

SECTION IV.—RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT, AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

1. **General.**—In normal circumstances properly computed index-numbers of food and groceries, and house-rent combined, form one of the best possible measures of those variations in the "purchasing-power of money" which affect the cost of living: in short, the variations of the cost of a "composite unit," consisting of appropriate quantities of suitably chosen commodities, and including also house rent, reflect the variations in the cost of living. The main investigations carried out as to retail prices and purchasing-power of money are of a threefold nature and consist of:—

- (i.) Quarterly variations in the purchasing-power of money in thirty towns.
- (ii.) Annual variations in the purchasing-power of money in 150 towns.
- (iii.) Householders' Budget Inquiries.

It is principally with the first of these that this Section deals. In Report No. 2, issued in April, 1913, Report No. 5, issued in December, 1914, and Report No. 6, issued in May, 1916, the results of comprehensive investigations into the subjects of Prices and Price-Indexes for past years were published, and an account was given of the methods used in the collection of the data and the computation of the results. A discussion of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was furnished in Appendixes to Report No. 1, issued in December, 1912.

For the computations of the index-numbers the "aggregate expenditure" method is adopted, i.e., the average price for each commodity included is multiplied by its respective "mass unit." The "mass-unit" represents the relative extent to which each commodity is used or consumed, and is regarded as constant over the period under review. By taking the aggregate expenditure for any one year as base, the index-number for the relative aggregate expenditure for any other year is readily calculated. Certain aspects of this method, not dealt with in previous Reports, are discussed on pages 19 and 20 of Labour Report No. 6.

In order to illustrate clearly the method adopted it will be well to take a simple numerical example. Suppose that in 1901 the average price of butter was 1s. 3d. per lb., of bread was 3d. per 2 lb. loaf, of

mutton was 3d. per lb., and of milk was 4d. per quart; and suppose that in 1911 the prices of these four commodities were 1s. 6d. for butter, 4d. for bread, 5d. for mutton, and 5d. for milk. Now the total quantities of each of these commodities consumed in Australia per annum are approximately 90 million lb. of butter, 470 million 2-lb. loaves of bread, 330 million lb. of mutton, and 300 million quarts of milk. Therefore, the actual expenditure of the people of Australia on these commodities in 1901 and 1911 respectively would be as follows:—

Computation of Index-Numbers: Illustrative Example of Aggregate Expenditure Method.

Particulars.	Unit.	Quantities Consumed. (0,000,000 omitted).	Prices.		Total Expenditure.	
			1901.	1911.	1901.	1911.
			d.	d.	d. (0,000,000 omitted)	d. (0,000,000 omitted)
Butter ..	lb.	9	15	18	135	162
Bread ..	2lb loaf	47	3	4	141	188
Mutton ..	lb.	33	3	5	99	165
Milk ..	quart.	30	4	5	120	150
					495	665

The relative aggregate expenditure was 495 in 1901, and rose to 665 in 1911; in other words, the index-number in 1901, taking the expenditure in 1911 as the base (= 1000) was $\frac{495}{665} \times 1000 = 744$, and the index-number in 1911, taking the expenditure in 1901 as the base (= 1000) was $\frac{665}{495} \times 1000 = 1343$, which might, of course, have been obtained directly by taking the reciprocal of the result previously obtained. If now, instead of only four commodities, a representative group of fifty or more were treated in this way for a series of years, the numbers thus obtained would furnish a satisfactory index of the variations in price from year to year.

2. Changes in Cost of Commodities, Standard of Living, and Expenditure on Living.—A change in the "Cost of Living" may occur either in the *standard of living* or in the *purchasing-power of money*, or in both; both affect the expenditure on living, which expenditure itself depends on three things, viz.:—

- (i.) The *particular series of commodities* consumed;
- (ii.) The *relative quantities* of the commodities consumed; and
- (iii.) The *price* of the commodities.

To avoid confusion as to the significance of the results given in this section, the conception of what is meant by "cost of living" ought to be clearly apprehended, for evidently a change in any one of the above may produce a change in the *expenditure on living*. In order to obtain index-numbers which are independent of (arbitrary) variations of (i) and (ii.) above, and which unequivocally reflect the variations caused by *price* alone, it is necessary that the particular series of commodities selected,

and the relative quantities of these remain constant. This phase of the subject is dealt with more fully in Labour Report No. 1, Appendix VIII., in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 17-18; in Labour Bulletin No. 9, pp. 27 to 46; and in Labour Bulletin No. 14, pp. 127 to 130. In the places indicated it has been shewn that in order to avoid all confusion between "changes in the regimen" (i.e., change in the standard of living) which is at the disposal of the individual, and "changes in prices," which are not at his disposal, it is necessary to adopt the "aggregate expenditure" method; that is, to ascertain the cost of a definite regimen or what may be called the cost of a definite "composite unit." To be of the highest *general* value, the "composite unit" must be one applicable to the *whole* community. It has also been shewn that what has been called the method of "aggregate expenditures," i.e., the estimation of the cost of this composite unit, as the basis of the method, is, as said, the only unequivocal method, and technically is perfectly satisfactory, while any other method is technically less satisfactory, or introduces some change of regimen. Variations in quantity or in the items of the composite unit introduce ambiguity, for the resulting change in the price of the composite unit is partly due to change of the unit and partly due to change of the prices of its constituent items.

3. Commodities and Requirements Included.—The 47 items of expenditure included are divided into four groups, viz., (i.) groceries and bread, (ii.) dairy produce, (iii.) meat, and (iv.) house-rent. These items cover about 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of a normal family. There are very cogent reasons for the restriction of the inquiry to the items mentioned. If the comparisons are to be satisfactory, confusion must not arise between changes in standard of living and changes arising from a variation of the purchasing-power of money. In order to avoid such confusion the items selected are such as are sensibly identical and identifiable in the various localities. The most important group of expenditure which is not included is clothing, the cost of which amounts to about 13 per cent. of the total expenditure. Owing to influences of individual taste, fashion, and the enormous variety of production, articles included in this group are practically not comparable and identifiable. As regards fuel and light, the cost of which amounts to about 4 per cent. of total expenditure, while these commodities are comparable and identifiable, the usage or relative consumption in the towns included in the inquiries varies to such an extent that their inclusion on an assumed constant regimen would tend to produce a fictitious result in so far as relative cost of living is concerned. Thus the prices of clothing and of fuel and light cannot be unequivocally compared.

While it is true that insurance premiums and contributions to benefit societies have probably not increased, it must be borne in mind that the purchasing-power of money-benefits to be derived is reduced in accordance with the general depreciation in the purchasing-power of money, and in order to obtain benefits of the same net value as before, the premiums and contributions would have to be increased *pro rata*.

It will be seen, therefore, that notwithstanding the exclusion of various items of expenditure, the results obtained based on the four groups referred to, can be vitiated only in an abnormal state of affairs, and ordinarily only to a very slight extent. It is to be remembered also that prices of commodities which cannot be included because they do not lend themselves to exact specification, tend, *on the whole*, to move in the same direction as those included, and approximately to the same extent. Thus, as a matter of fact, a more reliable result is obtained than would be the case, if the investigation endeavoured to cover the whole of the items of expenditure. In short, this method of measuring the variations in the purchasing-power of money, though *theoretically* subject to obvious limitations, is *practically* the best general measure.

The question of procedure in abnormal circumstances was sufficiently referred to in Report No. 6, pp. 20 to 22.

The following tabular statement gives particulars of the commodities and items included, the units of measurement for which prices are collected, and the mass-units shewing the relative extent to which each item is used or consumed.

Retail Prices.—Table shewing Commodities, etc., included in Investigation, Units of Measurement, and "Mass-Units."

Commodity.	Unit.	"Mass Unit."	Commodity.	Unit.	"Mass Unit."
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).			GROUP III.—MEAT.		
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	468	26. Beef, sirloin	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary .. .	25 lb. bags	11	27. " rib	"	82
3. Tea	lb.	30	28. " flank	"	12
4. Coffee	"	2	29. " shin	"	14
5. Sugar	"	400	30. " steak, rump	"	24
6. Rice	"	50	31. " " shoulder	"	53
7. Sago	"	8	32. " " buttock	"	53
8. Jam	"	73	33. " corned round	"	39
9. Oatmeal	"	35	34. " brisket, with bone	"	11
10. Raisins	"	14	35. " " without bone	"	32
11. Currants	"	14	36. Mutton, leg	"	92
12. Starch	"	1	37. " " shoulder	"	62
13. Blue	doz. "egs.	1	38. " " loin	"	30
14. Candles	lb.	16	39. " " neck	"	40
15. Soap	"	64	40. " " chops, loin	"	62
16. Potatoes	14 lbs.	64	41. " " leg	"	15
17. Onions	lb.	68	42. " " neck	"	31
18. Kerosene	gallon	17	43. Pork, leg	"	9½
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.			44. " " loin	"	8½
19. Milk	quart	300	45. " " belly	"	10½
20. Butter	lb.	95	46. " " chops	"	8½
21. Cheese	"	15	GROUP IV.—HOUSE RENT.		
22. Eggs	dozen	18	47. House Rent.	per week	49½
23. Bacon, middles .. .	lb.	16			
24. " " shoulder .. .	"	16			
25. Ham	"	8			

It may here be pointed out that both in the collection of the data and computation of the results great care is exercised, and that there is reason to believe that the price-indexes are based upon more extensive data than any which have been obtained in similar investigations in other parts of the world.

In order to give some idea of the thorough manner in which the work has been performed, it may be mentioned that with regard to the 46 commodities and house rent included in this inquiry, nearly 10,500 prices and quotations are received and tabulated for the 30 towns dealt with each month. This amounts to 126,000 per annum. The complete scheme in regard to the determination of the price-indexes shewing the purchasing power of money provides for the collection and analysis of over 140,000 separate prices and quotations each year, but owing to the difficulty in getting in all the returns regularly it was necessary to provide for a larger number of returns than was actually required.

When it is understood that this inquiry goes back for the capital towns as far as 1901, and the wholesale price inquiry (80 commodities) as far as 1871, some idea may be gathered as to the magnitude of the work involved. All the returns received are carefully examined, and in cases where the accuracy of any price or quotation is open to doubt, special inquiries are made from the person furnishing the quotation. Each return as received is compared with the previous return from the same dealer and with all other returns received for the same period. It is believed, therefore, that a high degree of accuracy is obtained in the investigations, and it is evident that personal impressions or results, not based upon an equally systematic and equally extensive inquiry, cannot be allowed weight.

4. Other Investigations as to Price-Indexes and Cost of Living.—

While this report is concerned principally with variations in price-indexes on the lines indicated in the preceding paragraphs, it will not be out of place to refer briefly to other cognate investigations which have been carried out. These consist, as already indicated, of (i.) Annual Variations in the price index-numbers in 150 Towns, and (ii.) the cost of living according to Householders' Budget Inquiries.

(i.) *Price-Indexes in 150 Towns.*—The investigation as to variation in price-indexes in 100 towns was carried out for the months of November, 1913, and November, 1914. For November, 1915 and 1916, the number of towns from which returns are collected annually was increased from 100 to 150. The results of the November 1913 investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5, pp. 26 to 33; of the November 1914 investigation in Labour Bulletin No. 8, pp. 231 to 240; of the November 1915 investigation in Labour Bulletin No. 12, pp. 352 to 361; and of the November 1916 investigation in the present issue, pp. 393 to 402. Prior to 1912 investigations were made concerning the price-indexes in the capital towns only, but during 1912 and subsequent years these investigations have been extended to 30 towns. On page 402 hereinafter comparisons are made to test the accuracy with which the results obtained from these inquiries reflect the conditions obtaining throughout the States and Commonwealth.

It will be seen on examination that the table reveals the fact that there is but little variation in the results obtained from the different sources indicated.

This approximation between the various results indicates that the index-numbers published for the capital towns only, for the years prior to 1912 and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years, probably reflect, with a substantial degree of accuracy, the variations in the purchasing-power of money, not only in each State separately, but also throughout the Commonwealth as a whole.

(ii.) *Householders' Budget Inquiries.*—The first of these was held in 1910-11, and covered a period of twelve months. The results of that investigation were published in December, 1911.* A second was held during 1913 for the month of November only. The results of this second investigation are given in a special report, entitled "Labour Report, No. 4, Expenditure on Living in the Commonwealth, November, 1913."

5. Purchasing-Power of Money, General Results of Investigation in each Metropolitan Town, 1901 to 1916.—Index-numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities (and for house-rent) included in the investigation, as well as the weighted average for all groups together, are shown for the capital town of each State in the tables given hereinafter. In these tables the weighted aggregate expenditure for the whole of the capital towns in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), and the figures for that year (as well as other years) for the individual towns show the relative purchasing-power of money as between the respective towns. The result is that the index-numbers given herein are comparable in all respects, that is to say, they show not only the variations from year to year in each town, but they also furnish comparisons as to the relative cost in the different towns, either in any given year or as between one year and another and one town and another.

Retail Price Index-Numbers in Metropolitan Towns, 1901 to 1916.†

It is, of course, obvious that the index-numbers given in the separate parts of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of (say) house-rent, groceries and food since the weighted average cost for the six towns taken together in 1911 in each case is made equal to 1000, although the cost is of course not the same.

TOWN.	1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.												
Sydney	876	966	904	1,009	1,015	1,028	1,018	1,151	1,106	1,112	1,281	1,329
Melbourne	897	902	817	923	895	939	924	1,061	958	996	1,222	1,210
Brisbane	1,011	998	969	1,045	1,039	1,054	1,087	1,195	1,110	1,076	1,331	1,315
Adelaide	949	956	903	944	991	972	958	1,138	1,039	1,061	1,310	1,274
Perth	1,006	1,080	1,013	1,038	1,033	1,095	1,276	1,186	1,073	1,113	1,351	1,345
Hobart	935	989	888	960	1,018	1,011	1,003	1,169	1,061	1,070	1,250	1,236
Weighted Average*	912	964	885	975	974	997	1,000	1,124	1,043	1,062	1,272	1,270

† See footnote on next page.

* See Report on an "Inquiry into the Cost of Living in Australia, 1910-11," by G. H. Knibbs, C.M.G., etc., December, 1911. Owing to the small number of budgets returned, the deductions and tabulations based thereon are necessarily restricted.

Retail Price Index-Numbers in Metropolitan Towns, 1901 to 1916†—continued.

TOWN.	1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.												
Sydney	881	911	932	1,093	1,038	976	971	1,098	1,095	1,110	1,221	1,291
Melbourne	969	940	967	1,066	989	976	959	1,077	1,019	1,075	1,350	1,338
Brisbane	833	823	837	953	906	973	983	1,055	1,008	995	1,277	1,287
Adelaide	975	906	928	1,068	1,028	1,017	1,103	1,203	1,167	1,194	1,360	1,283
Perth	1,290	1,210	1,200	1,289	1,251	1,238	1,241	1,320	1,262	1,244	1,475	1,434
Hobart	931	928	965	1,015	1,017	982	994	1,102	1,109	1,177	1,439	1,334
Weighted Average*	945	934	955	1,082	1,023	998	1,000	1,115	1,030	1,108	1,307	1,316

GROUP III.—MEAT.												
Sydney	1,025	966	994	1,000	982	977	959	1,107	1,213	1,230	1,778	2,091
Melbourne	1,077	1,023	1,067	1,043	998	978	929	1,123	1,149	1,270	1,800	2,027
Brisbane	1,026	1,038	1,024	1,062	967	936	935	991	965	1,169	1,549	1,746
Adelaide	1,221	1,109	1,059	1,080	1,031	1,032	1,037	1,130	1,206	1,502	1,930	2,240
Perth	1,378	1,530	1,511	1,482	1,479	1,535	1,377	1,643	1,607	1,688	1,722	1,997
Hobart	1,225	1,278	1,279	1,262	1,303	1,276	1,221	1,321	1,400	1,493	1,789	2,217
Weighted Average*	1,101	1,053	1,074	1,069	1,040	1,024	1,000	1,144	1,198	1,323	1,781	2,056

GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—GROCERIES AND FOOD.

Sydney	917	964	936	1,030	1,012	1,000	989	1,124	1,131	1,156	1,396	1,520
Melbourne	969	945	925	995	949	960	935	1,082	1,024	1,091	1,411	1,462
Brisbane	865	959	947	1,033	983	1,000	1,018	1,102	1,042	1,078	1,373	1,426
Adelaide	1,028	982	951	1,010	1,025	1,001	1,020	1,154	1,119	1,215	1,487	1,532
Perth	1,184	1,237	1,197	1,226	1,212	1,251	1,348	1,345	1,267	1,302	1,463	1,542
Hobart	1,011	1,047	1,010	1,055	1,093	1,073	1,058	1,190	1,164	1,212	1,445	1,523
Weighted Average*	972	980	955	1,031	1,006	1,005	1,000	1,129	1,095	1,144	1,416	1,495

GROUP IV.—HOUSE RENT.

Sydney	858	891	911	922	955	985	1,090	1,183	1,246	1,279	1,220	1,212
Melbourne	733	782	804	828	842	916	970	1,016	1,089	1,126	1,065	1,089
Brisbane	488	524	575	616	662	700	767	804	863	882	859	847
Adelaide	629	716	812	872	940	1,018	1,112	1,160	1,125	1,040	932	930
Perth	801	761	684	678	667	698	810	880	928	914	848	869
Hobart	667	686	708	727	749	778	805	829	887	914	928	928
Weighted Average*	751	793	816	839	867	919	1,000	1,063	1,118	1,135	1,081	1,061

ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—GROCERIES, FOOD, AND HOUSE RENT.

