

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 a supervising field officer is 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. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be abnormal.

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. The returns from the larger cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, all of which are inspected by the Bureau's field officers. The returns from the smaller provincial towns are in the form of averages supplied by house-agents. As opportunity permits the system of listing and inspecting individual houses in provincial towns is being extended.

§ 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 above 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:—

| Groups. | 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, 4th Quarter, 1937. (a) |
|-----|-------|-------|----------------------------|---|
|-----|-------|-------|----------------------------|---|

SECTION A.—GROCERIES.

| | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-----|-----|
| 1 | Bread, white flour (cash delivered) .. | 2-lb. loaf .. | 100 | 6.3 |
| 2 | Flour, ordinary | 2 lb. .. | 25 | 1.3 |
| 3 | Flour, self-raising | 2-lb. pkt. . . | 12 | 1.0 |
| 4 | Tea | 1-lb. pkt. . . | 8 | 2.7 |
| 5 | Sugar, white granulated, IA .. | 1 lb. .. | 100 | 4.9 |
| 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 | 0.7 |
| 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 | 0.9 |
| 18 | Onions, brown | 1 lb. .. | 14 | 0.3 |
| 19 | Soap | 1 lb. .. | 16 | 1.4 |
| 20 | Kerosene, lighting, bulk | quart .. | 4 | 0.3 |

SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

| | | | | |
|----|---|-----------|----|-----|
| 21 | Butter, factory "choicest" .. | 1-lb. .. | 30 | 6.8 |
| 22 | Cheese, ordinary, mild | 1 lb. .. | 4 | 0.6 |
| 23 | Eggs, standard, new laid | 1 doz. .. | 6 | 1.3 |
| 24 | Bacon, rashers, best middle .. | 1 lb. .. | 12 | 2.9 |
| 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 | 2.2 |
| 28 | Rib (Roast) including bone .. | 1 lb. .. | 22 | 2.2 |
| 29 | Steak—Rump | 1 lb. .. | 11 | 1.9 |
| 30 | Steak—Chuck (stewing) | 1 lb. .. | 20 | 1.5 |
| 31 | Sausages | 1 lb. .. | 7 | 0.5 |
| Beef (corned)— | | | | |
| 32 | Silverside, average quality .. | 1 lb. .. | 14 | 1.4 |
| 33 | Brisket, rolled | 1 lb. .. | 15 | 1.1 |
| Mutton (fresh)— | | | | |
| 34 | Leg | 1 lb. .. | 20 | 1.8 |
| 35 | Forequarter | 1 lb. .. | 15 | 0.8 |
| 36 | Loin | 1 lb. .. | 4 | 0.4 |
| 37 | Chops—Loin | 1 lb. .. | 30 | 3.0 |
| 38 | Chops—Leg | 1 lb. .. | 10 | 1.0 |
| Pork (fresh)— | | | | |
| 39 | Leg | 1 lb. .. | 3 | 0.4 |
| 40 | Loin | 1 lb. .. | 3 | 0.4 |
| 41 | Chops | 1 lb. .. | 3 | 0.4 |

GROUP II.—HOUSING.—SECTION D.—RENT.

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------|-------|------|
| 42 | House Accommodation(b) .. | week .. | 52(c) | 40.9 |
|----|---------------------------|---------|-------|------|

(a) "D" 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 | 51 | Singlet, Cotton (athletic) .. | 1.00 |
| 6 | Shirt, working—Drill | 4.00 | 52 | Braces | 1.00 |
| 7 | Collar, semi-soft, white | 6.00 | 53 | Stockings, Golf, All Wool .. | 4.00 |
| 8 | Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves) | 1.00 | 54 | Pyjamas, Winceyette | 1.50 |
| 9 | Singlet, Cotton (athletic) | 1.00 | 55 | Pullover, All Wool | 0.50 |
| 10 | Underpants, Wool and Cotton (full length) | 1.00 | 56 | Shoes (for best wear), Box Yearling | 1.00 |
| 11 | Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" (plain) | 1.00 | 57 | Boots (school), Box Yearling .. | 2.00 |
| 12 | Sox, All Wool (fancy) | 2.00 | SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS). | | |
| 13 | Sox, Wool and Cotton (fancy) .. | 4.00 | 58 | Dress, Wool-de-chine | 1.00 |
| 14 | Braces | 1.33 | 59 | Dress, Cotton | 3.00 |
| 15 | Handkerchief, Cotton | 6.00 | 61 | Top Coat, Tweed (Australian) .. | 0.33 |
| 16 | Pyjamas, Winceyette | 1.50 | 62 | Hat, Wool Felt (Australian) .. | 1.00 |
| 17 | Pullover, All Wool | 1.00 | 63 | Hat, Straw | 2.00 |
| 18 | Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf .. | 0.50 | 64 | Petticoat, Art Silk | 1.00 |
| 19 | Boots, working, Box Hide | 1.50 | 65 | Singlet, Silk and Wool | 0.50 |
| SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN. | | | 67 | Singlet, Art Silk | 0.50 |
| 20 | Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) | 0.50 | 68 | Bloomers, Cotton, fleecy-lined .. | 2.00 |
| 21 | Skirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) | 1.25 | 69 | Bloomers, Art Silk | 2.00 |
| 22 | Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) | 0.75 | 70 | Stockings, Cashmere | 4.00 |
| 23 | Hat, Straw | 1.50 | 71 | Pyjamas, Winceyette | 0.33 |
| 24 | Frock, ready-made, Cotton | 1.50 | 72 | Pyjamas, Art Silk | 0.33 |
| 25 | Frock, ready-made, Art Silk | 1.50 | 73 | Pullover, All Wool | 0.50 |
| 26 | Brassiere, Cotton Brocade | 4.50 | 74 | Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather | 0.67 |
| 27 | Undervest, Wool and Art Silk .. | 1.50 | 75 | Shoes (school), Box Yearling .. | 1.50 |
| 28 | Undervest, Art Silk | 1.50 | SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS). | | |
| 29 | Bloomers, Art Silk | 4.50 | 76 | House Coat | 3.00 |
| 30 | Princess Slip, Art Silk | 1.00 | 77 | Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) | 3.00 |
| 31 | Stockings, Silk | 6.00 | 78 | Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) | 0.33 |
| 32 | Stockings, Lisle | 3.00 | 79 | Hat, Cloth | 1.33 |
| 33 | Gloves, Fabric | 2.25 | 80 | Singlet, Wool and Cotton | 1.00 |
| 34 | Gloves, Nappa | 0.75 | 81 | Singlet, Cotton (athletic) | 1.00 |
| 35 | Nightdress, Art Silk | 1.50 | 82 | Sox, Art Silk and Lisle | 4.00 |
| 36 | Pyjamas, Winceyette | 1.50 | 83 | Pyjamas, Winceyette | 2.00 |
| 37 | Dressing Gown, Art Silk | 0.50 | 84 | Pullover, All Wool | 0.50 |
| 38 | Apron, Cotton | 6.00 | 85 | Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather | 1.00 |
| 39 | Cardigan, All Wool | 0.50 | 86 | Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling | 2.00 |
| 40 | Shoes (for best wear), Glace Kid .. | 1.50 | SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS). | | |
| 41 | Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf | 1.50 | 44 | Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) | 1.00 |
| 42 | | | 45 | Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) | 3.00 |
| 43 | | | | | |

* 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.U. 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) .. | 7 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 .. | 3 00 | 32 | Firewood (blocks) (cwt) (a) .. | 40 |
| 9 | Table Cloth .. | 0 20 | 33 | Gas, cooking (units) (a) .. | 1 518 |
| 10 | Tea Towel (yard) .. | 4 00 | 34 | Electric lighting (units) .. | 130 |
| SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS. | | | 35 | Electric power (units) (a) .. | 130 |
| 11 | Cup and Saucer (Stone China) .. | 2 00 | No. | Item. | Amount per week (per household). |
| 12 | Plate, Dinner (Stone China) .. | 2 00 | SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS. | | |
| 13 | Jug, Quart (Brownware) .. | 1 00 | 36 | Union Dues .. | d. |
| 14 | Teapot, Brownware (2-pint) .. | 0 25 | 37 | Lodge Dues .. | (b) |
| 15 | Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 6-inch | 1 00 | 38 | Medicine .. | 24 |
| 16 | Tumbler (9-oz.) .. | 1 00 | 39 | Newspapers .. | (b) |
| 17 | Kettle, Enamel (6-pint) .. | 0 20 | 40 | Recreation .. | 24 |
| 18 | Kettle, Aluminum (6-pint) .. | 0 20 | 41 | Smoking .. | (b) |
| 19 | Saucepan, Aluminum (3-pint) .. | 0 40 | 42 | Fares .. | (b) |
| 20 | Bucket, Galvanized (12-inch) .. | 0 20 | 43 | School requisites .. | 3 |
| 21 | Dipper, Galvanized (2-quart) .. | 0 20 | | | |
| 22 | Broom, Millet .. | 0 50 | | | |
| 23 | Broom, Hair, complete (11-inch) .. | 0 33 | | | |
| 24 | Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch) .. | 1 50 | | | |
| 25 | Mop, Polishing, complete .. | 0 20 | | | |

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

(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 in Australia of the units of quantity shown in the column headed "Unit". Thus the *per capita* consumption of bread in Australia is estimated to be 100 2-lb. loaves, and of sugar 100 lb. 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 L, the "mass units" represent the estimated annual consumption per head of the articles mentioned. In the case of Section 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 an annual *per capita* basis. 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; while 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 1937. 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 | 13.2 |
| | B Dairy Produce | 10.4 |
| | C Meat | 11.2 |
| II. Housing | D House Rent (4 and 5 rooms) | 24.1 |
| | E Man | 8.3 |
| | F Woman | 8.9 |
| III. Clothing | G Boy, 10½ years | 1.6 |
| | H Girl, 7 years | 1.1 |
| | J Boy, 3½ years | 0.6 |
| | K Household Drapery | 1.2 |
| | L Household Utensils | 0.5 |
| IV. Miscellaneous | M Miscellaneous and Light | 5.5 |
| | N Other Miscellaneous | 13.4 |
| | | 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.

* From Labour Report No. 16 to date these index-numbers will be found in the Appendix to each Report, and in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics.

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

| Group. | 1923-27 to 1911. | 1911 to 1923-27. | 1923-27 to 1914. | 1914 to 1923-27. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Food and Groceries | 1.7880 | 0.55929 | 1.5597 | 0.64116 |
| Rent (4 and 5 Rooms) | 1.6350 | 0.61161 | 1.5415 | 0.64872 |
| Food and Rent (" B " Series) | 1.7306 | 0.57785 | 1.5532 | 0.64384 |
| Clothing | .. | .. | 1.3261 | 0.75412 |
| Miscellaneous | .. | .. | 1.3353 | 0.74891 |
| All Items (" C " Series) | .. | .. | 1.4553 | 0.68715 |

The results obtained by the above method 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 | 319 | Perth, etc | 208 | Hobart | 60 |
| Newcastle | 105 | Bairarat .. | 38 | T'woomba | 26 | Kadina, etc. | 11 | Kalg'lie, etc | 17 | Launceston | 33 |
| Broken Hill | 27 | Bendigo .. | 29 | Rockham'n | 29 | Pt. Pirie | 12 | Northam | 5 | Burnie .. | 4 |
| Goulburn | 15 | Geelong .. | 59 | 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 (2) and Warwick (7) 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 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 the 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 1937.**—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. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. | 1937. |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| SECTION A.—GROCERIES. | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 510 | 574 | 627 | 1,115 | 844 | 851 | 875 | 859 | 872 |
| Melbourne | 461 | 521 | 561 | 1,070 | 714 | 758 | 824 | 829 | 829 |
| Brisbane | 547 | 614 | 607 | 1,105 | 771 | 806 | 846 | 868 | 869 |
| Adelaide | 510 | 541 | 598 | 1,076 | 718 | 782 | 804 | 814 | 838 |
| Perth | 572 | 720 | 628 | 1,103 | 761 | 846 | 852 | 864 | 906 |
| Hobart | 501 | 566 | 604 | 1,087 | 789 | 810 | 812 | 840 | 871 |
| Weighted Average (a) .. | 499 | 564 | 599 | 1,093 | 774 | 809 | 846 | 846 | 857 |
| SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE. | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 551 | 574 | 656 | 1,080 | 758 | 780 | 788 | 791 | 817 |
| Melbourne | 571 | 567 | 635 | 1,087 | 687 | 718 | 750 | 773 | 813 |
| Brisbane | 495 | 581 | 588 | 983 | 686 | 683 | 691 | 709 | 768 |
| Adelaide | 548 | 651 | 705 | 1,018 | 677 | 690 | 715 | 728 | 774 |
| Perth | 709 | 733 | 735 | 1,152 | 731 | 765 | 801 | 816 | 830 |
| Hobart | 564 | 587 | 695 | 1,091 | 641 | 665 | 701 | 702 | 765 |
| Weighted Average (a) .. | 563 | 591 | 654 | 1,072 | 715 | 739 | 758 | 771 | 807 |

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

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

| TOWN. | 1907. | 1911. | 1914. | 1921. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. | 1937. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| SECTION C—MEAT. | | | | | | | | | |
| Sydney | 519 | 501 | 668 | 960 | 764 | 821 | 835 | 881 | 906 |
| Melbourne | 557 | 485 | 663 | 1,030 | 731 | 758 | 755 | 809 | 857 |
| Brisbane | 535 | 488 | 610 | 897 | 599 | 647 | 719 | 764 | 825 |
| Adelaide | 535 | 541 | 784 | 1,095 | 809 | 832 | 804 | 839 | 851 |
| Perth | 789 | 824 | 881 | 1,103 | 777 | 798 | 788 | 867 | 887 |
| Hobart | 668 | 638 | 780 | 1,244 | 817 | 861 | 849 | 928 | 964 |
| Weighted Average (a) .. | 558 | 522 | 691 | 1,010 | 746 | 784 | 792 | 842 | 877 |

