

CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

Section 1.—Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—The information given in this chapter refers to Melbourne wholesale prices. An index of Sydney wholesale prices is compiled by the Government Statistician, and published in the *Year Book* of New South Wales.

The scope of the wholesale price index can best be understood by study of the list of commodities included given on page 10. It is principally an index of the prices of raw material and food, and is therefore in its scope fairly comparable with the "Economist" and "Statist" index-numbers of Great Britain. On the other hand, it is very different in scope from the wholesale price index-numbers of the United States (Bureau of Labour) or of Canada (Department of Labour).

It follows that the Melbourne index has not much significance as a general measure of prices or as a criterion of purchasing power. Its use is rather to indicate changes in the price of the basic materials which, whether as raw materials, or as food, or as a source of power, enter into production for home consumption. The commodities are, therefore, weighted (see page 10), in proportion to Australian consumption. As Australia does not to any extent turn imported raw material into manufactured exports, consumption alone appears to give the most appropriate weighting. The wholesale price index is, therefore, at one end of a scale, and the retail price index at the other. The difference between them indicates, not the spread between wholesale and retail prices, but rather the combined costs of manufacture and distribution. This is the general idea underlying the Australian wholesale price index, though it has not been consistently followed out.

The index-number of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912, and has been continued on the same lines for nearly twenty years. It was resolved at the Brisbane Conference of Statisticians in 1930 that the time had come to revise and extend it in harmony with changed conditions. An investigation to that end is now in progress, and it is hoped that the results will shortly be available.

2. **Commodities in Groups.**—The commodities are divided into eight groups, as set out on page 10. The descriptions of the groups are given below with "weights", showing approximately the proportional cost of the consumption of each group in the middle of 1931. These weights may be used to combine any group index-numbers with fair accuracy at the present time, but would give unsatisfactory results if used for a time when prices were much different relatively, as in 1929.

Groups of Commodities.

Number.	Description.	Approximate Weight (1931).
I.	"Metals and Coal"	40
II.	"Cotton, Wool", also jute, leather, &c. ..	30
III.	"Agricultural Produce"	50
IV.	"Dairy Produce"	22
V.	"Groceries"	45
VI.	"Meat"	25
VII.	"Building materials" (mostly timber) ..	18
VIII.	"Chemicals" (excluding fertilizers) ..	2

It will be noticed that the chemicals group is almost negligible.

The index is predominantly of basic materials, but some elements of Australian manufacturing costs enter into all groups. The element is small in Meat (VI.), Agricultural produce (III.), and Cotton, Wool (II.), and rather greater in the others, but the difference is not sufficient to justify any

inference as to different changes of the price-level for manufactured goods and farm products. The number and weight of manufactured commodities included are too small for inference of this kind from any possible grouping.

Many of the commodities included are affected by the tariff. Cotton, Wool (II.), Agricultural produce (III.) and Meat (VI.), are little affected, and Dairy Produce (IV.) not greatly, but in the other groups the tariff is a dominating influence.

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Commodities included, Units of Measurement, and "Mass-Units."

Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.				GROUP V.			
Iron—				Currants ..	..	lb.	1,400
Pig ..	Mxd. Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins ..	Sultans	..	1,400
Rod and Bar ..	Stafford	..	3½	Herrings ..	1-lb. fresh	doz. 1-lb.	50
Angles ..	..	..	3½		tins	..	
Plate ..	..	..	3	Salmon ..	1 lb. tall	..	50
Hoop ..	f	..	½		Alaska	..	
Galvanized ..	26 gauge	..	5	Sardines ..	Halves	doz. halves	100
Tinned Plates ..	I.C. Coke	box	60	Coffee ..	Plantation	lb	200
Fencing Wire ..	No. 8	ton	6	Cocoa ..	McKenzie's	..	100
Zinc, sheet ..	..	..	1	Sugar ..	No. 1A	ton	22
Lead, sheet ..	..	..	½	Macaroni ..	..	lb.	200
" pipes ..	..	..	1	Taploca ..	..	cwt.	7
Copper, sheet ..	..	lb.	2,000	Rice ..	..	ton	2
Quicksilver ..	..	..	12	Salt ..	Australian	..	7
Coal ..	Newcastle.	ton	600		fine	..	
	on wharf			Salt ..	Rock ..	..	1
GROUP II.				Mustard ..	Coleman's	doz. 1-lb.	6
					tins	..	
Branbags ..	..	doz.	110	Starch ..	Coleman's	lb.	100
Cornsocks ..	..	..	250		White	..	
Woolpacks ..	..	each	200	Blue ..	Keen's	..	50
Leather—	..	..	..	Matches ..	Australian	gross	50
Chrome Box	..	ft.	1,200		Safety	..	
Hide ..	..	..	..	Candles ..	Rangoon	lb.	1,600
Rough Tanned	..	lb.	600	Tobacco ..	..	..	1,200
—Split ..	..	..	..	Tea ..	..	..	5,000
Sole Leather—	..	..	600	Kerosene ..	..	gallon	1,700
Factory	..	..	..	
Sides ..	..	..	..	GROUP VI.			
Cotton ..	Raw ..	..	24,000	Beef ..	Average	100 lb.	390
Wool ..	Greasy ..	..	12,200		quality	..	
Twine ..	Reaper	..	150	Mutton ..	..	lb.	33,000
	and	..	..	Veal ..	..	..	2,000
	Blinder	..	..	Lamb ..	..	..	5,600
Tallow ..	Mutton	ton	1½	Pork ..	..	..	3,700
	Prime						
GROUP III.				GROUP VII.			
Wheat ..	..	bushel	500	Timber—	Flooring—		
Flour ..	..	ton	48		6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.	30
Bran ..	..	..	74		6 x 1	..	30
Pollard ..	..	..	74		6 x ½	..	30
Oats ..	Milling ..	bushel	1,200		6 x 1	..	30
Oatmeal ..	Colonial	ton	1½		Weather-	..	
Barley ..	English	bushel	150		boards	..	200
" ..	Cape ..	..	100		Oregon	1,000 ft.	20
Maize ..	..	..	1,000		sup.	..	
Hay ..	Best Mngr.	ton	135	Cement ..	Shelving	..	10
Chaff ..	Prime	..	135	White Lead ..	Portland	cask	30
Straw ..	Victorian	..	25	Slates ..	Welsh	1,000	3
Peas ..	..	bushel	55		20 x 10	..	
Potatoes ..	..	..	40				
Malt ..	Victorian	ton	140				
Onions ..	..	..	3				
GROUP IV.				GROUP VIII.			
Ham ..	..	lb.	800	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Bacon ..	..	..	3,200	Carbonate of	..	ton	1
Cheese ..	..	..	1,500	Soda ..	..	..
Butter ..	Best Fresh	..	9,500	Saltpetre ..	Refined	..	1-20
Lard ..	Bulk ..	..	200	Sulphur ..	..	..
Eggs ..	Ordinary	doz.	1,800	Caustic Soda	..	cwt.	1
Honey ..	..	lb.	600	Alum ..	Lump	ton	1
Beeswax ..	..	..	40	Cyanide of Pot-	..	lb.	370
Condensed Milk	Bacchus	doz. lb.	160				
	Marsh						

3. **Index-Numbers.**—Index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined. These index-numbers are shown in the following table:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers 1861 to September, 1932, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

YEAR.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricul- tural Pro- duce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Grocer- ies.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Com- modities combined.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,220
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	845
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,088
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,307	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,804
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,525	1,491	1,760	1,804
1917 ..	2,129	2,000	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,862
1918 ..	2,416	2,300	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,631	1,576	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,458	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,798	1,837	1,746	2,379	2,025	1,933	1,844
1924 ..	1,835	2,428	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,665
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,743	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,917
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,782
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,240	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,225	1,875	1,932	1,596
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,423
1931—									
Jan. ..	1,890	974	1,162	1,424	1,811	1,689	1,925	2,059	1,454
Feb. ..	1,868	1,098	1,103	1,492	1,841	1,455	1,992	2,281	1,448
March ..	1,868	1,170	1,086	1,522	1,814	1,471	1,996	2,161	1,456
April (a) ..	1,885	1,173	1,081	1,454	1,789	1,471	1,996	2,177	1,447
May ..	1,825	1,147	1,091	1,438	1,785	1,494	2,038	2,177	1,440
June ..	1,823	1,050	1,093	1,433	1,780	1,527	2,038	2,179	1,425
July ..	1,823	1,049	1,095	1,362	1,782	1,571	2,112	2,179	1,428
Aug. ..	1,810	914	1,097	1,336	1,769	1,583	2,091	2,179	1,399
Sept. ..	1,810	866	1,115	1,322	1,779	1,550	2,051	2,180	1,391
Oct. ..	1,770	942	1,132	1,388	1,791	1,469	2,028	2,180	1,402
Nov. ..	1,770	1,040	1,199	1,334	1,795	1,431	2,008	2,180	1,428
Dec. ..	1,770	1,056	1,197	1,275	1,792	1,432	2,026	2,180	1,425
1932—									
Jan. ..	1,757	1,051	1,206	1,247	1,783	1,385	1,984	2,183	1,414
Feb. ..	1,743	1,079	1,280	1,317	1,788	1,413	1,998	2,183	1,449
March ..	1,742	1,038	1,245	1,344	1,767	1,477	2,009	2,185	1,488
April ..	1,742	963	1,233	1,414	1,762	1,504	2,019	2,120	1,431
May ..	1,734	893	1,228	1,370	1,765	1,429	2,076	2,120	1,468
June ..	1,737	842	1,231	1,297	1,704	1,387	2,083	2,120	1,390
July ..	1,734	885	1,252	1,331	1,760	1,329	2,049	2,120	1,397
Aug. ..	1,731	999	1,269	1,311	1,754	1,301	2,060	2,030	1,415
Sept. ..	1,727	1,120	1,270	1,319	1,764	1,314	2,067	2,117	1,441

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally. The index-numbers are reversible.

(a) The index-numbers for Group II. and Group V. were adjusted at the beginning of the year 1931, in view of the fact that the prices of two items were based on import values without full allowance being made for the movement in exchange.

4. **Variations since Outbreak of War.**—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1931, and for each month from January, 1931, to September, 1932, are shown in the

following table, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (= 1,000) for each group:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices Index-Numbers.

(Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricultural Produce.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Year 1915 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,307	1,130	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,561	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,841	1,084	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,085	1,693
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,603	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,764	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,531	2,495	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,658
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,761	1,653
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,564	1,562	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,661	1,456	1,654	1,242	1,590	1,876	1,571
" 1929 ..	1,737	1,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,895	1,581
" 1930 ..	1,695	1,035	1,389	1,353	1,614	1,249	1,712	1,933	1,399
" 1931 ..	1,659	954	1,049	1,163	1,738	930	1,849	2,112	1,252
1931—									
January ..	1,717	895	1,087	1,184	1,755	1,042	1,757	2,008	1,475
February ..	1,697	1,008	1,035	1,240	1,785	897	1,818	2,108	1,270
March ..	1,697	1,074	1,017	1,265	1,758	907	1,822	2,108	1,276
April ..	1,712	1,077	1,012	1,209	1,733	907	1,822	2,123	1,268
May ..	1,657	1,053	1,021	1,195	1,730	921	1,860	2,123	1,262
June ..	1,656	964	1,023	1,191	1,725	942	1,860	2,126	1,249
July ..	1,656	963	1,025	1,132	1,727	969	1,828	2,126	1,252
August ..	1,644	839	1,027	1,111	1,715	976	1,808	2,126	1,227
September ..	1,644	795	1,044	1,099	1,724	966	1,872	2,126	1,219
October ..	1,608	865	1,059	1,154	1,736	906	1,851	2,126	1,229
November ..	1,608	955	1,122	1,109	1,739	882	1,833	2,126	1,252
December ..	1,608	970	1,120	1,066	1,736	883	1,850	2,126	1,249
1932—									
January ..	1,595	965	1,128	1,037	1,728	864	1,811	2,129	1,239
February ..	1,583	991	1,198	1,095	1,733	871	1,823	2,129	1,270
March ..	1,583	953	1,105	1,118	1,712	911	1,834	2,129	1,261
April ..	1,583	884	1,154	1,176	1,708	927	1,843	2,068	1,254
May ..	1,575	820	1,149	1,139	1,710	882	1,895	2,068	1,234
June ..	1,578	773	1,152	1,078	1,710	855	1,901	2,068	1,218
July ..	1,575	812	1,107	1,107	1,706	820	1,870	2,068	1,225
August ..	1,572	917	1,188	1,090	1,699	802	1,880	1,980	1,241
September ..	1,568	1,028	1,189	1,097	1,710	810	1,887	2,064	1,263

5. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1931. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1931 as base. Corresponding figures for purchasing-power of money (retail prices of food, groceries and cost of housing) have been included for comparative purposes.

Melbourne Wholesale and Retail Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers, 1931.

Particulars.	Jan. to March.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Whole Year.
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with 1911 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,453	1,437	1,406	1,418	1,428
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1931 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,018	1,006	985	993	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1911 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,519	1,457	1,411	1,405	1,448
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1931 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,049	1,006	974	970	1,000

The results evidence a greater variation in retail prices than in wholesale prices, but in both instances the index-numbers show that the prices moved uniformly in a downward direction during the first three quarters of the year. In the fourth quarter wholesale prices rose slightly, while retail prices steadied with a further small downward movement.

6. **Prices, 1930 and 1931.**—In Section I, Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular brands of commodities used in computing the index-numbers in the years 1930 and 1931. Corresponding information for previous years was given in the Appendixes to previous Reports. In Report No. I (1912), prices are given for each year from 1871 to 1911.

§ 2. Retail Prices.

1. **General.**—The methods adopted for the computation of retail price index-numbers have been described in previous issues of this Report. For the principles involved, the reader is recommended to consult the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9. A simple discussion of the retail price index for food and rent, and of its accuracy and adequacy, particularly in connexion with wage adjustment, was given in Labour Report, No. 21, Appendix VIII., which is printed also as a separate pamphlet entitled "Wages and Prices."

2. **The "Old" Composite Unit.**—The constitution of the "composite unit" hitherto used is shown hereunder. The "mass-units" are meant to represent the proportionate consumption by the Australian community of the articles included.

Retail Prices.—Composite Unit.

Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."	Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"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. bag	11	27. Beef, rib	"	82
3. Tea	lb.	30	28. Beef, flank ..	"	12
4. Coffee	"	2	29. Beef, shin	"	14
5. Sugar	"	460	30. Beef, steak, rump ..	"	24
6. Rice	"	50	31. Beef, steak, shoulder ..	"	53
7. Sage	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing ..	"	53
8. Jam	"	73	33. Beef, corned round ..	"	39
9. Oatmeal	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with bone	"	11
10. Raisins	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without bone	"	32
11. Currants	"	14	36. Mutton, leg	"	92
12. Starch	"	7	37. Mutton, shoulder ..	"	62
13. Blue	doz. sqs.	1	38. Mutton, loin	"	30
14. Candles	lb.	16	39. Mutton, neck	"	40
15. Soap	"	64	40. Mutton, chops, loin ..	"	62
16. Potatoes	14 lb.	64	41. Mutton, chops, leg ..	"	15
17. Onions	lb.	68	42. Mutton, chops, neck ..	"	31
18. Kerosene	gallon	17	43. Pork, leg	"	94
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.			44. Pork, loin	"	84
19. Milk	quart	300	45. Pork, belly	"	104
20. Butter	lb.	95	46. Pork, chops	"	84
21. Cheese	"	15	GROUP IV.—HOUSING.		
22. Eggs	dozen	18	47. House Accommodation	week	464
23. Bacon, middle ..	lb.	16			
24. Bacon, shoulder ..	"	16			
25. Ham	"	8			

These "mass-units," which are the weights given to the commodities in the index, represent the estimated total consumption in millions of the unit of quantity for the whole of Australia in the years 1906-1910. Since then, the relative consumption of the various commodities has changed considerably. Such a change, however, would make very little difference to the index-number, which measures merely the change in price-level. If prices had moved very differently for different commodities—some risen, some fallen—a marked change in weight might make an appreciable change in the index-number. But the prices of all the principal foods have increased substantially since 1910, so that a considerable change in weight would have little effect.

A uniform movement of the principal food prices, nevertheless, cannot be relied on in the future, particularly with the possibilities of control of individual prices by Governments or by trade combinations. The regimen has, therefore, been revised in order to bring it into harmony with the best available estimates of current consumption. The opportunity was also taken of adding certain items of moderate importance, and of deleting others of which the consumption was so small that the effect of including them was negligible. The new regimen, details of which are given below, was given a trial for the first six months of 1932, side by side with the old regimen, and then brought into operation from July, 1932.

The effect of the change in weighting was tried by computing the change in the price level from 1911 to May, 1932, with both systems of weights. For the six capital cities, the new weights give an index of 1,442, and the old weights an index of 1,445. The difference was expected to be small, but it turned out to be totally negligible for Australia as a whole. The differences in some individual towns were somewhat greater, though still unimportant.

In accordance with the general principles of procedure in changing the regimen (*see* Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paras. 14, 18) the index was taken as determined by the old regimen for the June quarter of 1932, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price-level after that date. The breach of continuity is very slight, and the index-number as published records with the greatest practicable accuracy the changes in retail prices through the whole period since 1911.

3. The New Composite Unit.—In the old regimen, the weights represent in millions the annual total consumption of Australia in the years 1906 to 1910. In the new regimen, the weights are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes during the years 1927 to 1929. Small adjustments in the crude average consumption have been made in two ways. Consumption by factories, when the product did not go into household use in Australia, was deducted. On the other hand, the weights given to some foods, such as dried apricots and canned peaches, cover also the consumption of other similar foods. The following table gives the new regimen, and the weights of corresponding items of the old regimen, reduced for comparison to the same basis of annual consumption per head. In the last column, the relative importance of the items making up the new regimen is shown, approximately, for the third quarter of 1932. The relative importance will change slightly with variation of prices, and revised figures will be published from time to time as may be necessary.

Retail Prices—"New Composite Unit."

(COMPARISON OF "NEW" AND "OLD" WEIGHTS AND PERCENTAGE COST OF EACH ITEM.)

Commodity.	Unit of Quantity.	"New" Regimen Weights.	(a) "Old" Regimen Weights.	(b) Cost of Items in "New" Regimen as Percentage of Aggregate—Melbourne, 3rd Quarter, 1932.	
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).					
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	100	109	5.8	
2. Flour, ordinary	25 lb. bag	2	2.57	1.0	
3. Flour, self-raising	2 lb. pkt.	12	..	1.0	
4. Tea	1 lb.	8	7.00	2.9	
5. Sugar .. .. .	..	100	107	6.5
6. Rice .. .. .	..	8	11.7	0.4
7. Sage .. .. .	..	1	1.87	0.1
8. Jam, apricot	1½ lb. tin	8	11.3	1.2	
9. Golden Syrup	2 lb. tin	1	11.7	0.1	
10. Oatmeal	1 lb.	8	8.17	0.3	
11. Raisins, seeded .. .. .	..	5	3.27	0.7
12. Currants .. .. .	..	2	3.27	0.2
13. Apricots, dried .. .. .	..	1	..	0.2
14. Peaches, canned	2 lb. tin	3	..	0.5	
15. Pears, canned .. .. .	..	1	..	0.2
16. Salmon, in tins	1 lb. tin	3	..	0.7	
17. Potatoes	14 lb.	9	14.9	1.1	
18. Onions	1 lb.	14	15.9	0.9	
19. Soap, household, ordinary .. .. .	..	16	14.9	1.2
20. Candles .. .. .	..	1	3.73	0.2
21. Kerosene	1 gallon	1	3.97	0.3	
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.					
22. Milk, fresh	1 quart	72	70.0	6.3	
23. Butter, factory	1 lb.	30	22.2	7.6	
24. Cheese, mild .. .. .	..	4	3.50	0.7
25. Milk, condensed, sweetened	tin	5	..	0.7	
26. Eggs, fresh	1 dozen	6	4.20	1.3	
27. Bacon, rashers	1 lb.	10	7.46	2.1	
28. Ham, rashers, uncooked .. .. .	..	2	1.87	0.4
GROUP III.—MEAT.					
29. Beef, sirloin	1 lb.	18	107	90.3	10.2
30. Beef, ribs .. .. .	..	22		
31. Beef, steak, rump .. .. .	..	11		
32. Beef, steak, stewing .. .. .	..	20		
33. Beef, sausages	7	79	77.5	5.9
34. Beef, corned round .. .. .	..	14		
35. Beef, brisket with bone. .. .. .	..	15		
36. Mutton, leg .. .. .	..	20		
37. Mutton, shoulder	15	9	8.63	1.2
38. Mutton, loin .. .. .	..	18		
39. Mutton, chops, loin .. .. .	..	16		
40. Mutton, chops, leg .. .. .	..	10		
41. Pork, leg	2	3
42. Pork, loin .. .. .	..	2		
43. Pork, chops .. .. .	..	2		
44. Pork, sausages .. .. .	..	3		
GROUP IV.—HOUSING.					
45. House Accommodation	week	10	10	38.1	

(a) The weights given for the "Old" regimen are obtained from those given in the previous table by dividing by the mean population of Australia for the years 1906 to 1920. (b) Relative importance of items, "New" regimen.

