

SECTION V.—INVESTIGATIONS INTO VARIATIONS IN PURCHASING-POWER OF MONEY INDEX-NUMBERS IN 150 TOWNS IN COMMONWEALTH.

1. **Introduction.**—In order to supplement the information as to variations in the purchasing-power of money, which is collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding Section, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, as to purchasing-power of money index-numbers in 70 additional towns in the Commonwealth. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120, and it is intended to carry it out in that month each year, thus making information available annually in all for 150 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin, No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the second investigation (November, 1914) were published in Labour Bulletin No. 8 (Section IV., pages 231 to 240), and of the third in Labour Bulletin No. 12 (Section IV., pages 356 to 361).

2. **Index-Numbers shewing relative Purchasing-Power of Money.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1916, are set out in the tables on pages 394 to 397. *The basis for the whole of this table is the weighted average aggregate expenditure for all the 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, in November, 1916.* (See end of last column on page 397). This weighted average aggregate expenditure is made equal to 1000, and the aggregate expenditure on these items for each individual town is shewn in the last column in the form of index-numbers relative to this average. In the preceding column similar index-numbers are shewn for food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, and these index-numbers are again computed to the same base indicated above. That is to say that while the index-number 1000 (see page 397) represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, 936 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses. Similarly in the remaining three columns, if 1000 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses (page 397), the index-number 698 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only, the index-number 238 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on rent of four-roomed houses, and 302 the expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. It follows, therefore, that the figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus taking the average weighted expenditure for all 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses as equal to 1000, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1003, while if four-roomed houses were substituted for five-roomed, the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 927 of which 670 would be the expenditure on food and groceries, and the remaining 257 the expenditure on house rent. Again the expenditure in

Sydney on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is 1084, or 8.4 per cent. above the weighted average, and that number is made up of 706, the relative expenditure on food and groceries, and 378 the relative expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. The expenditure on the same items in Grafton is represented by 967, of which 689 represents the expenditure on food and groceries and 278 that on rent.

In the following table, the first column shews the index-numbers for food and groceries only, while the second and third shew the index-numbers for the rent of houses having four and five rooms respectively. The fourth column shews the aggregate index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of four-roomed houses, and the last column the index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of five-roomed houses:—

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1916.*

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
New South Wales ..					
Sydney	706	313	378	1,019	1,084
Newcastle	711	195	263	906	974
Broken Hill	865	185	249	1,050	1,114
Goulburn	718	247	318	965	1,036
Bathurst	691	169	230	860	921
Adelong	695	106	149	801	844
Albury	703	210	268	913	971
Armidale	692	211	264	903	956
Bega	717	165	196	882	913
Bourke	759	188	236	947	995
Bowral	713	212	244	925	957
Casino	682	181	234	863	916
Cobar	755	150	208	905	963
Cooma	734	164	205	898	939
Coonamble	784	212	265	996	1,049
Cootamundra	718	208	302	926	1,020
Corrimal	749	148	180	897	929
Covra	725	243	295	968	1,020
Deniliquin	726	185	228	911	954
Dubbo	709	190	278	899	987
Forbes	693	169	206	862	899
Glen Innes	687	185	238	872	925
Grafton	689	225	278	914	967
Grenfell	755	183	226	938	981
Gunnedah	721	236	313	957	1,034
Hay	787	169	238	957	1,025
Inverell	712	254	295	966	1,007
Junee	747	223	305	970	1,052
Katoomba	753	276	364	1,029	1,117
Kempsey	714	149	199	863	913
Lismore	700	212	282	912	982
Lithgow	734	204	272	938	1,006

*. These results are based upon the regimen referred to in the previous section.

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1916—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
New South Wales—cont.					
Maitland	690	196	263	886	953
Moree	753	159	265	912	1,018
Moss Vale	724	220	291	944	1,015
Mudgee	729	199	236	928	965
Narrabri	723	228	291	951	1,014
Nowra	702	169	212	871	914
Orange	703	181	256	884	959
Parke	765	201	244	966	1,009
Queanbeyan	725	199	246	924	971
Tamworth	727	276	358	1,003	1,085
Temora	721	231	284	952	1,005
Wagga Wagga	679	273	324	952	1,003
Wellington	749	183	242	932	991
Wollongong	732	217	260	949	992
Wyalong	752	175	226	927	978
Yass	746	207	251	953	997
Young	735	180	236	915	971
Weighted Average for State ..	714	277	342	991	1,056
Victoria—					
Melbourne	670	257	333	927	1,003
Ballarat	677	115	164	792	841
Bendigo	676	134	179	810	855
Geslong	672	178	262	850	934
Warrnambool	667	190	247	857	914
Ararat	707	151	222	858	929
Bairnsdale	673	151	202	824	875
Beechworth	726	143	180	869	906
Benalla	693	159	207	852	900
Bright	692	143	175	835	867
Camperdown	665	180	231	845	896
Castlemaine	690	156	215	846	905
Colac	702	165	225	867	927
Creswick	715	116	148	831	863
Daylesford	682	106	149	788	831
Dunolly	674	95	137	769	811
Echuca	687	114	151	801	838
Euroa	701	144	186	845	887
Hamilton	703	154	212	857	915
Horsham	714	191	265	905	979
Korumburra	663	180	241	843	904
Kyneton	684	127	180	811	864
Maldon	703	101	130	804	833
Maryborough	694	112	167	806	861
Mildura	754	267	351	1,021	1,105
Nhill	733	194	215	927	949
Omeo	759	85	128	844	887
Orbost	718	201	252	919	970
Portland	721	162	210	883	931
St. Arnaud	717	122	173	839	890
Sale	648	140	201	788	849
Shopparton	685	181	271	866	956
Stawell	692	154	196	846	888