Sydney	893	934	926	986	989	995	1,031	1,148	1,178	1,206	1,323	1,394
Melbourne	870	878	876	926	905	942	950	1,055	1,051	1,105	1,277	1,309
Brisbane	789	790	794	856	851	877	915	979	969	997	1,162	1,188
Adelaide	804	891	894	953	990	1,008	1,058	1,157	1,121	1,143	1,258	1,285
Perth	1,027	1,023	986	1,001	988	1,023	1,126	1,154	1,128	1,143	1,222	1,266
Hobart	869	899	886	920	952	951	954	1,042	1,053	1,090	1,239	1,278
Weighted Average*	880	902	897	951	948	970	1,000	1,101	1,104	1,140	1,278	1,324

Note.—As to basis of index-numbers, see remarks above.

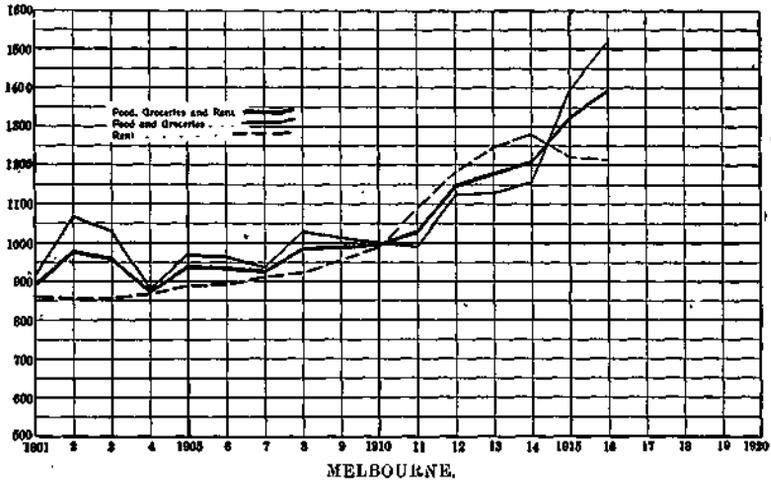
* For all capital towns.

† Index-numbers for years 1902-5 are given in Labour Report No 6, p. 26.

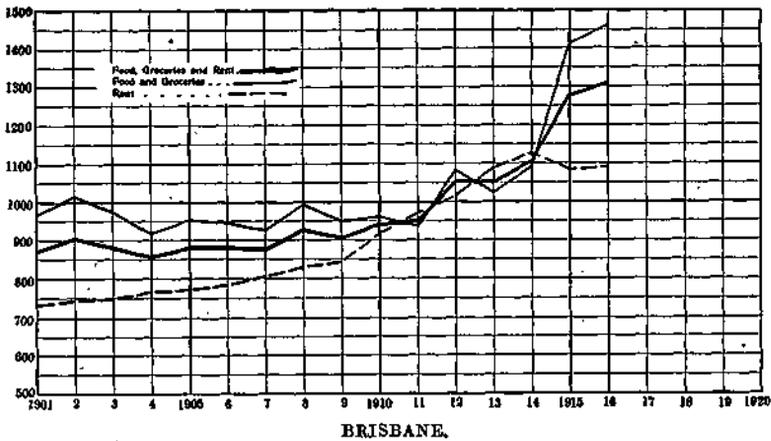
The index-numbers for the last three groups (groceries and food, house rent, and groceries, food, and house rent combined) are shown for each capital town, together with the weighted average for all six towns combined in the graphs on pages 360 to 362. The paragraphs on pages 362 and 363 briefly indicate the general nature of the variations in each group.

360 RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT, AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

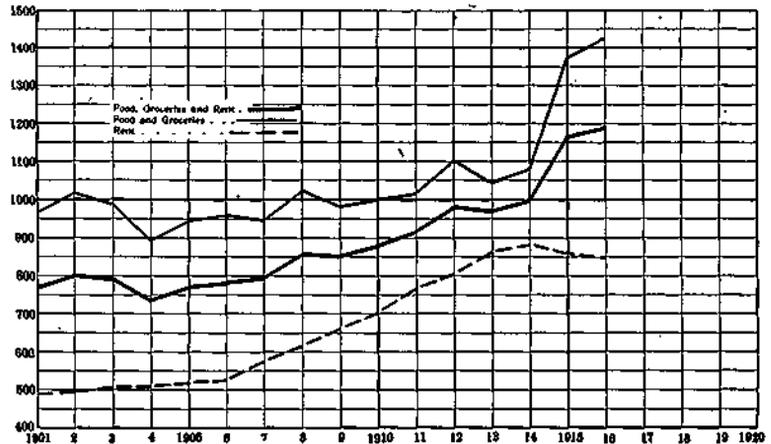
GRAPHS SHEWING THE PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY,* METROPOLITAN TOWNS, 1901 to 1916.
SYDNEY.



MELBOURNE.

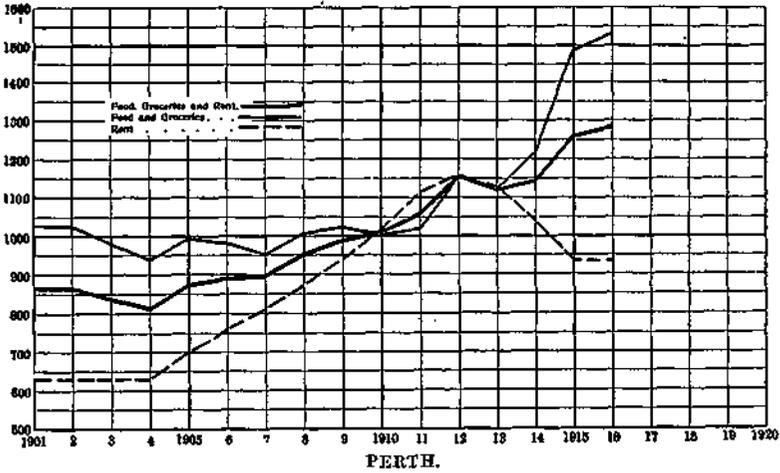


BRISBANE.

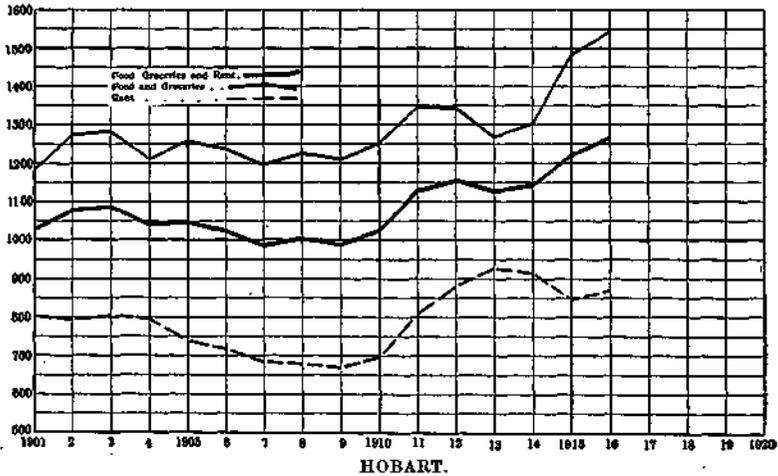


* Based upon a constant "composite unit."

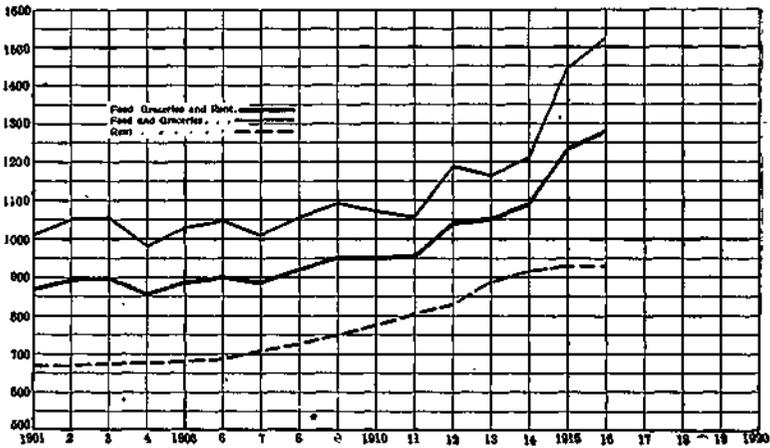
RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT, AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY. 361
 GRAPHS SHewing PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY, METROPOLITAN TOWNS,
 1901 TO 1916.
 ADELAIDE.



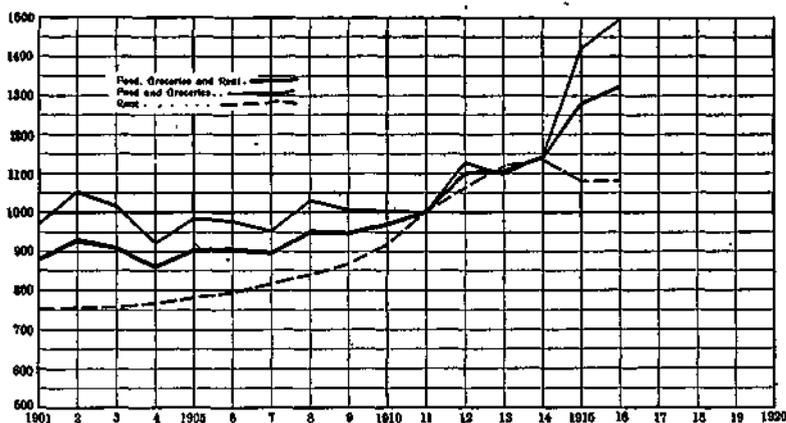
PERTH.



HOBART.



See footnote previous page.

PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.—WEIGHTED AVERAGE SIX CAPITAL TOWNS,
1901 to 1916.

See footnote p. 360.

(i.) *Groceries (18 Commodities)*.—It may be seen that the index-number for this Group was higher in 1916 than in 1915 for Sydney, and lower in the remaining towns, the aggregate effect upon the weighted average index-number showing a slight increase. The weighted average index-number for all towns in 1916 compared with 1911 amounts to 27.9 per cent., and compared with 1901 to 40.2 per cent. The average cost in 1916 of the commodities included in this group was greatest in Perth and least in Melbourne.

(ii.) *Dairy Produce (7 Commodities)*.—The index-numbers for this group were higher for 1916 than for 1915 in Sydney and Brisbane, and lower in the remaining towns. The weighted average index-number for all towns in 1916 was 0.7 per cent. higher than in 1915, 31.6 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 39.3 per cent. higher than in 1901. The average cost in 1916 of the commodities in this group was highest in Perth and lowest in Adelaide.

(iii.) *Meat (21 Cuts or Joints of Butcher's Meat)*.—The index-numbers for this group were higher in 1916 than in 1915 in all the capital towns. The weighted average index-number for all towns taken together in 1916 was 15.4 per cent. higher than in 1915; 105.6 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 86.7 per cent. higher than in 1901. The average cost of the commodities included in this group for 1916 was greatest in Adelaide and least in Brisbane.

(iv.) *Groceries and Food (Groups I., II., and III. combined)*.*—The index-numbers for this combined group show the aggregate effect upon the purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers of movements in prices of commodities, apart from variations in house rent. In all the towns there was an increase in 1916 compared with the immediately preceding year. During the whole of the period covered by the table on page 359 the index-numbers were higher in Perth than in any other capital town up to and including 1914. The disparity between that town and the

* That is the "composite unit" upon which these index-numbers are computed

remaining towns was greater in the earlier years of the period, and less in the later years, and for 1915 the index-number for Perth, while still higher than for all the towns except Adelaide, shows less divergence from the weighted average than for any other year. In 1916 the index-number for Perth was again higher than for any other town. Taking the weighted average for all the towns the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries specified on page 359 were 49.5 per cent. higher in 1916 than in 1911. The average cost of these items for 1916 was greatest in Perth, and least in Brisbane.

(v.) *House Rent.*—Except in Adelaide, where rents remained stationary from 1901 to 1904, and declined in 1913, and in Perth, where they decreased from 1903 to 1907, and again in 1908-9 and 1914, there was a uniform increase in each of the metropolitan towns from 1901 to 1914. The abnormal conditions arising out of the war has resulted in entirely changed conditions for the years 1915 and 1916. It will be seen that for 1915 there was a decrease in the cost of housing accommodation in all the towns except Hobart, where there was a small increase. In 1916 Melbourne and Perth show slight increases, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide slight decreases, while the index-number for Hobart is the same for 1916 as for 1915. The weighted average index-number is the same for 1916 as for 1915, but is still 8.1 per cent. higher than in 1911, and nearly 44 per cent. higher than in 1901. The greatest increase since 1901 has occurred in Brisbane (73.6 per cent.), followed in the order named by Melbourne (48.6 per cent.), Adelaide (47.9 per cent.), Sydney (41.3 per cent.), Hobart (39.1 per cent.), and Perth (8.5 per cent.).

(vi.) *Price Index-numbers for Food, Groceries and House Rent combined.*—The weighted average index-numbers for the combined expenditure upon the 46 items of food and groceries and housing accommodation show an increase of 3.6 per cent. in 1916 compared with 1915. Reference to the graph on page 362 will show that the weighted average price index-number was lower in 1904 than in any other year during the period covered by the investigations. The index-number rose in 1905 and 1906, and fell in 1907. There was a substantial rise in 1908, followed by a slight decline in 1909. Further rises occurred in 1910 and 1911, and again in 1912, when the increase was very considerable (10.1 per cent.). The index-number for 1913 was practically the same as for 1912, but in 1914 there was a rise of 3.2 per cent., in 1915 of 12.1 per cent., and a further rise in 1916 of 3.6 per cent.

Compared with 1911 the base year of the period, the weighted average purchasing-power-of-money index-number shows an increase of 32.4 per cent. for 1916. It may further be seen that, except for the year 1909, from 1901 to 1912 inclusive, the index-number for Perth was higher than for any other capital town. In 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916 the index-number for Sydney was the highest, and for 1916 the index-number for Perth was lower than for any other town except Brisbane. Attention has already been drawn in the quarterly Labour Bulletins to the fact that the increase in prices of food and groceries during 1915 was considerably less in Perth than in the remaining towns. The result of this is to alter the relative cost of food groceries and house-rent combined in the several towns.

6. **Variations in Price-indexes (4th Quarter, 1916).**—During the fourth quarter of 1916, the purchasing-power-of-money index-number for the thirty towns for which particulars are collected, shows a decrease since the preceding quarter (July to September, 1916), from 1294 to 1276, the index-number for the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1915 being 1310. The following table furnishes quarterly comparisons for the whole of the thirty towns since the beginning of the year 1912.

Purchasing-Power of Money.—Quarterly Index-Numbers.—Average for Thirty Towns, 1912 to 1916.

Particulars	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.
1912 ..	1,023	1,068	1,120	1,110	1,080
1913 ..	1,078	1,093	1,078	1,071	1,080
1914 ..	1,090	1,127	1,124	1,113	1,113
1915 ..	1,151	1,226	1,333	1,310	1,255
1916 ..	1,325	1,310	1,294	1,276	1,301

NOTE.—Basis of table: the weighted average aggregate expenditure for the six capital towns in 1911 equals 1000. See remarks on page 336 with reference to change of base period.

The index-number for the quarter under review is 1.4 per cent. lower than that for the preceding quarter. Particulars of the purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers in each State for the years 1912 to 1916, as well as for the third and fourth quarters of 1916 and the fourth quarter of 1915, are shewn in the following table. The weighted average aggregate expenditure for the six capital towns in 1911 is taken as base (=1000), and the index-numbers are therefore comparable in all respects, that is to say, they shew not only the variations from year to year in each State, but they also furnish comparisons as to the relative cost in the different States, either in any given year or between one year and another, and one State and another:—

Purchasing-Power of Money.—Index-Numbers for each State and Commonwealth,† October to December, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Average for 1912 ..	1,125	1,033	981	1,126	1,191	1,012	1,080
" 1913 ..	1,155	1,023	959	1,096	1,158	1,007	1,080
" 1914 ..	1,179	1,073	988	1,122	1,175	1,041	1,113
" 1915 ..	1,295	1,249	1,155	1,243	1,261	1,199	1,255
" 1916 ..	1,370	1,279	1,182	1,275	1,297	1,251	1,301
Quarter—							
October to Dec., 1915	1,372	1,295	1,245	1,268	1,248	1,262	1,310
July to Sept., 1916	1,368	1,269	1,141	1,269	1,318	1,234	1,294
Oct. to Dec., 1916	1,354	1,249	1,135	1,249	1,282	1,217	1,276

† Weighted average in each State for the five towns specified in paragraph 8 hereinafter.

NOTE.—Basis of table: weighted average expenditure in six capital towns for 1911 equals 1000. See remarks on page 336 with reference to change of base period.

7. **Variations in Retail Prices and House Rent Index-Numbers, 1912 to 1916 (Fourth Quarter).**—The table in the preceding paragraph shews the aggregate effect on the purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers for each State, of variations in prices of commodities and house rent,

In order to shew the movements in the various main groups of expenditure that make up the whole "composite unit," the commodities are divided into three groups, viz., groceries, dairy produce and meat, and the following table shews the index-number for each group and house rent separately for the fourth quarter of 1916, compared with the quarter immediately preceding, the corresponding quarter of 1915, and with the average for the whole of the years 1912 to 1916.