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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sydney | 523 | 553 | 646 | 1,062 | 800 | 825 | 840 | 848 | 868 |
| Melbourne | 517 | 523 | 610 | 1,063 | 713 | 748 | 784 | 809 | 836 |
| Brisbane | 530 | 569 | 603 | 1,014 | 699 | 727 | 763 | 791 | 828 |
| Adelaide | 532 | 570 | 679 | 1,066 | 731 | 767 | 780 | 798 | 826 |
| Perth | 670 | 753 | 728 | 1,116 | 757 | 807 | 821 | 853 | 881 |
| Hobart | 565 | 592 | 678 | 1,133 | 757 | 786 | 792 | 827 | 870 |
| Weighted Average (a) .. | 533 | 559 | 640 | 1,064 | 751 | 783 | 806 | 825 | 851 |

SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sydney | 593 | 701 | 760 | 989 | 864 | 869 | 891 | 930 | 965 |
| Melbourne | 455 | 569 | 628 | 820 | 801 | 808 | 850 | 882 | 909 |
| Brisbane | 283 | 373 | 466 | 630 | 681 | 691 | 720 | 766 | 822 |
| Adelaide | 510 | 706 | 655 | 809 | 694 | 700 | 736 | 795 | 832 |
| Perth | 458 | 524 | 589 | 739 | 795 | 794 | 792 | 844 | 861 |
| Hobart | 405 | 452 | 518 | 881 | 860 | 865 | 890 | 908 | 899 |
| Weighted Average (a) .. | 497 | 612 | 662 | 862 | 804 | 810 | 83 | 879 | 912 |

ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sydney | 548 | 606 | 687 | 1,036 | 822 | 840 | 858 | 878 | 904 |
| Melbourne | 495 | 539 | 616 | 977 | 742 | 769 | 808 | 815 | 862 |
| Brisbane | 442 | 500 | 554 | 877 | 690 | 713 | 747 | 781 | 824 |
| Adelaide | 524 | 618 | 671 | 975 | 716 | 742 | 764 | 796 | 826 |
| Perth | 594 | 672 | 679 | 982 | 768 | 802 | 810 | 849 | 871 |
| Hobart | 508 | 542 | 621 | 1,044 | 792 | 814 | 827 | 856 | 879 |
| Weighted Average (a) .. | 520 | 578 | 648 | 992 | 768 | 792 | 818 | 844 | 872 |

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

3. Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns, 1933 to 1938.—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.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 800 | 799 | 880 | 785 | 779 | 801 | 713 | 732 | 733 | 738 | 746 | 715 |
| 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 | 760 |
| 1936 .. | 848 | 860 | 949 | 841 | 838 | 851 | 809 | 830 | 824 | 806 | 823 | 810 |
| 1937 .. | 868 | 880 | 1,001 | 874 | 855 | 872 | 836 | 857 | 851 | 834 | 834 | 837 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 872 | 885 | 978 | 857 | 858 | 875 | 817 | 853 | 845 | 815 | 832 | 819 |
| June .. | 857 | 875 | 994 | 862 | 848 | 861 | 824 | 846 | 847 | 821 | 831 | 825 |
| Sept. .. | 865 | 870 | 1,001 | 889 | 853 | 869 | 848 | 863 | 853 | 842 | 835 | 848 |
| Dec. .. | 879 | 882 | 1,031 | 889 | 859 | 882 | 853 | 865 | 858 | 856 | 837 | 854 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 878 | 892 | 1,066 | 901 | 875 | 883 | 850 | 860 | 862 | 847 | 843 | 850 |
| 1937. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 878 | 887 | 978 | 860 | 860 | 880 | 829 | 862 | 857 | 820 | 839 | 830 |
| February .. | 872 | 887 | 977 | 857 | 857 | 875 | 815 | 853 | 840 | 817 | 832 | 817 |
| March .. | 865 | 882 | 980 | 854 | 848 | 868 | 808 | 845 | 838 | 810 | 824 | 810 |
| April .. | 865 | 879 | 993 | 855 | 850 | 868 | 819 | 848 | 849 | 819 | 831 | 821 |
| May .. | 853 | 874 | 996 | 854 | 849 | 857 | 825 | 848 | 848 | 822 | 834 | 827 |
| June .. | 854 | 871 | 992 | 878 | 845 | 858 | 827 | 843 | 844 | 823 | 829 | 828 |
| July .. | 862 | 880 | 995 | 886 | 854 | 866 | 839 | 855 | 853 | 827 | 828 | 840 |
| August .. | 858 | 879 | 995 | 882 | 852 | 862 | 842 | 862 | 848 | 838 | 837 | 837 |
| September .. | 874 | 878 | 1,013 | 898 | 853 | 877 | 862 | 871 | 859 | 860 | 839 | 862 |
| October .. | 884 | 878 | 1,009 | 885 | 852 | 886 | 861 | 869 | 859 | 857 | 837 | 861 |
| November .. | 877 | 882 | 1,036 | 888 | 861 | 880 | 848 | 860 | 853 | 857 | 834 | 849 |
| December .. | 876 | 885 | 1,046 | 893 | 863 | 880 | 851 | 867 | 863 | 853 | 840 | 852 |
| 1938. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 876 | 886 | 1,045 | 894 | 872 | 880 | 848 | 860 | 860 | 854 | 840 | 849 |
| February .. | 880 | 893 | 1,076 | 904 | 877 | 885 | 847 | 859 | 864 | 841 | 841 | 841 |
| March .. | 879 | 897 | 1,076 | 906 | 877 | 884 | 853 | 862 | 863 | 845 | 848 | 853 |

HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 864 | 779 | 630 | 812 | 781 | 850 | 801 | 636 | 641 | 721 | 795 | 785 |
| 1934 .. | 869 | 789 | 642 | 820 | 780 | 857 | 808 | 652 | 658 | 741 | 803 | 796 |
| 1935 .. | 891 | 839 | 644 | 860 | 777 | 881 | 850 | 666 | 688 | 812 | 843 | 838 |
| 1936 .. | 930 | 857 | 653 | 879 | 814 | 918 | 882 | 683 | 702 | 861 | 836 | 869 |
| 1937 .. | 965 | 830 | 669 | 873 | 816 | 947 | 909 | 699 | 720 | 836 | 859 | 894 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 949 | 818 | 657 | 873 | 817 | 932 | 898 | 698 | 713 | 845 | 842 | 884 |
| June .. | 960 | 825 | 667 | 873 | 816 | 942 | 906 | 701 | 723 | 826 | 850 | 891 |
| Sept. .. | 973 | 833 | 673 | 873 | 816 | 954 | 913 | 699 | 724 | 834 | 873 | 898 |
| Dec. .. | 978 | 842 | 678 | 873 | 816 | 960 | 919 | 699 | 720 | 838 | 871 | 903 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 988 | 848 | 710 | 873 | 816 | 969 | 924 | 692 | 709 | 843 | 913 | 908 |

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 822 | 791 | 789 | 794 | 778 | 818 | 742 | 696 | 698 | 731 | 761 | 738 |
| 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 | 829 | 875 | 835 | 780 | 777 | 825 | 827 | 831 |
| 1937 .. | 904 | 858 | 869 | 872 | 838 | 899 | 862 | 794 | 798 | 833 | 842 | 857 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 900 | 857 | 851 | 861 | 840 | 895 | 847 | 791 | 792 | 825 | 834 | 843 |
| June .. | 895 | 853 | 864 | 864 | 834 | 891 | 854 | 788 | 797 | 821 | 837 | 849 |
| Sept. .. | 905 | 859 | 871 | 881 | 837 | 900 | 871 | 797 | 801 | 837 | 848 | 866 |
| Dec. .. | 916 | 864 | 891 | 880 | 840 | 910 | 877 | 798 | 802 | 847 | 848 | 871 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 919 | 873 | 925 | 888 | 850 | 915 | 877 | 793 | 801 | 843 | 869 | 871 |

(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. | Wundaberg. | Weighted Average, Queensland. | Adelaide. | Adelaide, Morningside, and Walkerville. | Port Pirie. | Mt. Gambier. | Peterborough. | Weighted Average, S. A. |
| FOOD AND GROCERIES. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1933 .. | 699 | 678 | 749 | 804 | 727 | 706 | 731 | 802 | 750 | 740 | 773 | 735 |
| 1934 .. | 727 | 694 | 766 | 807 | 732 | 730 | 767 | 840 | 795 | 745 | 796 | 770 |
| 1935 .. | 763 | 732 | 803 | 849 | 754 | 765 | 780 | 860 | 813 | 777 | 812 | 784 |
| 1936 .. | 791 | 761 | 846 | 880 | 781 | 795 | 798 | 874 | 864 | 804 | 838 | 803 |
| 1937 .. | 828 | 794 | 863 | 901 | 889 | 835 | 826 | 901 | 912 | 845 | 870 | 832 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 840 | 818 | 866 | 898 | 869 | 845 | 811 | 903 | 898 | 832 | 857 | 818 |
| June .. | 820 | 793 | 867 | 897 | 867 | 828 | 819 | 905 | 914 | 847 | 864 | 826 |
| Sept. .. | 819 | 779 | 854 | 895 | 868 | 826 | 838 | 903 | 918 | 847 | 874 | 843 |
| Dec. .. | 833 | 787 | 870 | 913 | 870 | 839 | 834 | 893 | 919 | 852 | 884 | 839 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 833 | 787 | 879 | 920 | 877 | 841 | 843 | 892 | 945 | 865 | 887 | 847 |
| 1937. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 859 | 837 | 884 | 903 | 883 | 863 | 816 | 898 | 906 | 835 | 852 | 822 |
| February .. | 838 | 815 | 858 | 896 | 863 | 842 | 810 | 910 | 898 | 829 | 860 | 817 |
| March .. | 822 | 804 | 857 | 896 | 861 | 830 | 808 | 902 | 891 | 811 | 860 | 814 |
| April .. | 823 | 804 | 862 | 893 | 862 | 830 | 811 | 905 | 910 | 844 | 864 | 819 |
| May .. | 821 | 793 | 862 | 899 | 865 | 828 | 823 | 906 | 919 | 840 | 865 | 830 |
| June .. | 816 | 784 | 861 | 892 | 873 | 824 | 824 | 901 | 915 | 848 | 862 | 830 |
| July .. | 818 | 780 | 858 | 896 | 869 | 825 | 827 | 909 | 916 | 844 | 874 | 833 |
| August .. | 820 | 779 | 854 | 895 | 871 | 826 | 837 | 908 | 916 | 848 | 874 | 843 |
| September .. | 820 | 777 | 851 | 897 | 864 | 826 | 850 | 893 | 920 | 850 | 873 | 854 |
| October .. | 831 | 786 | 854 | 900 | 864 | 835 | 839 | 887 | 921 | 849 | 881 | 844 |
| November .. | 835 | 789 | 877 | 921 | 873 | 842 | 833 | 897 | 915 | 847 | 884 | 838 |
| December .. | 833 | 785 | 880 | 919 | 874 | 840 | 829 | 894 | 921 | 860 | 886 | 835 |
| 1938. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 830 | 781 | 881 | 918 | 872 | 837 | 836 | 892 | 916 | 869 | 887 | 841 |
| February .. | 835 | 789 | 878 | 919 | 877 | 842 | 845 | 891 | 916 | 863 | 884 | 849 |
| March .. | 835 | 792 | 877 | 924 | 881 | 842 | 848 | 893 | 914 | 862 | 891 | 852 |

HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 681 | 708 | 567 | 517 | 610 | 666 | 694 | 379 | 601 | 610 | 710 | 676 |
| 1934 .. | 691 | 732 | 595 | 515 | 635 | 681 | 700 | 388 | 598 | 623 | 653 | 684 |
| 1935 .. | 720 | 746 | 596 | 530 | 645 | 707 | 736 | 393 | 625 | 626 | 663 | 719 |
| 1936 .. | 766 | 798 | 608 | 510 | 622 | 748 | 795 | 381 | 629 | 648 | 721 | 772 |
| 1937 .. | 822 | 840 | 728 | 844 | 575 | 810 | 832 | 371 | 659 | 685 | 737 | 808 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 817 | 834 | 726 | 848 | 576 | 806 | 814 | 369 | 638 | 691 | 737 | 791 |
| June .. | 821 | 850 | 726 | 848 | 578 | 810 | 822 | 368 | 640 | 683 | 737 | 799 |
| Sept. .. | 823 | 844 | 729 | 842 | 573 | 811 | 838 | 368 | 676 | 681 | 737 | 814 |
| Dec. .. | 827 | 830 | 732 | 838 | 574 | 814 | 852 | 378 | 681 | 686 | 737 | 828 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 834 | 834 | 734 | 851 | 597 | 821 | 857 | 379 | 693 | 686 | 737 | 832 |

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 690 | 684 | 684 | 700 | 684 | 689 | 716 | 631 | 695 | 693 | 748 | 713 |
| 1934 .. | 713 | 705 | 705 | 703 | 694 | 712 | 742 | 680 | 725 | 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 829 | 823 | 809 | 876 | 753 | 828 | 810 | 693 | 795 | 775 | 809 | 806 |
| June .. | 818 | 814 | 806 | 876 | 752 | 819 | 819 | 693 | 805 | 781 | 813 | 814 |
| Sept. .. | 819 | 802 | 804 | 872 | 751 | 818 | 836 | 692 | 821 | 780 | 819 | 830 |
| Dec. .. | 829 | 802 | 814 | 882 | 753 | 827 | 839 | 690 | 824 | 785 | 824 | 833 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 832 | 804 | 820 | 891 | 766 | 831 | 846 | 690 | 826 | 793 | 827 | 839 |