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1916—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
Victoria—cont.					
Swan Hill	687	220	313	907	1,000
Walhalla	708	53	85	761	793
Wandiligong	723	106	153	829	876
Wangaratta	684	191	236	875	920
Warracknabeal	650	178	220	828	870
Wonthaggi	745	239	371	984	1,116
Yackandandah	689	106	127	795	817
Weighted Average for State	674	225	295	899	969
Queensland—					
Brisbane	634	180	238	814	872
Toowoomba	632	148	192	780	824
Rockhampton	679	159	204	838	883
Charters Towers	734	151	204	885	938
Warwick	642	122	178	764	820
Bundaberg	687	146	178	833	865
Cairns	772	222	307	994	1,079
Charleville	777	265	334	1,042	1,111
Chillagoe	764	106	159	870	923
Cloncurry	814	253	322	1,067	1,136
Cooktown	774	72	116	846	890
Cunnamulla	743	159	190	902	933
Gooniwindi	671	165	196	836	867
Gympie	678	114	154	792	832
Hamilton	644	276	371	920	1,015
Hughenden	754	271	304	1,025	1,068
Ipswich	648	180	234	828	882
Longreach	780	159	212	939	992
Mackay	705	196	254	901	959
Maryborough	685	135	183	820	868
Mt. Morgan	699	191	217	890	916
Roma	722	238	281	960	1,003
Townsville	711	259	323	970	1,034
Winton	776	265	339	1,041	1,115
Weighted Average for State	664	176	229	840	893
South Australia—					
Adelaide	708	233	304	941	1,012
Moonta & Kadina	738	143	234	881	972
Port Pirie	742	233	287	975	1,029
Mt. Gambier	668	174	219	842	887
Petersburg	739	191	254	930	993
Gawler	717	196	259	913	976
Kapunda	730	106	148	836	878
Murray Bridge	710	206	296	916	1,006
Pt. Augusta	788	326	381	1,114	1,169
Pt. Lincoln	768	180	239	948	1,007
Pt. Victor	717	247	299	964	1,016
Renmark	724	225	275	949	999
Weighted Average for State	711	225	294	936	1,005

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1916—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
Western Australia—					
Perth & Fremantle	724	243	298	967	1,022
Kalgoorlie & Boulder	856	283	356	1,139	1,212
Midland Junction & Guildford	752	187	256	939	1,008
Bunbury	738	176	217	964	1,005
Geraldton	754	289	366	1,043	1,120
Albany	787	251	304	1,038	1,091
Broome	906	†	†	†	†
Carnarvon	858	251	344	1,109	1,202
Cue	905	175	188	1,080	1,093
Katanning	747	259	312	1,006	1,059
Leonora	930	159	212	1,089	1,142
Menzies	1,082	106	128	1,188	1,210
Northam	800	244	315	1,044	1,115
Ravensthorpe ..	973	77	125	1,050	1,098
Weighted Average for State	763	245	304	1,008	1,067
Tasmania—					
Hobart	684	246	294	930	978
Launceston	685	207	283	892	968
Zeehan	755	105	133	860	888
Beaconsfield ..	735	58	69	793	804
Queenstown	760	238	276	998	1,036
Burnie	668	222	265	890	933
Campbelltown ..	677	90	103	767	780
Devonport	703	230	273	933	976
Franklin	695	164	190	859	885
Oatlands	668	116	143	784	811
Scottsdale	661	127	162	788	823
Weighted Average for State	693	214	266	907	959
Weighted Average Commonwealth	698	238	302	936	1,000*

* Basis of Tables. † Not available.

3. **Food and Groceries.**—Comparing the index-numbers for food and groceries alone (column I), it will be observed that, taking the weighted average for all the towns in each State, New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia, are above the average for the Commonwealth, while Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania are below. Western Australia is the most expensive State (9.3 per cent. above the average), and Queensland the cheapest (4.9 below). Of the other States New South Wales is 5.2 per cent., and South Australia 1.9 per cent. above the average, while Victoria is 3.4 per cent., and Tasmania 0.7 per cent. below the average. In all the States some of the towns are above and some below the average for the Commonwealth. In New South Wales the most expensive town is Broken Hill, 23.9 per cent. above the weighted average

for the 150 towns, while the cheapest town is Wagga Wagga, which is 2.7 below the average. In Victoria, Omeo is the most expensive town, 8.7 per cent. above, and Sale the cheapest, 7.2 per cent. below the average. In Queensland the most expensive town is Cloncurry, 16.6 per cent. above, and the cheapest Toowoomba, 9.5 per cent. below the average. In South Australia the most expensive town is Port Augusta, 12.9 per cent. above, and the cheapest Mt. Gambier, 4.3 per cent. below the average. In Western Australia Menzies is the most expensive town, 55.0 per cent. above and Perth the cheapest, 3.7 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns. Queenstown is the most expensive town in Tasmania, being 8.9 per cent. above, while Scottsdale is the cheapest, being 5.3 per cent. below the average for all towns.

4. **House Rents**—There is a far greater divergence between the relative expenditure on house rents in the various towns than on food and groceries. As might naturally be expected, the general tendency appears to be that the cost of housing accommodation is greater in places where there is great centralisation of people than in sparsely-populated districts. That this is not always the case, however, is at once apparent on comparing the index-numbers for Sydney with its 700,000 inhabitants and Geraldton, in Western Australia, with under 4000 inhabitants. It will be observed that in the case of the latter town the index-number for houses of five rooms is greater than in Sydney, and is only slightly lower than Sydney for houses of four rooms.