Purchasing-Power of Money.--Index-Numbers for each State, October to December, 1916. Weighted Average Expenditure in each Group for Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000).*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with
I.—GROCERIES.							
Average for 1912 ..	1,160	1,064	1,231	1,141	1,274	1,154	1,140
" 1913 ..	1,113	960	1,137	1,045	1,171	1,046	1,058
" 1914 ..	1,116	997	1,116	1,064	1,209	1,058	1,074
" 1915 ..	1,289	1,222	1,379	1,315	1,439	1,257	1,287
" 1916 ..	1,334	1,211	1,365	1,283	1,419	1,253	1,293
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1915	1,418	1,319	1,533	1,377	1,473	1,334	1,392
July to Sept., 1916	1,309	1,182	1,353	1,252	1,384	1,210	1,266
Oct. to Dec., 1916	1,312	1,185	1,300	1,240	1,362	1,214	1,260
II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.							
Average for 1912 ..	1,105	1,065	1,055	1,191	1,375	1,081	1,114
" 1913 ..	1,103	1,007	996	1,158	1,321	1,076	1,080
" 1914 ..	1,120	1,063	997	1,188	1,311	1,136	1,110
" 1915 ..	1,228	1,341	1,286	1,357	1,534	1,405	1,316
" 1916 ..	1,299	1,321	1,303	1,275	1,495	1,313	1,319
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1915	1,254	1,275	1,340	1,248	1,477	1,303	1,286
July to Sept., 1916	1,317	1,352	1,254	1,247	1,506	1,368	1,331
Oct. to Dec., 1916	1,251	1,217	1,263	1,178	1,439	1,240	1,246
III.—MEAT.							
Average for 1912 ..	1,121	1,144	1,009	1,132	1,710	1,336	1,169
" 1913 ..	1,222	1,165	996	1,204	1,666	1,403	1,217
" 1914 ..	1,291	1,284	1,189	1,403	1,754	1,497	1,340
" 1915 ..	1,783	1,822	1,543	1,928	1,792	1,831	1,791
" 1916 ..	2,113	2,044	1,758	2,253	2,052	2,256	2,071
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1915	2,043	2,030	1,812	2,090	1,729	2,201	2,005
July to Sept., 1916	2,109	2,002	1,571	2,292	2,237	2,166	2,051
Oct. to Dec., 1916	2,086	1,991	1,590	2,299	2,122	2,169	2,028
IV.—HOUSE RENT.†							
Average for 1912 ..	1,112	957	777	1,087	866	769	994
" 1913 ..	1,179	1,017	814	1,063	892	804	1,042
" 1914 ..	1,201	1,048	826	992	879	820	1,054
" 1915 ..	1,140	1,013	808	891	834	839	1,006
" 1916 ..	1,140	1,017	796	899	851	843	1,008
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1915	1,136	1,009	805	802	827	844	1,003
July to Sept., 1916	1,146	1,015	794	902	851	843	1,010
Oct. to Dec., 1916	1,145	1,022	804	905	849	849	1,014

* See remarks on p. 336 with reference to change of base period. † See remarks on page 367, paragraph iv.

(i.) *Groceries*.—During the quarter under review the average cost of the commodities included in this group increased slightly in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, and decreased in the remaining States.

The result of the variations in the index-numbers for the various States is, that taking the weighted average for all States, the index-number shews little variation. Compared with the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1915 the index-numbers are lower in all the States. The decrease is greatest in Queensland (15.2 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (10.2 per cent.), South Australia (9.9 per cent.), Tasmania (9.0 per cent.), and New South Wales and Western Australia (7.5 per cent.). The index-number for the 30 towns considered as a whole shews a decrease of 9.5 per cent. in the quarter under review compared with the fourth quarter of 1915.

(ii.) *Dairy Produce*.—The index-numbers for this group are lower than for the immediately preceding quarter in all the States except Queensland. Compared with the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1915, the index-numbers show a decrease in all the States, ranging from 5.6 per cent. for South Australia to 0.2 per cent. for New South Wales. The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns taken together shews that the cost of the commodities included in this group was 3.1 per cent. lower in the quarter under review than in the fourth quarter of 1915.

(iii.) *Meat*.—The index-numbers for this group are slightly lower for the fourth than for the third quarter of 1916 in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, and slightly higher in the remaining States. The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns taken together shews a decrease of 1.1 per cent. for the quarter under review. Compared with the corresponding quarter (October to December), of 1915, there was a decrease in Victoria of 1.9 per cent., in Queensland of 12.3 per cent., and in Tasmania of 1.5 per cent. In the remaining States the price of meat was higher than for the corresponding period of 1915. The increase was greatest in Western Australia (22.7 per cent.), followed in the order named by South Australia (10.0 per cent.), and New South Wales (2.1 per cent.). The aggregate effect of these variations upon the weighted average index-number for the 30 towns shews an increase of 1.1 per cent.

(iv.) *House Rent*.—The index-numbers for house rent shew that there was little variation during the quarter under review. In New South Wales and Western Australia there was a slight decrease, and in the remaining States a slight increase since the immediately preceding quarter. The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns taken together shews an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the fourth quarter compared with the third quarter of the current year. When compared with the corresponding quarter of 1915 it may be seen that there has been a slight increase in all the States except Queensland, in which State the index-number shews

practically no change. The increase in Western Australia amounts to 2.6 per cent., but in the other States it is small. The weighted average index-number for the Commonwealth shews an increase of 1.1 per cent., compared with the fourth quarter of 1915.

It has been pointed out in previous issues of this Bulletin that in Broken Hill and Port Pirie prevailing conditions rendered it necessary, for some time, to compute the predominant rents in accordance with results obtained from special inquiries. Further inquiries instituted during the third quarter of 1916 elicited the information that normal conditions, so far as house rent is concerned, then obtained. Consequently the index-numbers for these towns for the third and fourth quarters of 1916 represent the rents being charged which are, in general, the rents being paid. It should be observed, however, that in making comparisons with preceding quarters for these towns, it will be necessary to bear in mind the remarks with reference to the abnormal conditions obtaining since the outbreak of war.

8. **Variations in Purchasing-Power-of-Money in each of Thirty Towns, 1912 to 1916 (Fourth Quarter).**—In the following table index-numbers are given for the fourth quarter of 1916, the preceding quarter (July to September, 1916), and the corresponding quarter (October to December), of 1915. The average index-numbers for the whole of the years 1912 to 1916 are included for comparative purposes. The basis of the table is the weighted average expenditure in the six capital towns for 1911. It should be observed that these index-numbers are not comparable with those in similar tables given in Labour Bulletins Nos. 1 to 12 referring to the 30 towns. If it be desired to ascertain the corresponding index-numbers for any other period than those specified in the table, reference should be made to the tables giving purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers on pages 37 and 38 of Labour Report No. 6, published in May last, and on pp. 375-6 hereinafter.

The index-numbers for the fourth quarter of 1916 shew that there has been a decrease in the cost of food, groceries and house rent in all the towns except Broken Hill, Charters Towers and Warwick. The aggregate effect of these variations is, that in the 30 towns considered as a whole, there has been a decrease in the cost of the items included, of 1.4 per cent. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 1915, the index-numbers are lower in all the States except Western Australia. In all the towns in Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania the index-numbers for the fourth quarter of 1916 are lower than for the same period of last year; in New South Wales they are higher in Broken Hill and Bathurst and lower in the remaining towns; in South Australia they are lower in all the towns except Port Pirie and Moonta; in Western Australia they are higher in all the towns except Geraldton. The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns shews a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the fourth quarter of 1916, compared with the same period last year. This decrease is generally due to a decrease in the cost of the commodities included in the groceries and dairy produce groups. Moat and house rent, on the other hand, shew a slight increase.

Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers (Food, Groceries, and House Rent), for each of Thirty Towns, 1912 to 1916, with Weighted Average for Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000).†

Particulars.	1912.	1914.	1915.		1916.		
	Whole Year	Whole Year.	Whole Year.	4th Qtr., (Oct. to Dec.).	Whole Year.	3rd Qtr., (July to Sept.).	4th Qtr., (Oct. to Dec.).
N. S. WALES—							
Sydney ..	1,148	1,206	1,323	1,400	1,394	1,388	1,374
Newcastle ..	955	994	1,147	1,219	1,208	1,212	1,197
Broken Hill‡ ..	1,080	1,068	1,087	1,181	1,282	1,325	1,327
Goulburn ..	1,042	1,130	1,274	1,364	1,350	1,361	1,341
Bathurst ..	919	987	1,104	1,172	1,178	1,180	1,175
*Weighted Aver.	1,125	1,179	1,295	1,372	1,370	1,368	1,354
VICTORIA—							
Melbourne ..	1,055	1,105	1,277	1,322	1,309	1,300	1,280
Ballarat ..	914	904	1,111	1,162	1,126	1,116	1,092
Bendigo ..	926	922	1,110	1,147	1,118	1,095	1,092
Geelong ..	996	1,012	1,182	1,237	1,233	1,224	1,195
Warrnambool..	935	959	1,157	1,214	1,185	1,189	1,153
*Weighted Aver.	1,033	1,073	1,249	1,295	1,279	1,269	1,240
QUEENSLAND—							
Brisbane ..	979	997	1,162	1,255	1,188	1,147	1,140
Toowoomba ..	977	950	1,133	1,212	1,133	1,090	1,083
Rockhampton	962	988	1,154	1,269	1,216	1,169	1,160
Charters Towers	1,008	988	1,151	1,218	1,182	1,142	1,147
Warwick ..	1,004	912	1,067	1,133	1,102	1,065	1,077
*Weighted Aver.	981	988	1,155	1,245	1,182	1,141	1,135
S. AUSTRALIA—							
Adelaide ..	1,157	1,143	1,259	1,282	1,285	1,278	1,257
Kadina, Moonta Walleroo	917	960	1,139	1,174	1,204	1,202	1,188
Port Pirie§ ..	1,004	1,055	1,172	1,212	1,261	1,256	1,251
Mt. Gambier ..	874	923	1,109	1,148	1,165	1,162	1,134
Petersburg ..	1,014	1,126	1,234	1,234	1,251	1,245	1,231
*Weighted Aver.	1,126	1,122	1,243	1,268	1,275	1,269	1,249
W. AUSTRALIA—							
Perth ..	1,154	1,143	1,222	1,206	1,266	1,287	1,252
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,334	1,291	1,398	1,399	1,418	1,435	1,402
Mid. Junction & Guildford ..	1,123	1,104	1,204	1,188	1,226	1,258	1,219
Bunbury ..	1,104	1,111	1,194	1,170	1,214	1,257	1,206
Geraldton ..	1,255	1,315	1,386	1,370	1,372	1,375	1,335
*Weighted Aver.	1,191	1,175	1,261	1,248	1,297	1,318	1,282
TASMANIA—							
Hobart ..	1,042	1,090	1,233	1,286	1,278	1,259	1,242
Launceston ..	999	1,014	1,190	1,262	1,253	1,236	1,224
Zeehan ..	952	898	1,048	1,114	1,095	1,087	1,062
Beaconsfield ..	827	813	991	1,083	1,035	1,032	1,005
Queenstown ..	988	1,021	1,208	1,293	1,260	1,256	1,224
*Weighted Aver.	1,012	1,041	1,199	1,262	1,251	1,234	1,217
†Weighted Aver. for C'wealth	1,080	1,113	1,255	1,310	1,301	1,294	1,276

* Average for the five towns. † Average for thirty towns. ‡ See remarks on page 330 with reference to change of base period. § See remarks on page 367, paragraph (iv.) re house rent.

9. **Capital Towns only. Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, 1911 to 1916.**—The tables given in the preceding sub-sections of this section refer to the thirty towns of the Commonwealth for which particulars have been collected since the beginning of 1912. In previous reports information has, however, been furnished for the six capital towns back to 1901. In order to maintain the continuity of the results given in these reports, the following particulars are given for the capital towns only. As in the former tables in this section, the weighted average cost in 1911 for the six capital towns considered as a whole is taken as base (=1000). It should be observed that the index-numbers in the last part of the table are identifiable and comparable with those given on page 370, and are in fact the same for the towns and periods specified in both tables.

Retail Prices, House Rent and Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in each Capital Town, 1911 to 1916, with Weighted Average Expenditure for the whole of the Six Capital Towns in the Year 1911 as Base (=1000)*.

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1914.	1915.		1916.		
				Whole Year.	4th Qtr., (Oct. to Dec.).	Whole Year.	3rd Qtr., (July to Sept.).	4th Qtr., (Oct. to Dec.).

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Sydney	989	1,124	1,156	1,396	1,530	1,520	1,510	1,485
Melbourne	935	1,082	1,091	1,411	1,491	1,462	1,448	1,407
Brisbane	1,018	1,102	1,078	1,373	1,531	1,426	1,356	1,341
Adelaide	1,020	1,154	1,215	1,487	1,526	1,532	1,521	1,482
Perth	1,346	1,345	1,302	1,483	1,460	1,542	1,580	1,520
Hobart	1,058	1,190	1,212	1,445	1,534	1,522	1,489	1,452
Weighted Average	1,000†	1,129	1,144	1,416	1,512	1,495	1,479	1,446

RENT.

Sydney	1,090	1,183	1,279	1,220	1,213	1,212	1,214	1,214
Melbourne	970	1,016	1,126	1,085	1,081	1,089	1,088	1,097
Brisbane	767	804	882	859	859	847	848	853
Adelaide	1,112	1,160	1,040	932	931	931	931	914
Perth	810	880	914	848	842	869	868	868
Hobart	805	829	914	928	931	928	928	940
Weighted Average	1,000†	1,063	1,135	1,081	1,077	1,080	1,080	1,083

* See footnote to table on next page

Retail Prices, House Rent and Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in each Capital Town, 1911 to 1916, with Weighted Average Expenditure for the whole of the six Capital Towns in the Year 1911 as Base (= 1000)*—cont.

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1914.	1915.		1916.		
				Whole Year.	4th Qtr., (Oct. to Dec.).	Whole Year.	3rd Qtr., (July to Sept.).	4th Qtr., (Oct. to Dec.).
GROCERIES, FOOD, AND RENT.								
Sydney	1,031	1,148	1,206	1,323	1,400	1,394	1,388	1,374
Melbourne	950	1,055	1,105	1,277	1,322	1,309	1,300	1,280
Brisbane	915	979	997	1,162	1,255	1,188	1,147	1,140
Adelaide	1,058	1,157	1,143	1,259	1,282	1,285	1,278	1,257
Perth	1,126	1,154	1,143	1,222	1,206	1,266	1,287	1,252
Hobart	954	1,042	1,090	1,233	1,286	1,278	1,259	1,242
Weighted Average	1,000†	1,101	1,140	1,278	1,333	1,324	1,316	1,300

* For corresponding figures for previous years see Report No. 6 (pp. 25-6 and 33-8) of Labour and Industrial Branch. † Basis of Table. See Report No. 6, p. 25.

NOTE—In each section of the above table the figures are comparable in all respects. That is to say, they show not only the increase or decrease in the cost of the items included in each town separately, but also the relative cost as between the several towns.

The weighted average result for the six capital towns taken together shews that there is a decrease in the cost of food, groceries and house rent combined of 1.2 per cent. compared with the cost in the immediately preceding quarter. The decreased cost of food and groceries amounted to 2.2 per cent., while the cost of housing accommodation remained practically stationary. All the capital towns shew a decrease in the cost of food and groceries. Compared with the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1915 the decrease in the cost of food, groceries and house rent combined, for the six capital towns taken together amounts to 2.5 per cent. The index-number for food and groceries is 4.4 per cent. lower than for the same period of last year, while the index-number for house rent is 0.5 per cent. higher. The increase in the cost of food, groceries and house-rent, combined since 1911, is greatest in Melbourne (34.7 per cent.), followed in the order named by Sydney (33.3 per cent.), Hobart (30.2 per cent.), Brisbane (24.6 per cent.), Adelaide (18.8 per cent.), and Perth (11.2 per cent.). The weighted average increase for the six capital towns considered as a whole is 30.0 per cent.

