bureau following a recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. A short account of its inquiries and findings is contained in section 7 of this chapter. The Commission itself had collected data on prices in the capital cities for the month of November, 1914 to 1920 inclusive. In consequence, the Bureau commenced its own more comprehensive inquiries in the five principal towns of each State, as from November, 1921, and continued them at quarterly intervals thereafter.

2. Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities, 1914 to 1920.—The table published on page 24 gives index-numbers representing the variations in the prices, in each capital city, of (i) food and groceries, (ii) housing (4 and 5 rooms), (iii) food, groceries and housing combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous household requirements, and (vi) all items of household consumption combined, in the years 1914 to 1920 inclusive. The index-numbers for the clothing and miscellaneous groups for these years were compiled from data collected by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.

3. Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns, November, 1914 to June Quarter 1940.—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the prices, in 30 of the more important towns, of (i) food and groceries, (ii) housing, (iii) food, groceries and housing combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous requirements, and (vi) all items of household consumption combined.

Food and Groceries.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)
(Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	638	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	964	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924
Year 1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
" 1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	816	786
" 1936 ..	848	860	949	841	838	851	809	839	824	806	823	810
" 1937 ..	868	880	1,001	874	855	872	836	857	851	834	834	837
" 1938 ..	901	925	1,092	933	898	909	884	882	889	889	891	884
" 1939 ..	936	965	1,106	991	940	942	942	939	930	946	955	942
1939 Mar Qtr.	944	973	1,160	998	942	951	951	933	938	947	948	950
" June ..	930	962	1,121	991	938	936	942	941	929	945	953	942
" Sept ..	930	958	1,068	986	936	935	932	940	916	943	957	933
" Dec. ..	940	968	1,074	990	944	946	942	942	937	947	963	942
1940 Mar Qtr.	933	961	1,052	978	923	938	922	918	919	918	933	922
" June ..	957	985	1,074	1,013	960	962	944	947	946	946	962	951

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 24.

Food and Groceries.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series)—continued.

(Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27=1,000.)

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	982b	936c	950	941	945	968	923	997	943
Year 1934 ..	727	694	766	807b	732c	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
" 1935 ..	763	732	803	849b	740c	765	780	860	813	777	812	784
" 1936 ..	791	761	846	880b	781c	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
" 1937 ..	828	794	863	901	869	835	826	901	912	845	870	832
" 1938 ..	838	794	879	931	884	846	861	907	937	877	900	866
" 1939 ..	864	823	904	961	912	872	897	973	996	937	981	904
1939 Mar. Qtr.	884	841	922	985	928	892	907	965	1,005	923	981	913
" June "	857	822	901	960	910	866	904	969	997	950	977	910
" Sept. "	855	812	892	950	904	863	888	981	997	925	982	896
" Dec. "	859	817	899	950	906	866	858	976	984	951	984	896
1940 Mar. Qtr.	874	831	918	961	921	882	881	951	965	895	961	887
" June "	883	852	927	977	932	892	913	969	995	926	984	918

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Ave. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Ave. T.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	746	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,005	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,011
Year 1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	784
" 1935 ..	821	977	852	850	846	834	792	789	830	808	903	797
" 1936 ..	853	998	898	866	866	866	827	806	847	831	898	844
" 1937 ..	885	1,012	928	891	961	892	870	847	902	891	927	870
" 1938 ..	899	1,049	935	918	925	911	880	889	916	908	975	889
" 1939 ..	938	1,092	972	967	947	951	923	914	941	933	1,018	925
1939 Mar. Qtr.	931	1,092	966	950	947	944	913	913	932	926	1,012	918
" June "	950	1,095	982	977	955	952	921	916	939	936	1,024	924
" Sept. "	944	1,098	979	974	952	957	916	908	949	930	1,017	919
" Dec. "	926	1,084	960	966	933	939	941	917	951	940	1,018	937
1940 Mar. Qtr.	920	1,072	951	945	923	932	918	907	930	929	1,010	919
" June "	956	1,089	981	975	941	966	935	932	915	945	1,024	938
Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950
Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.	783	786	806	810	825	828	851	854	886	890	927	931
	935	939	929	924	920	930	917	921	944	944	944	947

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1920, see page 24.

(b) Charters Towers

(c) Warwick.

Housing (4 and 5 rooms)—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)

(Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	758	..	..	..	..	..	608	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	479	527	668	685	789
Year 1934 ..	869	789	642	810	780	857	808	652	658	741	803	706
" 1935 ..	891	839	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	845	848
" 1936 ..	930	857	653	879	814	918	882	683	702	861	856	869
" 1937 ..	965	810	669	873	816	947	909	699	720	836	859	894
" 1938 ..	1,004	860	730	873	832	985	935	695	709	851	915	917
" 1939 ..	1,035	890	761	871	843	1,015	955	714	731	876	921	938
1939 Mar. Qtr.	1,027	879	756	872	841	1,007	949	713	725	870	916	932
" June ..	1,033	889	757	870	839	1,014	954	713	725	875	916	936
" Sept. ..	1,039	894	768	871	845	1,019	957	722	735	878	924	940
" Dec. ..	1,040	897	773	871	846	1,021	960	708	739	880	929	942
1940 Mar. Qtr.	1,041	899	776	870	845	1,022	964	706	735	880	931	946
" June ..	1,047	899	778	872	845	1,022	967	704	731	883	933	949
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	528b	535c	594	819	566	603	492	566	781
Year 1934 ..	691	732	595	515b	625	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
" 1935 ..	720	746	596	530b	645c	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
" 1936 ..	766	798	608	510b	622c	748	795	381	620	618	721	772
" 1937 ..	822	840	728	44	575	810	812	377	659	685	737	808
" 1938 ..	841	834	744	87	626	828	868	386	680	687	739	843
" 1939 ..	854	847	753	861	640	840	888	388	710	686	753	867
1939 Mar. Qtr.	852	848	753	860	638	839	884	388	701	688	747	857
" June ..	853	856	753	861	638	839	888	388	704	685	748	861
" Sept. ..	855	851	753	861	642	841	890	388	715	685	753	863
" Dec. ..	855	851	754	861	642	841	891	388	719	687	762	865
1940 Mar. Qtr.	855	850	754	862	643	841	892	387	716	687	774	865
" June ..	857	850	755	861	643	841	892	387	716	687	774	866
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Ave. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Ave. Tas.
Nov. 1914 (a)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	754	578	616	649	779	709	870	676	594	150	495	729
Year 1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	709	657	682	706	814
" 1935 ..	792	1,050	767	810	940	813	890	778	698	736	730	830
" 1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	873	908	811	750	726	755	858
" 1937 ..	861	1,309	860	983	1,064	901	899	826	816	723	798	861
" 1938 ..	872	1,319	879	994	1,055	914	913	838	830	756	788	875
" 1939 ..	881	1,318	886	1,005	1,064	919	925	851	836	793	806	887
1939 Mar. Qtr.	878	1,317	883	1,003	1,059	916	920	847	831	757	803	882
" June ..	881	1,321	886	1,008	1,066	919	924	849	830	759	803	885
" Sept. ..	881	1,317	886	1,008	1,067	920	927	855	835	765	803	889
" Dec. ..	882	1,317	887	1,007	1,065	920	930	853	849	767	814	892
1940 Mar. Qtr.	883	1,314	888	1,005	1,065	921	932	855	840	767	814	893
" June ..	882	1,316	890	1,004	1,067	920	932	845	848	767	812	893

(a) For Index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1920, see page 24. (b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms).—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("B" (d) and "C" Series.)