It will be seen that no attempt has been made to include in the new regimen certain foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions. It is not possible to obtain consistent prices for a standard grade for these items even in a single capital city, and their seasonal character would make additional complications. The inclusion of such items, moreover, would impair the accuracy and stability of the index, and there is no reason to suppose that, even if they could be accurately included, the index would be altered to any appreciable extent, or in one direction more than in the other. In view of all the circumstances it has been considered better to omit these items from the regimen. Certain of the omissions of items in the old regimen were made partly on account of the difficulty of getting comparable prices. Some of the joints of meat, for example, are not sufficiently standardized, and anomalies in price were not uncommon. On this account, they have been deleted, and the total weight given to meat is distributed amongst the more standardized joints.

4. **Collection of Data.**—Retail prices of the commodities included in the "composite unit" are collected from representative retail establishments in each of the five principal towns in each State (30 towns in all). The registers of traders are forwarded to the Bureau by the Government Statisticians of each State. Prices of food are obtained monthly from about ten tradespeople in each town in respect to the various items in the regimen. A careful selection is made from the lists of tradespeople and agents to ensure the supply of representative figures for the district as a whole, and returns are queried and referred for verification when there is any reason to doubt the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be excessive.

Some natural misunderstanding has occurred over the use of the word "predominant" in describing the grade of goods for which prices were quoted. When retailers first made a return of prices, they were asked to quote for the grade most in demand—the "predominant" price—and the prices have been usually so described. But there was no intention that the grade for which a price was quoted should be changed on account of a change in the demand. To change the grade in this way would be contrary to the first principles of making an index of prices, as was laid down very emphatically by Sir George Knibbs in the Appendix to the Labour Report, 1918.

The grades and qualities quoted for by the individual retailers have in fact been kept constant. Any appreciable change would be detected in the tabulated prices, and the return would be sent back for explanation or amendment. In 1931, with the very sudden fall in real wages and real incomes of all kinds, there was a possibility of considerable changes in the predominant grade for some commodities. Retailers have therefore been requested to take special care not to change the grade or quality quoted for, and the word "predominant" has been dropped, as liable to give rise to misunderstanding. A careful scrutiny of returns has made it certain that there has been no appreciable change of grade in the foods for which prices are recorded.

A return of rents is made at the middle of each quarter by ten or more house-agents in each capital city for houses classified according to the number of rooms both for brick and wooden houses. The return shows the average rent paid for all occupied houses that conform to an average standard,

excluding houses with special advantages or disadvantages. Old-fashioned, inconvenient houses and houses out of repair or poorly situated are not taken into account. Information on similar lines is collected quarterly in each of the country towns included in the investigation.

5. **Change of Base Period.**—Attention is directed to the base period to which the index-numbers in the following tables are computed. In the issues of the Labour Report up to the year 1929, the retail prices of food and groceries and cost of housing (four and five rooms) were compared with the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in 1911 = 1,000, while the total household expenditure tabulations, (i.e., food and groceries, rent of four and five rooms, clothing and miscellaneous items) were computed to the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in November, 1914 = 1,000. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the average of the five-yearly period—1923—1927—be adopted as base for retail price indexes. Consequently, the index-numbers in the following tables, with the exception of those given in the table showing relative cost in the 200 towns of Australia, have been re-computed to the new base.

The computation of the series of retail price index-numbers (food, groceries, and rent—all houses) used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the determination and adjustment of rates of wages has been continued on the original base, viz., the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in 1911 = 1,000. These index-numbers are published in Appendix VII. to this Report.

6. **Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1931.**—Index-numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, as well as the weighted average for all groups together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table. The index-numbers in the following tables, which have the period 1923—27 as base, can be converted to the old base 1911 by multiplying by 1,000 and dividing by the index-number for 1911.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities.

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

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929	1930.	1931.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	1,055	986	1,106	952	912
Melbourne	461	521	562	1,070	942	893	989	858	775
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,105	980	953	1,021	877	854
Adelaide	510	541	598	1,076	970	894	972	846	753
Perth	572	720	628	1,103	950	961	1,014	908	844
Hobart	501	566	604	1,087	955	927	1,025	917	828
Weighted Average (a) ..	499	564	599	1,093	993	939	1,037	899	838
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.									
Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	1,074	1,067	1,086	984	841
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,087	1,014	952	1,003	922	804
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	978	959	971	896	793
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	1,013	984	1,007	908	758
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	1,033	1,035	1,057	983	857
Hobart	564	587	693	1,091	988	963	993	921	768
Weighted Average (a) ..	563	591	654	1,072	1,034	1,016	1,036	946	815

(a) For all capital cities.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
GROUP III—MEAT									
Sydney	519	501	668	960	957	1,035	1,068	1,034	853
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	969	981	1,029	991	804
Brisbane	535	488	610	897	840	882	823	741	644
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,095	1,141	1,162	1,232	1,107	876
Perth	789	824	881	1,103	1,065	1,218	1,220	1,025	802
Hobart	668	638	780	1,244	1,084	1,052	1,056	1,036	842
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	980	1,029	1,061	1,001	817
GROUPS I., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	1,032	1,021	1,090	984	876
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	969	942	1,004	913	791
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,024	940	935	951	844	778
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	1,030	993	1,055	937	789
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	1,004	1,053	1084	961	836
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	1,000	966	1,025	952	816
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	1,000	985	1,044	941	826
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney	591	701	760	989	1,109	1,143	1,162	1,197	1,026
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	1,046	1,087	1,094	1,011	867
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	832	839	841	775	680
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	942	1,022	986	916	755
Perth	458	524	589	739	922	941	955	979	881
Hobart	495	452	518	881	966	939	932	914	901
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	1,030	1,066	1,073	1,047	901
ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	1,060	1,064	1,115	1,059	929
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	996	993	1,036	948	818
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	902	901	912	819	743
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	999	1,003	1,030	929	777
Perth	594	672	679	982	975	1,013	1,038	968	853
Hobart	598	542	621	1,044	988	956	992	939	846
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	678	648	992	1,011	1,014	1,054	978	852

(a) For all capital cities.

7. **Change of Basis for Rent Constituent.**—The preceding table takes into account houses of four and five rooms only in respect of rent. Up till the end of 1924, the rent of "all houses" was the basis of the index. The "all-houses" index is still continued for the use of the Arbitration Court (Appendix VII.). There is no appreciable difference in the movement of the rent index for any town, whether "all houses" or only four and five-roomed houses are taken into account. There is, however, a substantial difference in the index-number itself, because the base is the average for the six capitals, and the capitals vary considerably from one another in the proportion of four and five-roomed houses to total houses.

8. **Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1927 to 1932.**—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (46 commodities), in 30 of the more important towns in Australia at yearly, quarterly, and monthly periods for the years specified. In addition, index-numbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927, as Base (a) (= 1,000).

	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.
FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.												
1927	1,032	1,025	1,203	1,030	996	1,036	969	989	990	965	940	970
1928	1,021	1,017	1,200	1,035	989	1,026	942	965	966	953	928	944
1929	1,090	1,061	1,286	1,094	1,046	1,092	1,004	1,029	1,041	1,010	990	1,006
1930	884	974	1,182	977	964	988	913	952	958	900	932	916
1931	876	868	1,011	843	857	879	791	815	825	781	810	793
1931 1st Qtr.	899	898	1,063	875	884	903	835	854	863	806	842	836
2nd "	888	887	1,041	867	873	891	793	816	822	775	797	795
3rd "	857	843	970	818	833	858	766	798	806	766	794	769
4th "	861	842	969	812	857	861	768	791	807	779	805	771
1932 1st Qtr.	870	849	976	820	834	870	786	801	798	795	818	787
2nd "	861	843	961	841	834	862	770	775	790	789	812	772
1931.												
January	915	903	1,094	880	896	918	852	869	871	822	854	852
February	897	903	1,052	874	881	901	835	855	863	803	840	835
March	887	890	1,045	871	875	897	819	838	854	794	823	820
April	896	898	1,048	881	886	900	806	826	830	791	794	807
May	883	893	1,045	865	869	888	793	814	820	769	800	794
June	885	870	1,029	856	863	887	781	809	816	763	799	783
July	863	857	968	829	839	865	766	800	807	756	787	769
August	853	836	971	811	831	856	766	798	804	766	791	769
September	854	836	971	815	829	855	767	796	808	776	804	770
October	860	845	970	809	832	861	761	795	807	773	801	765
November	867	845	979	809	834	867	771	792	810	772	808	774
December	855	837	958	818	844	856	771	787	804	791	808	774
1932.												
January	860	835	970	813	834	860	778	790	796	790	804	780
February	874	859	984	821	829	874	795	814	803	798	829	797
March	875	854	974	826	840	875	784	799	796	797	820	786
April	872	851	975	846	848	873	782	794	802	803	830	784
May	859	843	949	842	832	860	769	777	788	786	806	771
June	852	835	960	836	823	853	761	755	781	779	800	762
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1927	1,109	1,062	693	1,138	866	1,093	1,046	631	788	997	793	1,015
1928	1,143	1,089	702	1,183	885	1,125	1,087	675	793	980	831	1,053
1929	1,162	1,082	701	1,240	880	1,142	1,094	704	817	941	849	1,060
1930	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	696	750	883	865	982
1931	1,026	895	760	953	892	1,005	887	620	653	815	823	847
1931 1st Qtr.	1,107	971	738	1,028	959	1,084	905	639	689	846	834	883
2nd "	1,057	924	730	975	938	1,036	875	619	664	823	816	854
3rd "	1,032	890	728	942	918	993	847	611	633	799	815	827
4th "	927	795	605	867	753	905	843	620	628	792	826	823
1932 1st Qtr.	913	810	615	850	778	895	830	629	643	755	811	812
2nd "	902	798	621	845	783	884	819	629	643	743	805	802
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.												
1927	1,060	1,038	1,023	1,068	950	1,056	996	862	918	976	894	986
1928	1,064	1,043	1,027	1,087	952	1,061	993	862	904	962	894	983
1929	1,115	1,068	1,078	1,146	987	1,110	1,036	914	962	985	940	1,026
1930	1,059	998	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	948	861	884	900	909	940
1931	829	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	784	793	815	812
1931 1st Qtr.	973	924	948	929	911	967	860	778	801	820	839	853
2nd "	948	900	930	906	896	943	822	746	766	792	804	816
3rd "	912	860	884	862	863	906	795	732	745	778	802	790
4th "	884	825	840	831	807	877	794	727	744	783	813	790
1932 1st Qtr.	885	835	848	831	814	879	801	740	743	781	815	796
2nd "	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	738	773	810	783