(a) See note at top of 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. | Dunbury. | Ceramidon. | Weighted Average, W.A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | Devonport. | Queensdown | Weighted Average, Tasmania. | | |
| FOOD AND GROCERIES. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1933 .. | 757 | 936 | 807 | 793 | 760 | 777 | 757 | 736 | 764 | 766 | 873 | 756 | 751 | 754 |
| 1934 .. | 807 | 987 | 849 | 846 | 817 | 823 | 786 | 765 | 793 | 795 | 899 | 784 | 783 | 786 |
| 1935 .. | 821 | 977 | 852 | 850 | 846 | 834 | 791 | 780 | 830 | 803 | 905 | 797 | 806 | 810 |
| 1936 .. | 853 | 998 | 868 | 866 | 810 | 856 | 827 | 806 | 847 | 811 | 998 | 824 | 825 | 828 |
| 1937 .. | 881 | 1,012 | 928 | 891 | 961 | 892 | 870 | 857 | 902 | 891 | 927 | 870 | 851 | 854 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr | 868 | 1,010 | 915 | 881 | 973 | 881 | 864 | 846 | 891 | 880 | 922 | 862 | 845 | 849 |
| June .. | 904 | 1,020 | 946 | 897 | 976 | 914 | 865 | 853 | 906 | 889 | 931 | 866 | 843 | 847 |
| Sept. " | 882 | 1,013 | 937 | 893 | 966 | 864 | 866 | 859 | 904 | 901 | 929 | 869 | 853 | 857 |
| Dec. " | 868 | 1,004 | 913 | 891 | 927 | 880 | 885 | 871 | 905 | 895 | 926 | 883 | 861 | 864 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 883 | 1,009 | 920 | 885 | 913 | 894 | 875 | 871 | 906 | 898 | 941 | 878 | 861 | 865 |
| 1937 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 867 | 1,014 | 913 | 880 | 977 | 881 | 870 | 857 | 895 | 891 | 930 | 870 | 853 | 857 |
| February .. | 863 | 1,009 | 907 | 880 | 973 | 877 | 870 | 842 | 892 | 878 | 919 | 864 | 844 | 848 |
| March .. | 873 | 1,007 | 921 | 884 | 969 | 886 | 851 | 839 | 886 | 872 | 917 | 852 | 837 | 842 |
| April .. | 902 | 1,020 | 936 | 895 | 879 | 913 | 866 | 846 | 905 | 883 | 926 | 864 | 844 | 848 |
| May .. | 901 | 1,021 | 943 | 898 | 980 | 912 | 867 | 853 | 906 | 893 | 936 | 868 | 842 | 846 |
| June .. | 908 | 1,019 | 959 | 898 | 969 | 918 | 861 | 861 | 908 | 891 | 931 | 867 | 843 | 847 |
| July .. | 893 | 1,018 | 948 | 899 | 975 | 905 | 861 | 865 | 906 | 902 | 932 | 868 | 849 | 853 |
| August .. | 876 | 1,010 | 934 | 896 | 970 | 890 | 858 | 859 | 898 | 900 | 928 | 864 | 848 | 852 |
| September .. | 876 | 1,011 | 928 | 884 | 954 | 889 | 880 | 853 | 907 | 900 | 929 | 875 | 863 | 865 |
| October .. | 872 | 1,008 | 921 | 884 | 934 | 885 | 883 | 866 | 902 | 898 | 923 | 880 | 866 | 868 |
| November .. | 866 | 1,002 | 905 | 896 | 924 | 879 | 889 | 870 | 906 | 895 | 922 | 885 | 859 | 862 |
| December .. | 864 | 1,003 | 914 | 893 | 924 | 877 | 883 | 878 | 907 | 892 | 933 | 884 | 859 | 863 |
| 1938 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 874 | 1,003 | 915 | 884 | 905 | 885 | 875 | 871 | 903 | 892 | 936 | 878 | 858 | 862 |
| February .. | 878 | 1,006 | 918 | 885 | 915 | 889 | 878 | 873 | 905 | 900 | 940 | 880 | 862 | 866 |
| March .. | 898 | 1,018 | 928 | 885 | 920 | 907 | 871 | 869 | 910 | 904 | 946 | 876 | 864 | 868 |

HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 795 | 816 | 786 | 772 | 941 | 800 | 860 | 770 | 678 | 678 | 699 | 813 | 804 | 788 |
| 1934 .. | 794 | 901 | 781 | 775 | 925 | 805 | 865 | 769 | 657 | 682 | 706 | 814 | 810 | 798 |
| 1935 .. | 792 | 1,050 | 767 | 810 | 940 | 813 | 890 | 778 | 668 | 736 | 730 | 836 | 839 | 828 |
| 1936 .. | 844 | 1,174 | 794 | 886 | 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 857 | 1,305 | 831 | 958 | 1,053 | 895 | 893 | 822 | 773 | 721 | 771 | 854 | 899 | 885 |
| June .. | 858 | 1,309 | 851 | 987 | 1,059 | 898 | 894 | 824 | 830 | 723 | 803 | 859 | 907 | 892 |
| Sept. " | 864 | 1,310 | 872 | 991 | 1,071 | 903 | 901 | 828 | 830 | 727 | 803 | 864 | 917 | 902 |
| Dec. " | 866 | 1,313 | 885 | 994 | 1,071 | 906 | 907 | 830 | 830 | 720 | 813 | 868 | 923 | 907 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 868 | 1,314 | 882 | 993 | 1,057 | 907 | 909 | 831 | 830 | 756 | 771 | 870 | 930 | 914 |

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1933 .. | 768 | 890 | 798 | 782 | 821 | 782 | 792 | 746 | 732 | 733 | 800 | 774 | 768 | 765 |
| 1934 .. | 802 | 955 | 825 | 820 | 855 | 816 | 814 | 766 | 745 | 754 | 830 | 794 | 792 | 790 |
| 1935 .. | 810 | 1,003 | 822 | 836 | 879 | 826 | 827 | 785 | 755 | 783 | 843 | 811 | 818 | 816 |
| 1936 .. | 849 | 1,064 | 858 | 873 | 945 | 867 | 856 | 807 | 810 | 790 | 944 | 835 | 844 | 841 |
| 1937 .. | 871 | 1,126 | 899 | 924 | 999 | 894 | 879 | 843 | 866 | 824 | 874 | 865 | 872 | 869 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 861 | 1,123 | 880 | 909 | 1,006 | 884 | 873 | 835 | 843 | 816 | 861 | 857 | 864 | 861 |
| June .. | 884 | 1,130 | 907 | 930 | 1,002 | 906 | 874 | 840 | 875 | 822 | 879 | 861 | 866 | 863 |
| Sept. " | 873 | 1,127 | 909 | 929 | 1,003 | 896 | 878 | 845 | 873 | 831 | 878 | 865 | 876 | 873 |
| Dec. " | 865 | 1,123 | 900 | 929 | 981 | 888 | 891 | 853 | 874 | 825 | 879 | 875 | 883 | 879 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 875 | 1,126 | 903 | 925 | 967 | 897 | 886 | 854 | 874 | 841 | 873 | 873 | 886 | 882 |

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

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

I. **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 March Quarter 1938.**—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. | Warran-bool. | Weighted Average, Victoria. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 638 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 616 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 964 | 977 | 972 | 950 | 935 | 964 | 923 | 928 | 919 | 941 | 948 | 924 |
| Year 1932 .. | 852 | 836 | 953 | 829 | 818 | 853 | 758 | 767 | 779 | 778 | 801 | 760 |
| " 1933 .. | 800 | 799 | 880 | 785 | 779 | 801 | 713 | 732 | 733 | 738 | 746 | 715 |
| " 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 .. | 846 | 860 | 949 | 841 | 838 | 851 | 800 | 839 | 824 | 806 | 823 | 810 |
| " 1937 .. | 868 | 850 | 1,001 | 874 | 855 | 872 | 836 | 857 | 851 | 834 | 834 | 837 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 872 | 885 | 978 | 857 | 856 | 875 | 817 | 853 | 845 | 815 | 832 | 819 |
| " June .. | 857 | 875 | 904 | 862 | 848 | 861 | 824 | 846 | 847 | 821 | 831 | 825 |
| " Sept .. | 865 | 879 | 1,001 | 889 | 853 | 869 | 848 | 863 | 853 | 842 | 835 | 848 |
| " Dec .. | 879 | 882 | 1,031 | 889 | 859 | 882 | 853 | 865 | 858 | 856 | 837 | 854 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 878 | 862 | 1,066 | 901 | 875 | 883 | 850 | 860 | 862 | 847 | 843 | 850 |

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. | Rock-hampton. | 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 | 981b | 936 | 950 | 941 | 945 | 968 | 923 | 997 | 943 |
| Year 1932 .. | 738 | 729 | 808 | 876b | 770c | 749 | 761 | 848 | 818 | 774 | 816 | 767 |
| " 1933 .. | 699 | 678 | 749 | 802b | 727c | 706 | 731 | 802 | 750 | 740 | 773 | 735 |
| " 1934 .. | 727 | 694 | 766 | 807b | 732c | 730 | 767 | 840 | 795 | 745 | 796 | 770 |
| " 1935 .. | 763 | 734 | 803 | 849b | 754c | 765 | 780 | 866 | 813 | 777 | 814 | 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 840 | 818 | 866 | 898 | 869 | 845 | 811 | 903 | 898 | 832 | 857 | 818 |
| " June " | 820 | 793 | 861 | 897 | 867 | 828 | 819 | 905 | 914 | 847 | 864 | 826 |
| " Sept. " | 819 | 779 | 854 | 895 | 868 | 826 | 838 | 903 | 918 | 847 | 874 | 843 |
| " Dec. " | 833 | 787 | 870 | 913 | 870 | 839 | 834 | 893 | 919 | 852 | 884 | 839 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 833 | 787 | 879 | 920 | 877 | 841 | 843 | 892 | 915 | 863 | 887 | 847 |

| Period. | WESTERN AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | TASMANIA. | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Perth and Fremantle. | Kalgoorlie and Boulder. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Av'ge, W. A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | Devonport. | Queenstown. | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities. | Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 746 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 687 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 641 | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 1,005 | 1,120 | 1,054 | 1,049 | 1,031 | 1,033 | 1,027 | 958 | 1,108 | 996 | 1,077 | 1,011 | 950 | 954 |
| Year 1932 .. | 804 | 974 | 854 | 831 | 862 | 824 | 797 | 779 | 830 | 822 | 904 | 798 | 796 | 801 |
| " 1933 .. | 757 | 936 | 807 | 793 | 760 | 777 | 757 | 736 | 764 | 766 | 873 | 756 | 751 | 754 |
| " 1934 .. | 807 | 987 | 849 | 846 | 817 | 823 | 786 | 765 | 793 | 795 | 899 | 784 | 783 | 786 |
| " 1935 .. | 821 | 977 | 852 | 850 | 846 | 814 | 792 | 789 | 830 | 868 | 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 | 961 | 892 | 870 | 857 | 902 | 891 | 927 | 870 | 851 | 854 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 868 | 1,010 | 915 | 881 | 973 | 881 | 864 | 846 | 891 | 880 | 922 | 862 | 845 | 849 |
| " June " | 904 | 1,029 | 946 | 897 | 976 | 914 | 865 | 853 | 906 | 889 | 931 | 866 | 843 | 847 |
| " Sept. " | 882 | 1,013 | 937 | 893 | 966 | 894 | 866 | 859 | 904 | 901 | 929 | 860 | 853 | 857 |
| " Dec. " | 868 | 1,004 | 913 | 891 | 927 | 880 | 885 | 871 | 905 | 895 | 926 | 883 | 861 | 864 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 883 | 1,009 | 920 | 885 | 923 | 894 | 875 | 871 | 906 | 898 | 941 | 878 | 861 | 865 |