10.—Index-numbers Shewing Variations in Cost of Food, Groceries and House-rent, 1912 to 1916.—In the following tables, index-numbers are given shewing variations in the cost of food and groceries (46 commodities), and housing accommodation, in thirty of the more important towns throughout the Commonwealth at yearly and quarterly periods from 1912 to 1916. Index-numbers for food and groceries are also given for each month of 1916. In addition index-numbers shewing for these years the quarterly and yearly variations in the combined cost of food, groceries and house-rent are given. As explained in pp. 31 and 32 of Labour Report No. 6, these are now computed to the same base as the index-numbers relating to the six capital cities which go back to the year 1901 :—

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities), Index-Numbers for Each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Baharat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
1912	1,124	1,134	1,352	1,128	1,083	1,134	1,082	1,110	1,112	1,086	1,057	1,086
1913	1,131	1,127	1,343	1,151	1,053	1,139	1,024	1,028	1,057	1,040	1,043	1,028
1914	1,156	1,142	1,383	1,174	1,094	1,164	1,091	1,086	1,098	1,099	1,074	1,091
1915	1,390	1,389	1,642	1,388	1,330	1,404	1,411	1,443	1,420	1,393	1,425	1,414
1916	1,520	1,508	1,810	1,532	1,466	1,530	1,462	1,466	1,453	1,464	1,466	1,462
1912 1st Qtr.	1,036	1,062	1,295	1,038	995	1,048	988	1,001	998	1,002	976	990
2nd "	1,090	1,099	1,328	1,070	1,056	1,100	1,069	1,056	1,102	1,056	1,042	1,069
3rd "	1,195	1,195	1,375	1,154	1,136	1,201	1,156	1,170	1,176	1,132	1,115	1,157
4th "	1,176	1,180	1,410	1,258	1,144	1,187	1,113	1,211	1,175	1,154	1,097	1,125
1913 1st Qtr.	1,136	1,124	1,329	1,189	1,060	1,143	1,086	1,055	1,101	1,085	1,051	1,043
2nd "	1,158	1,147	1,381	1,189	1,083	1,166	1,040	1,049	1,093	1,072	1,067	1,046
3rd "	1,128	1,124	1,321	1,118	1,036	1,134	1,021	1,013	1,037	1,030	1,037	1,022
4th "	1,104	1,112	1,343	1,109	1,034	1,114	999	996	999	1,009	1,018	999
1914 1st Qtr.	1,150	1,110	1,340	1,134	1,005	1,153	1,028	1,029	1,043	1,038	1,034	1,030
2nd "	1,163	1,153	1,423	1,201	1,121	1,173	1,118	1,090	1,115	1,133	1,073	1,116
3rd "	1,154	1,148	1,393	1,177	1,095	1,163	1,101	1,113	1,109	1,099	1,089	1,102
4th "	1,156	1,154	1,375	1,184	1,092	1,164	1,115	1,118	1,126	1,126	1,100	1,116
1915 1st Qtr.	1,231	1,233	1,488	1,222	1,182	1,241	1,186	1,202	1,201	1,178	1,162	1,187
2nd "	1,286	1,293	1,605	1,299	1,254	1,300	1,382	1,411	1,389	1,348	1,377	1,383
3rd "	1,536	1,506	1,721	1,518	1,453	1,540	1,584	1,627	1,634	1,567	1,628	1,590
4th "	1,530	1,522	1,753	1,512	1,455	1,537	1,491	1,531	1,493	1,489	1,533	1,494
1916 1st Qtr.	1,566	1,552	1,784	1,538	1,454	1,570	1,510	1,503	1,504	1,499	1,502	1,509
2nd "	1,517	1,496	1,827	1,545	1,479	1,528	1,483	1,501	1,479	1,506	1,484	1,485
3rd "	1,510	1,509	1,816	1,532	1,468	1,523	1,448	1,449	1,417	1,449	1,468	1,447
4th "	1,485	1,494	1,817	1,511	1,462	1,500	1,407	1,412	1,411	1,400	1,408	1,407
1916.												
January ..	1,520	1,513	1,737	1,502	1,431	1,535	1,442	1,458	1,465	1,435	1,455	1,444
February ..	1,507	1,544	1,751	1,543	1,480	1,597	1,547	1,531	1,506	1,526	1,510	1,542
March ..	1,570	1,539	1,804	1,568	1,453	1,578	1,541	1,519	1,543	1,537	1,541	1,540
April ..	1,512	1,493	1,820	1,543	1,474	1,523	1,484	1,496	1,475	1,507	1,475	1,485
May ..	1,527	1,507	1,817	1,550	1,479	1,537	1,485	1,506	1,482	1,514	1,493	1,488
June ..	1,512	1,489	1,844	1,542	1,483	1,524	1,479	1,501	1,480	1,500	1,484	1,482
July ..	1,526	1,518	1,838	1,549	1,482	1,538	1,483	1,483	1,481	1,497	1,484	1,481
August ..	1,508	1,508	1,808	1,528	1,468	1,520	1,451	1,449	1,432	1,453	1,472	1,450
September ..	1,497	1,502	1,803	1,520	1,455	1,510	1,410	1,415	1,387	1,395	1,448	1,409
October ..	1,471	1,474	1,808	1,486	1,455	1,485	1,405	1,407	1,400	1,383	1,415	1,404
November ..	1,496	1,500	1,825	1,513	1,457	1,504	1,414	1,427	1,426	1,417	1,408	1,415
December ..	1,495	1,509	1,816	1,534	1,474	1,510	1,402	1,402	1,408	1,395	1,401	1,402

Index-numbers for each of the months of 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915 are given on p.p 33-5 of Labour Report, No. 6.

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities), Index-Numbers for Each of Thirty Towns,
with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000)—cont.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
1912	1,102	1,100	1,142	1,292	1,144	1,123	1,154	1,154	1,195	1,091	1,160	1,152
1913	1,042	1,045	1,067	1,212	1,073	1,060	1,119	1,139	1,161	1,021	1,103	1,119
1914	1,078	1,088	1,145	1,266	1,088	1,102	1,215	1,219	1,247	1,052	1,208	1,212
1915	1,373	1,405	1,429	1,546	1,372	1,306	1,487	1,506	1,560	1,382	1,504	1,486
1916	1,426	1,432	1,530	1,599	1,422	1,452	1,532	1,583	1,604	1,467	1,593	1,537
1912 1st Qtr.	1,095	1,115	1,166	1,295	1,132	1,122	1,100	1,108	1,162	976	1,125	1,100
2nd "	1,095	1,100	1,149	1,294	1,156	1,119	1,147	1,147	1,202	1,017	1,184	1,145
3rd "	1,105	1,088	1,128	1,283	1,159	1,123	1,192	1,178	1,201	1,043	1,190	1,198
4th "	1,111	1,095	1,152	1,299	1,128	1,123	1,177	1,193	1,213	1,069	1,193	1,170
1913 1st Qtr.	1,036	1,018	1,064	1,233	1,079	1,055	1,123	1,140	1,155	1,018	1,109	1,122
2nd "	1,060	1,047	1,074	1,231	1,118	1,078	1,145	1,161	1,183	1,037	1,118	1,144
3rd "	1,040	1,054	1,052	1,192	1,058	1,056	1,117	1,137	1,162	1,039	1,117	1,118
4th "	1,035	1,058	1,078	1,191	1,041	1,055	1,090	1,119	1,142	980	1,082	1,091
1914 1st Qtr.	1,044	1,073	1,110	1,218	1,090	1,070	1,147	1,146	1,161	1,030	1,166	1,144
2nd "	1,058	1,056	1,125	1,255	1,073	1,082	1,250	1,252	1,255	1,066	1,291	1,246
3rd "	1,085	1,069	1,161	1,252	1,076	1,105	1,229	1,231	1,283	1,067	1,319	1,222
4th "	1,124	1,151	1,186	1,338	1,114	1,151	1,233	1,209	1,289	1,034	1,234	1,231
1915 1st Qtr.	1,193	1,228	1,261	1,423	1,221	1,223	1,315	1,328	1,402	1,189	1,353	1,317
2nd "	1,318	1,360	1,361	1,553	1,360	1,347	1,506	1,522	1,553	1,395	1,515	1,506
3rd "	1,450	1,483	1,466	1,548	1,422	1,463	1,602	1,624	1,673	1,498	1,607	1,603
4th "	1,531	1,549	1,630	1,690	1,484	1,552	1,526	1,552	1,612	1,445	1,540	1,529
1916 1st Qtr.	1,551	1,554	1,633	1,678	1,523	1,572	1,550	1,591	1,648	1,481	1,598	1,556
2nd "	1,456	1,453	1,580	1,645	1,440	1,484	1,574	1,610	1,643	1,512	1,630	1,678
3rd "	1,356	1,383	1,447	1,530	1,373	1,383	1,521	1,579	1,565	1,461	1,584	1,525
4th "	1,341	1,338	1,431	1,539	1,353	1,367	1,469	1,548	1,561	1,426	1,568	1,477
1916.												
January	1,547	1,554	1,647	1,692	1,534	1,570	1,506	1,540	1,618	1,425	1,513	1,511
February	1,573	1,573	1,681	1,676	1,532	1,592	1,572	1,609	1,672	1,495	1,638	1,577
March	1,531	1,536	1,661	1,666	1,502	1,556	1,574	1,625	1,666	1,522	1,642	1,590
April	1,486	1,506	1,642	1,650	1,467	1,517	1,549	1,592	1,640	1,532	1,621	1,557
May	1,491	1,457	1,613	1,644	1,462	1,612	1,584	1,612	1,643	1,594	1,622	1,586
June	1,391	1,397	1,488	1,640	1,392	1,422	1,590	1,627	1,645	1,500	1,647	1,593
July	1,362	1,397	1,468	1,567	1,391	1,393	1,551	1,614	1,656	1,512	1,619	1,556
August	1,354	1,377	1,444	1,518	1,366	1,380	1,517	1,574	1,562	1,456	1,576	1,521
September	1,352	1,373	1,428	1,516	1,363	1,376	1,496	1,551	1,538	1,418	1,550	1,499
October	1,345	1,361	1,433	1,549	1,360	1,373	1,484	1,546	1,547	1,411	1,564	1,489
November	1,337	1,332	1,431	1,548	1,354	1,364	1,493	1,556	1,564	1,408	1,558	1,498
December	1,340	1,320	1,430	1,536	1,343	1,364	1,469	1,548	1,561	1,426	1,568	1,477

Index-numbers for each of the months of 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915 are given on p.p 33-5 of Labour Report, No. 6.

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities), Index-Numbers for Each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000)—cont.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average of 30 Towns, U'wealth.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehaan.	Beaconsfield.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
1912	1,345	1,677	1,370	1,403	1,410	1,418	1,190	1,125	1,302	1,201	1,289	1,182	1,129	1,140
1913	1,267	1,607	1,301	1,352	1,386	1,344	1,164	1,073	1,268	1,181	1,291	1,149	1,095	1,106
1914	1,302	1,654	1,323	1,393	1,453	1,382	1,212	1,130	1,290	1,205	1,305	1,198	1,144	1,155
1915	1,483	1,809	1,510	1,580	1,659	1,559	1,445	1,406	1,571	1,512	1,561	1,450	1,416	1,428
1916	1,542	1,823	1,570	1,666	1,662	1,608	1,523	1,504	1,652	1,611	1,661	1,535	1,495	1,506
1912 1st Qtr.	1,301	1,659	1,310	1,365	1,338	1,378	1,093	1,021	1,225	1,082	1,192	1,083	1,049	1,065
2nd "	1,408	1,730	1,435	1,441	1,439	1,477	1,145	1,110	1,276	1,159	1,272	1,149	1,111	1,125
3rd "	1,368	1,671	1,406	1,433	1,435	1,435	1,235	1,171	1,329	1,237	1,341	1,226	1,186	1,194
4th "	1,303	1,650	1,364	1,373	1,429	1,382	1,288	1,189	1,378	1,327	1,352	1,267	1,160	1,176
1913 1st Qtr.	1,275	1,595	1,298	1,349	1,384	1,346	1,158	1,082	1,259	1,182	1,220	1,142	1,100	1,113
2nd "	1,299	1,621	1,334	1,370	1,407	1,372	1,188	1,090	1,287	1,205	1,331	1,171	1,117	1,129
3rd "	1,248	1,622	1,208	1,359	1,387	1,334	1,170	1,086	2,266	1,194	1,239	1,257	1,091	1,101
4th "	1,245	1,590	1,274	1,328	1,368	1,323	1,139	1,051	1,259	1,143	1,262	1,125	1,070	1,082
1914 1st Qtr.	1,245	1,580	1,260	1,330	1,399	1,320	1,162	1,075	1,245	1,149	1,235	1,146	1,104	1,115
2nd "	1,296	1,617	1,315	1,373	1,429	1,368	1,231	1,133	1,280	1,193	1,312	1,206	1,158	1,168
3rd "	1,336	1,693	1,356	1,431	1,482	1,417	1,212	1,143	1,294	1,232	1,311	1,201	1,151	1,163
4th "	1,330	1,727	1,362	1,440	1,503	1,420	1,243	1,170	1,342	1,245	1,311	1,230	1,161	1,174
1915 1st Qtr.	1,420	1,747	1,473	1,483	1,596	1,496	1,298	1,225	1,377	1,302	1,404	1,283	1,235	1,248
2nd "	1,508	1,796	1,531	1,596	1,688	1,576	1,413	1,348	1,510	1,431	1,523	1,405	1,364	1,373
3rd "	1,546	1,882	1,571	1,654	1,711	1,623	1,541	1,528	1,713	1,647	1,679	1,569	1,554	1,563
4th "	1,460	1,812	1,488	1,586	1,641	1,542	1,534	1,523	1,684	1,668	1,717	1,555	1,513	1,524
1916 1st Qtr.	1,504	1,823	1,532	1,610	1,678	1,578	1,598	1,544	1,692	1,622	1,687	1,590	1,540	1,549
2nd "	1,564	1,825	1,557	1,654	1,676	1,623	1,555	1,539	1,690	1,652	1,701	1,569	1,519	1,523
3rd "	1,580	1,851	1,622	1,737	1,656	1,644	1,489	1,475	1,635	1,605	1,654	1,507	1,479	1,492
4th "	1,520	1,794	1,568	1,656	1,598	1,584	1,452	1,456	1,593	1,569	1,600	1,474	1,446	1,469
1916														
January ..	1,462	1,774	1,461	1,555	1,632	1,533	1,519	1,460	1,629	1,533	1,653	1,515	1,494	1,504
February ..	1,521	1,842	1,549	1,637	1,682	1,596	1,645	1,600	1,736	1,678	1,715	1,641	1,571	1,577
March ..	1,528	1,851	1,586	1,635	1,710	1,605	1,615	1,573	1,711	1,673	1,694	1,613	1,566	1,566
April ..	1,513	1,792	1,529	1,630	1,663	1,578	1,588	1,664	1,698	1,674	1,678	1,595	1,506	1,520
May ..	1,559	1,814	1,534	1,608	1,675	1,608	1,551	1,538	1,683	1,647	1,697	1,566	1,511	1,529
June ..	1,630	1,867	1,606	1,723	1,691	1,632	1,525	1,514	1,690	1,634	1,729	1,547	1,507	1,519
July ..	1,614	1,878	1,666	1,729	1,694	1,675	1,612	1,501	1,679	1,628	1,721	1,535	1,506	1,516
August ..	1,577	1,851	1,620	1,750	1,648	1,642	1,482	1,467	1,632	1,611	1,630	1,499	1,480	1,491
September ..	1,549	1,823	1,591	1,721	1,628	1,614	1,475	1,457	1,593	1,577	1,609	1,487	1,458	1,468
October ..	1,531	1,793	1,577	1,660	1,601	1,592	1,464	1,458	1,587	1,577	1,596	1,475	1,442	1,454
November ..	1,527	1,802	1,585	1,662	1,590	1,591	1,448	1,445	1,593	1,549	1,603	1,465	1,452	1,465
December ..	1,502	1,788	1,644	1,647	1,601	1,569	1,460	1,465	1,598	1,551	1,602	1,481	1,447	1,459

Index-numbers for each of the months of 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915 are given on p.p 33-5 of Labour Report, No. 6.

House Rents. Index-Numbers for Each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000)—cont.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average of 30 Towns, C'wealth.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Gulkford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehan.	Beaconsfield.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
1912	880	843	757	674	1,033	866	829	819	450	291	557	709	1,063	984
1913	928	786	814	696	1,077	892	887	826	442	264	557	804	1,118	1,042
1914	914	770	790	707	1,117	879	914	847	335	251	614	820	1,135	1,054
1915	848	809	757	641	935	834	928	879	299	244	673	839	1,081	1,008
1916	869	838	782	567	870	851	928	893	298	208	686	843	1,086	1,008
1912 1st Qtr.	850	865	721	675	1,009	847	812	821	450	301	562	761	1,025	962
2nd "	859	886	727	675	1,009	854	817	821	450	301	562	764	1,056	986
3rd "	900	830	785	670	1,083	879	841	810	450	287	553	772	1,089	1,013
4th "	913	814	796	677	1,020	884	847	824	451	273	549	770	1,088	1,014
1913 1st Qtr.	914	839	811	682	1,063	891	902	823	461	264	558	809	1,102	1,028
2nd "	924	773	815	691	1,082	886	888	825	461	264	556	802	1,117	1,041
3rd "	930	774	815	697	1,080	891	884	827	461	264	552	800	1,120	1,045
4th "	947	780	814	715	1,084	900	901	828	383	264	563	806	1,135	1,055
1914 1st Qtr.	921	764	795	712	1,130	883	904	834	375	264	560	809	1,135	1,058
2nd "	923	770	795	724	1,151	886	911	843	348	248	622	817	1,148	1,068
3rd "	917	770	795	702	1,177	882	919	856	312	248	638	825	1,147	1,087
4th "	896	770	775	690	1,011	862	924	856	305	244	636	827	1,110	1,027
1915 1st Qtr.	860	806	756	693	1,019	851	923	856	300	244	636	827	1,088	1,010
2nd "	843	817	753	658	992	833	929	867	300	244	686	843	1,081	1,006
3rd "	839	804	759	641	987	826	929	837	300	244	686	843	1,078	1,003
4th "	842	807	759	572	981	827	931	837	297	244	686	844	1,077	1,003
1916 1st Qtr.	870	838	738	569	978	852	920	892	290	210	686	838	1,077	1,004
2nd "	869	837	734	569	969	851	924	893	291	210	686	841	1,078	1,006
3rd "	868	835	736	570	972	851	928	893	301	210	686	843	1,080	1,010
4th "	868	839	719	559	959	849	940	891	301	210	686	843	1,084	1,014

Purchasing-Power of Money. (Food, Groceries and House Rent Combined.) Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average for Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill*	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
1912	1,148	955	1,080	1,042	919	1,125	1,055	914	926	996	935	1,033
1913	1,178	986	1,110	1,087	950	1,155	1,061	865	900	972	934	1,023
1914	1,200	994	1,068	1,130	987	1,179	1,105	904	922	1,012	959	1,073
1915	1,323	1,147	1,087	1,274	1,104	1,295	1,277	1,111	1,110	1,132	1,157	1,249
1916	1,394	1,208	1,282	1,350	1,178	1,370	1,309	1,126	1,118	1,233	1,185	1,279
1912 1st Qtr.	1,069	901	1,022	989	857	1,049	987	865	853	937	890	966
2nd "	1,123	923	1,040	1,011	893	1,099	1,041	901	922	981	929	1,020
3rd "	1,209	997	1,103	1,045	959	1,181	1,105	939	962	1,031	959	1,083
4th "	1,194	1,000	1,140	1,123	965	1,171	1,086	952	968	1,036	963	1,065
1913 1st Qtr.	1,171	980	1,093	1,086	935	1,143	1,049	878	923	992	940	1,025
2nd "	1,192	1,001	1,130	1,120	956	1,170	1,059	878	920	984	947	1,033
3rd "	1,176	982	1,105	1,074	954	1,153	1,053	857	886	962	940	1,023
4th "	1,174	977	1,111	1,069	956	1,151	1,043	846	867	947	920	1,012
1914 1st Qtr.	1,201	976	1,109	1,102	979	1,174	1,066	870	891	952	940	1,034
2nd "	1,214	1,001	1,158	1,142	1,008	1,190	1,128	907	936	1,040	965	1,095
3rd "	1,208	998	1,125	1,129	988	1,183	1,120	920	932	1,020	964	1,088
4th "	1,203	1,001	1,179	1,146	975	1,169	1,106	920	890	1,035	969	1,077
1915 1st Qtr.	1,229	1,080	968	1,169	1,013	1,201	1,147	970	976	1,055	1,008	1,118
2nd "	1,259	1,095	1,066	1,217	1,056	1,234	1,201	1,094	1,088	1,155	1,135	1,232
3rd "	1,400	1,213	1,134	1,346	1,173	1,375	1,377	1,219	1,230	1,278	1,271	1,351
4th "	1,400	1,219	1,181	1,364	1,172	1,372	1,322	1,162	1,147	1,237	1,214	1,295
1916 1st Qtr.	1,419	1,223	1,212	1,336	1,172	1,389	1,337	1,148	1,157	1,254	1,203	1,306
2nd "	1,393	1,202	1,263	1,362	1,185	1,368	1,319	1,146	1,136	1,258	1,196	1,291
3rd "	1,388	1,212	1,325	1,361	1,180	1,368	1,300	1,116	1,095	1,224	1,189	1,309
4th "	1,374	1,197	1,327	1,341	1,175	1,354	1,280	1,092	1,092	1,195	1,163	1,249

* See remarks re House Rent on page 367.