Comparing the weighted average of the towns in each State, it will be seen that, in the case of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 16.4 per cent., and Western Australia 2.9 per cent. above the average for the whole of the towns, while the other States are below the average; Queensland 26.1 per cent.; Tasmania 10.1 per cent.; Victoria and South Australia 5.5 per cent. Turning now to houses having 5 rooms, it will be seen that again New South Wales and Western Australia are above the average for the whole of the towns, the former 13.2 per cent., and the latter 0.7 per cent. Of the remaining States, Queensland is 24.2 per cent., Tasmania 11.9 per cent., South Australia 2.6 per cent. and Victoria 2.3 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns.

Comparing individual towns it may be seen that in New South Wales, Sydney has the highest index-number for houses of four and five rooms, 31.5 per cent. for the former and 25.2 per cent. for the latter, above the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole. Adelong has the lowest index-number for both kinds of houses, being 55.5 per cent., for 4 rooms, and 50.7 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average. In Victoria, Mildura is the highest for houses of 4 rooms, 12.2 per cent. above the average, and Wonthaggi for houses of 5 rooms, 22.9 per cent. above the average. Walhalla has the lowest index-number in both cases, 77.7 per cent. below the average for houses having 4 rooms and 71.9 per cent. below for houses having 5 rooms. In Queensland, Hamilton has the highest index-number both for 4 rooms and 5 rooms; 16.0 per cent. for the former, and 22.9 per cent. for the latter above the average for all towns. Cooktown

has the lowest index-number in both cases, being 69.7 per cent. for 4 rooms and 61.6 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average. In South Australia Port Augusta has the highest index-number for house rents, 37.0 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 26.2 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms above the average, while Kapunda has the lowest index-number, 55.5 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 51.0 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms, below the average. In Western Australia, Geraldton has the highest index-number and Ravensthorpe the lowest both for houses of 4 and 5 rooms. Geraldton is 21.4 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 21.2 per cent. for 5 rooms above the average, and Ravensthorpe is 67.6 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 58.6 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average.

Hobart has the highest index-number for Tasmania in both cases, being 3.4 per cent. *above* the average for houses of 4 rooms, and 2.6 *below* the average for houses of 5 rooms. Beaconsfield has the lowest index-numbers in both cases, being 75.6 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 77.2 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole.

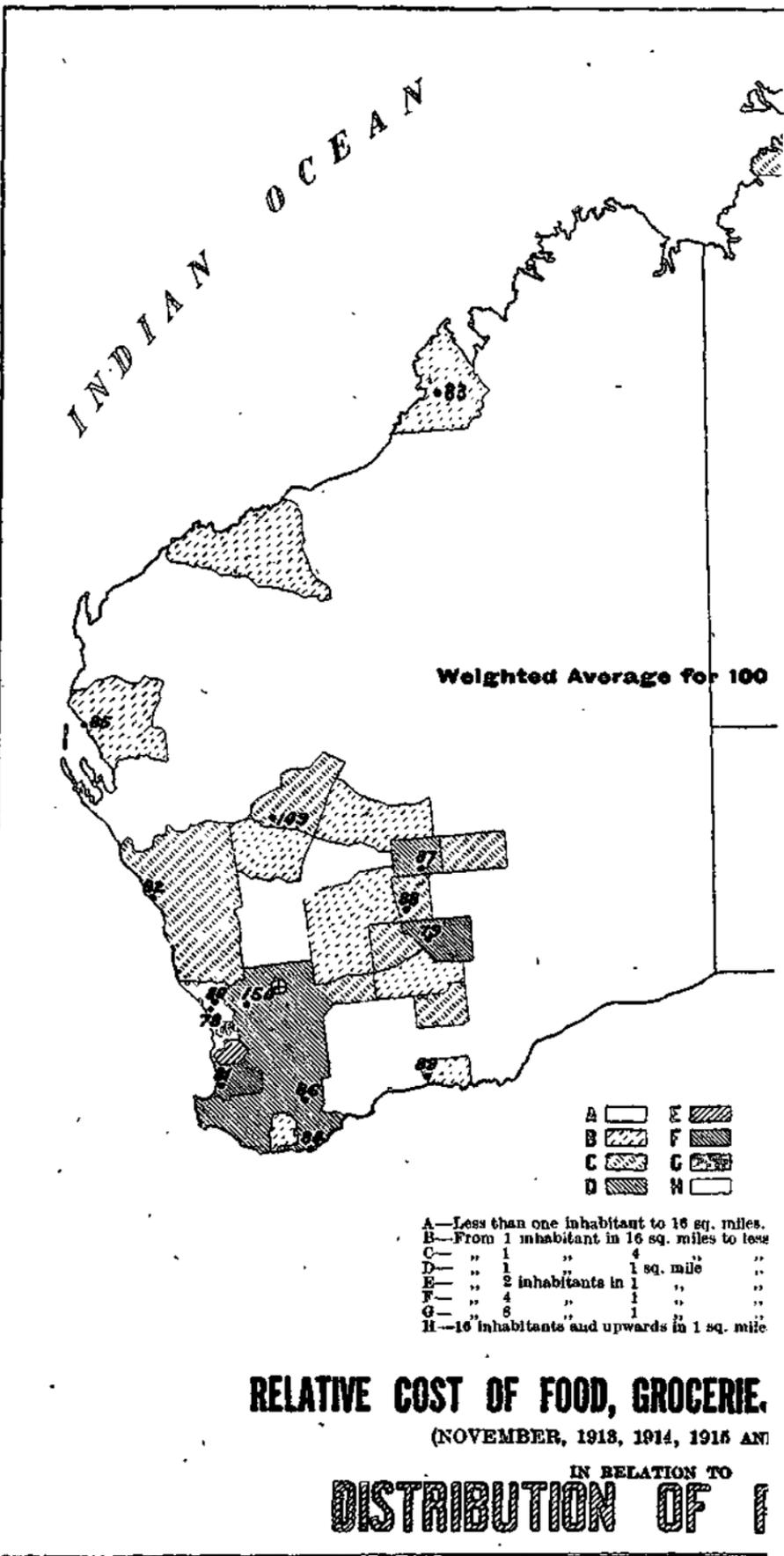
5. **Food, Groceries and House Rent.**—The index-numbers in the last two columns of the table on pages 394 to 397 indicate the relative cost of food and groceries combined with rent of the two classes of houses indicated. The general order and arrangement, both of the separate States and of individual towns, as regards relative cost of the commodities and house rent included, is the same whether the rent included refers to four or to five-roomed houses. Taking the combined expenditure in the case of four rooms, the weighted average index-numbers for New South Wales and Western Australia are above the weighted average for all towns, the index-number for South Australia is the same, while the index-number is below in the remaining States. Taking five rooms, the weighted average index-number is higher in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia, and lower in the remaining States. Taking combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 5.9 per cent., and Western Australia 7.7 above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while Queensland is 10.3 per cent., Victoria 4.0 per cent., and Tasmania 1.2 per cent. below the average. For combined expenditure on food, groceries and houses having five rooms, the index-number for New South Wales is 5.6 per cent., for South Australia 0.5 per cent., and for Western Australia 6.7 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-number for Victoria is 3.1 per cent., for Queensland 10.7 per cent., and for Tasmania 4.1 per cent. below the average.