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 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 1932 .. | 894 | 799 | 622 | 841 | 781 | 877 | 816 | 627 | 643 | 738 | 804 | 799 |
| " 1933 .. | 864 | 779 | 630 | 812 | 781 | 850 | 801 | 636 | 641 | 721 | 795 | 783 |
| " 1934 .. | 869 | 789 | 642 | 820 | 780 | 857 | 808 | 652 | 658 | 741 | 803 | 796 |
| " 1935 .. | 891 | 830 | 644 | 860 | 777 | 881 | 850 | 666 | 688 | 812 | 843 | 838 |
| " 1936 .. | 930 | 857 | 653 | 879 | 814 | 918 | 882 | 683 | 702 | 861 | 836 | 869 |
| " 1937 .. | 965 | 830 | 669 | 873 | 816 | 942 | 909 | 699 | 720 | 836 | 859 | 894 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 949 | 818 | 657 | 873 | 817 | 932 | 898 | 698 | 713 | 845 | 842 | 884 |
| " June " | 960 | 825 | 667 | 873 | 816 | 942 | 906 | 701 | 723 | 826 | 850 | 891 |
| " Sept. " | 973 | 833 | 673 | 873 | 816 | 954 | 913 | 699 | 724 | 834 | 873 | 898 |
| " Dec. " | 978 | 842 | 678 | 873 | 816 | 960 | 919 | 699 | 720 | 838 | 871 | 903 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 988 | 848 | 710 | 873 | 816 | 969 | 924 | 692 | 709 | 843 | 913 | 908 |

| Period. | QUEENSLAND. | | | | | | SOUTH AUSTRALIA. | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| | Brisbane. | Toowoomba. | Rockhampton. | Townsville. | Bundaberg. | Weighted Average, Queensland. | Adelaide. | Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo. | Port Pirie. | Mt. Gambler. | Peterborough. | Weighted Average, S.A. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 463 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 611 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 629 | 547 | 470 | 5286 | 5350 | 594 | 819 | 566 | 603 | 492 | 566 | 781 |
| Year 1932 .. | 641 | 649 | 582 | 5426 | 6170 | 633 | 691 | 378 | 624 | 610 | 700 | 673 |
| " 1933 .. | 681 | 708 | 567 | 5176 | 6100 | 666 | 694 | 379 | 601 | 610 | 710 | 676 |
| " 1934 .. | 691 | 732 | 595 | 5156 | 6257 | 681 | 700 | 388 | 598 | 623 | 653 | 684 |
| " 1935 .. | 720 | 746 | 596 | 5306 | 6450 | 707 | 736 | 393 | 625 | 626 | 663 | 719 |
| " 1936 .. | 766 | 798 | 608 | 5106 | 6222 | 748 | 795 | 341 | 629 | 618 | 721 | 772 |
| " 1937 .. | 822 | 840 | 728 | 844 | 575 | 810 | 832 | 371 | 659 | 685 | 737 | 808 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 817 | 834 | 726 | 848 | 576 | 806 | 814 | 369 | 638 | 691 | 737 | 791 |
| " June " | 821 | 850 | 726 | 848 | 578 | 810 | 822 | 368 | 640 | 683 | 737 | 799 |
| " Sept. " | 823 | 844 | 729 | 842 | 573 | 811 | 838 | 368 | 676 | 681 | 737 | 814 |
| " Dec. " | 827 | 830 | 732 | 838 | 574 | 814 | 852 | 378 | 681 | 686 | 737 | 828 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 834 | 834 | 734 | 851 | 597 | 821 | 857 | 379 | 693 | 686 | 737 | 831 |

| Period. | WESTERN AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | TASMANIA. | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Ferth and Fremantle. | Kalgoorlie and Boulder. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Avg. W. A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | Devonport. | Queenstown. | Weighted A'v'g. Tas. | Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities. | Weighted Average, 30 towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 586 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 525 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 754 | 578 | 616 | 649 | 779 | 709 | 870 | 676 | 294 | 150 | 495 | 729 | 649 | 823 |
| Year 1932 .. | 810 | 743 | 805 | 756 | 979 | 805 | 868 | 760 | 702 | 694 | 673 | 816 | 817 | 800 |
| " 1933 .. | 795 | 816 | 786 | 772 | 941 | 800 | 860 | 770 | 678 | 678 | 699 | 813 | 804 | 788 |
| " 1934 .. | 794 | 901 | 781 | 775 | 925 | 805 | 865 | 709 | 657 | 682 | 706 | 814 | 810 | 798 |
| " 1935 .. | 792 | 1,050 | 767 | 816 | 946 | 813 | 890 | 778 | 698 | 736 | 730 | 836 | 839 | 828 |
| " 1936 .. | 844 | 1,174 | 794 | 886 | 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 857 | 1,305 | 831 | 958 | 1,053 | 895 | 893 | 822 | 773 | 721 | 771 | 854 | 899 | 885 |
| " June " | 858 | 1,309 | 851 | 987 | 1,059 | 898 | 894 | 824 | 830 | 723 | 803 | 859 | 907 | 892 |
| " Sept. " | 864 | 1,310 | 872 | 991 | 1,071 | 903 | 901 | 828 | 830 | 727 | 803 | 864 | 917 | 902 |
| " Dec. " | 866 | 1,313 | 885 | 994 | 1,071 | 906 | 907 | 830 | 830 | 720 | 813 | 868 | 923 | 907 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 868 | 1,314 | 882 | 993 | 1,057 | 907 | 909 | 831 | 830 | 756 | 771 | 870 | 930 | 914 |

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 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 | 825 | 926 | 815 | 965 | 895 | 769 | 780 | 844 | 855 | 866 |
| Year 1932 .. | 867 | 823 | 835 | 834 | 805 | 862 | 778 | 717 | 730 | 763 | 802 | 773 |
| " 1933 .. | 822 | 791 | 789 | 794 | 778 | 818 | 742 | 696 | 698 | 731 | 761 | 738 |
| " 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 | 829 | 875 | 835 | 780 | 777 | 825 | 827 | 831 |
| " 1937 .. | 904 | 858 | 869 | 872 | 838 | 899 | 862 | 794 | 798 | 833 | 842 | 857 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 900 | 857 | 851 | 861 | 840 | 895 | 847 | 791 | 792 | 825 | 834 | 843 |
| " June .. | 895 | 853 | 864 | 864 | 834 | 891 | 854 | 788 | 797 | 821 | 837 | 849 |
| " Sept. .. | 905 | 859 | 871 | 881 | 837 | 900 | 871 | 797 | 801 | 837 | 848 | 866 |
| " Dec. .. | 916 | 864 | 861 | 880 | 840 | 910 | 877 | 798 | 802 | 847 | 848 | 871 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 919 | 873 | 925 | 888 | 850 | 915 | 877 | 793 | 801 | 813 | 869 | 871 |

| Period. | QUEENSLAND. | | | | | SOUTH AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| | Brisbane. | Toowoomba. | Rock-hampton. | 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 | 820b | 794c | 824 | 898 | 811 | 839 | 770 | 844 | 885 |
| Year 1932 .. | 704 | 699 | 718 | 758h | 716c | 708 | 736 | 681 | 749 | 714 | 774 | 734 |
| " 1933 .. | 690 | 684 | 684 | 700b | 684c | 689 | 716 | 651 | 695 | 693 | 748 | 713 |
| " 1934 .. | 713 | 705 | 705 | 703b | 694c | 712 | 742 | 680 | 725 | 701 | 746 | 739 |
| " 1935 .. | 747 | 737 | 730 | 736b | 716c | 745 | 764 | 694 | 746 | 723 | 759 | 761 |
| " 1936 .. | 781 | 774 | 757 | 741b | 721c | 777 | 796 | 689 | 775 | 745 | 793 | 791 |
| " 1937 .. | 824 | 810 | 808 | 877 | 752 | 823 | 826 | 692 | 811 | 780 | 816 | 821 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 829 | 823 | 809 | 876 | 753 | 818 | 810 | 693 | 795 | 775 | 809 | 806 |
| " June .. | 818 | 811 | 806 | 876 | 752 | 819 | 819 | 693 | 805 | 781 | 813 | 814 |
| " Sept. .. | 819 | 802 | 804 | 872 | 751 | 818 | 836 | 692 | 821 | 780 | 819 | 830 |
| " Dec. .. | 829 | 802 | 814 | 882 | 753 | 827 | 839 | 690 | 824 | 785 | 824 | 833 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 832 | 804 | 820 | 891 | 766 | 831 | 846 | 690 | 826 | 793 | 827 | 839 |

| Period. | WESTERN AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | TASMANIA. | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|----------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Perth and Fremantle. | Kalgoorlie and Boulder. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Avge, W.A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | Derwent. | Queensdown. | Weighted Average, Tas. | Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities. | Weighted Average, 30 Terras, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 689 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 630 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 916 | 928 | 898 | 907 | 942 | 918 | 971 | 858 | 819 | 696 | 871 | 911 | 844 | 897 |
| Year 1932 .. | 805 | 892 | 836 | 804 | 902 | 817 | 822 | 772 | 784 | 777 | 822 | 804 | 803 | 800 |
| " 1933 .. | 768 | 890 | 798 | 821 | 782 | 792 | 746 | 732 | 739 | 809 | 774 | 768 | 768 | 765 |
| " 1934 .. | 802 | 955 | 825 | 820 | 855 | 816 | 814 | 766 | 745 | 754 | 830 | 794 | 792 | 790 |
| " 1935 .. | 810 | 1,003 | 822 | 836 | 879 | 826 | 827 | 785 | 783 | 783 | 843 | 811 | 818 | 816 |
| " 1936 .. | 849 | 1,064 | 858 | 873 | 945 | 867 | 850 | 807 | 810 | 796 | 844 | 835 | 844 | 841 |
| " 1937 .. | 871 | 1,120 | 899 | 924 | 999 | 894 | 879 | 843 | 866 | 824 | 874 | 863 | 872 | 869 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 861 | 1,123 | 880 | 909 | 1,002 | 884 | 873 | 835 | 843 | 816 | 861 | 857 | 864 | 861 |
| " June .. | 884 | 1,130 | 907 | 930 | 1,006 | 906 | 874 | 840 | 875 | 822 | 878 | 866 | 866 | 863 |
| " Sept. .. | 873 | 1,127 | 909 | 929 | 1,005 | 896 | 878 | 845 | 873 | 831 | 878 | 865 | 876 | 872 |
| " Dec .. | 865 | 1,123 | 900 | 929 | 981 | 888 | 891 | 853 | 874 | 825 | 879 | 875 | 883 | 879 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 875 | 1,120 | 903 | 925 | 967 | 897 | 886 | 854 | 874 | 841 | 873 | 873 | 886 | 882 |

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 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 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 780 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 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 1932 .. | 769 | 841 | 722 | 983 | 798 | 777 | 819 | 851 | 931 | 804 | 935 | 825 |
| " 1933 .. | 743 | 820 | 711 | 948 | 796 | 751 | 811 | 839 | 936 | 794 | 928 | 817 |
| " 1934 .. | 746 | 811 | 696 | 935 | 797 | 753 | 802 | 840 | 929 | 784 | 921 | 807 |
| " 1935 .. | 746 | 810 | 680 | 922 | 790 | 751 | 794 | 856 | 884 | 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 | 862 | 805 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 809 | 788 | 813 | 822 | 805 | 807 | 787 | 822 | 800 | 794 | 816 | 790 |
| " June .. | 817 | 795 | 827 | 831 | 809 | 815 | 799 | 828 | 815 | 807 | 819 | 801 |
| " Sept. .. | 820 | 798 | 828 | 836 | 816 | 819 | 806 | 829 | 820 | 810 | 821 | 807 |
| " Dec. .. | 826 | 803 | 828 | 840 | 819 | 825 | 820 | 843 | 831 | 824 | 832 | 822 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 828 | 806 | 827 | 841 | 820 | 826 | 820 | 843 | 831 | 827 | 832 | 822 |

| Period. | QUEENSLAND. | | | | | | SOUTH AUSTRALIA. | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| | Brisbane. | Toowoomba. | Rockhampton. | Townsville. | Bundaberg. | Weighted Average, Queensland. | Adelaide. | Radiata, Mooloolah, and Wallaroo. | Port Pirie. | Mt. Gambier. | Peterborough. | Weighted Average, S.A. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 657 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 756 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 1,125 | 1,408 | 1,452 | 1,568 | 1,519 | 1,235 | 1,195 | 1,435 | 1,480 | 1,697 | 1,180 | 1,238 |
| Year 1932 .. | 813 | 921 | 835 | 750 | 850 | 822 | 834 | 877 | 792 | 969 | 956 | 818 |
| " 1933 .. | 791 | 912 | 832 | 764 | 844 | 806 | 830 | 849 | 796 | 961 | 951 | 833 |
| " 1934 .. | 786 | 897 | 815 | 750 | 840 | 794 | 846 | 828 | 794 | 944 | 964 | 801 |
| " 1935 .. | 772 | 818 | 824 | 761 | 791 | 779 | 853 | 810 | 803 | 937 | 927 | 852 |
| " 1936 .. | 777 | 779 | 831 | 794 | 767 | 782 | 833 | 803 | 819 | 890 | 851 | 832 |
| " 1937 .. | 794 | 805 | 826 | 812 | 806 | 799 | 821 | 804 | 811 | 818 | 814 | 820 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 780 | 793 | 817 | 805 | 791 | 786 | 801 | 790 | 802 | 813 | 809 | 801 |
| " June .. | 780 | 801 | 825 | 808 | 802 | 794 | 818 | 803 | 809 | 811 | 811 | 817 |
| " Sept. .. | 797 | 807 | 827 | 809 | 808 | 801 | 827 | 809 | 814 | 818 | 814 | 826 |
| " Dec. .. | 811 | 819 | 833 | 826 | 821 | 814 | 839 | 814 | 820 | 827 | 823 | 837 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 813 | 819 | 832 | 826 | 822 | 816 | 849 | 833 | 831 | 830 | 838 | 847 |

| Period. | WESTERN AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | TASMANIA. | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Perth and Fremantle. | Kalgoorlie and Boulder. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Av'ge, W. A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | Devonport. | Queensdown. | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities. | Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 698 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 825 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 754 | .. |
| " 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 | 1,246 | 1,290 |
| Year 1932 .. | 843 | 1,045 | 825 | 901 | 858 | 866 | 886 | 964 | 867 | 840 | 1,067 | 911 | 804 | 818 |
| " 1933 .. | 819 | 1,033 | 791 | 874 | 834 | 843 | 881 | 962 | 847 | 831 | 1,061 | 905 | 787 | 797 |
| " 1934 .. | 817 | 1,035 | 767 | 864 | 821 | 834 | 882 | 958 | 839 | 844 | 1,048 | 907 | 785 | 794 |
| " 1935 .. | 825 | 1,056 | 775 | 911 | 839 | 843 | 903 | 938 | 813 | 827 | 987 | 910 | 783 | 790 |
| " 1936 .. | 815 | 959 | 802 | 878 | 851 | 827 | 857 | 873 | 807 | 826 | 875 | 859 | 792 | 796 |
| " 1937 .. | 806 | 832 | 819 | 828 | 827 | 809 | 821 | 823 | 820 | 832 | 820 | 822 | 811 | 811 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 793 | 823 | 809 | 816 | 820 | 796 | 796 | 795 | 802 | 814 | 808 | 797 | 797 | 798 |
| " June .. | 805 | 832 | 820 | 829 | 825 | 808 | 819 | 802 | 820 | 834 | 818 | 821 | 808 | 808 |
| " Sept. .. | 811 | 835 | 822 | 832 | 828 | 814 | 827 | 833 | 824 | 835 | 820 | 829 | 814 | 814 |
| " Dec. .. | 814 | 837 | 824 | 835 | 835 | 817 | 843 | 839 | 832 | 845 | 835 | 841 | 824 | 824 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 815 | 840 | 828 | 838 | 835 | 818 | 845 | 839 | 833 | 848 | 838 | 842 | 825 | 826 |

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

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Watwick.