(a) See explanatory note at centre of page 17.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1923-27, as Base (a) (= 1,000)—continued.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Keating, Moonie, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES—(46 COMMODITIES).												
1927 ..	940	912	1,005	1,139	969	951	1,030	1,071	1,071	1,015	1,102	1,033
1928 ..	935	891	970	1,087	930	940	993	1,059	1,048	997	1,110	999
1929 ..	951	929	1,011	1,102	971	961	1,055	1,137	1,111	1,034	1,166	1,061
1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	855	937	1,019	924	924	1,044	944
1931 ..	778	764	843	802	798	788	789	869	853	774	864	795
1931 1st Qtr.	799	803	870	916	813	810	835	930	910	794	912	842
2nd "	788	766	848	916	804	797	810	886	868	774	884	816
3rd "	758	737	815	884	785	766	754	824	816	760	821	760
4th "	768	748	840	892	790	778	757	834	820	768	837	763
1932 1st Qtr.	761	744	844	898	777	772	787	873	854	788	851	793
2nd "	747	742	815	885	781	758	781	860	836	783	829	787
1931.												
January ..	795	794	858	901	796	804	846	949	932	829	917	834
February ..	806	814	877	920	819	817	819	931	916	781	914	837
March ..	796	802	876	923	823	809	829	911	881	772	906	834
April ..	797	781	864	920	809	807	824	903	878	779	897	829
May ..	787	768	845	914	810	796	812	885	868	775	882	817
June ..	780	746	834	914	792	787	796	870	857	768	873	801
July ..	757	740	820	896	783	766	761	845	830	764	835	768
August ..	754	733	808	876	785	762	753	815	809	761	814	759
September ..	763	740	815	850	789	771	748	811	809	755	814	754
October ..	762	744	826	883	784	771	749	814	811	762	826	755
November ..	774	751	847	890	785	783	753	835	818	762	828	760
December ..	770	751	847	903	801	781	769	855	830	781	858	773
1932.												
January ..	765	739	847	900	787	775	769	854	845	781	841	776
February ..	764	742	843	894	767	774	798	889	866	790	864	805
March ..	754	751	841	900	778	767	793	876	852	792	849	799
April ..	752	750	826	893	785	764	795	872	835	786	847	801
May ..	748	743	818	884	784	760	780	856	833	789	826	786
June ..	739	733	802	879	772	750	769	853	820	775	814	775
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1927 ..	832	743	668	564	745	802	942	508	701	511	801	908
1928 ..	859	727	653	677	679	805	1,025	491	699	549	770	979
1929 ..	841	719	633	745	678	806	986	443	695	561	816	945
1930 ..	775	727	685	720	668	759	916	398	715	586	810	882
1931 ..	680	628	623	628	648	688	786	402	678	588	718	794
1931 1st Qtr.	690	622	646	657	660	679	807	385	703	586	735	781
2nd "	689	622	630	657	639	677	760	426	684	586	714	740
3rd "	679	644	627	623	647	669	732	398	663	586	715	713
4th "	660	623	594	574	647	648	720	398	650	586	697	702
1932 1st Qtr.	649	591	590	557	647	636	696	382	628	610	702	679
2nd "	644	662	590	550	612	637	697	377	629	609	695	680
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
1927 ..	902	852	896	935	890	898	999	871	940	836	995	989
1928 ..	901	833	858	942	841	892	1,003	854	925	838	990	992
1929 ..	912	855	877	975	867	906	1,030	891	963	866	1,042	1,020
1930 ..	819	804	831	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	961	921
1931 ..	743	718	765	805	745	745	777	703	799	707	811	774
1931 1st Qtr.	760	739	791	824	759	764	825	737	836	720	849	820
2nd "	753	715	770	824	745	754	792	723	803	707	824	789
3rd "	730	704	748	791	736	732	746	673	762	698	784	743
4th "	730	704	753	779	739	732	744	680	759	703	787	742
1932 1st Qtr.	721	690	754	777	731	724	754	699	774	725	798	753
2nd "	710	713	735	767	724	715	752	689	763	721	781	749

(a) See note at centre of page 17.

RETAIL PRICES.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927, as Base (b) (=1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average, 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.(a)	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.(a)	Devonport. (a)	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
1927	1,004	1,148	1,098	1,109	1,101	1,026	1,000	987	1,017	1,006	1,105	1,005	1,000	1,004
1928	1,033	1,123	1,104	1,130	1,096	1,089	966	949	1,006	973	1,080	967	985	989
1929	1,064	1,077	1,157	1,173	1,149	1,108	1,025	995	1,028	1,038	1,140	1,024	1,004	1,047
1930	961	1,138	1,070	1,070	1,055	986	912	927	844	1,068	1,068	933	931	946
1931	856	994	883	888	918	856	816	812	802	924	924	821	841	820
1931 1st Qtr.	877	1,012	913	922	938	894	864	853	870	867	922	866	860	864
" and "	866	1,007	892	916	935	884	846	822	847	827	929	830	837	844
3rd "	866	977	866	873	901	839	784	791	835	798	901	793	822	807
4th "	793	960	861	834	899	817	790	782	833	814	915	795	865	809
1932 1st Qtr.	836	990	868	828	900	845	814	800	859	854	914	817	810	823
" and "	835	988	879	853	900	853	811	791	839	839	908	811	810	813
1931.														
January	870	998	937	922	926	887	875	867	896	864	1,027	879	872	876
February	879	1,018	914	920	938	896	866	856	854	876	979	867	870	864
March	882	1,030	887	930	938	899	850	837	860	860	971	853	849	851
April	879	1,027	889	923	946	896	838	829	854	849	956	841	847	852
May	869	1,008	901	912	917	887	833	819	847	820	928	833	835	840
June	849	905	886	913	923	868	806	818	840	811	900	808	806	811
July	819	981	852	910	910	840	789	802	822	801	900	798	806	811
August	800	973	857	866	897	823	787	794	822	796	902	789	801	805
September	800	978	869	870	896	823	776	778	832	797	902	784	800	804
October	792	983	860	844	904	817	784	776	833	810	916	799	801	805
November	790	965	861	822	903	820	792	782	856	802	913	806	808	812
December	792	972	863	822	897	814	795	786	835	830	916	796	805	809
1932.														
January	820	962	870	810	889	839	804	796	822	832	910	810	811	814
February	822	990	858	822	897	822	818	803	839	859	912	821	825	829
March	830	998	877	835	914	853	821	799	804	852	920	820	822	825
April	844	1,006	882	856	910	863	831	807	855	853	917	830	832	824
May	856	968	885	857	928	854	812	786	837	829	908	808	808	812
June	834	971	870	843	882	844	790	779	857	839	900	794	800	803

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1927	922	541	894	713	870	876	966	787	770	743	424	828	1,036	998
1928	941	541	917	671	870	893	939	845	778	711	460	878	1,036	1,032
1929	935	543	917	675	885	906	932	831	781	733	520	875	1,027	1,037
1930	970	582	903	783	1,053	934	914	806	756	774	567	848	1,017	1,027
1931	881	687	851	771	1,035	880	901	778	712	726	596	840	1,011	978
1931 1st Qtr.	934	593	870	789	1,043	888	915	785	710	768	584	832	934	928
" and "	908	637	862	786	1,042	870	923	783	710	737	594	845	932	890
3rd "	895	703	835	757	1,050	888	888	775	728	705	606	830	885	864
4th "	855	704	838	754	995	814	880	768	718	701	606	824	846	824
1932 1st Qtr.	816	669	823	743	987	805	862	766	715	699	662	814	831	811
" and "	811	765	810	740	981	808	878	757	702	698	676	821	832	805

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1927	974	933	1,026	966	1,019	973	988	916	939	813	864	937	1,011	1,002
1928	1,012	1,028	1,026	967	1,006	973	956	912	930	830	860	935	1,014	1,004
1929	1,033	1,019	1,027	996	1,000	1,026	922	937	972	830	820	919	1,028	1,044
1930	1,030	941	902	958	1,036	987	887	800	830	836	916	878	928	970
1931	881	822	872	848	980	857	848	800	747	781	815	828	882	887
1931 1st Qtr.	894	864	897	878	973	892	882	818	813	832	848	861	892	887
" and "	877	872	882	870	973	879	866	808	798	795	810	838	896	890
3rd "	837	880	855	832	937	846	821	786	753	793	807	808	857	827
4th "	868	882	853	866	933	820	822	777	793	774	805	805	819	814
1932 1st Qtr.	833	876	852	768	931	831	831	779	790	789	824	816	823	819
" and "	836	909	854	743	939	837	835	799	790	789	826	815	824	810

(a) The towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zealand (Tas.), and Deception Bay (Tas.), were replaced in 1932 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). (b) See note at centre of page 17.

In so far as they relate to the capital cities the index-numbers in these tables are comparable in every respect with those given on page 18 for the respective groups, and where they relate to the same period are identical in both tables.

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the table cannot be directly compared with one another in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing and food and groceries, since the weighted average cost during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927, is in each part made equal to 1,000.

The last two columns in each of the tables above refer to the weighted average, for the six capital cities and for the 30 towns. The population weights used in the computations of these weighted averages for 1923 and subsequent years are as follows:—

Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town	Weight.	Town	Weight.	Town	Weight.
Sydney ..	899	Melbourne	766	Brisbane	210	Adelaide	255	Perth, etc.	155	Hobart	52
Newcastle	84	Ballarat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadina, etc.	13	Kalg'lie, etc.	19	Launceston	24
Broken Hill	26	Bendigo ..	30	Rockham'n	24	Pt. Pirie	10	Northam	4	Burnie	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chrts. Twrs.	9	Mt. Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	5
Bathurst	9	W'nambool	8	Warwick	6	Peterbor'gh	2	Geratdon	4	Queens'twn	3

The weights used are based on the 1921 Census populations, and represent to the nearest 1,000 the actual populations at that date.

9. Retail Prices Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—In each section of the next table the average cost for the six capital cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 has been taken as base = 20s. The figures measure the variations in the cost of—(a) food and groceries; (b) house rent; and (c) food, groceries, and house rent combined, from year to year in each city separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several cities in each year (in the horizontal lines). Thus, by referring to the section of the table relating to food, groceries, and house rent combined, it will be seen that 12s. 1d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 10s. in Brisbane, or 10s. 10d. in Hobart, while 15s. 11d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1931 was equivalent to 8s. 10d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 13s. 5d. in Perth in 1911.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1932 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927, in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1907 ..	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911 ..	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1921 ..	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1926 ..	20 11	19 10	20 0	20 11	20 10	20 11	20 5
1927 ..	20 8	19 5	18 10	20 7	20 1	20 0	20 0
1928 ..	20 5	18 10	18 8	19 10	21 1	19 4	19 8
1929 ..	21 10	20 1	19 0	21 1	21 8	20 6	20 11
1930 ..	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10
1931 ..	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1931 1st Qtr.	18 0	16 8	16 0	16 8	17 7	17 3	17 2
" 2nd "	17 9	15 10	15 9	16 2	17 4	16 6	16 9
" 3rd "	17 2	15 4	15 2	15 1	16 1	15 8	16 1
" 4th "	17 3	15 4	15 4	15 2	15 10	15 10	16 1
1932 1st "	17 5	15 9	15 3	15 9	16 6	16 3	16 5
" 2nd "	17 3	15 5	14 11	15 7	16 8	16 3	16 2

HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE, 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).