376 RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT, AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY
 Purchasing-Power of Money. (Food, Groceries and House Rent Combined.)
 Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average for Six Capital
 Towns in 1911 as Base (=1000).—cont.

QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

Year	Queensland						South Australia										
	1st Qtr.	2nd "	3rd "	4th "	Weighted Average	Weighted Average, Queensland.	1st Qtr.	2nd "	3rd "	4th "	Weighted Average	Weighted Average, S.A.					
1912	979	977	962	1,008	1,004	981	1,157	1,127	1,157	1,164	1,133	907	902	874	1,000	1,104	
1913	969	924	940	957	925	959	1,121	1,115	1,146	1,148	1,148	1,146	918	1,006	880	1,024	1,096
1914	907	950	988	888	912	988	1,148	1,148	1,148	1,148	1,148	1,148	980	1,055	923	1,126	1,132
1915	1,162	1,133	1,154	1,151	1,067	1,155	1,250	1,172	1,182	1,172	1,182	1,182	1,182	1,109	1,234	1,234	1,234
1916	1,188	1,133	1,216	1,182	1,102	1,182	1,286	1,286	1,286	1,286	1,286	1,286	1,286	1,166	1,251	1,251	1,275
1912 1st Qtr.	975	938	970	1,014	995	980	1,127	1,127	1,157	1,164	1,133	905	902	838	993	1,096	
2nd "	976	930	960	1,009	995	979	1,157	1,157	1,146	1,148	1,148	918	1,006	880	1,024	1,096	
3rd "	984	954	954	1,001	1,058	981	1,164	1,164	1,146	1,148	1,148	935	1,009	894	1,032	1,128	
4th "	984	966	967	1,010	965	982	1,184	1,184	1,164	1,164	1,164	1,017	1,017	904	1,030	1,135	
1913 1st Qtr.	956	920	934	988	949	951	1,133	1,092	1,133	1,133	1,133	907	902	874	1,000	1,104	
2nd "	978	930	945	980	966	968	1,146	1,146	1,146	1,146	1,146	918	1,014	880	1,048	1,108	
3rd "	966	923	932	932	917	955	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116	912	1,013	888	1,043	1,082	
4th "	976	922	948	945	879	983	1,092	1,092	1,092	1,092	1,092	904	1,005	868	1,023	1,089	
1914 1st Qtr.	977	938	965	969	908	966	1,118	1,118	1,118	1,118	1,118	913	1,022	896	1,072	1,094	
2nd "	900	928	973	983	898	979	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176	937	1,058	925	1,147	1,195	
3rd "	1,005	943	999	878	912	993	1,156	1,156	1,156	1,156	1,156	981	1,103	832	1,164	1,195	
4th "	1,018	992	1,014	1,039	930	1,013	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,009	1,009	940	1,150	1,192	
1915 1st Qtr.	1,053	1,026	1,058	1,079	977	1,051	1,142	1,142	1,142	1,142	1,142	1,024	1,075	993	1,132	1,145	
2nd "	1,132	1,111	1,116	1,153	1,060	1,124	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,164	1,177	1,117	1,246	1,250	
3rd "	1,209	1,163	1,173	1,153	1,096	1,194	1,326	1,326	1,326	1,326	1,326	1,235	1,177	1,146	1,304	1,310	
4th "	1,265	1,212	1,268	1,219	1,183	1,245	1,282	1,282	1,282	1,282	1,282	1,174	1,212	1,146	1,234	1,288	
1916 1st Qtr.	1,230	1,216	1,238	1,297	1,156	1,252	1,395	1,395	1,395	1,395	1,395	1,233	1,282	1,192	1,272	1,298	
2nd "	1,205	1,144	1,247	1,290	1,107	1,207	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,162	1,272	1,298	
3rd "	1,147	1,090	1,168	1,142	1,085	1,141	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,256	1,162	1,162	1,244	1,260	
4th "	1,140	1,083	1,160	1,147	1,077	1,135	1,257	1,257	1,257	1,257	1,257	1,231	1,184	1,134	1,231	1,249	

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

Year	Western Australia						Tasmania							
	1st Qtr.	2nd "	3rd "	4th "	Weighted Average, W.A.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.	1st Qtr.	2nd "	3rd "	4th "	Weighted Average	Weighted Average, 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, C'wealth.	
1912	1,154	1,334	1,123	1,104	1,255	1,191	1,042	990	952	827	988	1,012	1,101	1,080
1913	1,128	1,270	1,101	1,082	1,259	1,158	1,058	971	898	804	980	1,007	1,104	1,080
1914	1,143	1,291	1,111	1,315	1,175	1,145	1,080	1,014	828	813	921	1,041	1,140	1,113
1915	1,122	1,274	1,104	1,194	1,386	1,291	1,234	1,091	931	1,021	1,004	1,109	1,178	1,225
1916	1,266	1,418	1,288	1,214	1,372	1,297	1,278	1,253	1,056	1,034	1,060	1,251	1,324	1,301
1912 1st Qtr.	1,116	1,333	1,068	1,082	1,203	1,100	978	939	907	791	933	951	1,038	1,083
2nd "	1,124	1,373	1,146	1,120	1,222	1,120	1,010	921	837	806	980	1,040	1,146	1,088
3rd "	1,176	1,326	1,150	1,201	1,266	1,210	1,073	1,038	948	846	1,017	1,040	1,146	1,130
4th "	1,143	1,306	1,130	1,087	1,266	1,177	1,107	1,039	997	884	1,022	1,066	1,130	1,110
1913 1st Qtr.	1,126	1,234	1,098	1,076	1,252	1,159	1,053	964	931	805	983	1,005	1,095	1,073
2nd "	1,146	1,272	1,121	1,091	1,271	1,172	1,084	981	947	819	1,012	1,019	1,117	1,083
3rd "	1,118	1,274	1,100	1,087	1,251	1,142	1,031	979	893	828	982	1,010	1,108	1,078
4th "	1,123	1,249	1,085	1,076	1,251	1,149	1,041	956	859	782	975	994	1,068	1,071
1914 1st Qtr.	1,112	1,245	1,069	1,070	1,238	1,141	1,040	976	887	755	937	1,008	1,117	1,080
2nd "	1,143	1,299	1,101	1,108	1,257	1,170	1,099	1,014	904	804	1,029	1,046	1,154	1,083
3rd "	1,194	1,314	1,125	1,131	1,314	1,197	1,091	1,025	891	828	1,034	1,046	1,156	1,127
4th "	1,153	1,334	1,121	1,301	1,301	1,191	1,112	1,041	916	834	1,084	1,064	1,140	1,113
1915 1st Qtr.	1,193	1,361	1,178	1,158	1,350	1,231	1,141	1,073	934	897	937	1,006	1,117	1,080
2nd "	1,133	1,394	1,211	1,211	1,462	1,270	1,214	1,159	934	958	1,170	1,074	1,147	1,128
3rd "	1,245	1,237	1,237	1,238	1,413	1,296	1,265	1,265	1,071	1,071	1,271	1,264	1,247	1,188
4th "	1,206	1,389	1,188	1,170	1,370	1,248	1,266	1,262	1,083	1,083	1,293	1,262	1,333	1,231
1916 1st Qtr.	1,233	1,418	1,206	1,182	1,300	1,230	1,317	1,276	1,116	1,045	1,276	1,281	1,360	1,325
2nd "	1,278	1,419	1,219	1,208	1,386	1,305	1,286	1,274	1,115	1,069	1,284	1,270	1,310	1,310
3rd "	1,237	1,435	1,259	1,257	1,375	1,318	1,296	1,266	1,087	1,032	1,266	1,234	1,318	1,289
4th "	1,252	1,402	1,210	1,252	1,282	1,282	1,317	1,276	1,092	1,005	1,284	1,257	1,300	1,276

* See remarks on page 367.

(i.) *Food and Groceries (46 commodities).*—Information as to variations in prices of Group I. (Groceries), Group II. (Dairy Produce), and Group III. (Meat) are collected monthly, and in the tables on pp. 371 to 373 the index-numbers for the combined expenditure on the three groups are given at yearly, quarterly, and monthly intervals.

(ii.) *House Rent.*—Information as to variations in housing accommodation is collected quarterly, and index-numbers at yearly and quarterly periods are given in the tables on pp. 374 and 375.

(iii.) *Food, Groceries, and House Rent combined.*—The tables on pp. 375 and 376 furnish comparisons in the form of index-numbers of the variations in the combined expenditure on the 46 items of food and groceries and housing accommodation at yearly and quarterly periods for 1912 to 1916 inclusive. It should be observed that the index-numbers in these tables are comparable in every respect in so far as they relate to the capital towns with those given on page 359 for the respective groups, and where they relate to the same period are of course identical in both tables. Thus for the years 1912 to 1916 inclusive, the index-numbers for the six capital towns are (as they should be) the same in both sets of tables.

The last columns in each of the above tables refer to the weighted average for the thirty towns. The method of computing these weighted average index-numbers is explained in Report No. 1, page 35. The population weights used in the computations are as follows —

Population Weights used in Computation of Index-Numbers shewing Cost of Living in different Towns, with weighted average for all Towns as Base (= 1000).

Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney	633	Melbourne	500	Brisbane	140	Adelaide	190	Perth, etc.	105	Hobart	42
Newcastle	62	Ballarat	53	T'woomba	20	Kadina, etc.	12	Kalg'lie, etc.	31	Launceston	25
Br'ken Hill	31	Bendigo	44	R'k'hmont	21	Pt. Pirie	11	Mld.Jn., etc.	7	Q'ustown	5
Goulburn	13	Geelong	34	Chtrs Twrs	17	Mt. Gamb'r	7	Bunbury	4	Zeelan	4
Bathurst	9	W'nambo'1	9	Warwick	6	Petersburg	3	Geraldton	4	Beac'nsfield	3

(iv.) *Care to Avoid Erroneous Comparisons.*—It is, of course, obvious that the index-numbers given in the separate parts of the table cannot be directly compared with each other, in order to shew the relative cost of (say) house rent and groceries and food, since the weighted average cost in 1911 is in each case made equal to 1000, although the cost is, of course, not the same.

11. Relative Cost of Food and Groceries and Housing Accommodation in Different Towns, 1916.—The figures given in the following table shew the relative index-numbers for 1916 respectively in the thirty towns for which particulars are regularly collected. The index-numbers are

comparable in all respects, and further, it will be observed that the index-numbers in the last column of the table are identical for each town with those given in the table on page 368 for the year 1916. The first column gives the relative expenditure on groceries and food. The second, third, fourth, and fifth columns give similar information with regard to expenditure on house rent for houses of four, five, and six rooms, and for all houses respectively.

1916.—Index-Numbers, shewing Relative Cost in each of Thirty Towns, of Food and Groceries and House Rent, (including 4, 5, and 6-roomed Houses, and all Houses,) compared with Weighted Average Expenditure on Groceries, Food and Rent (all Houses) in the Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000).

TOWN.	Groceries and Food.	HOUSE RENT.				GROCERIES, FOOD AND RENT, INCLUDING HOUSES HAVING—			
		Four-roomed Houses only.	Five-roomed Houses only.	Six-roomed Houses only.	All Houses Weighted Average.	Four Rooms.	Five Rooms.	Six Rooms.	All Houses Weighted Average.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	895	387	472	540	490	1,282	1,367	1,435.	1,394
Newcastle	858	244	331	412	320	1,132	1,219	1,300	1,208
Broken Hill*	1,066	194	257	306	216	1,200	1,323	1,372	1,282
Goulburn	902	316	407	506	448	1,218	1,303	1,408	1,350
Bathurst	894	211	285	378	314	1,075	1,149	1,242	1,178
Weighted Average ..	901	364	446	517	469	1,265	1,349	1,418	1,370
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	861	316	409	506	448	1,178	1,270	1,367	1,309
Ballarat	864	143	204	308	262	1,007	1,068	1,172	1,126
Bendigo	856	168	225	321	262	1,024	1,081	1,177	1,118
Geelong	862	221	326	423	371	1,083	1,183	1,285	1,233
Warrnambool	863	233	305	369	322	1,096	1,168	1,232	1,185
Weighted Average ..	861	290	378	475	418	1,151	1,230	1,326	1,279
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	840	325	294	378	348	1,065	1,134	1,218	1,188
Toowoomba	843	181	230	278	290	1,024	1,073	1,121	1,143
Rockhampton	901	197	253	328	315	1,098	1,174	1,229	1,216
Charter Towers	942	192	254	300	240	1,134	1,196	1,242	1,182
Warwick	838	148	220	277	264	986	1,038	1,115	1,102
Weighted Average ..	855	212	278	354	327	1,067	1,133	1,209	1,182
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	902	290	381	466	385	1,192	1,283	1,368	1,285
Moonta, etc.	933	176	280	360	271	1,109	1,213	1,293	1,204
Port Pirie*	945	275	334	389	316	1,220	1,279	1,334	1,261
Mt. Gambler	864	216	274	367	301	1,080	1,138	1,231	1,165
Petersburg	938	237	316	369	313	1,175	1,254	1,307	1,251
Weighted Average ..	905	381	369	452	370	1,186	1,274	1,357	1,275
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth	900	301	370	456	357	1,210	1,279	1,365	1,266
Kalgoorlie, etc.	1,074	351	444	525	344	1,425	1,518	1,599	1,418
Mid. Junction	925	241	318	382	301	1,166	1,243	1,307	1,220
Bunbury	981	221	269	331	293	1,202	1,250	1,313	1,214
Geraldton	973	364	474	570	399	1,337	1,447	1,543	1,372
Weighted Average ..	947	308	383	466	350	1,255	1,330	1,413	1,297
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	897	301	361	437	381	1,198	1,258	1,334	1,278
Launceston	886	257	353	419	367	1,143	1,230	1,305	1,253
Zeehan	973	129	164	201	122	1,102	1,137	1,174	1,095
Beaconsfield	949	72	85	105	85	1,021	1,034	1,054	1,034
Queenstown	978	296	342	375	282	1,274	1,320	1,383	1,290
Weighted Average ..	905	269	336	403	346	1,174	1,241	1,307	1,251
Commonwealth Weighted Average ..	887	308	391	472	414	1,185	1,278	1,359	1,301

* See Remarks on page 367 with reference to house rents.

The weighted average for all houses is obtained separately for each of the thirty towns by "weighting" the rent paid for each class of house by the number of houses in each respective class in each town. If houses of only one particular size are included, different results may be obtained. This is evident when it is remembered that the distribution of houses according to number of rooms is substantially different in some of the towns; that is to say, there are a greater number of large, and therefore of relatively more expensive, houses in some towns than in others, and *vice versa*, and consequently the weighted average rents in the former class of town refer to a larger size of house than in the latter class. Separate results are accordingly given for the several classes of houses specified in the table.

The figures in the last four columns furnish results for expenditure on groceries and food, combined with expenditure on rent, for each of the three classes of houses indicated, and also for the weighted average for all houses.