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. | Benalla. | Geelong. | Warrnambool. | 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 | 860 | 1,015 | | |
| Year 1932 .. | 906 | 901 | 984 | 883 | 898 | 986 | 925 | 882 | 910 | 886 | 832 | 921 | | |
| " 1933 .. | 958 | 943 | 981 | 871 | 879 | 979 | 916 | 874 | 904 | 885 | 827 | 912 | | |
| " 1934 .. | 973 | 921 | 988 | 867 | 864 | 969 | 914 | 877 | 908 | 880 | 825 | 918 | | |
| " 1935 .. | 976 | 927 | 964 | 868 | 867 | 970 | 922 | 886 | 922 | 873 | 851 | 918 | | |
| " 1936 .. | 949 | 900 | 1,007 | 887 | 887 | 945 | 947 | 958 | 977 | 947 | 922 | 948 | | |
| " 1937 .. | 939 | 895 | 1,061 | 901 | 901 | 937 | 978 | 1,006 | 1,011 | 995 | 953 | 980 | | |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 933 | 892 | 1,055 | 897 | 901 | 912 | 968 | 999 | 1,008 | 993 | 951 | 971 | | |
| " June " | 937 | 893 | 1,068 | 900 | 901 | 933 | 981 | 1,008 | 1,011 | 992 | 953 | 983 | | |
| " Sept. " | 939 | 895 | 1,067 | 903 | 901 | 938 | 981 | 1,009 | 1,012 | 997 | 954 | 983 | | |
| " Dec. " | 945 | 898 | 1,053 | 904 | 903 | 942 | 980 | 1,000 | 1,012 | 997 | 954 | 982 | | |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 940 | 897 | 1,054 | 904 | 896 | 938 | 981 | 1,008 | 1,012 | 995 | 954 | 983 | | |
| Period. | QUEENSLAND. | | | | | | SOUTH AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | | |
| | Brisbane. | Toowoomba. | Rockhampton. | Townsville. | Bundaberg. | Weighted Average, Queensland. | Adelaide. | Radiata, Moonta, and Wallaroo. | Port Pirie. | Bt. Gambier. | Peterborough. | Weighted Average, S.A. | | |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 728 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 770 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | |
| " 1921 .. | 944 | 953 | 1,002 | 1,009b | 988c | 956 | 1,033 | 1,065 | 1,065 | 1,032 | 1,000 | 1,036 | | |
| Year 1932 .. | 907 | 917 | 884 | 969b | 898c | 908 | 987 | 948 | 939 | 966 | 957 | 983 | | |
| " 1933 .. | 900 | 909 | 881 | 973b | 897c | 901 | 983 | 944 | 944 | 957 | 956 | 980 | | |
| " 1934 .. | 900 | 907 | 876 | 967b | 891c | 900 | 976 | 937 | 944 | 949 | 958 | 975 | | |
| " 1935 .. | 904 | 909 | 877 | 1,015b | 919c | 905 | 973 | 941 | 921 | 957 | 968 | 969 | | |
| " 1936 .. | 917 | 929 | 920 | 1,067b | 993c | 922 | 993 | 978 | 936 | 970 | 1,003 | 991 | | |
| " 1937 .. | 941 | 948 | 969 | 1,000 | 1,007 | 952 | 1,022 | 981 | 995 | 1,013 | 1,015 | 1,020 | | |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 937 | 972 | 968 | 996 | 1,006 | 948 | 1,018 | 978 | 989 | 1,011 | 1,010 | 1,016 | | |
| " June " | 941 | 992 | 968 | 999 | 1,006 | 952 | 1,020 | 979 | 997 | 1,010 | 1,015 | 1,018 | | |
| " Sept. " | 942 | 991 | 969 | 1,000 | 1,008 | 953 | 1,024 | 982 | 998 | 1,015 | 1,016 | 1,022 | | |
| " Dec. " | 943 | 995 | 971 | 1,003 | 1,007 | 955 | 1,025 | 984 | 995 | 1,014 | 1,017 | 1,023 | | |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 943 | 999 | 971 | 1,000 | 1,009 | 955 | 1,026 | 992 | 1,000 | 1,017 | 1,021 | 1,024 | | |
| Period. | WESTERN AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | TASMANIA. | | | | | | | |
| | Perth and Fremantle. | Kalgoorlie and Boulder. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Av'ge, W.A. | Hobart. | Lanceston. | Burnie. | Devonport. | Queensdown. | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities. | Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 780 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 699 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 1,029 | 1,030 | 1,016 | 977 | 1,102 | 1,029 | 932 | 985 | 941 | 960 | 959 | 952 | 749 | 1,010 |
| Year 1932 .. | 954 | 967 | 899 | 895 | 970 | 953 | 866 | 863 | 829 | 829 | 804 | 860 | 958 | 950 |
| " 1933 .. | 945 | 963 | 895 | 894 | 966 | 945 | 860 | 864 | 825 | 823 | 803 | 856 | 950 | 944 |
| " 1934 .. | 942 | 961 | 902 | 894 | 966 | 942 | 855 | 864 | 825 | 823 | 804 | 853 | 944 | 939 |
| " 1935 .. | 927 | 975 | 925 | 909 | 972 | 931 | 856 | 864 | 793 | 831 | 824 | 855 | 946 | 941 |
| " 1936 .. | 932 | 990 | 916 | 906 | 1,002 | 937 | 883 | 868 | 839 | 859 | 841 | 887 | 947 | 946 |
| " 1937 .. | 946 | 971 | 953 | 903 | 1,058 | 950 | 939 | 947 | 869 | 876 | 854 | 933 | 980 | 961 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 944 | 978 | 953 | 902 | 1,049 | 948 | 934 | 946 | 863 | 879 | 855 | 930 | 954 | 955 |
| " June " | 945 | 981 | 954 | 902 | 1,054 | 950 | 939 | 946 | 867 | 874 | 856 | 933 | 960 | 961 |
| " Sept. " | 946 | 961 | 953 | 902 | 1,063 | 949 | 941 | 947 | 875 | 875 | 854 | 934 | 962 | 962 |
| " Dec. " | 948 | 963 | 953 | 907 | 1,064 | 951 | 941 | 949 | 872 | 873 | 849 | 935 | 964 | 964 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 947 | 965 | 953 | 907 | 1,050 | 949 | 942 | 949 | 867 | 876 | 847 | 935 | 963 | 963 |

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 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. | Warrnambool. | 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 1932 .. | 867 | 840 | 834 | 877 | 820 | 863 | 813 | 776 | 808 | 794 | 838 | 811 | | |
| " 1933 .. | 832 | 819 | 806 | 843 | 801 | 830 | 789 | 760 | 789 | 773 | 812 | 787 | | |
| " 1934 .. | 842 | 834 | 819 | 852 | 807 | 841 | 801 | 781 | 811 | 782 | 826 | 801 | | |
| " 1935 .. | 852 | 856 | 818 | 860 | 814 | 852 | 824 | 803 | 820 | 824 | 850 | 824 | | |
| " 1936 .. | 866 | 853 | 842 | 864 | 833 | 865 | 844 | 826 | 821 | 848 | 851 | 843 | | |
| " 1937 .. | 889 | 849 | 893 | 867 | 842 | 866 | 868 | 539 | 840 | 855 | 856 | 866 | | |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 884 | 846 | 878 | 857 | 842 | 880 | 854 | 834 | 833 | 847 | 849 | 853 | | |
| " June .. | 884 | 846 | 892 | 862 | 842 | 880 | 863 | 835 | 838 | 848 | 849 | 861 | | |
| " Sept. .. | 890 | 850 | 896 | 873 | 842 | 887 | 875 | 841 | 842 | 858 | 859 | 872 | | |
| " Dec. .. | 899 | 855 | 905 | 874 | 842 | 895 | 881 | 845 | 845 | 868 | 863 | 879 | | |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 900 | 866 | 925 | 879 | 850 | 897 | 881 | 841 | 844 | 866 | 874 | 878 | | |
| Period. | QUEENSLAND. | | | | | | SOUTH AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | | |
| | Brisbane. | Toowoomba. | Rockhampton. | Townsville. | Burnsberg. | Weighted Average, Queensland | Adelaide. | Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo. | Port Pirie. | Mt. Gambler. | Peterborough. | Weighted Average, S.A. | | |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 611 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 699 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | |
| " 1921 .. | 923 | 949 | 973 | 1,025b | 994c | 941 | 989 | 998 | 1,025 | 1,029 | 948 | 992 | | |
| Year 1932 .. | 764 | 788 | 779 | 794b | 777c | 768 | 802 | 772 | 791 | 816 | 848 | 801 | | |
| " 1933 .. | 751 | 778 | 752 | 762b | 757c | 753 | 789 | 747 | 762 | 800 | 832 | 787 | | |
| " 1934 .. | 762 | 785 | 759 | 759b | 761c | 764 | 806 | 758 | 778 | 800 | 832 | 804 | | |
| " 1935 .. | 780 | 785 | 776 | 789b | 769c | 780 | 820 | 763 | 789 | 809 | 833 | 817 | | |
| " 1936 .. | 804 | 802 | 802 | 816b | 779c | 803 | 839 | 765 | 813 | 818 | 843 | 835 | | |
| " 1937 .. | 837 | 840 | 840 | 810b | 809 | 840 | 859 | 769 | 844 | 830 | 851 | 855 | | |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 836 | 842 | 838 | 881 | 806 | 839 | 845 | 765 | 830 | 825 | 844 | 841 | | |
| " June .. | 833 | 842 | 839 | 882 | 808 | 836 | 854 | 769 | 840 | 829 | 848 | 850 | | |
| " Sept. .. | 835 | 837 | 838 | 880 | 809 | 838 | 867 | 770 | 851 | 830 | 852 | 862 | | |
| " Dec. .. | 844 | 839 | 846 | 890 | 813 | 846 | 871 | 771 | 853 | 835 | 858 | 867 | | |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 846 | 841 | 849 | 895 | 821 | 849 | 878 | 776 | 858 | 841 | 863 | 873 | | |
| Period. | WESTERN AUSTRALIA. | | | | | | TASMANIA. | | | | | | | |
| | Perth. | Kalgoorlie. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted A'v'ge, W.A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | Devonport. | Queensdown. | Weighted A'v'ge, Tas. | Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities. | Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 (a) | 707 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 687 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| " 1921 .. | 1,008 | 1,048 | 1,030 | 1,045 | 1,056 | 1,020 | 1,070 | 1,067 | 1,003 | 904 | 1,031 | 1,057 | 1,013 | 1,013 |
| Year 1932 .. | 840 | 940 | 844 | 842 | 904 | 852 | 844 | 832 | 811 | 800 | 875 | 838 | 830 | 829 |
| " 1933 .. | 811 | 937 | 814 | 824 | 851 | 825 | 825 | 817 | 775 | 773 | 867 | 820 | 804 | 808 |
| " 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 | 846 |
| " 1937 .. | 869 | 1,030 | 890 | 897 | 970 | 884 | 875 | 856 | 854 | 833 | 857 | 866 | 873 | 871 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 860 | 1,028 | 877 | 885 | 969 | 875 | 865 | 845 | 836 | 825 | 859 | 855 | 864 | 862 |
| " June .. | 876 | 1,035 | 895 | 900 | 973 | 861 | 872 | 854 | 859 | 833 | 859 | 864 | 868 | 867 |
| " Sept. .. | 871 | 1,029 | 896 | 900 | 975 | 860 | 876 | 859 | 860 | 838 | 859 | 868 | 876 | 874 |
| " Dec. .. | 867 | 1,028 | 891 | 902 | 962 | 882 | 888 | 866 | 862 | 837 | 862 | 877 | 883 | 880 |
| 1938 Mar. Qtr. | 873 | 1,031 | 894 | 900 | 951 | 887 | 885 | 866 | 862 | 846 | 858 | 876 | 885 | 882 |