1907 ..	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911 ..	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1921 ..	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1926 ..	22 4	20 9	16 4	18 6	18 0	19 11	20 6
1927 ..	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7
1928 ..	22 10	21 9	16 9	20 5	18 10	18 9	21 4
1929 ..	23 3	21 11	16 10	19 9	19 1	18 8	21 6
1930 ..	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931 ..	20 6	17 4	13 7	16 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1931 1st Qtr.	22 2	18 1	13 10	16 2	18 6	18 4	19 1
" 2nd "	21 2	17 6	13 9	15 2	18 0	18 6	18 4
" 3rd "	20 3	16 11	13 7	14 8	17 4	17 9	17 8
" 4th "	18 7	16 10	13 2	14 5	16 8	17 7	16 11
1932 1st "	18 3	16 7	13 0	13 11	16 4	17 3	16 7
" 2nd "	18 1	16 5	12 11	13 11	16 3	17 7	16 5

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.

1907 ..	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911 ..	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1921 ..	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1926 ..	21 5	20 2	18 8	20 1	19 10	20 6	20 6
1927 ..	21 2	19 11	18 0	20 0	19 6	19 9	20 3
1928 ..	21 3	19 10	18 0	20 1	20 3	19 1	20 3
1929 ..	22 4	20 9	18 3	20 7	20 9	19 10	21 1
1930 ..	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931 ..	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	18 11	17 1
1931 1st Qtr.	19 6	17 2	15 2	16 6	17 11	17 8	17 10
" 2nd "	19 0	16 5	15 1	15 10	17 7	17 2	17 4
" 3rd "	18 3	15 11	14 7	14 11	16 7	16 5	16 8
" 4th "	17 8	15 11	14 7	14 11	16 2	16 5	16 5
1932 1st "	17 8	16 0	14 5	15 1	16 6	16 7	16 6
" 2nd "	17 6	15 9	14 2	15 1	16 6	16 8	16 3

10. **Price Details, 1931.**—The summarized results of price-movements are published quarterly, and the average retail prices of food and groceries for each month are published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics. In Section II. of the Appendix to this Report, the average retail price of each item of the food and groceries regimen during 1931 is given for the 30 towns included in the investigation. Information with regard to house rents is published quarterly in the Summary, and annually in the Labour Reports. In appendixes to Labour Report No. 1, detailed particulars were given of retail prices and house rents in the capital cities for the years 1901 to 1911. In Report No. 2 and subsequent issues information in detail regarding retail prices and rents during each year has been published.

§ 3. Food, &c., Clothing and Miscellaneous.

1. **General.**—In the following Section the results are included of investigations into retail price variations of all items ordinarily entering into household expenditure classified into four main groups:—Food and Groceries; Rent; Clothing; and Miscellaneous.

The tabulation by the Bureau was undertaken as a result of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage which was appointed in 1919 to inquire into and report upon the following matters:—

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

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

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

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

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

Royal Commission on Basic Wage—Cost of Commodities, etc., 1914 to 1920.

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

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

The results of the investigations by the Bureau into the variations in the cost of living since 1920 according to this standard are given hereafter.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of the regimen adopted, which is described in the "Indicator List" published in the Report. It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations by this Bureau would have been somewhat limited if confined in the way suggested by the Commission, and it was decided, therefore, to apply to a more detailed inquiry the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing.

The ordinary expenditure of a household has been grouped under four heads—(i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Clothing; (iv) Other Requirements (Miscellaneous).

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and house rent,* the commodities method and weighting already in use, and the commodities and quantities conform very closely to those given in the "Indicator Lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

* The basis of housing accommodation has been altered in this section to conform with the basis adopted in § 2.

Inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the cost of clothing and miscellaneous items. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to duration of articles, and this has been used in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to miscellaneous expenditure, inquiries were made regarding cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, and other items in the "Indicator Lists", and the aggregate expenditure thereon has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

The item "groceries (not food)" has been omitted from miscellaneous expenditure, though it was so described by the Commission, as the index-numbers already published by this Bureau cover the articles allowed for under this heading, such as soap, starch, blue, &c.

In respect to clothing and a good deal of miscellaneous expenditure, it is not possible to ensure continuity of grade or quality, as it is with food and groceries. It is therefore necessary in many cases to fall back on the "predominant" price—the price of the grade or quality most in demand. The index-numbers for clothing and "miscellaneous expenditure" are therefore affected by changing standards and are not such true measures of prices as the index-numbers for food and groceries. The complete "all-items" index is consequently less trustworthy than the food-and-rent index.

3. **Base.**—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some period as base. The new series of index-numbers, covering all items of household expenditure, were computed in the first instance from price data relating to the month of November, 1914. This period was adopted owing to the difficulty of securing information regarding prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier periods. While the index-numbers for 1914 in the following tables relate to the month of November, they may be accepted as typical of conditions immediately preceding the war. For base, the weighted average cost for the six capital cities was taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November 1914 made equal to 1,000. The index-numbers were computed to this base up to and including the 4th Quarter 1929. In accordance with the decision of a Conference of Statisticians that a post-war period should be adopted as base, an alteration was made as from 1st January 1930, and the index-numbers in the following tables have been computed to a post-war base, viz., the weighted average cost in the six capital cities during the five-yearly period—1923-1927—the average annual aggregate expenditure in this period being made equal to 1,000.

4. **Variations—Thirty Towns.**—The investigations have been extended to the five principal towns in each State for the months of November 1921, and May, August and November 1922, and quarterly for the year 1923 and subsequently. The task of securing information for previous years as to prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals was considered unnecessary. So far as the capitals are concerned, details were already available in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage. Information of this nature is at present collected quarterly for all the towns, and quarterly index-numbers are available.

5. **Retail Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov. 1914 to 2nd Quarter 1932.**—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities) Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov. 1914 ..	638	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..			
" 1921 ..	1,012	977	972	956	935	964	923	928	919	911	948	924								
Year 1923-27	1,015	1,015	1,155	1,018	974	1,016	973	989	993	967	967	976								
Year 1927 ..	1,033	1,025	1,205	1,030	966	1,036	969	989	996	965	949	970								
" 1928 ..	1,021	1,017	1,206	1,033	989	1,026	992	905	966	953	928	944								
" 1929 ..	1,090	1,061	1,286	1,093	1,046	1,092	1,004	1,029	1,041	1,010	990	1,002								
" 1930 ..	984	974	1,178	977	974	968	913	952	935	969	932	910								
" 1931 ..	876	868	1,021	843	857	879	791	815	823	761	810	793								
1931 1st Qtr.	899	889	1,063	875	884	903	835	854	863	806	842	836								
" 2nd "	888	887	1,041	867	873	891	793	816	822	775	797	793								
" 3rd "	857	843	970	818	833	858	760	798	806	766	794	799								
" 4th "	851	842	969	812	837	861	768	791	807	779	805	771								
1932 1st Qtr.	870	849	976	844	834	870	786	801	798	789	789	787								
" 2nd "	861	843	961	841	834	862	790	775	790	789	812	787								
" 3rd "	870	849	976	841	834	862	790	775	790	789	812	787								
" 4th "	861	842	969	812	837	861	768	791	807	779	805	771								
1932 1st Qtr.	870	849	976	844	834	870	786	801	798	789	789	787								
" 2nd "	861	843	961	841	834	862	790	775	790	789	812	787								
" 3rd "	870	849	976	841	834	862	790	775	790	789	812	787								
" 4th "	861	842	969	812	837	861	768	791	807	779	805	771								

Period.	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.								
Nov. 1914 ..	614	..	..	..	..	..	603	..	..	..	..	..			
" 1921 ..	953	895	931	981	936	930	943	968	923	997	943	943								
Year 1923-27	960	934	988	1,074	951	965	1,025	1,032	1,060	1,064	1,026	1,026								
Year 1927 ..	940	912	1,005	1,139	969	951	1,030	1,072	1,071	1,013	1,102	1,033								
" 1928 ..	935	891	970	1,087	930	940	993	1,059	1,045	997	1,110	999								
" 1929 ..	951	949	1,011	1,102	971	951	1,015	1,137	1,112	1,034	1,106	1,061								
" 1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	855	917	1,036	1,019	944	1,044	944								
" 1931 ..	778	794	843	902	798	788	799	869	853	774	864	793								
1931 1st Qtr.	799	803	878	916	813	810	835	830	810	794	812	812								
" 2nd "	788	798	840	884	804	797	810	886	808	774	804	812								
" 3rd "	758	737	815	884	785	766	744	824	810	708	821	810								
" 4th "	768	748	840	892	790	778	757	834	826	708	837	769								
1932 1st Qtr.	761	742	844	885	781	772	787	873	836	788	851	793								
" 2nd "	747	742	815	885	781	758	781	860	836	781	859	789								

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.
Nov. 1914 ..	746	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,003	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,011
Year 1923-27	1,042	1,179	1,104	1,094	1,122	1,060	1,011	1,040	1,035	1,127	1,027	1,006
Year 1927 ..	1,004	1,148	1,098	1,109	1,101	1,026	1,000	987	1,017	1,006	1,105	1,001
" 1928 ..	1,052	1,178	1,104	1,130	1,096	1,069	966	949	1,006	973	1,080	967
" 1929 ..	1,048	1,267	1,157	1,173	1,149	1,108	928	999	1,078	1,038	1,140	1,024
" 1930 ..	961	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,055	986	955	937	1,071	938	1,068	923
" 1931 ..	836	994	883	886	918	816	812	844	827	934	821	826
1931 1st Qtr.	877	1,012	913	922	938	894	864	870	867	922	866	864
" 2nd "	866	1,007	892	916	935	884	826	847	827	901	837	841
" 3rd "	806	977	866	873	901	829	791	825	798	902	792	807
" 4th "	793	980	861	834	899	817	796	835	814	915	795	809
1932 1st Qtr.	826	990	868	828	900	845	814	800	854	918	817	819
" 2nd "	833	989	879	853	900	833	814	800	839	904	819	823

(a) Base.

Housing (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (= 1,000).