Comparing individual towns, it may be seen that in New South Wales the index number for combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of four-roomed houses is greatest in Broken Hill, 12.2 per cent. above the average, and that if five-roomed houses be taken it is greatest in Katoomba, 11.7 per cent. above the average. The index-number is lowest in Adelong, whether the comparison be made with four or five rooms. In the former case it is 14.4 per cent., and in the latter 16.6 per

cent. below the average. In Victoria, Mildura has the highest combined index-number including four rooms, and Wonthaggi including five rooms. Mildura is 9.1 per cent., and Wonthaggi 11.6 per cent. above the respective weighted average index-numbers. Walhalla has the lowest combined index-number in each case. Taking four rooms, it is 18.7 per cent., and taking five rooms, 20.7 per cent. below the Commonwealth averages. In Queensland, Cloncurry has the highest and Warwick the lowest index-number, whether the combined expenditure include four or five rooms. The index-number for Cloncurry is 14.0 per cent. for four rooms, and 13.6 per cent. for five rooms, above the Commonwealth averages, while Warwick is 18.4 per cent. for four rooms, and 18.0 per cent. for five rooms below the average. In South Australia, Port Augusta has the highest, and Kapunda the lowest index-number in both cases. The index-number for Port Augusta is 19.0 per cent. for four rooms, and 16.9 per cent. for five rooms above, and for Kapunda 10.7 per cent. for four rooms, and 12.2 per cent. for five rooms below the weighted averages for the Commonwealth. In Western Australia the combined index-number is greatest for houses of four rooms in Menzies, 18.8 per cent. above the average and for houses of five rooms in Kalgoorlie, 21.2 per cent. above the average. Midland Junction has the lowest combined index-number for four rooms, and Bunbury for five rooms. In the former case it is 0.3 per cent., and in the latter 0.5 per cent. above the Commonwealth average. Queenstown has the highest combined index-numbers in Tasmania, being 6.6 per cent. for four rooms, and 3.6 per cent. for five rooms above the average. Campbelltown has the lowest combined index-numbers, being 18.1 per cent. below the average, when combined expenditure for four rooms is taken, and 22.0 per cent., below the average for five rooms.

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6. **Variation in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, 1913 to 1916.**—On the map facing page 400, index-numbers are given which represent the relative purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers in each of the 100 towns in 1913 and 1914, and also shew the increase or decrease in 100 towns between November, 1913, and the same month in 1914, 1915 and 1916. In these index-numbers the weighted average expenditure in 1913 on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is taken as base (= 1000, see end of first column). The second column represents the proportional expenditure in each town on food and groceries only, so that the difference between the index-number in the first column and that in the second column for any town represents the relative expenditure on rent in November, 1913. In the third and fourth columns shewing purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers for November, 1914, the same base is retained, with the result that the figures shew not only relative cost in that month, but also the increase or decrease in cost during the periods indicated. Similarly, the index-numbers in the fifth and sixth and seventh and eighth columns are again computed to the original base, so that they shew both the relative cost of food and groceries as between the several towns, and the variation in cost in each individual town since November, 1913. Thus it may be seen that in Sydney the purchasing-power-of-money index-number increased from 1109 to 1305, a rise of 17.7 per cent., between November, 1913, and November, 1916. The figures shew, moreover, that the purchasing-power-of-money index-number in