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	977	944	845	926	815	965	895	769	786	844	855	866
Year 1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766
" 1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	760	766	802	826	805
" 1936 ..	878	858	837	854	820	875	835	780	777	825	827	831
" 1937 ..	904	858	869	873	838	899	862	794	798	833	841	857
" 1938 ..	941	898	948	908	867	937	902	808	817	872	898	895
" 1939 ..	972	934	970	944	900	969	945	849	851	917	940	938
1939 Mar. Qtr.	974	934	1,000	946	900	971	948	845	853	915	934	941
" June "	968	931	977	941	898	964	944	850	848	916	936	937
" Sept. "	970	931	948	939	899	966	940	853	843	916	942	933
" Dec. "	977	938	954	941	904	973	947	848	858	919	948	940
1940 Mar. Qtr.	973	935	942	934	893	968	936	853	845	901	930	929
" June "	988	940	956	955	913	983	957	848	867	919	949	950
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	560	..	..	..	..	..	658	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820	794	824	893	811	839	770	844	883
Year 1934 ..	713	705	705	703	694	712	742	680	745	701	746	739
" 1935 ..	747	737	730	736	716	745	764	694	746	723	759	761
" 1936 ..	781	774	757	741	721	777	796	689	775	745	793	791
" 1937 ..	824	810	808	877	752	823	826	692	811	780	816	821
" 1938 ..	838	806	825	900	781	837	862	703	838	801	836	855
" 1939 ..	858	830	843	920	804	858	891	743	882	838	890	885
1939 Mar. Qtr.	870	842	854	934	813	869	896	738	884	830	887	889
" June "	853	826	841	919	802	853	895	740	881	844	886	889
" Sept. "	853	825	836	913	800	853	887	748	885	830	890	881
" Dec. "	855	828	840	913	801	855	887	745	878	846	895	882
1940 Mar. Qtr.	865	836	852	920	811	864	883	729	865	812	886	877
" June "	871	849	858	920	817	871	903	740	884	831	900	896
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.
Nov. 1914 (a)	689	..	..	..	..	..	630	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	916	918	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	696	871	911
Year 1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794
" 1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	783	783	843	811
" 1936 ..	849	1,064	848	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	844	835
" 1937 ..	871	1,126	899	924	999	894	879	843	866	824	874	865
" 1938 ..	887	1,152	911	945	974	909	891	867	880	846	900	882
" 1939 ..	914	1,178	936	979	990	936	922	887	898	865	933	908
1939 Mar. Qtr.	908	1,177	931	968	988	931	914	885	890	858	929	902
" June "	921	1,181	942	984	996	943	920	888	895	866	936	907
" Sept. "	918	1,181	940	985	995	940	918	884	897	861	931	905
" Dec. "	907	1,173	929	980	982	929	935	891	909	870	936	917
1940 Mar. Qtr.	903	1,166	924	966	976	926	922	885	897	864	931	907
" June "	925	1,175	943	984	988	946	932	900	905	873	939	919
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.
Nov. 1914 (a)	689	..	..	..	..	..	630	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	916	918	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	696	871	911
Year 1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794
" 1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	783	783	843	811
" 1936 ..	849	1,064	848	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	844	835
" 1937 ..	871	1,126	899	924	999	894	879	843	866	824	874	865
" 1938 ..	887	1,152	911	945	974	909	891	867	880	846	900	882
" 1939 ..	914	1,178	936	979	990	936	922	887	898	865	933	908
1939 Mar. Qtr.	908	1,177	931	968	988	931	914	885	890	858	929	902
" June "	921	1,181	942	984	996	943	920	888	895	866	936	907
" Sept. "	918	1,181	940	985	995	940	918	884	897	861	931	905
" Dec. "	907	1,173	929	980	982	929	935	891	909	870	936	917
1940 Mar. Qtr.	903	1,166	924	966	976	926	922	885	897	864	931	907
" June "	925	1,175	943	984	988	946	932	900	905	873	939	919

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1920, see page 24. (b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick. (d) The index-numbers in this table are the same as those of the "B" Series (p. 9).

Clothing.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)
(Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	755	..	..	..	..	..	760	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,255	1,327	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,463	1,612	1,326
Year 1934 ..	746	811	696	935	797	753	802	840	929	784	921	807
" 1935 ..	746	810	680	922	790	751	794	856	384	843	912	802
" 1936 ..	778	809	753	878	811	782	791	845	816	834	863	795
" 1937 ..	818	796	824	833	812	817	803	831	819	809	822	805
" 1938 ..	833	810	833	848	824	831	820	843	832	833	831	822
" 1939 ..	843	823	850	861	840	842	832	851	841	846	842	833
1939 Mar. Qtr.	835	812	837	852	828	834	819	844	829	837	832	821
" June ..	841	817	850	856	838	840	822	844	830	841	836	824
" Sept. ..	841	817	851	863	837	840	823	844	831	839	836	824
" Dec. ..	854	847	861	869	858	854	862	873	875	866	864	863
1940 Mar. Qtr.	884	862	902	899	897	883	897	921	911	893	909	898
" June ..	923	921	952	933	925	924	939	965	966	949	948	959
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	657	..	..	..	..	..	756	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,568b	1,519c	1,235	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,697	1,180	1,238
Year 1934 ..	786	897	815	750b	840c	796	846	828	794	944	964	871
" 1935 ..	772	818	824	761b	791c	779	853	810	803	937	927	852
" 1936 ..	777	779	831	794b	767c	782	833	803	810	890	851	837
" 1937 ..	794	805	826	812	806	799	821	804	811	818	814	820
" 1938 ..	823	826	840	833	831	825	857	848	846	846	844	856
" 1939 ..	840	838	856	855	852	843	863	852	854	852	844	862
1939 Mar. Qtr.	829	829	847	842	840	832	860	850	850	851	845	859
" June ..	833	831	847	845	846	835	861	850	852	848	841	860
" Sept. ..	834	831	847	845	846	836	861	849	854	849	842	860
" Dec. ..	865	860	882	886	877	868	869	858	859	858	847	868
1940 Mar. Qtr.	804	888	912	915	904	897	895	877	882	877	866	893
" June ..	930	921	948	945	931	932	934	910	909	910	899	932
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					
	Forth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.
Nov. 1914 (a)	698	..	..	..	..	..	825	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,232	1,376	1,382	1,454	1,320	1,277	1,427	1,670	1,525	1,405	1,504	1,513
Year 1934 ..	817	1,035	767	864	821	834	882	958	839	844	1,048	907
" 1935 ..	845	1,056	775	911	839	843	903	938	813	827	987	910
" 1936 ..	815	959	802	878	851	827	857	873	807	826	875	859
" 1937 ..	806	832	819	828	827	809	821	823	820	832	820	822
" 1938 ..	823	846	835	845	841	826	848	839	835	845	842	844
" 1939 ..	832	855	842	849	847	834	856	853	843	844	853	854
1939 Mar. Qtr.	825	848	837	847	843	828	852	846	838	839	845	849
" June ..	845	850	856	846	842	828	854	848	841	839	851	851
" Sept. ..	836	859	846	849	849	838	852	848	839	839	850	850
" Dec. ..	849	863	848	852	854	842	867	869	855	859	864	867
1940 Mar. Qtr.	883	869	856	863	862	854	888	893	883	879	885	889
" June ..	913	954	924	931	923	917	940	949	930	921	923	941

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1930, see page 24.
 (c) Warwick.

(b) Chartam Towers.

Miscellaneous.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)
(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	766	..	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,015
Year 1934 ..	975	921	988	867	864	969	914	877	908	880	825	911
" 1935 ..	976	927	964	868	867	970	922	880	922	873	851	918
" 1936 ..	949	900	1,007	887	887	945	947	958	977	947	922	948
" 1937 ..	939	895	1,061	901	902	937	978	1,006	1,011	995	953	980
" 1938 ..	936	903	1,053	909	902	935	982	1,006	1,011	994	954	983
" 1939 ..	910	901	1,048	908	888	938	977	990	1,004	980	951	978
1939 Mar. Qtr.	937	896	1,046	906	886	935	978	985	1,001	975	947	979
" June ..	939	899	1,048	908	887	937	974	988	1,003	977	949	975
" Sept. "	939	899	1,048	908	887	937	974	992	1,003	979	950	975
" Dec. "	943	909	1,050	910	893	942	983	995	1,010	987	958	981
1940 Mar. Qtr.	949	919	1,072	918	903	948	988	1,009	1,021	997	975	990
" June ..	985	950	1,105	942	937	984	1,006	1,019	1,031	1,007	978	1,007