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, 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. | 1936. | | | | | 1937. | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| | 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 | 366 | 238 | 202 | 194 | 1,000 | 352 | 251 | 202 | 195 | 1,000 |
| Newcastle | 376 | 223 | 213 | 188 | 1,000 | 374 | 226 | 206 | 194 | 1,000 |
| Broken Hill | 417 | 172 | 199 | 212 | 1,000 | 403 | 174 | 203 | 220 | 1,000 |
| Goulburn | 363 | 226 | 229 | 182 | 1,000 | 363 | 233 | 211 | 193 | 1,000 |
| Bathurst | 376 | 217 | 220 | 187 | 1,000 | 366 | 223 | 213 | 198 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average, 5 Towns | 366 | 236 | 204 | 194 | 1,000 | 355 | 247 | 202 | 196 | 1,000 |
| Victoria— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melbourne | 358 | 231 | 211 | 200 | 1,000 | 347 | 242 | 203 | 208 | 1,000 |
| Bairat | 379 | 184 | 230 | 207 | 1,000 | 368 | 192 | 217 | 223 | 1,000 |
| Bendigo | 374 | 190 | 224 | 212 | 1,000 | 365 | 198 | 214 | 223 | 1,000 |
| Geelong | 353 | 225 | 222 | 198 | 1,000 | 351 | 226 | 208 | 215 | 1,000 |
| Warrnambool | 360 | 219 | 228 | 193 | 1,000 | 350 | 233 | 211 | 206 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average, 5 Towns | 358 | 229 | 212 | 201 | 1,000 | 348 | 230 | 204 | 209 | 1,000 |
| Queensland— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brisbane | 367 | 211 | 218 | 204 | 1,000 | 356 | 227 | 209 | 208 | 1,000 |
| Toowoomba | 354 | 221 | 218 | 207 | 1,000 | 349 | 231 | 211 | 218 | 1,000 |
| Rockhampton | 394 | 168 | 234 | 204 | 1,000 | 370 | 200 | 217 | 213 | 1,000 |
| Townsville | 406 | 4140 | 4220 | 4234 | 1,000 | 367 | 221 | 203 | 209 | 1,000 |
| Mundaburg | 6375 | 6177 | 6221 | 6227 | 1,000 | 387 | 161 | 219 | 230 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average, 5 Towns | 370 | 207 | 219 | 204 | 1,000 | 358 | 222 | 210 | 210 | 1,000 |
| South Australia— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adelaide | 355 | 210 | 224 | 211 | 1,000 | 347 | 223 | 210 | 220 | 1,000 |
| Kadina, etc. | 426 | 110 | 237 | 227 | 1,000 | 421 | 112 | 230 | 237 | 1,000 |
| Port Pirie | 396 | 172 | 226 | 206 | 1,000 | 390 | 181 | 211 | 218 | 1,000 |
| Mount Gambier | 367 | 176 | 246 | 211 | 1,000 | 366 | 191 | 217 | 226 | 1,000 |
| Peterborough | 371 | 190 | 228 | 211 | 1,000 | 368 | 201 | 210 | 221 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average, 5 Towns | 359 | 205 | 225 | 211 | 1,000 | 351 | 217 | 211 | 221 | 1,000 |
| Western Australia— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Perth, etc. | 371 | 220 | 215 | 194 | 1,000 | 365 | 229 | 205 | 201 | 1,000 |
| Kalgoorlie, etc. | 363 | 254 | 211 | 172 | 1,000 | 353 | 294 | 178 | 175 | 1,000 |
| Northam | 390 | 205 | 210 | 195 | 1,000 | 375 | 224 | 202 | 199 | 1,000 |
| Bunbury | 367 | 224 | 225 | 184 | 1,000 | 358 | 253 | 203 | 186 | 1,000 |
| Geraldton | 363 | 240 | 206 | 191 | 1,000 | 357 | 253 | 188 | 202 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average, 5 Towns | 371 | 223 | 215 | 191 | 1,000 | 363 | 235 | 202 | 200 | 1,000 |
| Tasmania— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hobart | 357 | 235 | 224 | 181 | 1,000 | 358 | 237 | 206 | 199 | 1,000 |
| Lanunceston | 358 | 214 | 235 | 193 | 1,000 | 361 | 223 | 211 | 205 | 1,000 |
| Burnie | 388 | 204 | 225 | 183 | 1,000 | 381 | 220 | 211 | 188 | 1,000 |
| Devonport | 383 | 190 | 229 | 189 | 1,000 | 385 | 201 | 220 | 194 | 1,000 |
| Queenstown | 394 | 198 | 232 | 176 | 1,000 | 390 | 214 | 210 | 186 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average, 5 Towns | 361 | 225 | 228 | 186 | 1,000 | 361 | 230 | 209 | 200 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average for 30 Towns | 364 | 226 | 212 | 198 | 1,000 | 354 | 238 | 204 | 204 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities | 363 | 229 | 209 | 199 | 1,000 | 351 | 241 | 204 | 201 | 1,000 |
| Charters Towers (Q.) | 406 | 140 | 220 | 234 | 1,000 | 391 | 135 | 221 | 253 | 1,000 |
| Warwick | 375 | 177 | 221 | 227 | 1,000 | 368 | 170 | 225 | 237 | 1,000 |
| Port Augusta (S.A.) | 408 | 165 | 222 | 205 | 1,000 | 401 | 168 | 214 | 217 | 1,000 |

(a) Charters Towers.

(b) Warwick.

4. **Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency: Capital Cities, 1932 to 1938.**—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. |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES. | | | | | | | |
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1932 .. | 17 1 | 15 2 | 14 9 | 15 3 | 16 1 | 15 11 | 15 11 |
| 1933 .. | 16 0 | 14 3 | 14 0 | 14 7 | 15 2 | 15 2 | 15 0 |
| 1934 .. | 16 6 | 15 0 | 14 7 | 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 17 5 | 16 4 | 16 10 | 16 3 | 17 4 | 17 3 | 16 11 |
| " June " | 17 2 | 16 6 | 16 5 | 16 5 | 18 1 | 17 4 | 16 10 |
| " Sept. " | 17 4 | 17 0 | 16 5 | 16 9 | 17 8 | 17 4 | 17 1 |
| " Dec. " | 17 7 | 17 1 | 16 8 | 16 8 | 17 4 | 17 9 | 17 3 |
| 1938 Mar. " | 17 7 | 17 0 | 16 8 | 16 10 | 17 8 | 17 6 | 17 3 |
| GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS). | | | | | | | |
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1932 .. | 17 11 | 16 4 | 12 10 | 13 10 | 16 2 | 17 4 | 16 4 |
| 1933 .. | 17 3 | 16 0 | 13 7 | 13 11 | 15 11 | 17 2 | 16 1 |
| 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 19 0 | 18 0 | 16 4 | 16 3 | 17 2 | 17 10 | 18 0 |
| " June " | 19 2 | 18 1 | 16 5 | 16 5 | 17 2 | 17 11 | 18 2 |
| " Sept. " | 19 6 | 18 3 | 16 6 | 16 9 | 17 3 | 18 0 | 18 4 |
| " Dec. " | 19 7 | 18 5 | 16 7 | 17 1 | 17 4 | 18 2 | 18 6 |
| 1938 Mar. " | 19 9 | 18 6 | 16 8 | 17 2 | 17 4 | 18 2 | 18 7 |
| GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING. | | | | | | | |
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1932 .. | 17 4 | 15 7 | 14 1 | 14 9 | 16 1 | 16 5 | 16 1 |
| 1933 .. | 16 5 | 14 10 | 13 10 | 14 4 | 15 4 | 15 10 | 15 4 |
| 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 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 18 0 | 16 11 | 16 7 | 16 2 | 17 3 | 17 6 | 17 3 |
| " June " | 17 11 | 17 1 | 16 4 | 16 5 | 17 8 | 17 6 | 17 4 |
| " Sept. " | 18 1 | 17 5 | 16 5 | 16 9 | 17 6 | 17 7 | 17 6 |
| " Dec. " | 18 4 | 17 7 | 16 7 | 16 9 | 17 4 | 17 10 | 17 8 |
| 1938 Mar. " | 18 5 | 17 7 | 16 8 | 16 11 | 17 6 | 17 9 | 17 9 |

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 = 208.0d.)

| Year. | Sydney. | Melb'ne. | Brisbane. | Adelaide. | Perth. | Hobart. | Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities. |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| GROUP III.—CLOTHING. | | | | | | | |
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1932 .. | 15 5 | 16 5 | 16 3 | 16 8 | 16 10 | 17 9 | 16 1 |
| 1933 .. | 14 10 | 16 3 | 15 10 | 16 7 | 16 5 | 17 7 | 15 9 |
| 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 7 | 16 8 | 16 4 | 17 2 | 15 10 |
| 1937 .. | 16 4 | 16 1 | 15 11 | 16 5 | 16 1 | 16 5 | 16 3 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 16 2 | 15 9 | 15 7 | 16 0 | 15 10 | 15 11 | 15 11 |
| " June .. | 16 4 | 16 0 | 15 9 | 16 4 | 16 1 | 16 5 | 16 2 |
| " Sept. .. | 16 5 | 16 1 | 15 11 | 16 7 | 16 3 | 16 7 | 16 3 |
| " Dec. .. | 16 6 | 16 5 | 16 3 | 16 9 | 16 3 | 16 10 | 16 6 |
| 1938 Mar. .. | 16 7 | 16 5 | 16 3 | 17 0 | 16 4 | 16 11 | 16 6 |

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1932 .. | 19 11 | 18 6 | 18 2 | 19 9 | 19 1 | 17 4 | 19 2 |
| 1933 .. | 19 9 | 18 4 | 18 0 | 19 8 | 18 11 | 17 2 | 19 0 |
| 1934 .. | 19 6 | 18 3 | 18 0 | 19 6 | 18 10 | 17 1 | 18 11 |
| 1935 .. | 19 6 | 18 5 | 18 1 | 19 6 | 18 7 | 17 1 | 18 11 |
| 1936 .. | 19 0 | 18 11 | 18 4 | 19 10 | 18 8 | 17 8 | 18 11 |
| 1937 .. | 18 9 | 19 7 | 18 10 | 20 5 | 18 11 | 18 9 | 19 2 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 18 8 | 19 4 | 18 9 | 20 4 | 18 11 | 18 8 | 19 1 |
| " June .. | 18 9 | 19 7 | 18 10 | 20 5 | 18 11 | 18 9 | 19 2 |
| " Sept. .. | 18 9 | 19 7 | 18 10 | 20 6 | 18 11 | 18 10 | 19 3 |
| " Dec. .. | 18 11 | 19 7 | 18 10 | 20 6 | 19 0 | 18 10 | 19 3 |
| 1938 Mar. .. | 18 10 | 19 7 | 18 10 | 20 6 | 18 11 | 18 10 | 19 3 |

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

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 1932 .. | 17 4 | 16 3 | 15 3 | 16 1 | 16 10 | 16 11 | 16 7 |
| 1933 .. | 16 8 | 15 9 | 15 0 | 15 9 | 16 3 | 16 6 | 16 1 |
| 1934 .. | 16 10 | 16 0 | 15 3 | 16 1 | 16 7 | 16 9 | 16 4 |
| 1935 .. | 17 1 | 16 6 | 15 7 | 16 5 | 16 8 | 17 0 | 16 8 |
| 1936 .. | 17 4 | 16 11 | 16 1 | 16 9 | 17 1 | 17 2 | 17 0 |
| 1937 .. | 17 9 | 17 4 | 16 9 | 17 2 | 17 5 | 17 6 | 17 6 |
| 1937 Mar. Qtr. | 17 8 | 17 1 | 16 9 | 16 11 | 17 2 | 17 4 | 17 3 |
| " June .. | 17 8 | 17 3 | 16 8 | 17 1 | 17 6 | 17 5 | 17 4 |
| " Sept. .. | 17 10 | 17 6 | 16 8 | 17 4 | 17 5 | 17 6 | 17 6 |
| " Dec. .. | 18 0 | 17 7 | 16 11 | 17 5 | 17 4 | 17 9 | 17 8 |
| 1938 Mar. .. | 18 0 | 17 7 | 16 11 | 17 7 | 17 6 | 17 8 | 17 8 |

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. |
|--|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|---------------|
| GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES. | | | | | | | |
| Nov. 1914 .. | 638 | 614 | 615 | 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 | 899 | 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 | 882 |
| " 1918 .. | 988 | 950 | 931 | 988 | 1,935 | 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.

I. 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 previous issues of these publications 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 published information 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 make its records available, and to consider requests for special investigations by its staff of field officers.

2. Retail Price Index-Numbers: 200 Towns, 1933 to 1937.—In the following table the base of the index-numbers has been changed from that used in previous issues of the Labour Report. The new base is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in the period 1923-27. To facilitate comparisons over a period of years, the index-numbers previously published have been recomputed and the table has been extended to include the results of the last five investigations.

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

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

| State and Town | 1933 November. | 1934 November. | 1935 November. | 1936 November | 1937 November. |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| New South Wales— | | | | | |
| Albury | 749 | 794 | 803 | 857 | 864 |
| Armidale | 729 | 776 | 821 | 811 | 853 |
| Bathna | 808 | 803 | 812 | 853 | 852 |
| Bathurst* | 774 | 809 | 842 | 838 | 861 |
| Bega | 790 | 823 | 851 | 863 | 875 |
| Berry | 814 | 861 | 874 | 873 | 880 |
| Blackheath | 800 | 851 | 882 | 920 | 927 |
| Bourke | 835 | 847 | 873 | 901 | 913 |
| Bowral | 803 | 832 | 848 | 861 | 887 |
| Broken Hill* | 874 | 924 | 929 | 977 | 1,036 |

* Information also available monthly for these towns.