Period.	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.
Nov. 1914 ..	758	885	559	881	596	966	608	479	527	668	685	789
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	607	679	863	753	959
Years 1923-27	1,111	984	617	1,050	801	1,084	993	607	679	863	753	959
Year 1927 ..	1,109	1,062	693	1,138	866	1,093	1,046	631	788	997	793	1,015
" 1928 ..	1,143	1,089	702	1,183	885	1,125	1,087	675	793	980	831	1,053
" 1929 ..	1,162	1,082	701	1,240	880	1,142	1,094	704	817	941	849	1,060
" 1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	696	750	883	863	982
" 1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	815	825	847
1931 1st Qtr.	1,107	971	738	1,028	959	1,084	905	639	689	846	834	883
" 2nd "	1,057	924	730	975	938	1,036	875	619	664	823	816	854
" 3rd "	1,012	890	728	942	918	993	847	611	633	799	815	827
" 4th "	927	795	605	867	753	905	843	610	628	792	826	823
1932 1st Qtr.	913	810	615	850	778	895	830	629	643	755	811	812
" 2nd "	902	798	621	845	783	884	819	629	643	743	805	802

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, and Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	463	527	470	528	500	594	611	566	603	402	566	781
" 1921 ..	629	682	590	560	679	726	819	560	651	508	738	899
Years 1923-27	754	682	590	560	679	726	932	560	651	508	738	899
Year 1927 ..	832	743	698	564	745	802	942	508	701	511	801	908
" 1928 ..	839	735	653	677	805	805	1,022	481	699	549	770	979
" 1929 ..	841	735	653	745	878	806	986	443	695	561	816	945
" 1930 ..	775	729	665	720	668	759	916	398	715	586	810	885
" 1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	402	673	586	715	734
1931 1st Qtr.	690	622	646	687	660	679	807	385	703	586	735	781
" 2nd "	689	622	630	657	659	677	760	426	684	586	714	740
" 3rd "	679	644	627	623	647	669	732	398	663	586	715	713
" 4th "	660	623	594	574	647	648	720	398	650	586	697	702
1932 1st Qtr.	649	591	590	557	647	656	696	382	628	610	702	679
" 2nd "	644	562	590	550	622	637	697	377	629	609	695	680

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	586	578	616	649	770	709	525	676	204	150	495	729	649	823
" 1921 ..	754	550	822	709	847	813	870	786	289	759	461	885	877	965
Years 1923-27	847	550	822	709	847	813	973	786	289	759	461	885	1,000 ^a	965
Year 1927 ..	922	541	894	713	870	876	966	787	770	743	424	878	1,030	998
" 1928 ..	941	541	917	671	957	893	939	845	778	712	460	878	1,066	1,032
" 1929 ..	955	543	917	673	985	906	932	831	781	733	520	873	1,073	1,037
" 1930 ..	979	582	903	783	1,063	934	944	806	726	774	567	858	1,047	1,013
" 1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840	991	878
1931 1st Qtr.	924	593	870	789	1,043	888	915	785	710	768	584	852	954	928
" 2nd "	898	627	862	786	1,042	870	923	783	710	737	594	855	918	894
" 3rd "	865	703	835	757	1,060	850	888	775	708	705	606	830	885	884
" 4th "	835	704	838	754	995	824	880	768	718	701	606	824	846	824
1932 1st Qtr.	818	669	823	743	987	805	862	766	715	699	662	814	831	811
" 2nd "	811	705	810	740	981	808	878	757	702	698	676	821	822	805

(a) Base.

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1928-1927, as base (= 1,000).

Period.	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.									
Nov. 1914 ..	680	..	..	..	..	613	613	750	844	855	876										
" 1921 ..	977	..	..	..	..	895	769	700	844	855	876										
Years 1923-27	1,047	1,004	964	1,029	912	1,040	983	853	882	930	891										
Year 1927 ..	1,060	1,038	1,023	1,068	1,067	1,035	996	862	918	976	894										
" 1928 ..	1,064	1,043	1,027	1,087	932	1,064	993	862	918	962	894										
" 1929 ..	1,115	1,068	1,078	1,146	987	1,110	1,036	914	884	985	940										
" 1930 ..	1,050	998	1,021	1,050	909	1,052	948	861	884	900	909										
" 1931 ..	929	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	744	793	815										
1931 1st Qtr.	973	924	948	929	929	967	860	778	801	820	839										
" 2nd ..	948	900	930	906	896	943	822	746	766	772	804										
" 3rd ..	912	860	884	862	863	906	795	722	745	778	802										
" 4th ..	884	825	840	831	807	877	794	727	744	783	813										
1931 1st Qtr.	883	835	848	831	814	879	801	740	743	781	815										
" 2nd ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	739	773	810										
" 3rd ..	884	835	848	843	816	879	801	740	743	781	815										
" 4th ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	739	773	810										
1931 1st Qtr.	883	835	848	831	814	879	801	740	743	781	815										
" 2nd ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	739	773	810										
" 3rd ..	884	835	848	843	816	879	801	740	743	781	815										
" 4th ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	739	773	810										
1931 1st Qtr.	883	835	848	831	814	879	801	740	743	781	815										
" 2nd ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	739	773	810										
" 3rd ..	884	835	848	843	816	879	801	740	743	781	815										
" 4th ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	739	773	810										

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.									
Nov. 1914 ..	560	771	779	820	704	658	812	811	839	770	844										
Nov. 1921 ..	810	771	779	820	704	808	868	855	839	818	855										
Years 1923-27	897	845	847	892	854	992	902	865	915	915	948										
Year 1927 ..	902	852	896	935	890	999	909	871	940	836	995										
" 1928 ..	901	833	848	923	841	1,002	902	854	945	838	990										
" 1929 ..	812	825	827	972	867	1,030	906	807	963	866	992										
" 1930 ..	819	805	812	870	803	920	821	810	918	804	961										
" 1931 ..	743	776	763	805	745	777	727	703	790	707	811										
1931 1st Qtr.	760	739	791	824	719	764	825	737	836	720	840										
" 2nd ..	753	715	770	824	745	754	782	723	803	707	824										
" 3rd ..	730	704	748	781	716	732	746	673	792	698	784										
" 4th ..	730	704	753	779	739	732	744	680	759	703	784										
1931 1st Qtr.	731	690	754	777	731	724	754	699	774	725	798										
" 2nd ..	710	713	731	767	724	713	752	689	741	721	781										
" 3rd ..	710	713	731	767	724	713	752	689	741	721	781										
" 4th ..	710	713	731	767	724	713	752	689	741	721	781										

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.												
	Perth.	Kalgoortie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.									
Nov. 1914 ..	699	..	..	..	..	610	610	819	813	865	644										
" 1921 ..	916	928	896	907	942	918	973	858	819	696	822												
Years 1923-27	973	958	1,004	957	1,018	973	1,008	933	951	937	1,000												
Year 1927 ..	973	933	1,026	958	1,019	973	950	916	929	812	864												
" 1928 ..	1,023	949	1,038	967	1,047	1,007	956	912	930	880	850												
" 1929 ..	1,028	1,010	1,072	996	1,090	1,030	932	927	972	826	820												
" 1930 ..	968	941	992	960	1,058	927	929	831	904	886	890												
" 1931 ..	852	874	872	846	900	857	830	797	797	815	828												
1931 1st Qtr.	864	864	892	875	975	892	882	818	832	848	865												
" 2nd ..	877	872	881	870	973	879	808	808	750	792	830												
" 3rd ..	827	880	851	832	957	830	881	786	751	797	806												
" 4th ..	808	802	833	800	933	830	822	777	753	774	805												
1931 1st Qtr.	833	876	854	798	931	837	831	768	808	789	824												
" 2nd ..	836	809	834	813	929	837	831	799	790	789	836												

Clothing—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (=1,000).

Period.	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.	
Nov. 1914 ..	755	..	..	..	..	..	780	..	..	..	..	..
Year 1921 ..	1,355	1,347	1,406	1,377	1,261	1,464	1,371	1,599	1,573	1,465	1,612	1,326	
Years 1923-27	950	1,015	1,057	1,158	1,022	958	1,008	1,073	1,022	1,058	1,159	1,014	
Year 1927 ..	936	1,002	889	1,162	978	944	975	1,069	992	1,037	1,139	984	
" 1928 ..	978	984	837	1,167	1,022	979	991	1,099	1,015	1,022	1,121	998	
" 1929 ..	963	982	978	1,102	1,000	981	992	1,093	1,009	993	1,085	998	
" 1930 ..	931	1,012	801	1,106	937	937	964	1,033	1,027	949	1,080	970	
" 1931 ..	835	903	727	1,042	829	840	848	906	952	841	990	855	
1931 1st Qtr.	856	931	731	1,100	839	862	871	941	932	865	1,017	878	
" 2nd "	843	912	729	1,042	836	848	847	897	948	832	997	854	
" 3rd "	828	895	720	1,013	819	832	845	897	950	828	971	851	
" 4th "	813	883	728	1,011	820	839	830	880	950	823	974	838	
1932 1st Qtr.	786	857	737	988	819	794	810	865	934	814	954	831	
" 2nd "	777	863	720	986	819	783	818	833	934	808	939	822	
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	
Nov. 1914 ..	637	..	..	..	..	..	756	..	..	..	..	..
Year 1921 ..	1,135	1,408	1,452	1,558	1,519	1,233	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,697	1,186	1,238	
Years 1923-27	1,024	1,070	1,056	915	1,090	1,028	1,084	1,064	1,039	1,209	1,088	1,084	
Year 1927 ..	965	1,049	1,024	831	1,105	975	1,057	1,043	1,016	1,207	1,102	1,066	
" 1928 ..	945	1,066	1,011	847	1,096	960	1,089	1,065	1,012	1,201	1,096	1,086	
" 1929 ..	944	1,050	972	822	1,102	954	1,062	1,044	1,000	1,047	1,064	1,061	
" 1930 ..	910	1,032	934	826	1,066	923	966	1,094	923	1,174	1,037	965	
" 1931 ..	847	990	849	774	935	858	876	931	861	1,054	1,015	882	
1931 1st Qtr.	870	1,002	859	779	935	878	907	933	1,083	1,047	912	886	
" 2nd "	845	989	853	786	938	856	879	925	865	1,054	895	885	
" 3rd "	836	977	832	767	924	853	856	921	849	1,009	868	868	
" 4th "	836	977	832	766	924	846	863	914	836	1,014	863	863	
1932 1st Qtr.	824	944	824	757	850	832	849	888	804	988	903	852	
" 2nd "	810	932	836	755	850	820	832	882	793	974	957	836	
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	608	..	..	..	..	..	825	..	..	..	..	784
" 1921 ..	1,320	1,376	1,382	1,451	1,420	1,277	1,227	1,690	1,525	1,405	1,504	1,213	1,226
Years 1923-27	1,019	1,136	974	1,046	1,091	1,031	1,173	1,110	1,058	1,033	1,017	1,140	1,000
Year 1927 ..	1,013	1,127	934	975	1,008	1,022	1,008	1,027	1,027	1,096	1,088	1,088	975
" 1928 ..	1,027	1,130	966	966	1,019	1,033	1,008	1,024	1,058	1,028	1,098	1,082	942
" 1929 ..	1,003	1,135	961	966	977	1,021	1,003	1,093	1,045	1,065	1,121	1,093	886
" 1930 ..	1,008	1,117	938	988	972	1,023	1,044	1,138	1,025	1,072	1,106	1,072	861
" 1931 ..	911	1,079	825	944	909	928	950	1,025	937	924	1,108	972	883
1931 1st Qtr.	949	1,086	885	944	953	962	927	1,063	976	1,095	1,117	1,090	877
" 2nd "	951	1,095	893	933	930	964	926	1,024	956	1,117	1,090	897	887
" 3rd "	874	1,082	880	915	828	868	904	1,024	914	806	1,086	984	843
" 4th "	869	1,052	846	925	875	889	918	964	905	879	1,092	934	832
1932 1st Qtr.	853	1,043	828	912	875	869	875	924	881	850	1,072	931	818
" 2nd "	853	1,050	828	905	869	875	890	967	867	845	1,063	974	807
" 3rd "													826
" 4th "													817

(d) Base.