Period.	QUEENSLAND.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta. and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	St. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	914	953	1,002	1,009	988	958	1,033	1,065	1,065	1,021	1,000	1,036
Year 1934 ..	900	907	876	967	891	905	976	937	944	949	958	973
" 1935 ..	904	909	877	1,015	929	905	973	941	937	958	958	960
" 1936 ..	917	929	920	1,067	993	923	993	978	936	970	1,003	991
" 1937 ..	941	988	969	1,000	1,007	952	1,022	981	995	1,013	1,015	1,020
" 1938 ..	947	990	971	1,000	1,061	957	1,023	991	1,001	1,017	1,011	1,021
" 1939 ..	955	983	969	996	992	962	1,022	989	999	1,017	994	1,019
1939 Mar. Qtr.	951	981	963	996	989	958	1,019	986	995	1,013	995	1,016
" June ..	955	989	968	995	993	962	1,020	988	998	1,014	997	1,018
" Sept. "	955	979	969	995	992	962	1,020	987	997	1,015	990	1,017
" Dec. "	960	982	977	999	993	966	1,027	994	1,006	1,024	993	1,025
1940 Mar. Qtr.	967	989	982	1,005	984	972	1,038	1,007	1,011	1,035	1,000	1,035
" June ..	978	1,002	996	1,023	1,000	994	1,049	1,013	1,028	1,050	1,011	1,047

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.					TASMANIA.								
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avg. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Avg. Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	780	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..	749	..
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	935	985	941	960	959	952	1,010	1,009
Year 1934 ..	942	961	902	894	966	942	955	864	825	823	804	853	944	939
" 1935 ..	927	975	925	909	972	931	856	864	793	831	824	855	946	941
" 1936 ..	932	900	916	906	1,002	937	883	908	839	850	841	887	947	946
" 1937 ..	946	971	953	903	1,058	951	939	947	869	876	854	933	960	961
" 1938 ..	949	968	953	909	1,053	951	933	939	866	867	843	947	961	962
" 1939 ..	954	974	948	912	1,034	956	938	947	874	852	881	934	962	962
1939 Mar. Qtr.	952	972	946	910	1,055	955	929	934	867	876	872	944	960	960
" June ..	952	972	947	910	1,028	954	939	948	876	885	882	935	961	960
" Sept. "	953	975	948	912	1,028	955	940	950	876	856	882	936	961	961
" Dec. "	957	976	919	916	1,024	959	945	954	878	880	887	940	967	967
1940 Mar. Qtr.	967	981	952	924	1,028	968	958	960	892	887	905	951	973	974
" June ..	986	1,006	975	942	1,052	988	971	968	901	894	914	902	997	997

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1920, see page 24. (b) Charters Towers
(c) Warwick.

All Items of Household Expenditure.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)
(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.						
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	
Nov. 1914 (a)	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003	
Year 1934 ..	842	834	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801	
" 1935 ..	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	824	850	824	
" 1936 ..	866	853	848	864	833	865	814	816	821	818	851	843	
" 1937 ..	889	849	893	867	842	886	868	839	840	835	856	866	
" 1938 ..	913	877	940	893	860	911	896	850	854	884	892	893	
" 1939 ..	930	901	955	916	883	933	924	874	875	911	918	920	
1939 Mar. Qtr.	934	898	970	916	880	932	923	869	873	907	912	919	
" June "	932	898	959	915	880	929	921	872	870	909	914	917	
" Sept "	933	897	943	914	881	930	918	875	868	909	913	915	
" Dec "	943	910	949	917	890	940	932	879	882	917	928	928	
1940 Mar. Qtr.	946	914	954	921	894	943	934	882	889	915	931	930	
" June "	970	911	980	946	918	968	963	903	916	939	951	959	

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Radnor, Mount, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	
Nov. 1914 (a)	617	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,023	994	941	999	998	1,025	1,029	948	992	
Year 1934 ..	762	785	759	759	761	764	806	758	778	800	832	804	
" 1935 ..	780	785	775	789	769	780	820	783	789	809	832	817	
" 1936 ..	804	802	802	810	779	803	839	765	813	818	843	835	
" 1937 ..	837	840	840	883	809	840	859	769	844	830	861	855	
" 1938 ..	852	843	853	902	834	854	888	786	868	849	897	883	
" 1939 ..	870	858	887	918	847	871	906	810	896	872	898	902	
1939 Mar. Qtr.	874	863	871	923	849	875	908	806	895	867	896	904	
" June "	866	855	864	915	845	867	908	808	894	875	895	904	
" Sept "	866	853	861	915	843	867	903	812	897	866	896	904	
" Dec "	874	862	872	921	851	876	900	814	896	880	900	902	
1940 Mar. Qtr.	887	874	887	932	860	888	912	811	894	866	901	907	
" June "	900	890	900	947	873	902	934	826	911	887	908	929	

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	707	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	687	..
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,043	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
Year 1934 ..	830	975	825	843	866	842	837	828	780	787	876	831	817	816
" 1935 ..	834	1,011	829	865	886	848	849	834	792	801	873	841	832	831
" 1936 ..	856	1,027	860	880	933	870	860	840	814	809	850	850	850	848
" 1937 ..	869	1,030	890	897	970	884	875	856	854	833	857	866	873	871
" 1938 ..	882	1,048	900	914	957	897	887	872	865	848	875	879	897	894
" 1939 ..	901	1,066	915	916	965	915	908	858	879	861	903	898	920	917
1939 Mar. Qtr.	896	1,064	911	928	967	911	901	883	872	855	898	892	919	916
" June "	904	1,067	918	937	966	918	907	888	877	861	905	897	917	915
" Sept "	904	1,069	919	937	966	918	905	886	878	860	902	896	916	914
" Dec "	899	1,065	913	933	959	914	919	895	889	867	908	908	926	923
1940 Mar. Qtr.	902	1,064	912	934	958	916	918	898	890	869	914	909	930	927
" June "	932	1,092	943	963	983	945	938	921	907	886	929	929	954	951

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1930, see p. 24.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick.

Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.) All Items of Household Consumption.

Relative Cost of Each Group of Items.

(Base: Weighted Average Cost of All Groups in each Town = 1,000.)

Town	1938.					1939.				
	Food and Groceries	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing	Miscellaneous	Total Household Expenditure	Food and Groceries	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing	Miscellaneous	Total Household Expenditure
New South Wales—										
Sydney	356	254	201	189	1,000	360	255	199	186	1,000
Newcastle	380	227	203	190	1,000	386	228	201	185	1,000
Broken Hill	418	180	195	207	1,000	418	184	195	203	1,000
Goulburn	377	226	209	188	1,000	390	220	206	184	1,000
Bathurst	376	221	211	192	1,000	383	221	210	186	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	359	251	200	190	1,000	363	252	198	187	1,000
Victoria—										
Melbourne	355	241	201	203	1,000	368	239	197	196	1,000
Ballarat	374	189	218	219	1,000	387	189	214	210	1,000
Bendigo	375	192	214	219	1,000	383	194	210	213	1,000
Geelong	362	223	207	208	1,000	375	222	204	199	1,000
Warrnambool .. .	360	236	205	199	1,000	375	232	201	192	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	357	237	202	204	1,000	368	236	199	197	1,000
Queensland—										
Brisbane	354	228	212	206	1,000	357	227	213	203	1,000
Toowoomba	340	227	216	217	1,000	345	228	215	212	1,000
Rockhampton .. .	371	201	217	211	1,000	375	201	218	206	1,000
Townsville	372	220	203	205	1,000	377	217	205	201	1,000
Bundaberg	383	174	220	223	1,000	387	175	221	217	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	357	224	212	207	1,000	361	222	213	204	1,000
South Australia—										
Adelaide	349	226	212	213	1,000	357	226	208	209	1,000
Kadina, etc. .. .	417	113	237	233	1,000	432	111	231	226	1,000
Port Pirie	389	183	215	213	1,000	401	183	210	206	1,000
Mount Gambier ..	372	187	219	222	1,000	387	182	215	216	1,000
Peterborough .. .	373	197	215	215	1,000	394	194	207	205	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	353	220	213	214	1,000	361	221	208	210	1,000
Western Australia—										
Perth, etc. .. .	367	229	205	199	1,000	375	225	203	197	1,000
Kalgoorlie, etc. .	361	291	177	171	1,000	369	286	176	169	1,000
Northam	374	226	204	196	1,000	383	224	202	191	1,000
Bunbury	362	251	203	184	1,000	372	248	206	186	1,000
Geraldton	343	235	193	204	1,000	353	235	194	198	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	366	235	203	196	1,000	374	233	200	193	1,000
Tasmania—										
Hobart	357	238	210	195	1,000	366	235	207	192	1,000
Launceston	367	222	211	200	1,000	370	222	211	197	1,000
Burnie	382	222	212	184	1,000	386	219	210	185	1,000
Devonport	385	206	219	190	1,000	390	205	216	189	1,000
Queenstown	402	208	212	178	1,000	406	206	207	181	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	364	230	210	196	1,000	371	228	208	193	1,000
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	358	239	204	199	1,000	365	239	202	194	1,000
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	356	243	203	198	1,000	363	242	201	194	1,000
Charters Towers (Q) ..	395	136	222	247	1,000	395	152	215	238	1,000
Warwick (Q)	367	176	226	231	1,000	371	185	220	221	1,000
Port Augusta (S.A.) ..	397	173	217	213	1,000	405	175	212	208	1,000

4. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency: Capital Cities, 1934 to 1940.—In each part of the following table the average cost of the particular regimen in the six capital cities during the five-yearly period

1923-1927 has been equated to a base of 20 shillings. The figures measure the variations in the prices of—(i) food and groceries, (ii) housing (4 and 5 rooms), (iii) food, groceries, and housing combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous household requirements, and (vi) all items of household consumption combined.

Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency : Capital Cities ("C" Series).

(Base of each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 20s. od.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
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GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1934 ..	16 6	15 0	14 6	15 4	16 2	15 9	15 8
1935 ..	16 10	15 8	15 3	15 7	16 5	15 10	16 1
1936 ..	17 0	16 2	15 10	16 0	17 1	16 6	16 6
1937 ..	17 4	16 9	16 7	16 6	17 7	17 5	17 0
1938 ..	18 1	17 8	16 9	17 3	18 0	17 7	17 9
1939 ..	18 9	18 10	17 3	17 11	18 9	18 6	18 6
1939 Mar. Qtr.	18 11	19 0	17 8	18 2	18 7	18 3	18 8
" June "	18 7	18 10	17 2	18 1	19 0	18 5	18 6
" Sept. "	18 7	18 8	17 1	17 9	18 11	18 4	18 5
" Dec. "	18 10	18 10	17 2	17 9	18 6	18 10	18 6
1940 Mar. "	18 8	18 5	17 6	17 7	18 5	18 4	18 4
" June "	19 2	19 1	17 8	18 3	19 1	18 8	18 11

GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1934 ..	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1935 ..	17 10	17 0	14 5	14 9	15 10	17 10	16 9
1936 ..	18 7	17 8	15 4	15 11	16 11	18 2	17 7
1937 ..	19 4	18 2	16 5	16 8	17 3	18 0	18 3
1938 ..	20 1	18 8	16 10	17 4	17 5	18 3	18 10
1939 ..	20 8	19 1	17 1	17 9	17 7	18 6	19 4
1939 Mar. Qtr.	20 6	19 0	17 0	17 8	17 7	18 5	19 2
" June "	20 8	19 1	17 1	17 9	17 7	18 6	19 3
" Sept. "	20 9	19 2	17 1	17 10	17 7	18 6	19 4
" Dec. "	20 10	19 2	17 1	17 10	17 8	18 7	19 5
1940 Mar. "	20 10	19 3	17 1	17 10	17 8	18 8	19 5
" June "	20 10	19 4	17 2	17 10	17 8	18 8	19 5

GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1934 ..	16 10	15 5	14 3	14 10	16 1	16 3	15 10
1935 ..	17 2	16 2	14 11	15 3	16 2	16 7	16 4
1936 ..	17 7	16 8	15 7	15 11	17 0	17 1	16 11
1937 ..	18 1	17 3	16 6	16 6	17 5	17 7	17 5
1938 ..	18 10	18 0	16 9	17 3	17 9	17 10	18 1
1939 ..	19 5	18 11	17 2	17 10	18 3	18 5	18 9
1939 Mar. Qtr.	19 6	19 0	17 5	17 11	18 2	18 3	18 10
" June "	19 4	18 11	17 1	17 11	18 5	18 5	18 9
" Sept. "	19 5	18 10	17 1	17 9	18 4	18 4	18 9
" Dec. "	19 6	18 11	17 1	17 9	18 2	18 8	18 10
1940 Mar. "	19 6	18 9	17 4	17 8	18 1	18 5	18 9
" June "	19 9	19 2	17 5	18 1	18 6	18 8	19 1

Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency : Capital Cities ("C" Series)—
continued.

(Base of each Group : Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 20s. od.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities
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GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1934 ..	14 11	16 1	15 9	16 11	16 4	17 8	15 8
1935 ..	14 11	15 11	15 5	17 1	16 6	18 1	15 8
1936 ..	15 7	15 10	15 6	16 8	16 4	17 2	15 10
1937 ..	16 4	16 1	15 11	16 5	16 1	16 5	16 3
1938 ..	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 2	16 6	17 0	16 7
1939 ..	16 10	16 8	16 10	17 3	16 8	17 1	16 10
1939 Mar. Qtr.	16 8	16 5	16 7	17 2	16 6	17 0	16 8
" June "	16 10	16 5	16 8	17 3	16 6	17 1	16 9
" Sept. "	16 10	16 6	16 8	17 3	16 9	17 0	16 9
" Dec. "	17 1	17 3	17 4	17 5	16 10	17 4	17 2
1940 Mar. "	17 8	17 11	17 11	17 11	17 1	17 9	17 9
" June "	18 6	19 2	18 7	18 8	18 3	18 10	18 9

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

	19 6	18 3	18 0	19 6	18 10	17 1	18 11
1934 ..	19 6	18 5	18 1	19 6	18 6	17 1	18 11
1935 ..	19 0	18 11	18 4	19 10	18 8	17 8	18 11
1936 ..	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 5	18 11	18 9	19 2
1937 ..	18 9	19 8	18 11	20 6	19 0	18 8	19 3
1938 ..	18 10	19 6	19 1	20 5	19 1	18 9	19 3
1939 ..	18 9	19 7	19 0	20 5	19 0	18 7	19 2
1939 Mar. Qtr.	18 9	19 6	19 1	20 5	19 0	18 9	19 3
" June "	18 9	19 6	19 1	20 5	19 1	18 10	19 3
" Sept. "	18 10	19 8	19 2	20 6	19 2	18 11	19 4
" Dec. "	19 0	19 9	19 4	20 9	19 4	19 2	19 6
1940 Mar. "	19 8	20 1	19 7	21 0	19 9	19 5	19 11
" June "							

GROUPS I.-IV.—ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.

	16 10	16 0	15 3	16 1	16 7	16 9	16 4
1934 ..	17 1	16 6	15 7	16 5	16 8	17 0	16 8
1935 ..	17 4	16 11	16 1	16 9	17 1	17 2	17 0
1936 ..	17 9	17 4	16 9	17 2	17 5	17 6	17 6
1937 ..	18 3	17 11	17 0	17 9	17 8	17 9	17 11
1938 ..	18 9	18 6	17 5	18 1	18 0	18 2	18 5
1939 ..	18 8	18 6	17 6	18 2	17 11	18 0	18 5
1939 Mar. Qtr.	18 8	18 5	17 4	18 2	18 1	18 2	18 4
" June "	18 8	18 4	17 4	18 1	18 1	18 1	18 4
" Sept. "	18 10	18 8	17 6	18 1	18 0	18 5	18 6
" Dec. "	18 11	18 8	17 9	18 3	18 0	18 4	18 7
1940 Mar. "	19 5	19 3	18 0	18 8	18 8	18 9	19 1
" June "							

Retail Price Index-Numbers : Capital Cities ("C" Series). All Items of Household Consumption.

(Base of each Group : Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
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GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Nov. 1914 ..	638	616	614	683	746	687	641
" 1915 ..	844	835	860	858	819	858	842
" 1916 ..	833	791	748	835	854	807	812
" 1917 ..	877	798	825	805	828	949	836
" 1918 ..	877	843	882	862	816	918	861
" 1919 ..	1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
" 1920 ..	1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209

GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).