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

| State and Town. | 1933 November. | 1934. November. | 1935. November. | 1936. November. | 1937. November. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| New South Wales—contd. | | | | | |
| Casino | 776 | 790 | 855 | 900 | 900 |
| Cessnock | 759 | 792 | 846 | 849 | 858 |
| Cobar | 1,007 | 976 | 1,012 | 1,031 | 1,038 |
| Cooma | 855 | 837 | 895 | 879 | 883 |
| Cootamundra | 844 | 880 | 918 | 961 | 921 |
| Cootamundra | 731 | 789 | 824 | 849 | 829 |
| Corrimal | 767 | 817 | 834 | 876 | 884 |
| Cowra | 745 | 808 | 844 | 860 | 873 |
| Cronulla | 789 | 833 | 859 | 876 | 886 |
| Deniliquin | 823 | 864 | 883 | 907 | 967 |
| Dubbo | 686 | 771 | 842 | 848 | 863 |
| Forbes | 788 | 823 | 883 | 862 | 863 |
| Gilgandra | 783 | 846 | 873 | 864 | 881 |
| Glen Innes | 758 | 767 | 807 | 814 | 819 |
| Goulburn* | 770 | 824 | 846 | 855 | 888 |
| Grafton | 751 | 781 | 824 | 854 | 888 |
| Grenfell | 772 | 806 | 830 | 837 | 841 |
| Griffith | 856 | 908 | 913 | 940 | 936 |
| Gulgong | 745 | 782 | 821 | 855 | 839 |
| Gunnedah | 732 | 775 | 829 | 842 | 833 |
| Hay | 866 | 897 | 903 | 931 | 906 |
| Inverell | 770 | 809 | 848 | 802 | 831 |
| Junee | 773 | 817 | 828 | 876 | 914 |
| Katoomba | 811 | 833 | 867 | 885 | 915 |
| Kempsey | 780 | 810 | 803 | 811 | 836 |
| Kiama | 819 | 887 | 887 | 904 | 911 |
| Kurri Kurri | 752 | 818 | 808 | 839 | 838 |
| Leeton | 811 | 848 | 886 | 894 | 926 |
| Lismore | 773 | 782 | 834 | 886 | 918 |
| Lithgow* | 771 | 854 | 859 | 809 | 873 |
| Maitland | 731 | 788 | 833 | 832 | 835 |
| Moree | 836 | 878 | 886 | 904 | 894 |
| Moss Vale | 782 | 813 | 844 | 849 | 895 |
| Mudgee | 684 | 773 | 819 | 840 | 860 |
| Narrabri | 770 | 841 | 877 | 894 | 901 |
| Narrandera | 801 | 848 | 864 | 898 | 896 |
| Newcastle* | 803 | 849 | 880 | 869 | 882 |
| Nowra | 830 | 840 | 901 | 899 | 887 |
| Orange | 750 | 773 | 817 | 812 | 815 |
| Parkes | 782 | 805 | 843 | 859 | 903 |
| Penrith | 743 | 788 | 806 | 818 | 825 |
| Port Kembla | 797 | 855 | 866 | 908 | 905 |
| Portland | 804 | 841 | 862 | 857 | 877 |
| Queanbeyan | 796 | 850 | 884 | 905 | 953 |
| Quirindi | 833 | 855 | 864 | 866 | 890 |
| Richmond | 761 | 839 | 826 | 816 | 827 |
| Scone | 767 | 809 | 836 | 861 | 871 |
| Singleton | 755 | 779 | 826 | 813 | 830 |
| Sydney* | 785 | 836 | 851 | 863 | 877 |
| Tamworth | 740 | 785 | 806 | 806 | 829 |

* See note p. 25.

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

| State and Town | 1933. November. | 1934. November. | 1935. November. | 1936. November. | 1937. November. |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| New South Wales—contd. | | | | | |
| Tarco | 748 | 785 | 848 | 864 | 889 |
| Temora | 763 | 803 | 804 | 823 | 862 |
| Tenterfield | 736 | 772 | 831 | 865 | 864 |
| Tumut | 792 | 810 | 832 | 837 | 842 |
| Ulmarra | 774 | 828 | 852 | 892 | 885 |
| Wagga Wagga | 753 | 797 | 835 | 850 | 884 |
| Walcha | 798 | 836 | 927 | 845 | 866 |
| Wellington | 754 | 831 | 818 | 828 | 829 |
| Weston | 763 | 792 | 818 | 835 | 841 |
| Windsor | 781 | 788 | 850 | 851 | 864 |
| Wollongong | 755 | 867 | 829 | 853 | 878 |
| Wyalong | 801 | 815 | 862 | 870 | 895 |
| Yass | 758 | 813 | 850 | 837 | 887 |
| Young | 774 | 853 | 855 | 843 | 867 |
| Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) .. | 785 | 834 | 852 | 863 | 878 |
| Victoria— | | | | | |
| Ararat | 778 | 828 | 855 | 918 | 910 |
| Bacchus Marsh | 736 | 788 | 820 | 860 | 887 |
| Bairnsdale | 781 | 846 | 862 | 880 | 879 |
| Ballarat* | 732 | 777 | 818 | 872 | 860 |
| Beechworth | 784 | 813 | 828 | 885 | 890 |
| Benalla | 759 | 830 | 850 | 880 | 905 |
| Bendigo* | 727 | 794 | 812 | 856 | 853 |
| Camperdown | 766 | 814 | 849 | 863 | 868 |
| Casterton | 792 | 835 | 845 | 888 | 873 |
| Castlemaine | 748 | 775 | 828 | 845 | 848 |
| Colac | 761 | 813 | 817 | 842 | 850 |
| Creswick | 743 | 789 | 838 | 859 | 863 |
| Daylesford | 765 | 789 | 813 | 843 | 865 |
| Dunolly | 741 | 794 | 835 | 889 | 872 |
| Echuca | 746 | 784 | 824 | 846 | 857 |
| Euroa | 769 | 803 | 845 | 875 | 878 |
| Geelong* | 732 | 757 | 796 | 833 | 857 |
| Hamilton | 762 | 805 | 855 | 911 | 885 |
| Healesville | 763 | 818 | 831 | 892 | 917 |
| Horsham | 766 | 801 | 873 | 926 | 916 |
| Kerang | 753 | 819 | 869 | 895 | 927 |
| Koroit | 767 | 795 | 828 | 836 | 840 |
| Korumburra | 737 | 781 | 783 | 835 | 859 |
| Kyneton | 795 | 757 | 785 | 851 | 870 |
| Lilydale | 784 | 815 | 845 | 884 | 881 |
| Maffra | 761 | 785 | 825 | 901 | 865 |
| Maldon | 790 | 827 | 848 | 876 | 888 |
| Maryborough | 732 | 785 | 811 | 888 | 891 |
| Melbourne* | 721 | 758 | 797 | 833 | 848 |
| Mildura | 843 | 870 | 903 | 938 | 977 |
| Morwell | 797 | 822 | 842 | 858 | 887 |
| Nhill | 798 | 853 | 913 | 956 | 933 |
| Orbost | 832 | 814 | 870 | 912 | 919 |
| Portland | 789 | 804 | 863 | 863 | 862 |
| Port Fairy | 761 | 783 | 820 | 862 | 840 |

* See note p. 25.

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

| State and Town. | 1933. November | 1934 November | 1935. November | 1936. November | 1937. November. |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Victoria—continued. | | | | | |
| St. Arnaud | 804 | 851 | 875 | 930 | 930 |
| Sale | 784 | 785 | 827 | 895 | 890 |
| Seymour | 782 | 848 | 880 | 901 | 937 |
| Shepparton | 738 | 804 | 819 | 864 | 886 |
| Stawell | 801 | 861 | 911 | 949 | 934 |
| Swan Hill | 743 | 833 | 874 | 918 | 924 |
| Terang | 798 | 819 | 875 | 863 | 885 |
| Traralgon | 734 | 787 | 816 | 839 | 834 |
| Wangaratta | 782 | 787 | 827 | 880 | 879 |
| Warracknabeal | 750 | 788 | 828 | 858 | 881 |
| Warragul | 713 | 789 | 820 | 827 | 845 |
| Warrnambool* | 740 | 759 | 785 | 844 | 834 |
| Wonthaggi | 737 | 794 | 804 | 895 | 913 |
| Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) .. | 728 | 765 | 803 | 841 | 854 |
| Queensland— | | | | | |
| Ayr | 803 | 819 | 825 | 841 | 867 |
| Barcaldine | 830 | 881 | 938 | 959 | 959 |
| Bowen | 816 | 888 | 885 | 902 | 902 |
| Brisbane* | 696 | 726 | 780 | 820 | 835 |
| Bundaberg* | 722 | 753 | 803 | 874 | 873 |
| Cairns | 814 | 837 | 887 | 915 | 914 |
| Charleville | 849 | 881 | 949 | 989 | 969 |
| Charters Towers* | 779 | 802 | 876 | 889 | 887 |
| Chullagoe | 911 | 913 | 900 | 915 | 946 |
| Cloncurry | 907 | 930 | 1,030 | 1,026 | 1,031 |
| Cooktown | 887 | 920 | 963 | 986 | 989 |
| Cunnamulla | 861 | 894 | 927 | 938 | 921 |
| Dalby | 744 | 760 | 807 | 870 | 836 |
| Gayndah | 763 | 792 | 851 | 907 | 867 |
| Gladstone | 743 | 771 | 827 | 871 | 870 |
| Goondiwindi | 794 | 820 | 889 | 914 | 868 |
| Gympie | 737 | 773 | 857 | 849 | 840 |
| Hughenden | 905 | 891 | 919 | 931 | 925 |
| Innisfail | 852 | 907 | 943 | 974 | 995 |
| Ipswich | 728 | 745 | 785 | 820 | 825 |
| Longreach | 868 | 921 | 978 | 990 | 993 |
| Mackay | 772 | 807 | 872 | 898 | 895 |
| Maryborough | 716 | 723 | 794 | 828 | 835 |
| Mount Morgan | 791 | 831 | 855 | 891 | 880 |
| Nambour | 723 | 767 | 834 | 844 | 863 |
| Rockhampton* | 733 | 764 | 839 | 864 | 877 |
| Roma | 805 | 823 | 877 | 885 | 870 |
| Stanthorpe | 766 | 775 | 803 | 817 | 830 |
| Toowoomba* | 673 | 695 | 751 | 800 | 789 |
| Townsville* | 785 | 817 | 887 | 904 | 921 |
| Warwick* | 721 | 721 | 792 | 820 | 795 |
| Winton | 905 | 919 | 931 | 951 | 963 |
| Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. | 724 | 747 | 806 | 841 | 850 |

* See note p. 25.

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

| State and Town. | 1933 November | 1934. November. | 1935 November. | 1936. November. | 1937. November. |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| South Australia— | | | | | |
| Adelaide* | 733 | 774 | 784 | 804 | 833 |
| Freeling | 731 | 768 | 804 | 823 | 845 |
| Gawler | 732 | 777 | 772 | 814 | 827 |
| Kadina, Moonta, Wall- aroo* | 797 | 849 | 868 | 890 | 897 |
| Kapunda | 718 | 762 | 793 | 812 | 836 |
| Kooringa | 771 | 790 | 868 | 879 | 899 |
| Millicent | 757 | 806 | 805 | 820 | 918 |
| Mount Gambier* | 726 | 751 | 802 | 815 | 847 |
| Murray Bridge | 710 | 732 | 763 | 776 | 810 |
| Peterborough* | 770 | 806 | 816 | 851 | 884 |
| Port Augusta* | 824 | 864 | 892 | 926 | 945 |
| Port Pirie* | 738 | 813 | 811 | 896 | 915 |
| Quorn | 778 | 801 | 848 | 841 | 853 |
| Renmark | 840 | 791 | 920 | 919 | 906 |
| Victor Harbour | 760 | 908 | 815 | 839 | 852 |
| Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) | 738 | 779 | 791 | 813 | 841 |
| Western Australia— | | | | | |
| Albany | 792 | 871 | 884 | 896 | 892 |
| Beverley | 848 | 873 | 890 | 918 | 963 |
| Bridgetown | 878 | 918 | 930 | 955 | 973 |
| Broome | 1,156 | 1,155 | 1,142 | 1,180 | 1,181 |
| Bunbury* | 781 | 844 | 845 | 873 | 896 |
| Carnarvon | 971 | 1,008 | 1,032 | 1,082 | 1,127 |
| Collie | 724 | 862 | 855 | 901 | 874 |
| Geraldton* | 764 | 835 | 840 | 960 | 924 |
| Greenbushes | 862 | 924 | 946 | 960 | 937 |
| Kalgoorlie and Boulder* | 926 | 994 | 981 | 1,006 | 1,002 |
| Katanning | 769 | 844 | 829 | 884 | 872 |
| Leonora and Gwalia | 1,028 | 1,084 | 1,094 | 1,140 | 1,168 |
| Meekatharra | 1,026 | 1,047 | 1,088 | 1,143 | 1,164 |
| Narrogin | 802 | 873 | 863 | 910 | 884 |
| Northam* | 792 | 845 | 850 | 910 | 903 |
| Perth and Fremantle* | 740 | 813 | 813 | 863 | 866 |
| Wagin | 814 | 817 | 856 | 924 | 870 |
| York | 767 | 802 | 859 | 848 | 867 |
| Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) | 769 | 833 | 835 | 882 | 884 |
| Tasmania— | | | | | |
| Beaconsfield | 744 | 801 | 818 | 841 | 830 |
| Burnie* | 747 | 821 | 837 | 883 | 906 |
| Campbelltown | 779 | 814 | 860 | 878 | 872 |
| Deloraine | 756 | 788 | 787 | 795 | 824 |
| Devonport* | 762 | 835 | 824 | 873 | 893 |
| Franklin | 817 | 889 | 896 | 868 | 905 |
| Hobart* | 756 | 813 | 797 | 874 | 889 |
| Launceston* | 722 | 786 | 793 | 844 | 870 |
| New Norfolk | 783 | 822 | 830 | 909 | 891 |
| Queenstown* | 869 | 913 | 900 | 920 | 922 |

* See note p. 25.