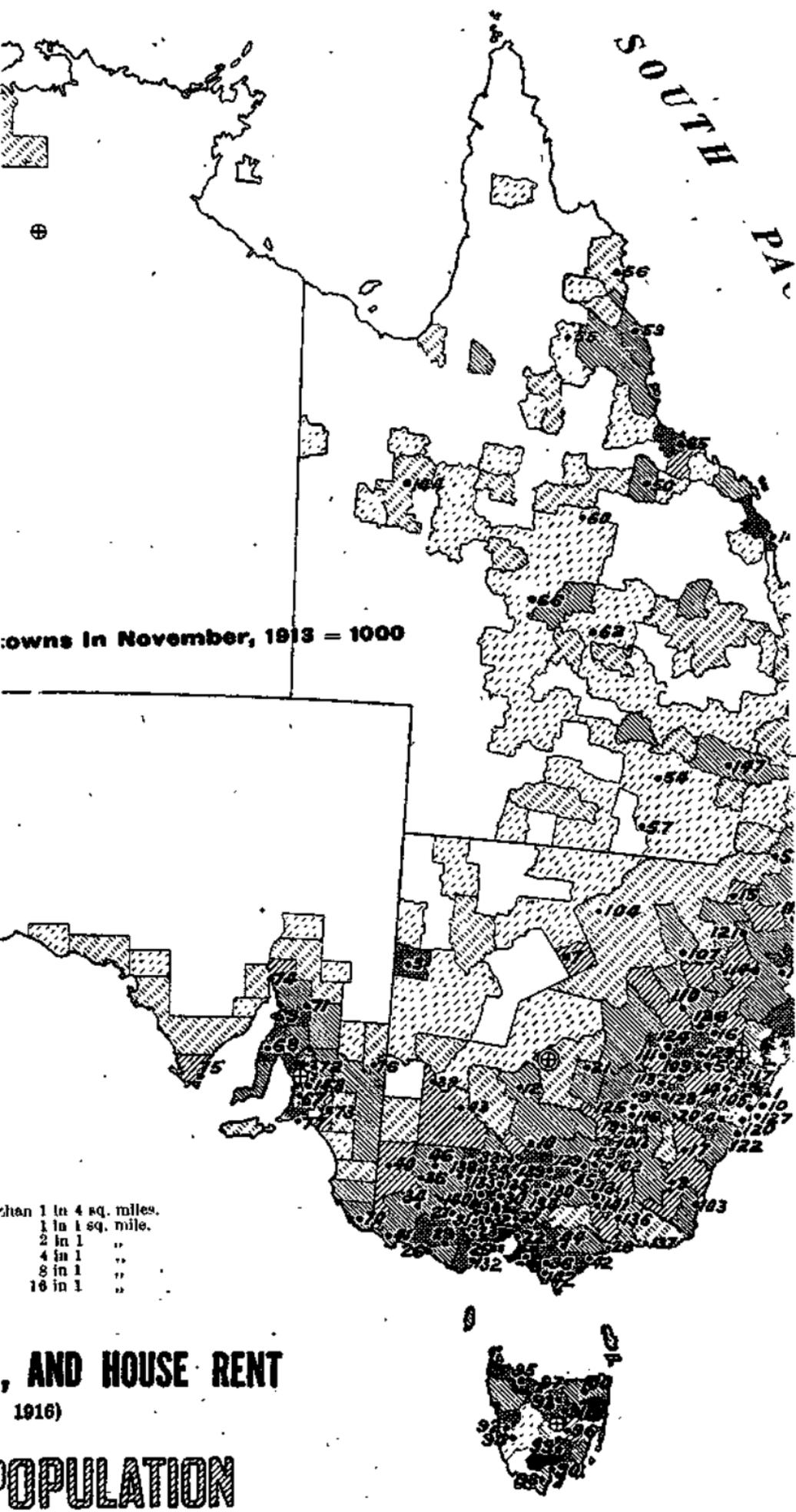
RELATIVE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIE.