Nov. 1914 ..	758	608	463	611	586	525	649
" 1915 ..	780	611	472	574	581	571	659
" 1916 ..	791	625	467	573	592	574	665
" 1917 ..	797	657	492	606	602	586	685
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851

GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

Nov. 1914 ..	680	613	560	658	689	630	644
" 1915 ..	825	756	722	758	734	756	777
" 1916 ..	818	732	648	742	761	724	760
" 1917 ..	848	748	707	734	748	820	782
" 1918 ..	861	792	756	789	746	810	812
" 1919 ..	1,000	893	904	904	867	936	934
" 1920 ..	1,138	1,074	945	1,068	973	1,155	1,082

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

Nov. 1914 ..	755	780	657	756	698	825	754
" 1915 ..	805	797	690	821	760	833	792
" 1916 ..	903	870	779	919	849	940	881
" 1917 ..	1,009	976	809	1,049	980	1,041	992
" 1918 ..	1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
" 1919 ..	1,237	1,213	1,192	1,303	1,277	1,344	1,238
" 1920 ..	1,323	1,422	1,274	1,384	1,359	1,430	1,365

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Nov. 1914 ..	766	728	728	770	780	699	749
" 1915 ..	798	770	756	803	822	770	786
" 1916 ..	808	784	766	832	869	780	802
" 1917 ..	889	879	836	883	926	865	881
" 1918 ..	988	950	931	988	1,035	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194

GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.

Nov. 1914 ..	712	671	611	699	707	687	687
" 1915 ..	816	768	721	780	755	776	782
" 1916 ..	836	773	698	798	800	783	795
" 1917 ..	892	823	773	832	832	879	847
" 1918 ..	938	890	848	887	885	923	905
" 1919 ..	1,065	988	981	1,018	1,005	1,042	1,022
" 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

§ 5. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. **General.**—To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding sections, a special investigation into prices in 70 additional towns was undertaken in November, 1913. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number was further increased to 170. Information in regard to prices obtained in November each year relates at present, therefore, to 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (pages 26 to 33), and details respecting succeeding investigations are incorporated in the Labour Bulletins and Reports issued subsequently by this Bureau.

In issues of these publications prior to No. 28 of 1937, information was given regarding movements in the rents of 4-roomed and 5-roomed houses. While the index-numbers were useful in a general way as a measure of changes in rents in any one town from time to time, there has been an increasing tendency to regard them as an adequate measure of the relative absolute levels of rents in different towns at any given date. In order to prevent such a misuse of the figures, and because of increasing doubts as to the ability of the Bureau, except at prohibitive cost, to ensure that returns of rents from all these towns shall be based on continuously representative samples, it has reluctantly been decided to limit the information collected to the prices of food and groceries. Should any industrial tribunal desire further information on house rentals in any of these towns, the Bureau will be prepared to consider requests for special investigations by its staff of field officers.

2. **Retail Price Index-Numbers : 200 Towns, 1935 to 1939.**—In the following table the base of the index-numbers has been changed from that used in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 28 of 1937. The new base is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in the period 1923–27.

Retail Price Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries.

(Base: Weighted average in Six Capital Cities, 1923–27 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.	1939. November.
New South Wales—					
Albury	803	857	864	930	999
Armidale	821	811	853	890	938
Ballina	812	853	852	930	978
Bathurst*	842	838	861	914	947
Bega	851	863	875	937	984
Berry	874	873	880	956	964
Blackheath	882	920	927	977	991
Bourke	873	901	913	1,002	1,017
Bowral	848	861	887	954	976
Broken Hill*	929	977	1,036	1,128	1,079

* Information also available monthly for these towns.

Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series) : Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.	1939. November.
New South Wales—contd.					
Casino	855	900	900	979	974
Cessnock	846	849	858	924	957
Cobar	1,012	1,031	1,038	1,109	1,057
Cooma	895	879	883	990	1,008
Coonamble	918	961	921	990	960
Cootamundra	824	849	829	944	939
Corrimal	834	876	884	920	961
Cowra	844	860	873	953	963
Cronulla	859	876	886	901	967
Deniliquin	883	907	967	995	994
Dubbo	842	848	863	892	929
Forbes	883	862	863	918	924
Gilgandra	873	864	881	938	945
Glen Innes	807	814	819	873	886
Goulburn*	846	855	888	952	996
Grafton	824	854	888	913	931
Grenfell	830	837	841	923	945
Griffith	913	940	936	983	978
Gulgong	821	855	839	883	985
Gunnedah	829	842	833	870	912
Hay	903	931	906	1,010	982
Inverell	848	802	831	878	908
Junee	828	876	914	922	993
Katoomba	867	885	915	970	983
Kempsey	803	811	836	889	953
Kiama	887	904	911	965	1,005
Kurri Kurri	808	839	838	919	945
Leeton	886	804	926	978	1,024
Lismore	834	886	918	994	990
Lithgow*	859	809	873	961	947
Maitland	833	832	835	906	930
Moree	886	904	894	956	997
Moss Vale	844	849	895	922	947
Mudgee	819	840	860	922	995
Narrabri	877	894	901	954	1,011
Narrandera	864	898	896	977	982
Newcastle*	880	869	882	940	969
Nowra	901	899	887	983	959
Orange	817	812	815	918	950
Parkes	843	859	903	964	961
Penrith	806	818	825	868	914
Port Kembla	866	908	905	963	996
Portland	862	857	877	903	941
Queanbeyan	884	905	953	1,000	1,022
Quirindi	864	866	890	909	957
Richmond	826	816	827	826	876
Scone	836	861	871	893	979
Singleton	826	813	830	900	917
Sydney*	851	863	877	909	943
Tamworth	806	806	829	895	923

* Information also available monthly for these towns.

Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.	1939. November.
New South Wales—contd.					
Taree	848	864	889	922	978
Temora	804	823	862	961	1,024
Tenterfield	831	865	864	936	919
Tumut	832	837	842	947	967
Ulmara	852	892	885	969	921
Wagga Wagga	835	850	884	935	964
Walcha	927	845	866	910	927
Wellington	818	828	829	851	900
Weston	818	835	841	913	962
Windsor	850	851	864	892	881
Wollongong	829	853	878	955	978
Wyalong	862	870	895	966	998
Yass	850	837	887	978	956
Young	855	843	867	948	947
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	852	863	878	919	950
Victoria—					
Ararat	855	918	910	942	985
Bacchus Marsh	820	860	887	920	968
Bairnsdale	862	880	879	912	991
Ballarat*	818	872	860	886	963
Beechworth	828	885	890	969	970
Benalla	850	880	905	945	1,003
Bendigo*	812	856	853	904	952
Camperdown	849	863	868	932	996
Casterton	845	888	873	957	1,005
Castlemaine	828	845	848	884	949
Colac	817	842	850	907	972
Creswick	838	859	863	882	938
Daylesford	813	843	865	922	951
Dunolly	835	889	872	909	948
Echuca	824	846	857	921	993
Euroa	845	875	878	975	996
Geelong*	796	833	857	914	973
Hamilton	855	911	885	958	1,009
Healesville	831	892	917	947	995
Horsham	873	926	916	928	1,038
Kerang	869	895	927	941	998
Koroit	828	836	840	896	964
Korumburra	783	835	859	895	994
Kyneton	785	851	870	921	971
Lilydale	845	884	881	915	999
Maffra	825	901	865	925	1,008
Maldon	848	876	888	953	1,009
Maryborough	811	888	891	978	990
Melbourne*	797	833	848	896	958
Mildura	903	938	977	992	991
Morwell	842	858	887	922	977
Nhill	913	956	933	967	961
Orbost	870	912	919	968	1,053
Portland	863	863	862	903	1,008
Port Fairy	820	862	840	911	998

* Information also available monthly for these towns.

Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series) : Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.	1939. November.
Victoria—continued.					
St. Arnaud	875	930	930	997	1,040
Sale	827	895	890	958	1,004
Seymour	880	901	937	991	1,032
Shepparton	819	864	880	954	1,002
Stawell	911	949	934	1,007	1,034
Swan Hill	874	918	924	969	996
Terang	875	863	885	924	968
Traralgon	816	839	834	878	954
Wangaratta	827	880	879	955	1,016
Warracknabeal	828	858	881	936	992
Warragul	820	827	845	905	965
Warrnambool*	785	844	834	910	974
Wonthaggi	804	895	913	946	983
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	803	841	854	902	963
Queensland—					
Ayr	825	841	867	913	940
Barcardine	938	959	959	993	1,028
Bowen	885	902	902	961	995
Brisbane*	780	820	835	824	854
Bundaberg*	803	874	873	875	904
Cairns	887	915	914	949	977
Charleville	949	989	969	970	992
Charters Towers*	876	889	887	933	956
Chillagoe	900	915	946	944	1,007
Cloncurry	1,030	1,026	1,031	1,050	1,069
Cooktown	963	986	989	1,003	1,057
Cunnamulla	927	938	921	951	970
Dalby	807	870	836	835	866
Gayndah	851	907	867	895	926
Gladstone	827	871	870	903	920
Goondiwindi	889	914	868	893	916
Gympie	857	849	840	859	901
Hughenden	919	931	925	989	1,032
Innisfail	943	974	995	978	984
Ipswich	785	820	825	824	857
Longreach	978	990	993	1,009	1,040
Mackay	872	898	895	916	952
Maryborough	794	828	815	849	887
Mount Morgan	855	891	880	902	911
Nambour	834	844	863	883	892
Rockhampton*	839	864	877	863	885
Roma	877	885	870	921	952
Stanthorpe	803	817	830	898	911
Toowoomba*	751	800	789	781	815
Townsville*	887	904	921	933	948
Warwick*	792	820	795	822	858
Winton	931	951	963	1,021	1,021
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	806	841	850	849	879

* Information also available monthly for these towns.

Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1915. November.	1926. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.	1939. November.
South Australia—					
Adelaide*	784	804	833	860	883
Burra (Koorunga) ..	868	879	899	911	949
Freeling	804	823	845	856	883
Gawler	772	814	827	840	872
Kadina, Moonta, Wall- aroo*	868	890	897	915	981
Kapunda	793	812	836	848	892
Millicent	805	820	918	875	951
Mount Gambier* ..	802	815	847	907	976
Murray Bridge ..	763	776	810	839	877
Peterborough* ..	816	851	884	910	984
Port Augusta* ..	892	926	945	949	996
Port Pirie*	811	896	915	950	980
Quorn	848	841	853	881	943
Renmark	920	919	906	931	988
Victor Harbour ..	815	839	852	857	900
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	791	813	841	867	895
Western Australia—					
Albany	884	896	892	911	947
Beverley	890	918	963	956	972
Bridgetown	930	955	973	971	1,002
Broome	1,142	1,180	1,181	1,184	1,211
Bunbury*	845	873	896	931	961
Carnarvon	1,032	1,082	1,127	1,128	1,143
Collie	855	901	874	894	945
Geraldton*	840	960	924	901	926
Greenbushes	946	960	937	965	984
Kalgoorlie and Boulder*	981	1,006	1,002	1,056	1,076
Katanning	829	884	872	904	930
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,094	1,140	1,168	1,172	1,193
Meekatharra	1,088	1,143	1,164	1,124	1,153
Narrogin	863	910	884	918	968
Northam*	850	910	905	931	954
Perth and Fremantle*	813	863	866	888	919
Wagin	856	924	870	908	959
York	859	848	867	922	946
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	835	882	884	907	937
Tasmania—					
Beaconsfield	818	841	830	912	879
Burnie*	837	883	906	923	961
Campbelltown	860	878	872	904	914
Deloraine	787	795	824	854	852
Devonport*	824	873	895	936	938
Franklin	896	868	905	911	969
Hobart*	797	874	889	891	944
Launceston*	793	844	870	908	921
New Norfolk	830	909	891	892	959
Queenstown*	900	920	922	1,000	1,018

* Information also available monthly for these towns

Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.	1939. November.
Tasmania—continued.					
Scottsdale	780	814	829	853	901
Ulverstone	812	888	867	889	925
Zeehan	943	981	983	1,001	1,026
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	805	867	884	903	938
Australian Capital Ter- ritory (a)—					
Canberra*	931	949	965	1,026	1,040
Weighted Averages—					
Australia (200 Towns) ..	825	851	865	906	939
Thirty Towns	820	847	862	895	935
Six Capitals	817	843	859	890	932

* Information also available monthly for this town.

(a) Not included in Weighted Averages

§ 6. Publication of Prices and Price Index-Numbers.

The results of inquiries into price movements are available in the following publications:—

(i) **Monthly.**—A mimeographed statement is published each month giving index-numbers for Food and Groceries. The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date.

(ii) **Quarterly.**—A mimeographed statement is issued each quarter giving the "C" Series index-numbers. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains the average prices of the items comprising the Food and Groceries regimen, for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. The weighted average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.

(iii) **Annual.**—The Labour Report contains index-numbers over the past five years, and the monthly and quarterly results for the last available year. The average prices for the last year of the items of food and grocery, and average house rents, are also published in this Report. The *Official Year Book* also contains information similar to, but in less detail than that published in the Labour Report.

§ 7. Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage is a valuable source of reference for information on retail prices during the years 1914 to 1920. It was also largely responsible for the extension of the prices investigations of the Bureau from food, groceries and housing only to all items of household consumption. The direct use of the Commission's data

made in the "All Items" index has already been referred to in earlier sections of this chapter. The Commission was appointed in 1919 to inquire into and report upon the following matters:—

- (i) The actual cost of living at the present time, according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household, for a man with a wife and three children under fourteen years of age, and the several items and amounts which make up that cost.
- (ii) The actual corresponding cost of living during each of the last five years.
- (iii) How the basic wage may be automatically adjusted to the rise and fall from time to time of the purchasing-power of money.

The Commission issued two reports—the first in November, 1920, and the second in April, 1921. These reports show that, according to the standard assumed by the Commission, the cost of living as at the 1st November, 1920, for a family consisting of man, wife, and three children under fourteen years of age, was as follows:—

Royal Commission on Basic Wage : Cost of Living, 1st November, 1920.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rent ..	1 2 0	1 0 6	0 17 0	0 19 6	0 19 0	0 19 0
Food ..	2 6 9	2 6 2	2 3 1	2 7 2	2 4 11	2 8 11
Clothing ..	1 7 0	1 9 0	1 6 0	1 8 3	1 7 9	1 9 2
Miscellaneous ..	1 1 4	1 0 10	1 0 1	1 1 2	1 2 3	0 19 10
Total (a) ..	5 17 1	5 16 6	5 6 2	5 16 1	5 13 11	5 16 11

(a) Weighted Average Six Capitals—£5 15s. 6d., but no recommendation made

The corresponding costs of the commodities and services included (which are fully set out in the first Report) for the years 1914 to 1920 were as follows:—

Royal Commission on Basic Wage : Cost of Living, 1914 to 1920.

Years.	Sydney	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide	Perth.	Hobart.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1914 ..	3 12 11	3 7 9	3 4 0	3 11 2	3 12 9	3 6 9
1915 ..	4 1 6	3 16 9	3 11 3	3 19 0	3 17 1	3 15 1
1916 ..	4 4 6	3 17 5	3 13 10	3 19 7	4 1 2	3 15 6
1917 ..	4 9 8	4 2 2	3 19 3	4 3 2	4 4 2	4 4 10
1918 ..	4 14 8	4 8 10	4 6 0	4 10 11	4 9 2	4 8 6
1919 ..	5 5 3	4 18 5	4 15 10	5 2 6	5 0 9	5 0 4
1920 ..	5 17 1	5 16 6	5 6 2	5 16 1	5 13 11	5 16 11

In answer to the third clause of the inquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (i.e., such a family as is described in Clause 1)." After consulting the Commonwealth Statistician as to methods of collection and tabulation, the Government decided that the recommendation would be met by widening the scope of inquiries of this nature already made by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of an assumed regimen, which is described in the Report as the "Indicator List". It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations of this Bureau would have been somewhat impaired had they been limited in the manner suggested by the Commission. It was decided, therefore, to apply to a more detailed inquiry the methods of index-number construction already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing.

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and housing the commodities, methods and weighting already in use, which conformed very closely with those given in the "Indicator List" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent. The figures used by this Bureau are the rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses, and are not confined to any particular type, but they fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Previous inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items. The results of these investigations are set out in earlier sections of this chapter.

§ 8. Changes in the Regimen.

Since the original compilation of retail price indexes by the Bureau, the regimens of the several Groups and Sections have undergone some modifications. These are briefly explained in the following paragraphs.

(i) *Food and Groceries*.—The regimen for food and groceries was originally introduced in 1912, and the first revision was made in the September quarter of 1932. The regimen in use up to that date will be found on page 13 of Labour Report No. 23. A second revision took place in the September quarter of 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936.* The main features of this revision are referred to in (iv) below.