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

| State and Town. | 1933. November. | 1934. November. | 1935. November. | 1936 November. | 1937. November. |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Tasmania—<i>continued.</i> | | | | | |
| Scottsdale | 729 | 770 | 780 | 814 | 829 |
| Ulverstone | 770 | 815 | 812 | 888 | 867 |
| Zeehan* | 938 | 966 | 943 | 981 | 983 |
| Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. | 756 | 812 | 805 | 867 | 884 |
| Territories (a)— | | | | | |
| Canberra* | 857 | 916 | 931 | 949 | 965 |
| Weighted Averages— | | | | | |
| Australia (200 Towns) .. | 754 | 797 | 825 | 851 | 865 |
| Thirty Towns | 750 | 795 | 820 | 847 | 862 |
| Six Capitals | 746 | 792 | 817 | 843 | 859 |

* See note p. 25.

(a) Not included in Weighted Averages.

3. **Comparison of Capital Cities with other Towns.**—In the preceding pages index-numbers for food and groceries have been given for the six capital cities, for the 30 towns, and for 200 towns. Index-numbers for food and housing have been given for the six capital cities and the 30 towns on pages 9 to 13. The figures for the six capital cities and the 30 towns are based on monthly prices of food and quarterly records of rentals, while the figures for the 200 towns are based on prices in the month of November. In the following table the index-numbers for the three groups of towns have been brought to a common base (November, 1913 = 1000) for the period 1921 to 1937. The table indicates that, since 1913, food prices have increased slightly more in the capital cities than in the larger groups of towns, while the increase in house rents has been more marked in the five towns than in the capital cities. For food and housing combined, however, the difference between the two sets of index-numbers is only slight.

Comparative Retail Price Index-Numbers: November of each year.

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average Cost of each Group, November, 1913 = 1000.)

| Particulars. | 1913. | 1921. | 1932. | 1933 | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. | 1937. |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| FOOD AND GROCERIES. | | | | | | | | |
| All Towns (200) | 1,000 | 1,578 | 1,267 | 1,241 | 1,312 | 1,356 | 1,400 | 1,423 |
| Five Towns in each State .. | 1,000 | 1,577 | 1,264 | 1,240 | 1,314 | 1,355 | 1,400 | 1,425 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,000 | 1,588 | 1,270 | 1,248 | 1,324 | 1,365 | 1,410 | 1,436 |
| HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS.) | | | | | | | | |
| Five Towns in each State .. | 1,000 | 1,330 | 1,273 | 1,271 | 1,297 | 1,355 | 1,422 | 1,465 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,000 | 1,323 | 1,213 | 1,210 | 1,229 | 1,282 | 1,347 | 1,392 |
| FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING. | | | | | | | | |
| Five Towns in each State .. | 1,000 | 1,487 | 1,267 | 1,251 | 1,308 | 1,356 | 1,407 | 1,439 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,000 | 1,488 | 1,248 | 1,233 | 1,288 | 1,335 | 1,386 | 1,420 |

The figures in the vertical columns show the cost in November of each year compared with November, 1913, for "All Towns (200)" "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Cities only" respectively.

§ 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 of the Commonwealth 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. 8d.

The corresponding cost of the commodities and services included (which are fully set out in the first Report) for the years 1914 to 1920 was 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 I)." 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 the 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 have been continuously used since 1912 in the "A" Series Index. 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, returns from these centres show the average rent of occupied houses of a defined standard.

(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.

(iv) The revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936, was of 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 changes have taken place in the method of calculating the rentals of "All Houses", and these index-numbers are therefore comparable throughout the period. 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.

(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 the 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. The "*A*" series of indexes are published in Appendix VII. of this Report.

(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 at annual intervals 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 at annual intervals 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 8s. 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 = 8s. 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 IV. 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 to date fluctuates in the same way as the "C" index for the same town, the relationship of different towns is 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 almost entirely by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" series, and continues to operate only in a few industries. 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 is 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 page 25.

(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 1937 and 1929 to 1937, as disclosed by the table in Appendix IX. of this Report, the changes are substantially of the same order:—

| | Increase per cent., 1911-1937. | Decrease per cent., 1929-1937. |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Food and Groceries only.. .. . | 52 | 18 |
| Rent of All Houses | 49 | 16 |
| Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses | 49 | 15 |
| Food and Rent of All Houses (" A " Series) | 51 | 17 |
| Food and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses (" B " Series) | 51 | 17 |
| " All Items " of Household Expenditure (" C " Series) | 45* | 15 |

* 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. | AUSTRIA. | BELGIUM. | DENMARK. | FINLAND. | FRANCE. | GERMANY. | ITALY. | JAPAN. | NETHERLANDS. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Number of Towns and Localities. | 68-509 | Vienna | 39 | 100 | 21 | Paris. | 72 | 50 | Tokio. | Amsterdam. |
| 1931 | 96 | 96 | 93 | 89 | 85 | 102 | 88 | 87 | 75 | 90 |
| 1932 | 88 | 97 | 84 | 89 | 84 | 95 | 78 | 85 | 75 | 84 |
| 1933 | 85 | 95 | 83 | 93 | 84 | 94 | 77 | 86 | 80 | 85 |
| 1934 | 85 | 95 | 79 | 96 | 85 | 93 | 79 | 76 | 82 | 85 |
| 1935 | 87 | 94 | 80 | 99 | 81 | 87 | 80 | 77 | 84 | 81 |
| 1936 | 89 | 94 | 85 | 100 | 82 | 91 | 81 | 83 | 88 | 79 |
| 1937 | 94 | 94 | 92 | 104 | 86 | 111 | 81 | 91 | 96 | 82 |
| 1937— | | | | | | | | | | |
| March Qtr. .. | 92 | 94 | 90 | 103 | .. | 104 | 81 | 86 | 94 | 80 |
| June | 94 | 94 | 89 | 104 | 85 | 109 | 81 | 90 | 95 | 81 |
| Sept. | 95 | 94 | 93 | 105 | 86 | 113 | 82 | 93 | 96 | 83 |
| Dec. | 98 | 95 | 93 | 106 | 89 | 118 | 81 | 97 | 100 | 83 |
| 1938— | | | | | | | | | | |
| March Qtr. .. | 95 | 94 | 95 | 106 | .. | 124 | 81 | 98 | 104 | 83 |

| Period. | NORWAY. | POLAND. | SPAIN. | SWEDEN. | SWITZERLAND. | UNITED STATES. | AUSTRALIA. | BRITISH INDIA. | CANADA. | NEW ZEALAND. | UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------|--------------|------------------------|
| Number of Towns and Localities. | 31 | Warsaw. | Madrid. | 49 | 34 | 51-174 | 30 | Bombay. (ii) | 60 | 25 | 9 |
| 1931 | 92 | 85 | 107 | 94 | 93 | 87 | 85 | 74 | 90 | 90 | 94 |
| 1932 | 90 | 74 | 103 | 92 | 86 | 79 | 81 | .. | 82 | 84 | 90 |
| 1933 | 89 | 67 | 100 | 91 | 81 | 76 | 78 | .. | 79 | 79 | 88 |
| 1934 | 89 | 62 | 102 | 91 | 80 | 79 | 80 | .. | 79 | 81 | 87 |
| 1935 | 91 | 60 | 99 | 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 |
| 1937— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March Qtr. .. | 96 | 64 | .. | 95 | 84 | 87 | 84 | 105 | 82 | 89 | 89 |
| June | 99 | 62 | .. | 95 | 85 | 89 | 85 | 105 | 83 | 91 | 90 |
| Sept. | 101 | 61 | .. | 95 | 85 | 89 | 85 | 108 | 84 | 92 | 91 |
| Dec. | 103 | 62 | .. | 97 | 86 | 89 | 86 | 107 | 84 | 94 | 92 |
| 1938— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March Qtr. .. | 103 | 61 | .. | 97 | 85 | .. | 86 | 107 | .. | 94 | 94 |

* With the following exceptions the index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food housing, clothing and miscellaneous items:—Japan, exclusive of housing; Spain, exclusive of clothing and rent. (ii) Base: year 1933-34 = 100.

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

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

(II) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS †

| Period. | UNITED KINGDOM. | AUSTRIA. | BELGIUM. | DENMARK. | FINLAND. | FRANCE. | GERMANY. | ITALY. | JAPAN. | NETHERLANDS. | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------|--------------|------------------------|
| Number of Towns and Localities. | 68-509 | Vienna | 59 | 100 | 21 | Paris | 72 | Milan | Tokio | Amsterdam. | |
| 1927 | 104 | 98 | 95 | 103 | 99 | 92 | 98 | 98 | 104 | 100 | |
| 1928 | 102 | 98 | 95 | 102 | 102 | 92 | 98 | 98 | 100 | 103 | |
| 1929 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| 1930 | 94 | 97 | 96 | 91 | 86 | 104 | 94 | 94 | 85 | 93 | |
| 1931 | 85 | 89 | 81 | 81 | 77 | 105 | 84 | 82 | 74 | 84 | |
| 1932 | 82 | 90 | 69 | 79 | 80 | 94 | 74 | 78 | 78 | 74 | |
| 1933 | 78 | 85 | 69 | 82 | 80 | 92 | 73 | 73 | 79 | 74 | |
| 1934 | 79 | 83 | 65 | 80 | 78 | 91 | 76 | 70 | 81 | 76 | |
| 1935 | 81 | 83 | 67 | 94 | 81 | 83 | 77 | 72 | 84 | 73 | |
| 1936 | 84 | 83 | 73 | 95 | 80 | 90 | 79 | 77 | 91 | 71 | |
| 1935— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 77 | 80 | 61 | .. | 70 | .. | 76 | 72 | 81 | .. | |
| May | 78 | 80 | 62 | .. | 78 | 84 | 77 | 72 | 82 | .. | |
| June | 52 | 84 | 65 | 95 | 79 | .. | 78 | 73 | 80 | 72 | |
| July | 82 | 81 | 66 | .. | 81 | .. | 79 | 72 | 81 | .. | |
| August | 81 | 83 | 67 | .. | 83 | 80 | 79 | 72 | 85 | .. | |
| September | 83 | 83 | 71 | 94 | 83 | .. | 78 | .. | 87 | 72 | |
| October | 85 | 84 | 73 | .. | 84 | .. | 77 | .. | 86 | .. | |
| November | 85 | 84 | 75 | .. | 84 | 82 | 77 | .. | 86 | .. | |
| December | 85 | 84 | 73 | 94 | 83 | .. | 78 | .. | 87 | 73 | |
| 1936— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 84 | 84 | 74 | .. | 81 | .. | 79 | .. | 89 | .. | |
| February | 84 | 83 | 74 | .. | 81 | 85 | 70 | .. | 91 | .. | |
| March | 82 | 81 | .. | 95 | 81 | .. | 78 | .. | 92 | .. | |
| Period | NORWAY. | POLAND. | SPAIN. | SWEDEN. | SWITZERLAND. | UNITED STATES. | AUSTRALIA. | BRITISH INDIA. | CANADA. | NEW ZEALAND. | UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. |
| Number of Towns and Localities. | 51 | Warsaw | Madrid | 49 | 31 | 51 | 30 | Bombay. | 60 | 25 | 9 |
| 1927 | 110 | 105 | 104 | 101 | 101 | 102 | 96 | 103 | 97 | 97 | 103 |
| 1928 | 106 | 103 | 97 | 103 | 101 | 98 | 95 | 99 | 98 | 99 | 102 |
| 1929 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1930 | 96 | 86 | 703 | 93 | 97 | 92 | 90 | 92 | 98 | 96 | 96 |
| 1931 | 88 | 76 | 107 | 86 | 90 | 75 | 79 | 70 | 77 | 83 | 91 |
| 1932 | 85 | 67 | 103 | 83 | 80 | 63 | 77 | 70 | 64 | 77 | 83 |
| 1933 | 83 | 60 | 100 | 81 | 75 | 64 | 72 | 64 | 63 | 72 | 86 |
| 1934 | 84 | 54 | 102 | 81 | 74 | 71 | 75 | 60 | 69 | 76 | 90 |
| 1935 | 87 | 51 | 99 | 85 | 73 | 76 | 77 | 63 | 70 | 82 | 88 |
| 1936 | 91 | 50 | .. | 80 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 64 | 73 | 86 | 88 |
| 1935— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 85 | 49 | 104 | 83 | 71 | 78 | 76 | 62 | 68 | 81 | 90 |
| May | 86 | 50 | 99 | 85 | 71 | 78 | 77 | 63 | 69 | 82 | 90 |
| June | 87 | 51 | 94 | 86 | 72 | 78 | 77 | 64 | 69 | 82 | 90 |
| July | 86 | 54 | 97 | 87 | 74 | 76 | 75 | 64 | 71 | 82 | 89 |
| August | 89 | 53 | 97 | 87 | 74 | 76 | 78 | 64 | 70 | 82 | 88 |
| September | 89 | 54 | 99 | 87 | 74 | 76 | 79 | 64 | 72 | 83 | 87 |
| October | 90 | 54 | 98 | 87 | 75 | 77 | 79 | 66 | 72 | 86 | 87 |
| November | 90 | 54 | 99 | 88 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 66 | 73 | 86 | 87 |
| December | 90 | 50 | 98 | 88 | 76 | 79 | 78 | 66 | 73 | 84 | 87 |
| 1936— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 90 | 49 | 98 | 89 | 76 | 78 | 78 | 64 | 72 | 83 | 88 |
| February | 91 | 48 | 97 | 80 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 64 | 73 | 82 | 88 |
| March | 91 | 48 | .. | 89 | 76 | 76 | 77 | 63 | 70 | 82 | 88 |

† The publication of these figures was discontinued after those appearing herein.