Miscellaneous.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (=1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warram-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	766	..	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	981	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,015		
Years 1923-27	1,021	933	1,072	908	934	1,013	993	932	944	954	874	986		
Year 1927 ..	1,048	954	1,069	906	925	1,038	989	933	945	944	865	983		
" 1928 ..	1,048	953	1,053	900	928	1,037	991	932	945	943	861	984		
" 1929 ..	1,046	947	1,050	901	925	1,035	986	927	944	942	859	980		
" 1930 ..	1,040	935	1,041	909	924	1,029	973	922	935	938	853	967		
" 1931 ..	1,013	908	1,023	902	910	1,003	930	893	915	898	845	934		
1931 1st Qtr.	1,021	918	1,011	910	918	1,010	949	901	916	905	845	944		
" 2nd "	1,014	916	1,037	906	916	1,005	936	896	915	899	848	931		
" 3rd "	1,010	899	1,034	897	906	990	930	889	915	895	844	926		
" 4th "	1,009	900	1,018	893	901	998	930	888	915	892	844	923		
1932 1st Qtr.	1,005	908	1,019	886	906	995	928	884	914	887	834	923		
" 2nd "	999	900	980	885	905	988	926	882	911	886	833	921		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Keating, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009	988	958	1,033	1,005	1,065	1,032	1,000	1,036		
Years 1923-27	934	942	922	969	927	935	1,023	1,010	1,020	986	1,012	1,024		
Year 1927 ..	936	951	919	977	927	937	1,022	996	1,017	977	1,013	1,020		
" 1928 ..	936	949	917	972	927	936	1,027	990	1,016	990	1,005	1,024		
" 1929 ..	935	949	911	971	922	935	1,028	993	1,009	983	995	1,025		
" 1930 ..	931	943	906	972	912	931	1,019	991	989	973	970	1,016		
" 1931 ..	923	933	892	974	898	922	997	969	953	952	964	993		
1931 1st Qtr.	926	939	892	971	898	925	1,008	979	957	965	977	1,004		
" 2nd "	926	938	892	970	897	925	995	968	967	963	962	992		
" 3rd "	925	933	892	978	899	924	993	966	945	961	958	990		
" 4th "	914	924	891	977	898	914	992	963	944	960	958	988		
1932 1st Qtr.	911	922	890	972	897	912	987	955	940	968	958	984		
" 2nd "	907	921	883	969	898	908	988	947	939	969	957	984		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	780	699	749
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	932	985	941	960	959	1,010	1,009	..
Years 1923-27	988	975	938	935	1,013	985	917	927	848	849	842	911	1,000	993
Year 1927 ..	978	972	927	937	981	976	899	918	837	857	828	897	1,008	1,000
" 1928 ..	987	978	929	933	981	983	904	910	835	856	826	898	1,010	1,001
" 1929 ..	987	969	930	931	1,011	984	904	908	834	855	829	898	1,007	998
" 1930 ..	979	970	929	930	1,002	976	900	899	830	855	808	891	999	990
" 1931 ..	966	967	905	896	976	963	873	893	842	848	805	874	873	965
1931 1st Qtr.	972	968	916	903	978	969	874	893	848	850	811	875	881	973
" 2nd "	969	968	907	895	979	966	876	886	849	849	804	874	873	966
" 3rd "	965	967	898	894	976	962	872	897	847	847	803	875	868	961
" 4th "	958	964	898	892	971	956	870	894	826	847	807	871	866	958
1932 1st Qtr.	953	968	896	894	972	954	865	863	825	828	802	859	863	955
" 2nd "	953	968	897	894	971	953	860	865	828	829	803	862	857	950

(a) Base.

Total Household Expenditure.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (=1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam-boo.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003		
Years 1923-27	1,020	994	970	1,041	941	1,017	990	917	925	963	950	984		
Year 1927 ..	1,029	1,015	1,000	1,062	952	1,027	990	932	940	955	945	985		
" 1928 ..	1,042	1,014	997	1,074	964	1,038	992	929	936	973	941	987		
" 1929 ..	1,073	1,028	1,018	1,108	979	1,067	1,017	957	969	980	960	1,011		
" 1930 ..	1,028	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	909	926	917	939	951		
" 1931 ..	922	888	882	922	867	918	846	808	833	822	860	843		
1931 1st Qtr.	954	925	909	966	895	950	878	836	855	845	881	874		
" 2nd "	935	906	902	937	886	932	847	807	833	824	856	844		
" 3rd "	909	872	872	903	860	905	830	796	823	808	848	827		
" 4th "	869	851	844	883	826	884	826	792	820	811	855	824		
1932 1st Qtr.	883	853	851	879	831	870	829	793	816	807	851	827		
" 2nd "	874	848	836	883	832	870	818	780	813	800	843	816		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average Queensland	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moncla, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,025	994	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992		
Years 1923-27	927	914	908	910	921	923	1,019	936	961	936	991	1,012		
Year 1927 ..	922	914	929	918	946	923	1,018	932	970	945	1,023	1,012		
" 1928 ..	917	906	903	925	914	915	1,027	927	960	948	1,017	1,019		
" 1929 ..	923	916	904	939	931	922	1,037	943	980	963	1,043	1,030		
" 1930 ..	859	865	868	883	882	863	952	885	927	918	960	946		
" 1931 ..	798	816	806	827	815	801	837	801	834	831	884	836		
1931 1st Qtr.	814	834	824	839	828	817	875	828	870	846	912	873		
" 2nd "	804	816	810	840	815	807	847	813	845	831	891	846		
" 3rd "	788	810	797	818	807	792	814	780	813	824	865	813		
" 4th "	786	804	794	810	809	789	814	782	808	823	669	813		
1932 1st Qtr.	777	788	793	805	792	781	816	786	809	827	864	815		
" 2nd "	767	799	784	798	783	772	820	777	809	822	852	809		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	707	1,008	687	687
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
Years 1923-27	986	1,002	983	974	1,015	988	1,031	973	957	944	958	1,005	1,000	994
Year 1927 ..	984	984	988	963	1,010	985	998	953	936	925	932	977	1,002	997
" 1928 ..	1,012	995	1,003	963	1,029	1,009	980	957	941	909	934	966	1,009	1,003
" 1929 ..	1,026	1,032	1,022	978	1,051	1,026	1,000	967	966	948	972	986	1,033	1,026
" 1930 ..	977	986	969	966	1,029	979	956	949	918	920	949	951	975	971
" 1931 ..	885	937	878	877	951	891	875	865	837	831	881	869	873	870
1931 1st Qtr.	920	933	897	896	971	921	907	894	856	875	908	900	905	901
" 2nd "	910	940	888	893	964	913	888	873	843	834	880	879	882	880
" 3rd "	862	941	868	870	942	872	852	854	824	808	864	849	857	855
" 4th "	848	935	859	848	926	859	852	840	825	811	871	846	847	845
1932 1st Qtr.	853	930	854	840	925	862	852	843	827	816	878	848	837	844
" 2nd "	854	952	856	848	922	866	833	837	815	809	876	846	846	835

(a) Base.

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

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

2. **Results—1929 to 1931.**—The base of the following tables is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911. Column B gives for any of the towns specified the relative cost of food and housing (4-roomed houses only), and Column C the same for 5-roomed houses only. The use of these index-numbers is, therefore, for comparison with one another, since the base is, to some extent, arbitrary. Column A in the same way gives the cost of food only in the town specified, compared with the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911. Column A, therefore, gives that part of the index-numbers in column B and C, which is accounted for by food. The balance is due to rent. These two parts, the food-component and the rent-component have no useful absolute significance, but give a valid comparison of food prices and of rent between the 200 towns specified.

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns for November, 1929, 1930, and 1931, compared with the Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent for all houses in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 as base (=1,000).

State and Town.	1929. November			1930. November.			1931. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New South Wales—									
Sydney	1,186	1,751	1,897	980	1,537	1,682	913	1,375	1,471
Newcastle	1,159	1,649	1,852	956	1,452	1,602	889	1,277	1,388
Broken Hill	1,408	1,772	1,892	1,169	1,551	1,671	1,031	1,359	1,459
Goulburn	1,200	1,801	1,939	944	1,491	1,582	852	1,288	1,355
Bathurst	1,140	1,519	1,616	930	1,339	1,446	879	1,213	1,300
Albury	1,161	1,822	1,962	930	1,536	1,653	873	1,343	1,461
Armidale	1,127	1,603	1,701	937	1,375	1,463	885	1,290	1,369
Ballina	1,191	1,684	1,809	1,000	1,395	1,527	880	1,226	1,364
Bega	1,181	1,506	1,622	957	1,313	1,431	954	1,322	1,427
Berry	1,175	1,504	1,635	973	1,302	1,394	899	1,215	1,288
Blackheath	1,272	1,733	1,812	1,036	1,463	1,582	943	1,321	1,425
Bourke	1,374	1,611	1,684	1,089	1,418	1,484	1,018	1,360	1,478
Bowral	1,219	1,794	1,956	991	1,478	1,636	938	1,320	1,431
Casino	1,164	1,690	1,836	916	1,443	1,574	888	1,327	1,414
Cessnock	1,164	1,503	1,576	935	1,307	1,420	874	1,179	1,254