(ii) *Housing*.—The housing constituent of the regimen has also been revised. Originally the rentals of all houses from "3 rooms and under" to "8 rooms and over" were tabulated, and they were continuously used in the "A" Series Index from 1912 to 30th June, 1938, when this series was discontinued. They were also used in the "All Items" Index up to and including the year 1924. From the following year rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses only were used in the "C" series index, and in the same year they were combined with food and groceries to form the "B" series index.

Since the December quarter of 1936, following on the resolutions of the 1936 Conference of Statisticians, the rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses in certain towns have been collected and tabulated on a somewhat different basis from that previously used. The returns in the twelve more important cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, on the basis of which variations from a pre-determined standard are measured. This standard, the change in which has affected the index-numbers only in respect of the relative levels of rents in the different towns, and in respect of their absolute height, was determined by means of a special investigation of the 1933 Census data relating to rentals of all 4 and 5-roomed wood and brick houses occupied by fully-employed wage and salary-earners. This method not being generally

* Revisions of collection and compilation methods have occupied a longer period, and are still proceeding. Proper precautions are taken to prevent such revisions from disturbing the essential principle of continuity.

applicable to the circumstances of small country towns, on account of the greater diversity of average "quality" of houses, the level of rents in these towns has been determined from a sample of houses selected by house-agents in accordance with definite standards laid down. The variations in rentals from this standard are measured in the same manner as described above for the twelve more important cities and towns.

(iii) *Clothing and Miscellaneous.*—The regimen for clothing and miscellaneous household requirements was originally introduced in 1921, and the first revision was made in the March quarter of 1935. Details of the original regimen were never published, but the revised regimen of 1935 appeared in Labour Report No. 26. A second revision took place in the September quarter of 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936.* The main features of this revision are referred to in (iv) below. Some minor alterations have since been made in the regimen.

(iv) The revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936, was of a comprehensive nature. The Resolutions of the Conference are reprinted in Appendix XI. of Labour Report No. 27.

This Conference not only recommended extensive revisions of the regimen from which the indexes are compiled, but also considered methods of collection and compilation. As a result of its deliberations, and subsequent discussions by correspondence, many improvements and refinements were introduced.

The changes in the regimen were made with a view to improving the index-numbers as measures of price variations. They comprised chiefly the elimination or replacement of articles no longer in demand, or which experience had shown to be unsuitable media for the measurement of price variations; the alteration of units of quantity in certain cases to conform with those in most general use; the adjustment of the mass-unit allotted to certain articles to bring them into accord with present-day consumption habits; and the re-adjustment of the population weights applicable to the several groups and sections of the regimen in accordance with the results of the 1933 Census. Definite grades or qualities were also established for each article in the regimen, to ensure that quotations should be given, as far as possible, for the same article at all times and in all places. Improved methods of collecting and weighting average house rentals were also adopted (see paragraph (ii) above).

(v) Changes of the nature mentioned are commonly made in price indexes without seriously impairing their continuity. In accordance with established principles of procedure in changing the regimen (see Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paragraphs 14 and 18), the general level of the index is taken as determined by the old regimen for the quarter in which the change is made, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price-level after that date. The linking up of the index-numbers on the old and the new basis is effected by the usual method of equating the respective weighted aggregate costs of the old and the new regimens in the six capital cities.

While this involves no break of continuity in the index-numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, slight alterations of the relative positions of individual towns are inevitable on account of the alteration of former standards. The effect, however, is more noticeable in the Group index-

* Revisions of collection and compilation methods have occupied a longer period, and are still proceeding. Proper precautions are taken to prevent such revisions from disturbing the essential principle of continuity.

numbers than in those covering a combination of groups, wherein the losses and gains tend to balance out. Thus, in comparing group index-numbers for individual towns in respect of periods including the dates of change referred to in paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, the following considerations should be kept in mind :—

Food and groceries.—These index-numbers are substantially comparable throughout the period up to the June quarter of 1936. From and including the September quarter of 1936, the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other, but are not strictly so with those for previous quarters.

Rent.—No change was ever made in the method of calculating the rentals of "All Houses", and consequently these index-numbers were comparable throughout the whole period of their existence.* In regard to rentals of houses of 4 and 5 rooms, however, the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other up to the June quarter of 1936. In the September quarter, 1936, a change was made in the weighting system which gave rise to slight disparities not due to rental fluctuations, and rendered the index-numbers for individual towns not strictly comparable with those of former periods. The change, however, made the index-numbers for any one town more comparable with those of other towns. In the December quarter of 1936 the rent tabulations in the two principal towns of each State were placed on an entirely new basis, which rendered them incomparable individually with index-numbers of previous periods. This change was also introduced with the object of making the index-numbers for the principal towns more comparable *inter se* in any given quarter.

Clothing and Miscellaneous.—The index-numbers for individual towns up to and including 1934 are comparable with those for previous periods. Those for 1935, and the March and June quarters of 1936, are comparable for those periods, but not with the index-numbers of former or subsequent periods. From and including the September quarter of 1936, the index-numbers for individual towns are substantially comparable with each other, both from quarter to quarter and from town to town, but for individual towns they are not strictly continuous with those of previous periods.

§ 9. Retail Price Index-Numbers and Wage Variations.

In view of the fact that several "series" of retail price index-numbers are still associated with the variation of wages, the following short explanation of their significance is given.

It is desirable again to emphasize the fact that the retail price index-numbers compiled by the Bureau are designed to measure the variations in the cost of the definite regimen of commodities and services covered by each of the series. The use made of them by wage-fixing tribunals for the purpose of adjusting wage-rates is entirely the responsibility of the tribunals concerned, and not of the Bureau, although the Bureau fully realizes the great importance of the use to which these indexes are put in this connexion, and takes every care to make them as accurate as possible.

* The tabulation of the "A" Series Index for which these rents were used was discontinued after the issue for June quarter, 1938.

(i) "*A*" Series.—The "*A*" series of indexes cover the items food and groceries and the rent of all houses, with the year 1911 as the base (1,000). This series was first compiled in 1912, and is available yearly for the six capital cities from 1901 to 1911, and quarterly for 30 important towns of Australia from 1912 to the June quarter of 1938, after which it was discontinued.

This is the series which the Commonwealth Arbitration Court adopted in 1913 to determine the relative basic wage for towns throughout Australia, and to vary what is popularly known as the "Harvester" Basic Wage of 1907—the wage (42s. per week for Melbourne) declared by Mr. Justice Higgins to be sufficient to meet the "normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being, living in a civilized community." This series has had very little application since May, 1933, as the result of the adoption by the Court successively of the "*D*" series at that date, the "*C*" series in May, 1934, and the "Court" series in July, 1937.

(ii) "*B*" Series.—The "*B*" series covers the items food and groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-1927 as the base (1,000). This series was first compiled in 1925, and is available for the six capital cities for the years 1907 and 1911, and for the month of November of the years 1914 to 1920, and quarterly thereafter for the 30 important towns of Australia. It was designed to replace the "*A*" Series, but up to date has not been used in connexion with the fixation or adjustment of wages by Industrial Tribunals. This series appears on pages 9 to 13 of this Report.

(iii) "*C*" Series.—The "*C*" series covers all items of household expenditure, viz., food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing (man, wife and three children); household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-1927 as the base (1,000).

This series was introduced as the result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and the regimen adopted was practically that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission. It was first compiled in 1921 and is available for the month of November for the six capital cities for the years 1914 to 1921, quarterly for these cities from June quarter, 1922, and quarterly for the 30 important towns from March quarter, 1925 to date.

The series was not used in connexion with the variation of wages until its partial adoption by the Commonwealth Court in May, 1933, when that Court introduced the "*D*" series of indexes (for explanation of which see next page). In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted the "*C*" series as the sole basis for the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment. In its judgment of 23rd June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court adopted this index as the basis of the "Court" series for the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the Court's new basic wage (see next page). The Court is, of course, quite free to alter the basis of the "Court" series at any time it thinks fit.

This series, covering as it does a far wider range of commodities, displays a different relationship between the towns from that shown in the preceding series ("A" and "B"). The series is published on pages 14 to 24 of this Report.