(NOVEMBER, 1918, 1914, 1916 AND

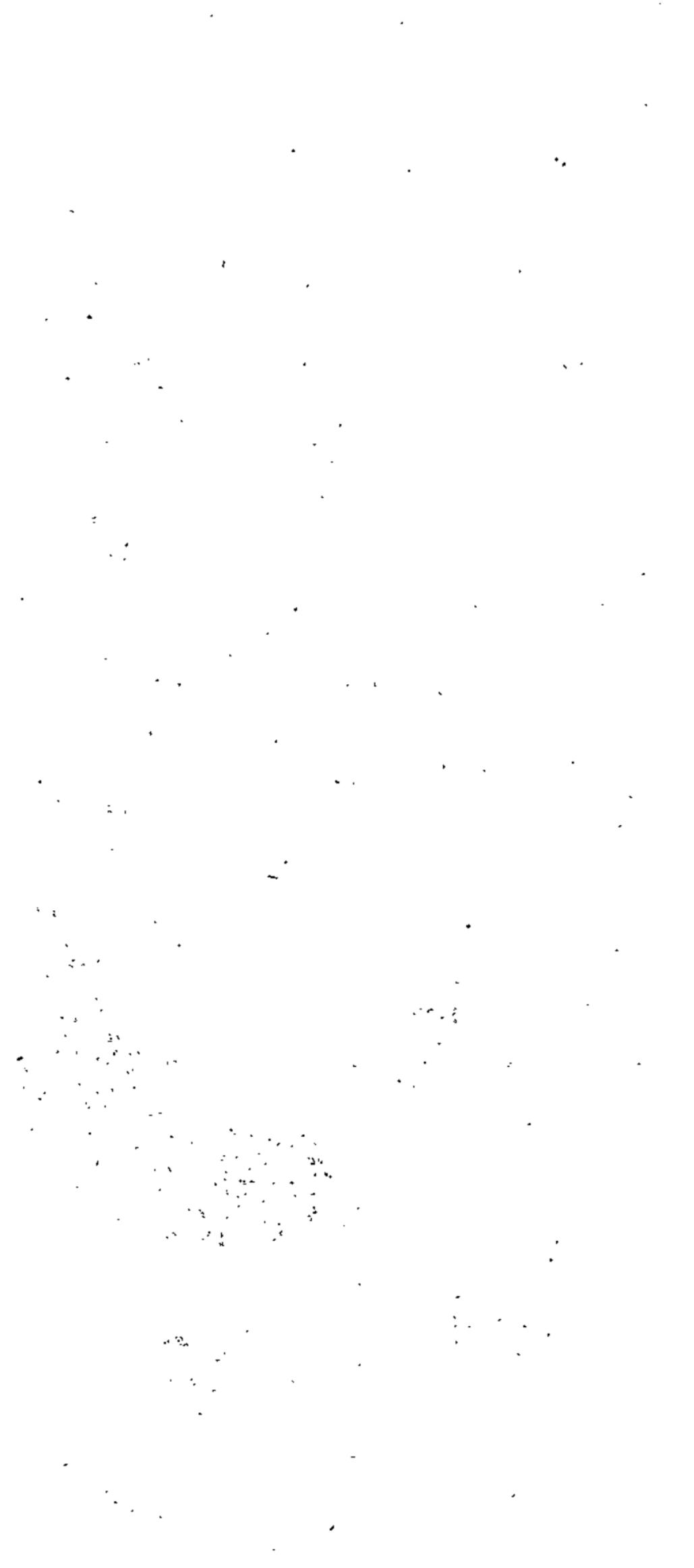
IN RELATION TO

DISTRIBUTION OF I





A.—Heavy Figures denote index-numbers for Food, Groceries, and Rent
 B.—Light figures denote index-numbers for Food and Groceries only.



	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
1 SYDNEY ..	1,109	634	1,124	651	1,321	801
2 Newcastle ..	980	637	972	648	1,228	847
3 Broken Hill ..	1,116	768	849	773	1,192	1,013
4 Goulburn ..	974	629	1,035	667	1,271	854
5 Bathurst ..	892	583	909	608	1,108	825
6 Armidale ..	875	601	948	618	1,148	863
7 Gobar ..	987	661	881	742	996	907
8 Cooma ..	861	638	975	662	1,221	962
9 Cootamundra ..	977	632	990	653	1,290	892
10 Deniliquin ..	836	606	943	675	1,199	924
11 Grafton ..	919	632	922	654	1,161	913
12 Hay ..	918	688	889	740	1,277	1,006
13 Lismore ..	931	695	1,042	723	1,213	860
14 Lithgow ..	915	629	938	625	1,227	894
15 Moree ..	981	681	1,041	696	1,256	937
16 Mudgee ..	824	569	895	640	1,131	863
17 Queanbeyan ..	1,052	650	980	635	1,313	906
18 Tamworth ..	902	599	1,066	649	1,231	874
19 Wagga Wagga ..	967	584	949	670	1,172	834
20 Yass ..	943	637	1,040	676	1,251	948
21 West Wyalong ..	960	631	952	669	1,130	890
22 MELBOURNE ..	964	568	1,019	628	1,240	852
23 Ballarat ..	767	566	845	636	1,084	874
24 Bendigo ..	815	573	873	641	1,068	843
25 Geelong ..	672	579	943	639	1,145	840
26 Warrnambool ..	865	581	914	620	1,152	868
27 Ararat ..	838	577	915	641	1,179	895
28 Bairnsdale ..	798	579	838	615	1,155	903
29 Camperdown ..	866	572	915	625	1,101	818
30 Castlemaine ..	772	547	911	636	1,137	862
31 Creswick ..	730	577	808	636	1,056	883
32 Daylesford ..	779	590	817	638	1,073	865
33 Echuca ..	811	607	857	672	1,061	876
34 Hamilton ..	871	594	926	636	1,275	924
35 Horsham ..	849	534	938	670	1,202	921
36 Korumburra ..	839	596	892	625	1,162	907
37 Kyneton ..	766	562	790	611	1,114	887
38 Maryborough ..	745	573	808	626	1,029	841
39 Mildura ..	972	608	1,052	600	1,272	930
40 Nhil ..	867	603	906	656	1,121	887
41 Portland ..	796	592	904	624	1,220	928
42 Sale ..	784	551	874	634	1,070	824
43 Swan Hill ..	975	618	1,000	649	1,279	874
44 Walhalla ..	796	687	808	693	1,025	897
45 Wangaratta ..	825	589	865	662	1,173	876
46 Warracknabeal ..	810	555	877	647	1,082	814
47 BRISBANE ..	878	583	919	627	1,166	878
48 Toowoomba ..	849	603	898	646	1,119	894
49 Rockhampton ..	863	617	920	668	1,184	945
50 Charters Towers ..	907	658	997	752	1,169	942
51 Warwick ..	823	590	863	635	1,077	863
52 Bundaberg ..	851	621	893	650	1,128	873
53 Cairns ..	1,067	704	1,140	809	1,248	913
54 Charleville ..	1,069	704	1,041	722	1,396	1,001
55 Chillagoe ..	1,152	834	1,052	892	1,319	1,000
56 Cooktown ..	937	745	1,003	799	1,125	959
57 Cunnamulla ..	992	724	1,047	779	1,321	1,065
58 Goonewind ..	958	639	948	680	1,190	935
59 Gympie ..	791	600	819	653	1,089	890
60 Hughenden ..	1,145	756	1,269	803	1,334	951
61 Ipswich ..	874	606	909	632	1,180	899
62 Longreach ..	1,047	728	1,122	823	1,200	945
63 Maryborough ..	762	584	830	624	1,133	913
64 Mount Morgan ..	880	637	951	696	1,204	949
65 Townsville ..	999	636	1,123	769	1,343	952
66 Winton ..	1,147	803	1,128	817	1,443	997
67 ADELAIDE ..	1,056	610	1,078	698	1,243	876
68 Kadina-Moonta ..	862	636	841	690	1,159	891
69 Port Pirie ..	972	644	978	729	1,189	922
70 Mount Gambier ..	816	568	894	614	1,100	838
71 Petersburg ..	996	613	1,099	742	1,214	895
72 Kapunda ..	847	618	901	690	1,066	893
73 Murray Bridge ..	911	618	1,034	640	1,210	856
74 Port Augusta ..	931	660	1,115	770	1,306	892
75 Port Lincoln ..	993	674	1,034	716	1,220	901
76 Renmark ..	985	666	1,041	696	1,222	897
77 Victor Harbour ..	924	637	1,108	720	1,192	863
78 PERTH ..	1,116	719	1,121	762	1,188	836
79 Kalgoorlie ..	1,277	912	1,344	988	1,451	1,036
80 Midland Junction ..	1,079	731	1,106	777	1,171	847
81 Bunbury ..	1,113	757	1,155	819	1,155	894
82 Geraldton ..	1,317	783	1,344	856	1,413	941
83 Broome ..	†	942	†	943	†	944
84 Albany ..	1,147	793	1,124	817	1,263	901
85 Carnarvon ..	1,348	960	1,316	966	1,296	961
86 Katanning ..	1,154	743	1,160	774	1,218	844
87 Leonora ..	1,265	1,042	1,324	1,069	1,331	1,139
88 Menzies ..	1,163	1,026	1,236	1,133	1,395	1,242
89 Ravensthorpe ..	1,147	1,019	1,150	1,010	1,260	1,119
90 HOBART ..	976	646	1,022	702	1,231	876
91 Launceston ..	911	696	999	668	1,209	868
92 Zeehan ..	924	717	926	768	1,141	975
93 Beaconsfield ..	769	654	806	710	1,023	937
94 Queenstown ..	989	724	1,023	746	1,314	932
95 Burnie ..	956	606	1,011	633	1,229	870
96 Campbell Town ..	791	599	756	660	†	†
97 Devonport ..	899	623	879	639	1,228	903
98 Franklin ..	969	654	919	703	†	†
99 Oatlands ..	829	628	874	682	961	788
100 Scottsdale ..	763	570	844	632	1,022	846
Weighted Average ..	*1,000	*621	*1,035	*665	†1,224	†872