Some few words as to the proper interpretation of the preceding tables may not be out of place. The total cost of living in each town for food and groceries, as well as the average rental paid, is multiplied by a number representing the population of the town, and a weighted average expenditure for all towns is thus computed. The weights used are given on page 377. The relative expenditure in each town for (a) food and groceries, (b) house rents, and (c) food, groceries, and house rent combined, is shewn, the base of the table being the weighted average expenditure in the six capital towns for 1911 = 1000. Thus in each horizontal line the sum of the index-number for food and groceries and that for rent of houses of each specified size is equal to the index-number for food, groceries, and house rent combined, taking the corresponding house-rent group. The table is comparable in all respects, and in addition shews the proportionate cost of food and groceries and of rent. For example, taking the last line in the table on the preceding page it may be seen that taking the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and average rents to be £1301, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £887 (1st column), and the average rental £414 (5th column), the sum of the two latter amounts being £1301. Again, if it be desired to ascertain the relative expenditure for food and groceries and rent of four-roomed houses it will be found the figures are £887 and £308, which, together amount to £1195 (6th column). In addition to shewing the relative cost of food and groceries and house rent (for different classes of houses) in each town individually, the table also furnishes comparisons as to the relative cost of these items as between the several towns. Thus taking food and groceries only (1st column) it may be seen that commodities which would

cost £895 in Sydney can be purchased for £861 in Melbourne, or £902 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent for houses of five rooms (7th column), it will be seen that an expenditure of £1270 in Melbourne is equivalent to an expenditure of £1367 in Sydney, £1283 in Adelaide, £1518 in Kalgoorlie, or £1447 in Geraldton.

The index-numbers are reversible, and may be used for comparisons as to purchasing-power of money as between any of the towns included. Thus if it be ascertained that the average rental of five-roomed houses in Melbourne is, say, 15s. 6d. weekly, and the average rental of the same class of house in Sydney is required, all that is necessary is to multiply the rental in Melbourne by the index-number for five-roomed houses in Sydney and divide by the index-number for Melbourne (3rd column), $15s. 4d. \times \frac{17}{10} = 17s. 11d.$, which will be found to be the average rental of five-roomed houses in Sydney (see Appendix II.).

(i.) *Food and Groceries.*—As regards food and groceries it may be seen that the weighted average of the five towns was above the weighted average for all towns for 1916 in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, and lower in the remaining States. The most expensive towns are Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, and Broken Hill in New South Wales, Kalgoorlie being 21.1 per cent., and Broken Hill 20.2 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns.

(ii.) *House Rent.*—It will be seen that taking house-rents of any size of house given, or of the weighted average of all houses, Sydney, Melbourne, Goulburn and Geraldton are the most expensive towns, while Beaconsfield and Zeehan, in Tasmania, are the cheapest.

With reference to house-rents in Broken Hill and Port Pirie, it is necessary to observe that for some time after the outbreak of war a number of houses were occupied at purely nominal or reduced rentals by families of which the wage-earner was out of employment. It was not until the latter half of the current year that enquiries elicited the fact that normal conditions again obtained. It must be borne in mind, therefore, that for the years 1914, 1915 and 1916 the average rents in these towns have been computed in accordance with special investigations which have been made each quarter.

(iii.) *Food and Groceries and House Rent combined.*—The last column in the following table shews the relative cost according to average prices of the commodities and housing accommodation in each town during 1916. It may be seen that the average cost was greatest in Kalgoorlie followed by Sydney, Geraldton and Goulburn. The index-number for Kalgoorlie was 9.0 per cent., Sydney 7.1 per cent., Geraldton 5.5 per cent., and Goulburn 3.8 per cent. above the weighted average cost for all towns. The cost was least in Zeehan and Beaconsfield, 15.8 and 20.5 per cent. respectively below the weighted average cost for all towns.

12. **Purchasing-Power of Money.**—In the following table the average cost for the six capital towns in the year 1911 has again been taken as base. This base has been taken as equal to 20s. instead of 1000 as in the former tables. The figures shew the variations in purchasing-power of money from year to year in each town separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several towns in each year (in the horizontal lines). It may be seen, for instance, that 20s. 7d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 18s. 4d. in Brisbane, or 19s. 1d. in Hobart; or that 26s. 0d. in Melbourne for the third quarter of 1916 was equivalent to 15s. 5d. in Brisbane in 1901, or 22s. 6d. in Perth in 1913.

Purchasing-Power of Money.—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1916 to purchase in each Capital Town what would have cost on the Average £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.*

Year.	Sydney.	Mel'b'rne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1901	17 10	17 5	15 5	17 3	20 6	17 5	17 7
1902	19 7	18 1	16 0	17 3	21 7	17 10	18 7
1903	19 2	17 7	15 9	16 9	21 8	17 11	18 2
1904	17 5	17 1	14 8	16 3	20 10	17 1	17 2
1905	18 9	17 7	15 5	17 6	20 11	17 9	18 0
1906	18 8	17 7	15 7	17 10	20 5	18 0	18 0
1907	18 6	17 6	15 11	17 11	19 9	17 9	17 11
1908	19 9	18 6	17 1	19 1	20 0	18 5	19 0
1909	19 9	18 1	17 0	19 10	19 9	19 0	19 0
1910	19 11	18 10	17 6	20 2	20 6	19 0	19 5
1911	20 7	19 0	18 4	21 2	22 6	19 1	20 0†
1912	22 11	21 1	19 7	23 2	23 1	20 10	22 0
1913	23 7	21 0	19 5	22 5	22 6	21 1	22 1
1914	24 1	22 1	19 11	22 10	22 10	21 10	22 10
1915	26 6	25 6	23 3	25 2	24 5	24 8	25 7
1916	27 10	26 2	23 9	25 8	25 4	25 7	26 6
1912 { 1st Quarter	21 4	19 9	19 6	22 6	22 4	19 7	20 9
1912 { 2nd "	22 5	20 10	19 6	23 2	23 8	20 2	21 9
1912 { 3rd "	24 1	22 1	19 8	23 8	23 6	21 5	22 11
1912 { 4th "	23 10	21 8	19 8	23 3	22 10	22 2	22 7
1913 { 1st "	23 5	21 0	19 1	22 8	22 6	21 1	22 0
1913 { 2nd "	23 10	21 2	19 7	22 11	22 11	21 3	22 4
1913 { 3rd "	23 6	21 1	19 4	22 4	22 4	21 1	22 1
1913 { 4th "	23 6	20 10	19 6	21 10	22 5	20 10	21 11
1914 { 1st "	24 0	21 4	19 7	22 4	22 3	21 1	22 4
1914 { 2nd "	24 3	22 7	19 9	23 6	22 10	22 0	23 1
1914 { 3rd "	24 2	22 5	20 1	23 2	23 3	21 10	23 0
1914 { 4th "	24 1	22 1	20 4	22 5	23 0	22 3	22 10
1915 { 1st "	24 7	22 11	21 1	23 3	23 10	22 10	23 6
1915 { 2nd "	25 2	25 3	22 8	25 4	24 8	24 3	24 11
1915 { 3rd "	28 1	27 6	24 2	26 6	25 1	25 10	27 2
1915 { 4th "	28 0	26 5	25 1	25 8	24 1	25 9	26 8
1916 { 1st "	28 4	26 9	25 2	25 11	24 10	26 4	27 0
1916 { 2nd "	27 10	26 5	24 1	26 2	25 7	25 11	26 8
1916 { 3rd "	27 9	26 0	22 11	25 7	25 9	25 2	26 4
1916 { 4th "	27 6	25 7	22 10	25 2	25 1	24 10	26 0

* These results are based upon the regimen referred to on pp. 20-2 Labour Report No. 6.

† Basis of Table.

(i.) *Groceries and Food only.*—The following table has been computed in the same manner as that indicated above, but relates to *groceries and food* (46 items) only. The average expenditure for the six capital towns in 1911 has again been taken as the basis of the table (=20s.), and the figures are, of course, comparable throughout.

Purchasing-Power of Money.—Groceries and Food only.—Amount necessary on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1916 to purchase in each Capital Town what would have cost on the Average £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.*

Year	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901	18 4	19 4	19 4	20 7	23 8	20 3	19 4
1902	21 4	20 4	20 4	20 6	25 6	21 0	21 1
1903	20 7	19 6	19 9	19 8	25 8	21 1	20 4
1904	17 6	18 4	17 10	18 10	24 3	19 8	18 5
1905	19 5	19 1	18 11	19 10	25 2	20 7	19 8
1906	19 3	18 11	19 2	19 8	24 9	20 11	19 7
1907	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1908	20 7	19 11	20 6	20 2	24 6	21 1	20 7
1909	20 3	19 0	19 8	20 6	24 3	21 10	20 1
1910	20 0	19 2	20 0	20 0	25 0	21 6	20 1
1911	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0†
1912	22 6	21 8	22 0	23 1	26 11	23 10	22 6
1913	22 8	20 6	20 10	22 5	25 4	23 3	21 11
1914	23 1	21 10	21 7	24 4	26 0	24 3	22 11
1915	27 11	28 3	27 6	29 9	29 8	28 11	28 4
1916	30 5	29 3	28 6	30 8	30 10	30 5	29 11
1912 { 1st Qtr	20 9	19 9	21 11	22 0	26 0	21 10	21 0
1912 { 2nd "	21 10	21 5	21 11	22 11	28 2	22 11	22 3
1912 { 3rd "	23 11	23 2	22 1	23 10	27 4	24 8	23 9
1912 { 4th "	23 6	22 3	22 3	23 6	26 1	25 9	23 2
1913 { 1st "	22 9	20 9	20 9	22 5	25 6	23 2	22 0
1913 { 2nd "	23 2	20 10	21 2	22 11	26 0	23 9	22 4
1913 { 3rd "	22 7	20 5	20 10	22 4	25 0	23 5	21 10
1913 { 4th "	22 1	20 0	20 8	21 10	24 11	22 9	21 5
1914 { 1st "	23 0	20 7	20 11	22 11	24 11	23 3	22 1
1914 { 2nd "	23 3	22 4	21 2	25 0	25 11	24 7	23 2
1914 { 3rd "	23 1	22 0	21 8	24 7	26 9	24 3	23 0
1914 { 4th "	23 1	22 4	22 6	24 8	26 7	24 10	23 3
1915 { 1st "	24 7	23 9	23 11	26 4	28 5	25 10	24 8
1915 { 2nd "	25 9	27 8	26 4	30 2	30 2	28 3	27 3
1915 { 3rd "	30 9	31 8	29 0	32 0	30 11	30 10	31 1
1915 { 4th "	30 7	29 10	30 8	30 6	29 2	30 8	30 3
1916 { 1st "	31 4	30 2	31 0	31 0	30 1	31 10	30 10
1916 { 2nd "	30 4	29 8	29 1	31 6	31 3	31 1	30 2
1916 { 3rd "	30 2	29 0	27 1	30 5	31 7	29 9	29 7
1916 { 4th "	29 8	28 2	26 10	29 8	30 5	29 1	28 11

* These results are based upon the regimen referred to on pp. 20-2 Labour Report No. 6.

† Basis of Table.

(ii) *House Rent only.*—The following table gives similar particulars for *house rent only*, the average for the six capital towns in 1911 being again taken as the basis of the table (= 20s.):—

Purchasing-Power of Money.—House Rent.—Amount payable on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1916 for House Rent in each Capital Town, compared with a Rent of £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.		Melb'ne.		Brisbane.		Adelaide.		Perth.		Hobart.		Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		
1901	17	3	14	8	9	9	12	7	16	0	13	4	15	1
1902	17	3	14	11	9	10	12	7	15	11	13	5	15	2
1903	17	4	14	11	10	1	12	7	16	0	13	6	15	3
1904	17	5	15	3	10	2	12	7	16	0	13	6	15	4
1905	17	10	15	5	10	5	14	0	14	9	13	7	15	8
1906	17	11	15	8	10	6	15	3	14	4	13	9	15	11
1907	18	4	16	1	11	6	16	3	13	8	14	2	16	4
1908	18	7	16	7	12	4	17	5	13	7	14	7	16	10
1909	19	2	16	10	13	3	18	10	13	4	15	0	17	5
1910	19	10	18	4	14	0	20	4	13	11	15	6	18	5
1911	21	10	19	5	15	4	22	3	16	3	16	1	20	0*
1912	23	8	20	4	16	1	23	2	17	7	16	7	21	3
1913	24	11	21	10	17	3	22	6	18	7	17	10	22	4
1914	25	7	22	6	17	8	20	10	18	3	18	3	22	8
1915	24	5	21	8	17	2	18	8	17	0	18	7	21	7
1916	24	3	21	9	17	0	18	7	17	4	18	7	21	7
1912 { 1st Qtr	22	4	19	8	16	0	23	3	17	0	16	3	20	6
1912 { 2nd "	23	4	20	0	16	1	23	5	17	2	16	4	21	1
1912 { 3rd "	24	7	20	7	16	2	23	5	18	0	16	10	21	10
1912 { 4th "	24	4	20	11	16	0	22	11	18	3	16	11	21	7
1913 { 1st "	24	5	21	4	16	10	22	11	18	3	18	0	22	0
1913 { 2nd "	24	10	21	9	17	2	22	11	18	6	17	9	22	4
1913 { 3rd "	24	11	22	0	17	3	22	3	18	7	17	8	22	5
1913 { 4th "	25	6	22	1	17	10	21	10	18	11	18	0	22	8
1914 { 1st "	25	6	22	5	17	8	21	6	18	5	18	1	22	8
1914 { 2nd "	25	9	22	10	17	10	21	5	18	5	18	3	23	0
1914 { 3rd "	25	8	22	11	17	10	21	1	18	4	18	5	22	11
1914 { 4th "	25	5	21	10	17	4	19	3	17	11	18	6	22	2
1915 { 1st "	24	7	21	10	17	1	18	10	17	5	18	6	21	9
1915 { 2nd "	24	5	21	9	17	4	18	6	16	11	18	7	21	7
1915 { 3rd "	24	5	21	7	17	2	18	7	16	10	18	7	21	7
1915 { 4th "	24	3	21	7	17	2	18	7	16	10	18	7	21	6
1916 { 1st "	24	2	21	9	16	10	18	7	17	5	18	5	21	6
1916 { 2nd "	24	3	21	8	16	11	18	7	17	5	18	6	21	7
1916 { 3rd "	24	3	21	9	17	0	18	7	17	4	18	7	21	7
1916 { 4th "	24	3	21	11	17	2	18	8	17	4	18	10	21	8

* Basis of Table.

13. Monthly Fluctuations in Retail Prices of Food and Groceries, July, 1914, to April, 1917.—The following table has been prepared in order to shew the variations in retail prices of food and groceries since July, 1914, the last month prior to the outbreak of war. Particulars for each town are given in the form of index-numbers for food and groceries in each of the months specified. In the last column the percentage increase or decrease is shewn for each town in April, 1917, compared with July, 1914. It is necessary to observe that the index-numbers given in the following table are computed to the same base as those given in the preceding tables in this section, referring to food and groceries only, viz., the weighted average expenditure in the six capital towns for 1911 is made equal to 1000.

Retail Prices Index-numbers (Food and Groceries) for each of Thirty Towns for the Months Specified, with Weighted Average for Six Capital Towns in 1911 as Base (= 1000).†

Particulars.	1914.					1916.				Per cent. increase from July 1914. to Apr. 1917.
	July.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
NEW SOUTH WALES—										
Sydney	1,153	1,529	1,597	1,570	1,512	1,481	1,505	1,510	1,519	31.2
Newcastle	1,147	1,513	1,544	1,539	1,493	1,512	1,527	1,514	1,527	33.0
Broken Hill	1,468	1,737	1,751	1,864	1,820	1,814	1,804	1,795	1,806	23.0
Goulburn	1,183	1,502	1,543	1,568	1,543	1,529	1,530	1,508	1,507	27.4
Bathurst	1,097	1,431	1,480	1,453	1,474	1,468	1,471	1,463	1,461	33.2
*Weighted Average	1,165	1,535	1,597	1,578	1,523	1,499	1,519	1,522	1,525	30.9
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne	1,106	1,442	1,547	1,541	1,484	1,394	1,393	1,393	1,410	27.5
Ballarat	1,103	1,458	1,531	1,519	1,496	1,401	1,400	1,400	1,401	27.0
Bendigo	1,107	1,465	1,505	1,543	1,475	1,398	1,395	1,390	1,403	26.7
Geelong	1,089	1,435	1,526	1,537	1,500	1,395	1,400	1,419	1,446	32.8
Warrnambool	1,087	1,455	1,510	1,541	1,475	1,399	1,423	1,420	1,431	31.6
*Weighted Average	1,105	1,444	1,542	1,540	1,485	1,395	1,390	1,395	1,411	27.7
QUEENSLAND—										
Brisbane	1,057	1,547	1,573	1,631	1,486	1,340	1,353	1,355	1,364	29.0
Toowoomba	1,041	1,554	1,573	1,530	1,506	1,300	1,311	1,312	1,323	27.1
Rockhampton	1,156	1,647	1,661	1,661	1,642	1,369	1,391	1,393	1,400	21.1
Charters Towers	1,246	1,692	1,676	1,666	1,650	1,531	1,549	1,545	1,573	26.2
Warwick	1,083	1,534	1,532	1,502	1,467	1,330	1,332	1,342	1,348	24.5
*Weighted Average	1,082	1,570	1,592	1,556	1,517	1,355	1,363	1,370	1,381	27.6
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—										
Adelaide	1,250	1,506	1,572	1,574	1,549	1,467	1,480	1,420	1,485	18.8
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo	1,230	1,540	1,609	1,625	1,592	1,553	1,536	1,509	1,570	27.6
Port Pirie	1,291	1,618	1,672	1,656	1,640	1,573	1,582	1,594	1,600	23.9
Mt. Gambier	1,064	1,425	1,495	1,522	1,532	1,407	1,423	1,426	1,438	35.2
Petersburg	1,340	1,513	1,638	1,642	1,621	1,556	1,560	1,564	1,573	17.4
*Weighted Average	1,247	1,511	1,577	1,580	1,557	1,477	1,480	1,490	1,495	19.9
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—										
Perth	1,340	1,462	1,521	1,523	1,513	1,494	1,500	1,505	1,535	14.6
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,664	1,774	1,842	1,851	1,792	1,791	1,742	1,731	1,740	4.8
Mid. Junc. & Guildford	1,354	1,461	1,549	1,586	1,529	1,533	1,522	1,524	1,552	14.6
Bunbury	1,418	1,555	1,637	1,699	1,630	1,637	1,653	1,655	1,677	18.3
Geraldton	1,445	1,632	1,682	1,719	1,663	1,602	1,612	1,613	1,621	12.2
*Weighted Average	1,412	1,533	1,596	1,605	1,578	1,564	1,558	1,559	1,584	12.2
TASMANIA—										
Hobart	1,211	1,519	1,645	1,615	1,588	1,527	1,482	1,471	1,476	21.9
Launceston	1,144	1,460	1,500	1,573	1,564	1,501	1,494	1,470	1,485	23.8
Zeehan	1,292	1,629	1,736	1,711	1,698	1,608	1,603	1,586	1,597	23.6
Beaconsfield	1,230	1,533	1,678	1,673	1,674	1,569	1,564	1,568	1,580	23.5
Queenstown	1,315	1,653	1,715	1,694	1,678	1,592	1,600	1,595	1,598	21.5
*Weighted Average	1,201	1,515	1,641	1,613	1,595	1,528	1,502	1,491	1,496	24.6
†Weighted Aver. for Cwth.	1,184	1,504	1,577	1,566	1,520	1,453	1,462	1,462	1,473	26.5

* Average for the five towns. † Average for thirty towns.