(iv) *The "Court" Series.*—The "Court" series of index-numbers was created by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, and operated from 1st July, 1937. Its purpose was to provide a set of index-numbers which would be published by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible for the fixation and adjustment of wage-rates. Its introduction has the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the manner most convenient for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards. It is at present based on the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index, and is obtained as follows:—The "C" series index-number for any town for the quarter in question is multiplied by .081, and the first three figures on the left of the product are taken as the corresponding number in the "Court" series. This number itself states in whole and decimal figures the number of shillings with current purchasing power equivalent to that of 8rs. when the "C" series index-number is 1,000. The base of the series is, therefore, the weighted average of the six capital cities, 1923-27 = 8rs. The judgment provides that the nearest whole number of shillings (a decimal of .5 or over being regarded as a whole number) shall be taken as the "needs" basic wage, to which will be added the relevant fixed "prosperity loadings" granted by the Court. The "Court" series entirely supersedes the "C" series for all wage adjustments decreed by the Commonwealth Court. A set of index-numbers under this series is reproduced in Appendix III. of this Report.

(v) *"D" Series.*—The "D" series is a combination of the "A" and "C" series, and was introduced by the Commonwealth Court for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. "cut" imposed by the Court in January, 1931. It came into operation from 1st May, 1933, and was devised in order to counteract the excessive drop in wages occasioned by the "A" series index after 1929.

The series has for its base the "A" series index for each town for the December quarter of 1929, which is varied according to the ratio of change indicated by the "C" series index-number for the whole of 1929 and the corresponding "C" index-number of the town for the quarter for which the adjustment is to be made. It will thus be seen that, whereas the "D" index for each town from the December quarter of 1929 fluctuated in the same way as the "C" index for the same town, the relationship of different towns was that of the "A" series for the December quarter of 1929, slightly modified by the difference in movement between the "A" series and the "C" series index for each town since that quarter.

This series has been superseded by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" series. The index-numbers of this series were published in Appendix VIII. of Labour Reports Nos. 24 to 27.

(vi) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen of food and groceries is a component part of each of the series of retail price index-numbers mentioned above. Details of the regimen will be found on page 3. This index was first compiled in 1912 and is available yearly for the six capital cities from 1901 to 1911 and monthly for the 30 important towns of Australia from 1912 to date. An index computed from the prices of food and groceries only was for a time used for the adjustment of old-age and invalid pensions, and is still employed for the adjustment of the wages of members of the North Australian Workers' Union above the 20th parallel.

(vii) *The "200 Towns" Series.*—This series is tabulated for the month of November each year in respect of 200 of the more important towns of the Commonwealth. Up to November, 1936 it covered the cost of food and groceries combined with the rent of 4 and of 5-roomed houses respectively, but thereafter the tabulation has been limited to food and groceries only. This table has been used mostly in discussions of suitable relative rates for country towns, but the index-numbers have not been directly employed by Industrial Tribunals in this connexion. The base of this table is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in 1923-27 = 1,000. This series has been compiled for the month of November since 1913. It was originally confined to 100 towns, but was increased to 150 in 1915, and 200 in 1923. The index-numbers will be found on pages 25 to 30.

(viii) *Relative Merits of Series.*—The relative merits of the various series of index-numbers have been much discussed. Prices of all commodities do not change simultaneously nor to the same degree. Consequently, over short periods there may be differences of some magnitude between the results ascertained from the different series, but over longer periods these differences tend to be much reduced.

Thus, taking the movement of the following retail price indexes for the six capital cities over the two periods 1911 to 1939 and 1929 to 1939, as disclosed by the table in Appendix VII. of this Report, the changes are substantially of the same order:—

	Increase per cent., 1911-1939.	Decrease per cent., 1929-1939.
Food and Groceries only	66	11
Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses	58	10
Food Groceries and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses ("B" Series)	63	11
"All Items" of Household Expenditure ("C" Series)	53*	11

* Taken back to 1911 from base 1914 by means of "A" Series Index.

(ix) For information in regard to the different bases upon which the above index-numbers have been compiled, see page 7.

§ 10. International Comparisons: Retail Price Index-Numbers.

The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices for (i) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (ii) foodstuffs only. For the countries included, the prices for the year 1929 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken chiefly from the League of Nations *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, and the International Labour Office *Year Book of Labour Statistics*, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are obviously not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries.

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

(i) COST OF LIVING.*

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	BELGIUM.	CHINA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
Number of Towns and Localities.	68-509	59	Shanghai.	100	21	45 (a)	72	50	Tokio.	Amsterdam.
1932 ..	88	84	110	90	84	91	78	83	75	84
1933 ..	85	83	99	92	82	87	77	80	80	83
1934 ..	86	79	98	96	86	82	79	76	84	83
1935 ..	87	80	99	99	81	80	77	84	81	81
1936 ..	89	85	108	101	82	86	81	83	88	79
1937 ..	94	92	122	104	86	102	81	91	96	82
1938 ..	95	94	139	106	88	117	82	98	110	83
1939 ..	96	93	182	109	90	..	82	..	123	83
1939—										
March Qtr. ..	94	94	139	106	89	122	82	99	117	82
June ..	94	91	149	106	88	123	82	102	122	81
Sept. ..	97	91	194	110	88	..	83	..	124	82
Dec. ..	105	96	247	118	93	..	82	..	130	86
1940—										
March Qtr. ..	109	100	318	128	98	..	83	..	138	88

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Number of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	49	34	51-174	30	Bombay. (b)	60	25	9
1932 ..	90	74	92	86	79	81	..	82	84	90
1933 ..	89	67	91	81	76	78	..	79	79	88
1934 ..	89	62	91	80	70	80	..	79	81	87
1935 ..	91	60	92	80	81	81	100	80	83	88
1936 ..	93	58	93	81	85	83	101	81	86	88
1937 ..	100	62	95	85	88	85	106	83	92	91
1938 ..	103	61	98	85	86	87	106	84	95	94
1939 ..	105	..	101	86	85	89	106	84	98	94
1939—										
March Qtr. ..	102	60	99	85	85	89	104	83	96	94
June ..	103	61	99	87	85	89	103	83	98	94
Sept. ..	101	..	101	84	85	89	105	84	99	93
Dec. ..	106	..	105	83	86	89	110	85	101	94
1940—										
March Qtr. ..	113	..	109	90	85	90	112	85	105	96

* With the following exception the index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items:—Japan, exclusive of housing. (a) Base: year 1929 = 100. (b) Base: year 1933-34 = 100.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries—continued.

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

(III) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	IRELAND.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
Number of Towns and Localities.	68-509	59	100	36	Paris.	72	105	Milan.	Tokio.	Amsterdam.
1927 ..	104	95	103	..	92	98	103	98	104	100
1928 ..	102	92	103	..	100	98	103	96	100	103
1929 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930 ..	94	95	95	..	104	104	97	94	95	93
1931 ..	85	81	79	..	105	84	87	82	74	84
1932 ..	82	60	76	..	94	74	88	78	78	74
1933 ..	78	60	79	..	91	73	78	75	79	74
1934 ..	79	65	84	..	81	70	80	70	81	70
1935 ..	81	67	91	..	83	77	88	72	84	73
1936 ..	84	73	92	..	90	79	87	77	91	74
1937 ..	90	80	95	87	110	70	97	85	95	78
1938 ..	92	82	98	88	126	78	94	92	95	80
1939 ..	92	80	..	91	..	79	97	..	102	80

Period.	NORWAY	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Number of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	40	34	51	30	Bombay. (a)	60	25	9
1927 ..	110	105	101	101	102	96	..	97	97	103
1928 ..	106	103	103	101	98	95	..	98	99	102
1929 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	..	100	100	100
1930 ..	95	86	93	97	92	90	..	98	96	96
1931 ..	88	76	86	90	75	79	..	77	83	91
1932 ..	85	67	83	80	63	77	..	64	77	83
1933 ..	83	60	81	75	64	72	100	63	72	86
1934 ..	84	54	81	74	71	75	101	69	76	80
1935 ..	87	51	85	73	76	77	103	70	82	88
1936 ..	91	50	89	77	78	79	107	73	86	88
1937 ..	100	56	92	83	81	82	114	77	94	89
1938 ..	104	54	95	83	75	85	113	77	98	93
1939 ..	106	..	99	85	84	89	114	75	104	93

(a) Base 1933=100.