* Weighted average of 100 Towns.

† Weighted average of 150 Towns.

‡ Not available.





1913.	1915.		1916.				
	B	A	B	A	B		
75	851	N. S. Wales--					
78	856	101	Adelong	1,110	922	1,016	897
41	1,042	102	Albury	1,174	868	1,169	847
7	864	103	Bega	1,137	878	1,100	864
19	892	104	Bourke	1,146	920	1,198	914
10	834	105	Bowral	1,185	841	1,159	859
159	909	106	Casino	1,185	884	1,103	823
31	884	107	Coonamble	1,202	883	1,263	944
38	864	108	Corrimal	1,078	854	1,118	901
48	874	109	Cowra	1,317	854	1,223	872
64	830	110	Dubbo	1,180	887	1,188	853
35	948	111	Forbes	1,131	886	1,033	834
153	842	112	Glen Innes	1,101	859	1,114	827
13	884	113	Grenfell	1,221	902	1,181	910
25	908	114	Gunnedah	1,252	870	1,244	868
62	878	115	Inverell	1,201	841	1,213	857
69	873	116	Junee	1,223	885	1,266	900
16	876	117	Katoomba	1,325	847	1,345	907
17	818	118	Kempsey	1,120	862	1,099	860
501	899	119	Maitland	1,087	822	1,148	880
77	908	120	Moss Vale	1,253	860	1,223	872
207	807	121	Narrabri	1,190	877	1,221	870
112	815	122	Nowra	1,080	856	1,100	845
130	814	123	Orange	1,210	834	1,155	846
25	809	124	Parkes	1,153	879	1,215	921
109	804	125	Temora	1,282	911	1,210	868
19	852	126	Wellington	1,197	859	1,193	902
053	811	127	Wollongong	1,141	838	1,194	881
79	800	128	Young	1,180	874	1,168	885
19	831	VICTORIA--					
139	860	129	Beechworth	1,059	893	1,091	874
10	831	130	Benalla	1,153	879	1,083	834
109	827	131	Bright	1,118	921	1,044	833
102	847	132	Colac	1,161	856	1,117	845
79	860	133	Dunnolly	1,045	853	977	811
088	798	134	Euroa	1,071	857	1,068	845
140	824	135	Maldon	896	875	1,003	846
137	836	136	Ormaiztegui	1,158	1,005	1,068	914
10	907	137	Orbost	1,162	890	1,167	864
42	883	138	St Arnaud	1,188	948	1,071	864
31	869	139	Shepparton	1,149	859	1,151	823
123	780	140	Stawell	1,186	942	1,070	834
4	827	141	Wandiligong	1,081	954	1,066	870
14	852	142	Wonthaggi	1,236	917	1,344	897
08	824	143	Yackandandah	1,038	873	963	830
48	783	QUEENSLAND--					
10	763	144	Cloncurry	1,447	1,032	1,367	930
12	760	145	Hamilton	1,279	896	1,233	775
163	817	146	Mackay	1,237	895	1,155	848
30	884	147	Roma	1,288	937	1,207	869
7	773	S. AUSTRALIA					
41	823	148	Gawler	1,160	873	1,175	863
19	929	W. AUSTRALIA					
18	936	149	Osprey	1,315	1,092	1,316	1,090
12	920	150	Northam	1,259	879	1,343	963
72	931						
124	894						
44	803						
101	816						
74	907						
062	780						
194	939						
145	825						
103	842						
245	856						
142	934						
118	852						
170	889						
139	893						
167	804						
196	890						
057	876						
211	854						
408	949						
212	925						
203	872						
223	864						
230	872						
459	1,030						
413	905						
210	949						
343	908						
1	1,001						
314	947						
447	1,033						
275	899						
374	1,119						
456	1,303						
322	1,172						
178	824						
165	825						
069	909						
968	885						
248	915						
123	804						
940	816						
176	846						
086	836						
979	804						
991	795						
204	840						