‡ See remarks on page 31 of Labour Report No. 6 with reference to change of base period.

NOTE.—Corresponding index-numbers for the intervening months are given in Labour Report No. 6, pp. 33 to 35, and in Labour Bulletins 13 and 14 and 15.

14. **Average Predominant Retail Prices and House Rents.**—Particulars of retail prices of the commodities included in the investigations as to variations in the purchasing-power of money, are collected monthly. The average prices in each of the capital towns for the months specified are given in the following tables. Corresponding particulars for the intervening months not specified, have appeared in previous issues of the Bulletin. Particulars of house rents are collected quarterly, and the weighted average rentals in the capital towns for the four quarters of the current year, and the four quarters of 1915, are shewn in the table below.

While the summarised results of price-movements are published quarterly, the actual data from which such results are obtained are published in full only annually. In appendixes to Report No. 1, particulars were given of prices and house rents in the metropolitan towns in each year from 1901 to 1911, and in appendixes to Report No. 2, particulars were given of average prices and house rents in 1912 for each of the thirty towns from which returns are collected. In Appendix I. and II. of Report No. 5 similar particulars were given for the year 1913, and in Appendixes I. and III. to Report No. 6 particulars were given of average prices for 1914 and 1915, and in Appendixes II. and IV. of the same Report similar information was given in regard to house rents.

In Appendixes Nos. I. and II. hereof, similar information is given in regard to average prices and house rents respectively for the year 1916.

**Weighted Average Weekly Rentals in Capital Towns, 1st Quarter, 1915,
to 1st Quarter, 1917, inclusive.**

TOWN.	1915.								1916.								1917.	
	1st Quarter (Jan. to March.)		2nd Quarter (April to June.)		3rd Quarter (July to Sept.)		4th Quarter (Oct. to Dec.)		1st Quarter (Jan. to March.)		2nd Quarter (April to June.)		3rd Quarter (July to Sept.)		4th Quarter (Oct. to Dec.)		4th Quarter (Jan. to March.)	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Sydney ..	19	2	19	0	19	0	18	11	18	10	18	11	18	11	18	11	18	11
Melbourne..	17	1	17	0	16	10	16	10	17	0	16	11	17	0	17	1	17	5
Brisbane ..	13	4	13	0	13	5	13	5	13	1	13	2	13	3	13	4	13	4
Adelaide ..	14	9	14	5	14	6	14	6	14	6	14	6	14	6	14	7	14	10
Perth ..	13	7	13	2	13	1	13	2	13	7	13	7	13	7	13	7	13	7
Hobart ..	14	5	14	0	14	0	14	0	14	4	14	5	14	0	14	8	14	5

NOTE.—The Rentals are shewn to the nearest penny.

RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

Average retail prices in each Capital Town on the 15th of each month Specified from July 1914 to March 1917.

ARTICLE.	UNIT	1914.			1915.			1916.			1917.			
		July.	Jan.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Groceries, etc.														
Bread	2lbs.	3.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Flour	25 "	33.29	41.47	44.50	44.50	44.50	40.67	40.67	40.72	40.72	40.72	40.40	40.40	40.40
Tea	lb.	16.71	17.78	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80
Coffee	"	16.14	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80	18.80
Sugar	"	2.82	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08
Rices	"	2.14	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.77
Sago	"	2.86	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Jam	"	2.85	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01	3.01
Onion	"	2.71	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08
Raisins	"	4.79	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
Currants	"	5.27	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90
Starch	"	5.27	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Blue	"	5.27	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Candles	doz	5.27	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Soap	lb.	3.32	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33
Potatoes	10lbs.	13.12	19.50	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
Onions	lb.	13.68	7.15	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Kerosene	gal.	13.68	14.25	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92
Dairy Produce														
Milk	quart.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Butter	lb	15.07	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06	15.06
Cheese	doz.	22.11	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84
Eggs	lb.	12.83	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43	13.43
Bacon, Middle	"	17.93	8.04	8.78	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80
Shoulder	"	13.29	14.78	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33	14.33
Ham	"	6.75	7.70	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Meat														
Beef, Sirloin	lb	6.75	7.70	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Ribs	"	5.70	6.60	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.28
Flank	"	4.90	3.94	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85
Shin	"	3.94	4.80	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67
Steak, Rump	"	9.15	10.40	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38
Shoulder	"	4.90	3.90	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.78
Stewing	"	5.25	3.25	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06
Beef, Corneal Roll	"	3.80	4.56	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44
Briquette, with bone	"	4.60	5.75	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67
without	"	3.80	4.60	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Mutton, Leg	"	4.95	3.50	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22
Shoulder	"	4.20	4.80	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61
Loin	"	5.60	6.10	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89
Neck	"	4.50	4.90	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78
Chops, Loin	"	6.40	6.95	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80	6.80
Leg	"	5.85	6.55	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44
Neck	"	4.90	5.60	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56
Fork	"	9.45	8.95	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83
Loin	"	10.75	10.80	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72	10.72
Belly	"	8.95	9.27	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19	9.19
Chops	"	11.15	11.10	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11

NOTE.—Prices for the intervening months have been given in previous issues of this Bulletin.

Average Predominant Retail Prices in each Capital Town on the 15th of each Month Specified from July 1914 to March 1917—(continued).

ARTICLES.	UNIT.	1916.													
		1914.			1915.			1916.			1917.				
		July.	Jan.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Greengases, etc—															
Bread	2lbs.	3.00	4.00	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Flour	25 "	39.10	46.95	55.85	47.65	47.65	47.65	47.65	47.65	39.20	39.20	39.20	39.20	39.20	39.20
Tea	1lb.	14.80	14.80	14.80	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Coffee	"	18.80	18.80	18.80	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
Sugar	"	2.75	2.75	2.75	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Rice	"	2.80	2.85	2.85	2.90	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95
Sago	"	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.90	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Starch	"	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Beans	"	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Peas	"	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Onions	"	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Apples	"	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Oranges	"	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Butter	lb.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Milk	quart.	12.61	12.75	12.75	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85	12.85
Butter	lb.	5.83	5.17	5.83	5.17	5.83	5.17	5.83	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Cheese	doz.	15.05	14.75	15.05	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.05	15.05	15.05	15.05	15.05	15.05
Eggs	doz.	10.93	11.15	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20
Bacon, Middle	lb	18.65	14.20	17.90	22.20	22.20	22.20	22.20	22.20	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50
Bacon, Shoulder	"	13.65	13.75	14.35	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	16.40	16.40	16.40	16.40	16.40	16.40
Ham	"	9.44	8.75	9.84	13.67	13.67	13.67	13.67	13.67	11.83	11.83	11.83	11.83	11.83	11.83
Meat—	"	14.17	14.30	14.35	18.88	18.88	18.88	18.88	18.88	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75
Beef,	lb.	7.80	7.50	7.45	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10
Pork	"	6.00	6.33	6.35	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.90
Chicken	"	5.40	5.50	5.90	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Shrimp	"	4.20	4.25	4.15	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05
Steak, Round	"	9.60	9.33	9.20	12.80	12.80	12.80	12.80	12.80	13.60	13.60	13.60	13.60	13.60	13.60
Steak, Shoulder	"	6.45	6.65	6.65	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.10	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Stewing	"	5.05	5.11	4.95	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Beef, Corned, Roll	"	5.75	6.05	6.05	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.05	9.05	9.05	9.05	9.05	9.05
Beef, Corned, with bone	"	3.60	3.75	3.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Brisket, without	"	4.90	5.05	5.05	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10
Mutton, Leg	"	5.45	5.61	5.45	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.95	7.95	7.95	7.95	7.95	7.95
Mutton, Shoulder	"	4.15	4.39	4.25	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70
Loin	"	5.10	5.44	5.25	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05
Neck	"	4.10	4.22	4.00	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Chops, Loin	"	6.10	6.50	6.05	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10
Leg	"	6.00	6.28	6.05	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.10
Neck	"	4.40	4.56	4.55	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90
Pork, Leg	"	3.80	4.50	4.25	13.40	13.40	13.40	13.40	13.40	11.30	11.30	11.30	11.30	11.30	11.30
Loin	"	5.90	6.44	6.55	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.10
Belly	"	6.30	6.94	6.95	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80
Chops	"	9.80	9.78	9.90	15.44	15.44	15.44	15.44	15.44	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50

See footnote on previous page.

RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

ARTICLE.	UNIT.	1917.														
		1914.			1915.			1916.			1917.					
		July.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Groceries, etc.																
Bread	2lbs.	3.50	4.00	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Flour	25 lb.	32.04	46.95	55.85	59.50	47.45	47.40	47.80	48.00	44.10	44.10	44.30	44.10	44.20	44.20	44.20
Tea	"	17.00	14.80	18.90	17.15	18.75	18.20	19.50	19.50	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.90	19.90	19.90
Coffee	"	20.33	18.80	18.90	20.09	20.36	20.20	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.60
Sugar	"	2.50	2.75	2.75	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Rice	"	2.61	2.65	2.85	2.59	2.39	2.60	2.65	2.75	2.95	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Sago	"	2.22	2.55	2.50	2.68	2.68	2.68	2.65	2.75	2.95	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Jam	"	4.05	4.05	4.20	4.18	4.59	4.68	4.92	5.05	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Oatmeal	"	2.60	3.10	3.45	3.48	3.45	2.80	2.75	2.75	2.73	2.81	2.81	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.81
Raisins	"	6.61	6.28	6.40	6.64	7.18	7.80	7.80	7.55	8.10	8.10	8.10	8.15	8.00	8.00	8.30
Currants	"	7.11	6.48	6.40	6.54	8.43	8.65	8.65	8.65	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.65	8.75	8.75	9.10
Starch	doz. sq	5.61	5.45	5.80	5.77	5.82	5.85	5.85	5.90	6.95	7.05	7.05	7.05	6.93	7.15	7.10
Blue	"	6.81	6.43	6.33	6.86	5.91	6.55	6.00	6.10	9.15	9.15	9.15	9.20	8.90	9.15	9.20
Candles	lb.	6.84	6.75	6.75	6.82	7.18	7.35	7.50	7.60	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.30	8.40	8.50	8.40
Soap	"	2.53	3.36	3.61	2.86	3.70	3.60	3.70	3.60	3.65	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.63
Potatoes	1lbs.	14.75	12.00	8.21	15.09	35.59	30.60	30.33	23.50	19.50	15.05	12.75	12.49	12.15	12.75	13.65
Onions	lb.	1.50	1.79	1.94	1.54	1.18	1.15	1.25	1.35	1.04	1.09	1.20	1.23	1.50	1.70	1.50
Kerosene	gal.	14.00	12.75	13.73	13.73	14.05	14.20	14.85	16.40	21.20	21.20	21.20	21.70	21.50	20.55	20.05
Dairy Produce—																
Milk	quart.	4.67	4.67	4.68	4.80	5.92	6.08	6.08	6.08	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.75	5.75	5.75
Butter	lb.	15.22	14.75	15.80	15.69	19.00	15.40	16.55	15.55	17.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Cheese	doz.	10.75	11.15	11.15	10.99	13.45	13.00	12.80	12.50	10.50	10.50	10.48	10.40	10.40	11.05	11.10
Eggs	doz.	17.50	14.20	17.00	19.85	24.45	21.10	24.90	20.70	12.50	11.15	12.05	13.70	15.10	21.50	21.30
Bacon, Middle	lb.	10.30	13.05	13.75	12.18	13.80	19.50	19.70	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.60	14.70	14.70	15.00	15.60
Bacon, Shoulder	"	7.33	8.75	8.75	9.09	13.64	14.70	14.40	10.25	10.15	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	10.60	10.60
Eggs	"	14.83	14.39	14.28	16.73	17.27	18.25	18.40	18.40	17.30	17.45	17.45	17.40	18.25	18.15	17.90
Meat—																
Beef	lb.	5.14	7.50	7.25	6.85	8.90	9.44	9.00	9.05	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.83	7.90	7.80
Ribs	"	6.35	6.15	5.85	5.85	9.95	7.50	7.25	7.00	5.95	6.00	6.00	5.95	5.94	5.90	5.90
Pork	"	3.88	4.28	4.15	4.00	6.00	6.22	6.10	5.90	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.39	4.80	4.60
Shin	"	3.08	3.30	3.20	3.20	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.83	3.75	3.75
Steak, Round	"	4.89	5.67	5.65	5.85	8.70	9.44	9.20	8.90	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.44	6.40	6.40
Shoulder	"	3.96	4.05	4.05	4.11	5.11	5.11	5.11	5.11	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.44	4.40	4.40
Stewing	"	4.11	4.95	4.95	5.05	9.44	9.20	8.90	8.90	6.55	6.55	6.50	6.50	6.44	6.40	6.40
Beef, Corned	Roll	4.88	6.06	6.06	6.00	8.50	9.06	8.95	8.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.83	6.75	6.75
Beef, Brisket, with bone	"	3.78	3.78	3.70	4.00	5.11	5.11	5.11	5.11	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.28	4.25	4.25
Beef, Brisket, without	"	4.22	5.11	5.05	5.00	5.89	6.63	7.22	7.05	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.48	5.75	5.75
Mutton, Leg	"	5.17	5.61	5.45	5.85	8.25	9.56	9.40	8.90	7.40	7.44	7.44	7.44	7.44	7.49	7.50
Shoulder	"	4.39	4.39	4.35	4.35	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.88	5.25	5.25
Loin	"	5.17	5.44	5.25	5.89	5.40	10.00	9.75	9.25	7.35	7.61	7.61	7.61	7.61	7.65	7.65
Neck	"	4.72	4.22	4.00	5.25	7.60	8.78	8.95	8.60	6.05	6.28	6.28	6.28	6.56	6.60	6.55
Choys, Loin	"	5.61	6.50	6.40	5.95	9.20	10.78	10.56	10.05	7.45	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.05	8.00
Leg	"	5.61	6.28	6.05	5.95	9.20	10.78	10.60	10.05	7.65	8.06	8.11	8.11	8.11	8.15	8.10
Neck	"	5.61	6.46	6.35	5.95	9.00	10.67	10.45	9.70	7.44	7.44	7.44	7.44	7.67	7.70	7.65
Pork, Leg	doz.	8.50	8.90	8.25	9.00	10.78	11.19	11.25	12.00	11.13	11.14	11.20	11.29	11.29	11.13	11.13
Loin	"	8.44	9.44	8.95	9.00	10.80	11.31	10.38	11.43	11.38	11.43	11.57	11.57	11.57	11.38	11.38
Belly	"	9.28	8.90	8.95	9.61	9.84	11.31	10.38	10.69	10.18	10.14	10.28	10.14	10.29	10.13	10.13
Chops	"	8.69	9.78	9.50	9.00	11.28	12.06	12.13	12.38	12.00	12.14	12.29	12.29	12.43	12.13	12.13

See footnote p. 385

Average Predominant Retail Prices in each Capital Town on the 15th of each Month Specified from July 1914 to March 1917—(continued).

RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

ARTICLE.	UNIT.	1914.			1915.			1916.			1917.			
		July.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
ADELAIDE.														
Greens, etc.—														
Bread	2lbs.	3.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Flour	25 "	35.55	48.75	57.25	45.50	46.95	46.35	40.95	40.25	40.15	40.15	39.70	39.60	39.75
Tea	1b.	19.20	16.00	17.20	17.90	17.40	18.40	18.60	18.60	18.40	18.40	18.60	18.60	18.60
Coffees	"	19.10	19.10	18.50	19.60	19.80	19.60	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.65
Sugar	"	2.80	2.70	3.00	2.70	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.48	3.48	3.48	3.48	3.48	3.48
Rice	"	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.45
Sago	"	2.65	2.65	2.95	3.15	3.10	3.20	3.75	3.70	3.75	3.80	3.80	3.85	3.85
Maize	"	5.75	3.75	3.93	4.08	4.08	4.08	4.70	4.63	4.60	4.58	4.60	4.60	4.75
Oatsmeal	"	2.40	3.55	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.53	4.42	4.42	4.44	4.44	4.43	4.46	4.46
Beans	"	6.20	6.25	6.30	7.45	7.45	7.40	7.95	8.20	8.15	8.20	8.20	8.30	8.35
Carrants	"	6.15	6.15	6.40	9.35	9.35	8.61	7.90	7.90	7.90	8.00	7.85	7.85	7.65
Barley	"	5.65	5.65	5.85	5.85	5.75	5.85	7.05	6.95	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.73
Blue	doz. sq	10.15	10.45	10.35	10.15	9.15	9.25	9.15	9.15	9.15	9.15	10.05	10.15	10.25
Candles	lb.	7.20	7.15	7.55	7.90	8.05	8.15	9.25	9.15	8.80	9.00	8.90	9.25	9.20
Soap	"	3.19	3.19	3.31	3.40	3.48	3.58	3.71	3.66	3.71	3.71	3.76	3.77	3.77
Potatoes	14lbs.	12.00	17.38	12.68	25.25	29.08	29.75	40.06	45.81	47.81	43.66	41.06	41.17	41.17
Onions	lb.	1.57	2.25	2.08	1.93	1.93	1.63	1.31	1.31	1.38	1.36	1.17	1.11	1.28
Kerosene	gal.	14.70	14.85	14.95	14.95	14.95	16.25	17.80	22.09	22.14	23.04	22.24	22.24	21.84
Dairy Produce—														
Milk	quart	5.80	6.00	6.00	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.30	5.30	5.42
Butter	lb.	17.05	17.80	18.35	17.95	18.15	18.45	16.85	16.80	17.95	17.85	20.20	20.25	20.25
Cheese	lb.	14.55	10.60	10.60	13.60	13.70	12.15	12.15	12.10	11.95	11.80	11.95	12.10	11.90
Eggs	doz.	19.32	11.70	13.50	16.10	16.35	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.70	14.75	14.75	13.40
Bacon	lb.	13.95	13.90	14.00	18.00	18.10	19.60	15.90	16.20	15.50	15.65	16.60	15.40	15.40
Shoulder	"	9.15	9.55	9.55	14.10	14.30	14.10	12.20	12.50	11.60	12.06	12.44	12.39	12.17
Ham	"	14.80	15.00	15.20	15.60	15.40	13.40	16.50	16.80	16.95	16.95	16.70	16.89	16.89
Meat—														
Beef,	lb.	7.53	7.45	7.78	9.61	9.60	10.10	10.35	10.25	10.15	10.15	10.05	10.05	10.05
Shoulder	"	6.55	6.45	6.55	8.61	8.50	9.00	9.20	9.15	8.95	8.85	8.85	8.85	8.85
Flank	"	5.95	5.78	5.89	8.83	8.94	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Shin	"	5.80	5.40	5.50	7.78	8.13	8.10	8.70	8.60	8.50	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40
Steak, Round	"	10.00	9.70	10.00	12.11	12.30	13.20	13.80	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.60	13.60	13.40
Shoulder	"	7.10	6.60	6.70	9.33	9.60	9.80	10.10	10.00	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.90
Stewing	"	7.15	6.90	7.20	9.11	9.05	9.60	10.00	9.80	9.70	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50
Beef, Corned	lb.	7.40	7.15	7.00	9.30	9.45	10.05	10.30	10.05	10.10	10.10	10.05	10.05	10.00
Brisket, with bone	"	5.30	5.40	5.40	7.50	7.42	7.75	8.00	7.88	7.42	7.42	7.66	7.79	7.79
Brisket, without	"	6.35	6.20	6.45	8.50	8.45	9.05	9.30	8.95	8.90	8.90	8.88	8.88	8.85
Mutton, Leg	"	6.65	6.65	6.70	8.90	8.90	9.05	9.80	9.75	9.55	9.55	9.70	9.50	9.50
Shoulder	"	5.75	5.65	5.80	8.61	8.75	9.20	9.60	9.60	9.55	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60
Loan	"	6.55	6.55	6.67	7.75	7.80	8.55	9.00	8.75	8.70	8.65	8.60	8.60	8.60
Neck	"	5.40	5.15	5.33	6.67	6.67	7.40	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85
Chops, Leg	"	5.30	5.15	5.25	7.05	7.15	7.70	8.25	8.25	8.15	8.10	8.05	8.00	8.00
Neck	"	4.70	4.55	4.69	6.20	6.20	7.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Chops, Leg	"	6.30	6.35	6.50	8.30	8.30	8.60	9.10	9.15	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.10
Pork, Leg	"	9.35	9.15	9.65	13.20	13.70	13.60	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40
Loan	"	10.18	9.80	9.88	14.00	14.50	14.80	15.80	15.80	15.80	15.80	15.80	15.80	15.80
Bally	"	10.00	9.70	10.20	13.00	14.70	14.70	13.70	13.20	12.00	11.60	11.60	11.70	11.70
Chops	"	10.40	10.20	10.50	14.30	14.90	14.90	14.30	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80

See footnote p. 336

RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

Average predominant Retail Prices in each Capital Town on the 15th of each Month Specified from July 1914 to March 1916—(continued).

ARTICLE.	UNIT	1914.			1915.			1916.			1917.						
		July.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
		d.															
Green peas, etc.—	2lbs.	3.50	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Bread	25 "	32.33	47.00	54.50	58.23	49.80	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60	48.60
Flour	" "	15.88	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58	18.58
Tea	" "	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Coffee	" "	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83
Sugar	" "	2.67	2.61	2.61	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57
Rice	" "	4.19	4.19	4.22	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11
Sago	" "	2.44	3.32	3.58	3.93	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
Jack	" "	6.94	6.94	7.19	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90
Oatmeal	" "	6.44	6.30	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44
Raisins	" "	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.79	5.90	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85
Currants	" "	10.81	10.81	10.75	10.43	10.75	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65
Starch	" "	7.50	7.00	7.56	8.00	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25
Blue	" "	2.78	2.62	2.92	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.08
Candles	doz. sq	20.18	17.25	19.14	19.83	17.56	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89
Soap	lb.	1.94	2.06	2.00	2.00	1.53	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44
Potatoes	14lbs.	14.42	14.06	13.97	13.96	14.20	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50
Onions	lb.	6.67	6.75	7.53	7.53	6.58	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88	6.88
Kerosene	gal	15.78	15.33	15.63	15.71	18.60	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80	17.80
Dairy Produce—	" "	11.25	10.99	10.38	10.00	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40
Milk	lb.	20.59	18.56	22.38	25.14	16.70	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19	17.19
Butter	doz.	14.11	13.89	14.13	14.21	18.10	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Cheese	lb.	8.69	8.78	9.00	8.86	11.80	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Eggs	doz.	15.44	15.44	15.50	15.71	19.35	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30
Bacon, Middle	" "	7.88	8.50	8.75	8.07	7.30	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32	7.32
Bacon, Shoulder	" "	6.75	7.35	7.57	7.56	6.05	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11
Ham	" "	5.75	6.63	6.67	6.67	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Meat—	" "	11.58	12.13	13.00	12.56	11.00	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78	10.78
Beef, Shank	" "	7.25	8.25	8.90	8.66	6.66	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67
Beef, Stewing	" "	6.75	7.50	7.75	7.56	6.10	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11
Beef, Shoulder	" "	8.88	8.13	8.89	8.54	6.60	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
Beef, Corned	" "	4.25	5.50	5.50	5.44	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Beef, Brisket, with bone	" "	9.00	9.38	9.38	8.33	7.80	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78
Beef, Brisket, without	" "	7.25	7.13	7.19	7.33	6.50	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67
Mutton, Leg	" "	8.00	8.00	8.25	8.11	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80
Mutton, Shoulder	" "	6.75	6.50	6.75	6.67	6.20	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11	6.11
Mutton, Neck	" "	9.90	8.50	8.63	8.63	8.00	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69
Mutton, Leg	" "	7.13	6.88	7.00	6.87	6.60	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57	6.57
Chops, Leg	" "	10.50	9.60	9.38	9.44	9.30	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44
Pork, Leg	" "	9.33	9.23	9.11	9.11	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.30
Pork, Belly	" "	10.88	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
Pork, Chops	" "	10.88	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50

See footnote p. 386.

RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT AND PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY.

Average Predominant Retail Prices in each Capital Town on the 15th of each Month Specified from July 1914 to March 1917—(continued).

ARTICLE.	UNIT.	1914.					1915.					1916.					1917.				
		July.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	July.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
		d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Greens, etc.—																					
Bread	25 lbs.	3 50	4 00	4 50	4 50	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	3 50	3 50	3 50	3 50	3 50
Flour	"	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00	23 00
Tea	"	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00
Coffee	"	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00	18 00
Sugar	"	2 68	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70	2 70
Rice	"	5 95	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05	5 05
Sago	"	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35
Yam	"	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35	4 35
Onion	"	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30	2 30
Garlic	"	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15	7 15
Mustard	"	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00
Curry	"	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35	8 35
Spices	sq.	3 08	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07	3 07
Peas	lb.	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44
Beans	1 1/2 lbs.	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44	10 44
Onions	lb.	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78	1 78
Kerose	gal.	14 90	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00
Dairy Produce—																					
Milk	quart.	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00
Butter	lb.	15 90	14 70	16 30	16 40	17 00	15 90	16 40	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30	17 30
Cheese	"	11 37	10 90	11 40	11 60	12 70	13 80	14 40	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60	14 60
Eggs	doz.	17 43	14 80	15 70	16 10	18 70	18 30	19 80	17 40	18 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80	19 80
Bacon	lb.	12 20	12 40	12 90	13 30	19 20	17 85	18 44	19 11	14 70	15 20	15 40	15 70	15 80	15 90	15 90	15 90	15 90	15 90	15 90	15 90
Middle	"	8 13	8 50	8 61	8 84	11 67	11 38	11 25	11 38	12 63	12 29	13 58	13 66	13 70	13 70	13 70	13 70	13 70	13 70	13 70	13 70
Shoulder	"	14 90	15 43	15 43	15 83	18 57	18 33	18 53	18 20	16 60	17 00	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57	17 57
Meat—																					
Beef	lb.	7 33	7 67	7 40	7 44	10 50	10 70	11 40	11 70	10 10	10 10	9 90	9 80	9 80	9 80	9 80	9 80	9 80	9 80	9 80	9 80
Sirloin	"	6 81	6 35	6 35	6 28	8 83	8 20	8 90	10 00	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80	8 80
Ribs	"	4 94	5 17	5 05	4 94	7 78	7 10	8 20	9 30	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50
Back	"	5 68	5 00	5 00	5 00	7 56	7 10	8 20	9 30	7 17	7 17	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06	7 06
Shin	"	6 58	6 00	6 00	6 00	11 78	12 60	14 00	13 50	13 00	13 00	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67	12 67
Black	"	7 24	6 60	6 60	6 60	8 78	8 20	9 20	10 10	9 00	9 00	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67
Shoulder	"	7 24	6 60	6 60	6 60	8 78	8 20	9 20	10 10	9 00	9 00	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67	8 67
Sawing	"	6 39	6 67	6 80	6 89	9 22	10 00	11 10	11 30	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60	9 60
Corneal Roll	"	4 44	4 67	4 50	4 50	7 11	7 35	8 10	8 80	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82	6 82
Brisket, with bone	"	6 75	6 00	5 72	5 75	8 63	8 00	8 80	9 40	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50
Brisket, without	"	6 75	6 00	5 72	5 75	8 63	8 00	8 80	9 40	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50	7 50
Mutton	"	5 40	6 33	6 33	6 28	7 88	7 88	8 50	9 10	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29	8 29
Shoulder	"	6 50	6 56	6 56	6 28	9 06	9 30	10 70	10 50	9 15	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05	9 05
Vein	"	7 28	7 09	7 09	7 09	8 94	8 30	9 50	9 10	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80	7 80
Neck	"	7 11	7 00	7 00	6 94	9 88	10 30	11 80	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05	10 05
Loan	"	5 67	5 90	5 90	5 90	8 83	9 00	10 33	8 67	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44	8 44
Chops	"	8 00	8 25	8 20	7 83	11 24	12 40	13 00	11 00	10 90	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00	11 00
Pork	lb.	8 30	8 72	8 95	8 96	11 95	13 40	14 20	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80	11 80
Lard	"	8 33	9 05	8 70	8 33	12 00	12 60	14 20	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00
Belly	"	8 33	9 05	8 70	8 33	12 00	12 60	14 20	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	12 00
Chops	"	8 78	9 13	8 85	8 61	12 25	14 00	14 70	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30	12 30

See footnote p 387.

15. **Increase in Cost of Food and Groceries and House Rent, 1916, compared with previous years.**—The following tables have been prepared in order to shew for each capital town (i.) the total increase (or decrease) in the cost of food, groceries, and house rent combined in 1916 compared with each preceding year since 1901, and (ii.) amount of the percentage increase (or decrease) due to variations (a) in prices of food and groceries, and (b) in house rent. The sum of the percentages for any year and town in the last two parts of the table must, of course, equal the corresponding total percentage in the first part of the table. Thus the total percentage of increase in cost of food, groceries, and house rent in Sydney for 1916 compared with 1904 is 59.7 per cent., of which 43.4 per cent. is due to increased cost of food and groceries, and 16.3 per cent. to increase in house rents. In any case where there has been a decrease (i.e., where the combined cost of food and groceries and house rent, or if either separately was less in 1916 than in preceding years) the fact is indicated by a negative sign.

Percentage of Increase or Decrease in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-numbers in 1916, compared with Previous Years, 1901 to 1915:

TOWN.	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INCREASE OR DECREASE IN 1916, COMPARED WITH—														
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Sydney	56.1	42.3	45.5	59.7	48.7	49.2	50.5	41.4	40.9	40.0	35.2	21.3	18.2	15.5	5.3
Melb. . .	50.5	44.8	48.6	53.3	49.1	49.1	49.5	41.3	44.6	38.9	37.8	24.1	24.5	18.4	2.5
Brisbane	54.4	48.4	50.4	61.8	54.4	52.2	49.6	38.8	39.6	35.5	29.9	21.3	22.0	19.1	2.2
Adelaide	48.7	48.8	53.4	58.2	47.1	44.1	43.7	34.8	29.7	27.5	21.5	11.1	14.5	12.4	2.1
Perth . .	23.2	17.5	16.6	21.5	21.1	23.7	28.3	26.4	29.1	23.7	12.4	9.7	12.2	10.8	3.5
Hobart	30.5	43.1	42.4	49.5	44.2	42.2	44.3	38.9	34.3	34.4	34.0	22.7	21.4	17.3	3.7
Weight'd Average	50.6	42.5	45.5	54.4	47.0	46.8	47.7	39.4	39.7	36.7	32.4	20.3	19.9	16.2	3.6

PERCENTAGE DUE TO VARIATIONS IN COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Sydney	39.8	27.2	30.2	43.4	34.4	35.1	37.2	29.3	30.2	30.8	30.3	20.3	19.4	17.8	5.5
Melb. . .	33.7	29.1	32.7	37.6	34.2	34.7	36.1	29.7	33.4	31.4	32.7	21.2	24.5	19.8	2.4
Brisbane	35.3	30.2	32.8	42.9	36.9	35.2	35.6	27.8	30.7	28.6	26.3	19.5	23.3	20.6	2.7
Adelaide	34.4	34.5	38.6	42.9	36.4	36.3	38.3	32.3	30.1	31.1	28.5	19.2	21.7	16.3	2.1
Perth . .	20.5	14.7	14.1	18.8	16.0	17.6	20.6	18.6	19.7	16.8	10.3	10.1	14.4	12.4	2.8
Hobart	22.5	31.2	30.7	37.3	32.7	31.1	34.1	29.9	26.6	27.8	28.7	18.8	20.1	16.8	3.7
Weight'd Average	35.2	28.0	30.9	39.4	33.4	33.8	35.6	29.0	30.5	29.9	29.1	19.7	21.3	18.1	3.6

PERCENTAGE DUE TO VARIATIONS IN HOUSE RENTS.

Sydney	16.3	15.1	15.3	16.3	14.3	14.1	13.3	12.1	10.7	9.2	4.9	1.0	-1.2	-2.3	-0.2
Melb. . .	16.8	15.7	15.9	15.7	14.9	14.4	13.4	11.6	11.2	7.5	5.1	2.9	..	-1.4	0.1
Brisbane	19.1	18.2	17.6	18.9	17.5	17.0	14.0	11.0	8.0	6.9	3.6	1.8	-0.3	-1.5	-0.5
Adelaide	14.3	14.3	14.7	15.3	10.7	7.8	5.4	2.5	-0.4	-3.6	-7.0	-8.1	-7.2	-3.0	..
Perth . .	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.7	5.1	6.1	7.7	7.8	8.4	6.9	2.1	-0.4	-2.2	-1.6	0.7
Hobart	8.0	11.0	11.7	12.2	11.5	11.1	10.2	9.0	7.7	6.6	5.3	3.9	1.3	0.5	..
Weight'd Average	15.4	14.5	14.6	15.0	13.6	13.0	12.1	10.4	9.2	6.8	3.3	0.6	-1.4	-1.3	..

* The negative sign indicates a decrease.