Sydney (1109) was 10.9 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1000) in November, 1913, while twelve months later the index-number (1124) was 8.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1035); in November, 1915, it was 1321, or 7.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1234), and in November, 1916, it was 1305, or 8.4 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1204). Again, as regards cost of food and groceries only, the index-number in Sydney in 1913 was 634, or 2.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average 621; in November, 1914, the corresponding number was 651; in November, 1915, 861; and in November, 1916, 851, shewing that the cost increased from November, 1913, to November, 1916, by 34.2 per cent., and was then 1.3 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (840). The difference between the two index-numbers for Sydney in 1913 was 475, and the corresponding difference in 1916, 454. This shews that rent of five-roomed houses had decreased 4.4 per cent.

It has already been explained that the list of towns from which information as to prices and house rents are collected annually has been extended, and for November, 1915 and 1916, was 150. The index-numbers for the 50 additional towns for November, 1915 and 1916, are shewn in columns 9, 10, 11 and 12 on the map. They are computed to the same base as the 100 towns, and are therefore comparable with them in all respects. Thus, it may be seen that comparing Melbourne and Bright, the index-number for food and groceries in November, 1915, was 852 for Melbourne, and 921 for Bright, shewing that the cost of food and groceries was 8.1 per cent. higher in Bright than in Melbourne. Again, taking the difference between the two index-numbers for November, 1915, in each case, it may be seen that the index-number for rent of five-roomed houses was in Melbourne 388, and in Bright 197. Thus the rent of five-roomed houses is 50.8 per cent. less in Bright than in Melbourne.

7. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and Quarterly Results.—In order to ascertain the degree of accuracy to which the investigations as to variations in the purchasing-power of money made prior to 1912 for the capital towns only, and those made since the beginning of 1912 for the thirty towns, reflect the conditions obtaining throughout the States and Commonwealth, comparisons between the three sets of results were made in connection with the inquiry of November, 1913, 1914 and 1915. Similar comparisons are now made in connection with the 1916 inquiry. In the following table the first line in each section shews the results obtained, as to relative purchasing-power of money, from the special inquiry covering in all 150 towns. The second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1916, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received, and the last line the results obtained from the November returns for the capital towns only. The capital towns are, of course, included in each of the other two investigations, and the five towns in each State are included in the investigation for "all towns":—

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and from Ordinary Periodic Returns, November, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'ght Aver- age.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns*	1,024	967	952	1,020	1,094	993	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,027	966	931	1,023	1,087	1,000	1,000
Capital Town only	1,026	973	921	1,028	1,051	974	1,000
RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.							
All Towns*	1,129	974	758	972	1,007	870	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,142	972	715	939	976	865	1,000
Capital Town only	1,127	991	710	906	889	877	1,000
FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.							
All Towns*	1,056	969	893	1,005	1,067	959	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,063	968	864	997	1,052	958	1,000
Capital Town only	1,059	979	852	988	998	955	1,000

* For list of towns included see Table on pages 394 to 397.

As regards variations in cost of living for November, 1914, 1915 and 1916, compared with November, 1913, the index-numbers for November, 1914, 1915 and 1916, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above are shewn in the following table :—

Variations in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, Results obtained from Annual Inquiry for extended List of Towns and from Periodic Monthly Inquiries, November, 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1916.

Particulars.	1913.	1914.	1915	1916.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.				
All Towns	1,000	1,072	1,405	1,353
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,073	1,404	1,354
Capital Towns only	1,000	1,072	1,408	1,358
RENT OF 5 ROOMED HOUSES.				
All Towns	1,000	974	952	959
Five Towns in each State	1,000	969	961	966
Capital Towns only	1,000	975	955	961
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.				
All Towns	1,000	1,035	1,234	1,204
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,033	1,232	1,203
Capital Towns only	1,000	1,032	1,223	1,196

NOTE.—The figures in the vertical columns do not, of course, show relative purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers. They show merely the increase or decrease in cost in November, 1916, compared with November, 1913 for "All Towns," "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Towns only" respectively.

The index-numbers in the first line of each part of the latter table refer to 100 towns for November, 1913 and 1914, and to 150 towns for November, 1915 and 1916. The general closeness of the results shewn in these two tables is remarkable, and is a further confirmation of the conclusions previously stated, that the index-numbers published for the capital towns only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the thirty towns for 1912 and subsequent years, reflect, with a substantial degree of accuracy, the variations in the purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers, not only in each State separately, but also throughout the Commonwealth as a whole. The second table also shews that during the period November, 1913, to November, 1916, the average cost of food and groceries throughout the Commonwealth increased over 35 per cent., while house rents declined over 4 per cent., the aggregate result shewing an increase of approximately 20 per cent.