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1929. November			1930. November.			1931. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New South Wales—contd.									
Cobar	1,312	1,510	1,549	1,119	1,333	1,386	1,008	1,224	1,293
Cooma	1,256	1,599	1,816	1,053	1,382	1,571	1,026	1,335	1,471
Coonamble	1,250	1,614	1,753	1,033	1,388	1,523	984	1,302	1,408
Cootamundra	1,166	1,712	1,866	942	1,446	1,615	900	1,383	1,510
Corrimal	1,459	1,613	1,751	974	1,459	1,510	929	1,350	1,447
Cowra	1,189	1,680	1,817	899	1,347	1,504	889	1,262	1,362
Cronulla	1,275	1,827	1,998	1,060	1,601	1,740	934	1,390	1,480
Deniliquin	1,208	1,583	1,734	1,053	1,516	1,667	893	1,274	1,380
Dubbo	1,196	1,854	1,941	913	1,604	1,673	868	1,441	1,549
Forbes	1,196	1,781	1,990	918	1,512	1,632	879	1,391	1,459
Gilgandra	1,268	1,643	1,692	979	1,321	1,436	912	1,223	1,295
Glen Innes	1,112	1,546	1,697	881	1,302	1,427	877	1,243	1,366
Grafton	1,066	1,546	1,705	876	1,404	1,574	873	1,294	1,461
Grenfell	1,173	1,568	1,766	961	1,395	1,553	918	1,326	1,423
Griffith	1,393	2,274	2,444	1,083	2,021	2,251	1,011	1,807	2,098
Gulgong	1,207	1,512	1,622	987	1,344	1,434	893	1,166	1,241
Quenedah	1,231	1,567	1,684	897	1,349	1,401	861	1,246	1,336
Hay	1,273	1,677	1,871	1,046	1,420	1,618	966	1,297	1,489
Inverell	1,155	1,682	1,737	930	1,445	1,522	943	1,351	1,463
Junee	1,205	1,869	1,896	963	1,587	1,687	943	1,495	1,584
Katoomba	1,250	1,848	1,980	1,048	1,691	1,778	984	1,537	1,641
Kempsey	1,037	1,517	1,607	837	1,226	1,403	866	1,227	1,361
Kiama	1,211	1,612	1,724	1,027	1,373	1,601	983	1,279	1,509
Kurri Kurri	1,163	1,510	1,603	978	1,372	1,442	884	1,176	1,273
Leeton	1,284	2,003	2,060	1,018	1,724	1,788	965	1,571	1,656
Lismore	1,111	1,676	1,837	959	1,485	1,691	877	1,282	1,483
Lithgow	1,196	1,643	1,716	981	1,412	1,506	898	1,237	1,289
Malden	1,142	1,504	1,609	919	1,331	1,441	870	1,201	1,315
Moree	1,243	1,712	1,973	1,004	1,596	1,793	977	1,515	1,573
Moss Vale	1,191	1,787	1,868	959	1,439	1,584	894	1,250	1,399
Mudgee	1,196	1,701	1,802	898	1,424	1,490	888	1,395	1,415
Narrabri	1,205	1,658	1,799	1,009	1,486	1,607	920	1,309	1,391
Narrandera	1,205	1,730	1,961	1,053	1,580	1,744	1,010	1,486	1,598
Nowra	1,198	1,659	1,761	1,019	1,446	1,571	972	1,323	1,410
Orange	1,147	1,700	1,873	960	1,503	1,656	892	1,303	1,497
Parkes	1,213	1,761	1,912	916	1,436	1,549	903	1,284	1,386
Penrith	1,145	1,592	1,698	926	1,334	1,456	851	1,179	1,260
Port Kembla	1,216	1,777	1,920	1,023	1,549	1,689	952	1,355	1,478
Portland	1,234	1,641	1,763	1,024	1,418	1,484	941	1,294	1,270
Queanbeyan	1,235	1,690	1,781	986	1,432	1,525	950	1,363	1,476
Quirindi	1,169	1,493	1,686	1,046	1,352	1,596	984	1,258	1,450
Richmond	1,140	1,535	1,732	944	1,372	1,519	847	1,233	1,329
Scone	1,077	1,537	1,675	941	1,415	1,533	843	1,371	1,466
Singleton	1,148	1,543	1,684	976	1,419	1,508	913	1,282	1,370
Tamworth	1,100	1,537	1,725	889	1,336	1,474	848	1,231	1,337
Taree	1,149	1,682	1,833	960	1,509	1,625	924	1,393	1,475
Temora	1,222	1,782	1,913	1,005	1,565	1,663	932	1,458	1,590
Tenterfield	1,199	1,642	1,673	954	1,408	1,494	858	1,222	1,313
Tumut	1,136	1,639	1,778	938	1,465	1,629	926	1,420	1,552
Umarra	1,126	1,508	1,653	973	1,427	1,565	939	1,378	1,465
Wagga Wagga	1,182	1,911	1,923	937	1,627	1,792	898	1,424	1,560
Walcha	1,198	1,666	1,758	962	1,302	1,488	921	1,250	1,379
Wellington	1,237	1,598	1,704	945	1,274	1,379	900	1,229	1,308
Weston	1,157	1,618	1,684	957	1,333	1,425	868	1,159	1,257
Windsor	1,143	1,622	1,767	941	1,501	1,583	881	1,341	1,440

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town	1929. November.			1930. November.			1931. November		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wollongong	1,173	1,724	1,785	985	1,508	1,640	928	1,376	1,457
Wyalong	1,236	1,631	1,697	997	1,359	1,425	892	1,205	1,260
Yass	1,247	1,765	1,896	1,032	1,503	1,602	912	1,306	1,394
Young	1,204	1,769	1,862	1,008	1,556	1,666	908	1,350	1,457
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns)	1,187	1,727	1,871	978	1,513	1,652	912	1,354	1,453
Victoria—									
Melbourne	1,084	1,647	1,795	895	1,380	1,518	812	1,246	1,360
Hallarat	1,127	1,440	1,624	923	1,213	1,407	834	1,095	1,279
Healdigo	1,130	1,503	1,651	908	1,241	1,383	853	1,149	1,268
Geelong	1,099	1,572	1,691	903	1,305	1,448	813	1,181	1,308
Warrnambool	1,103	1,537	1,698	928	1,363	1,526	850	1,259	1,420
Aramit	1,161	1,551	1,695	969	1,360	1,535	871	1,216	1,378
Bacchus Marsh	1,133	1,613	1,686	980	1,421	1,559	887	1,316	1,473
Bairnsdale	1,167	1,528	1,732	984	1,350	1,544	912	1,209	1,401
Beechworth	1,178	1,481	1,517	970	1,287	1,352	923	1,219	1,285
Benalla	1,151	1,446	1,592	935	1,305	1,385	859	1,242	1,306
Camperdown	1,135	1,549	1,705	1,017	1,435	1,593	801	1,286	1,424
Casterton	1,113	1,508	1,639	936	1,205	1,402	850	1,235	1,349
Castlemaine	1,168	1,397	1,527	941	1,170	1,342	867	1,120	1,228
Colac	1,102	1,683	1,771	912	1,481	1,576	851	1,318	1,453
Creswick	1,115	1,234	1,293	930	1,128	1,141	842	974	1,000
Daylesford	1,076	1,372	1,438	938	1,218	1,479	831	1,087	1,175
Dunolly	1,118	1,272	1,361	920	1,081	1,150	834	1,002	1,058
Echuca	1,113	1,548	1,715	934	1,204	1,460	843	1,189	1,294
Euroa	1,159	1,504	1,666	1,023	1,354	1,506	850	1,146	1,238
Hamilton	1,162	1,633	1,774	1,038	1,511	1,596	864	1,287	1,410
Healesville	1,173	1,504	1,594	942	1,245	1,327	822	1,105	1,194
Horsham	1,218	1,731	1,885	948	1,395	1,611	875	1,265	1,401
Kerang	1,155	1,748	1,879	969	1,495	1,627	842	1,306	1,434
Koroit	1,102	1,382	1,448	937	1,212	1,279	850	1,143	1,209
Korumburra	1,153	1,674	1,679	899	1,376	1,508	855	1,223	1,364
Kyneton	1,122	1,488	1,582	947	1,341	1,447	847	1,163	1,294
Lilydale	1,179	1,567	1,732	970	1,383	1,484	874	1,240	1,361
Maffra	1,106	1,671	1,763	959	1,320	1,670	851	1,240	1,339
Maldon	1,124	1,279	1,325	961	1,093	1,145	888	1,019	1,072
Maryborough	1,160	1,524	1,623	921	1,264	1,359	847	1,123	1,222
Mildura	1,217	1,843	2,000	1,000	1,584	1,804	915	1,458	1,652
Morwell	1,115	1,628	1,723	961	1,455	1,567	858	1,279	1,371
Nhill	1,248	1,748	1,906	971	1,366	1,557	884	1,213	1,345
Orbost	1,182	1,560	1,757	989	1,371	1,575	917	1,272	1,373
Portland	1,162	1,475	1,656	967	1,305	1,434	886	1,217	1,325
Port Fairy	1,109	1,409	1,507	948	1,211	1,333	895	1,154	1,270
St. Arnaud	1,206	1,535	1,812	1,038	1,357	1,538	896	1,225	1,357
Sale	1,110	1,450	1,661	960	1,266	1,507	867	1,217	1,355
Seymour	1,186	1,581	1,673	966	1,371	1,579	915	1,247	1,375
Shepparton	1,172	1,785	1,874	960	1,502	1,659	856	1,266	1,432
Stawell	1,232	1,550	1,721	993	1,395	1,474	900	1,199	1,314
Swan Hill	1,139	1,819	1,929	937	1,521	1,794	845	1,371	1,592
Terang	1,137	1,480	1,683	984	1,340	1,537	937	1,304	1,459
Traralgon	1,082	1,489	1,643	931	1,322	1,483	842	1,197	1,367
Wangaratta	1,195	1,636	1,832	967	1,461	1,592	854	1,316	1,418
Warracknabeal	1,210	1,676	1,838	947	1,332	1,495	875	1,220	1,362
Warragul	1,075	1,573	1,746	922	1,428	1,633	830	1,344	1,513
Wonthaggi	1,088	1,468	1,614	922	1,323	1,442	842	1,232	1,359
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns)	1,096	1,623	1,770	905	1,366	1,507	822	1,235	1,356

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1929. November.			1930. November.			1931. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Queensland—									
Brisbane	1,010	1,409	1,542	818	1,164	1,281	815	1,125	1,235
Toowoomba	1,010	1,310	1,475	835	1,112	1,297	791	1,102	1,173
Rockhampton	1,074	1,355	1,474	885	1,195	1,310	892	1,178	1,263
Charters Towers	1,122	1,521	1,561	945	1,311	1,360	937	1,222	1,286
Warwick	1,041	1,392	1,454	856	1,185	1,262	827	1,156	1,222
Ayr	1,197	1,688	1,771	906	1,404	1,522	967	1,423	1,481
Barcaldine	1,265	1,609	1,728	1,062	1,447	1,569	1,078	1,447	1,543
Bowen	1,197	1,592	1,731	1,002	1,355	1,490	982	1,344	1,432
Bundaberg	1,011	1,364	1,478	877	1,203	1,298	875	1,167	1,212
Calrus	1,192	1,766	1,904	947	1,483	1,698	937	1,421	1,574
Charleville	1,181	1,604	1,839	1,005	1,487	1,742	968	1,435	1,626
Chillagoe	1,279	1,542	1,595	1,168	1,379	1,431	1,194	1,392	1,451
Cloncurry	1,310	1,705	1,836	1,141	1,540	1,658	1,059	1,469	1,591
Cooktown	1,249	1,446	1,499	1,169	1,367	1,452	1,050	1,247	1,313
Cunnamulla	1,251	1,711	1,803	1,054	1,501	1,580	982	1,399	1,464
Dalby	1,099	1,415	1,570	872	1,227	1,464	872	1,240	1,370
Gayndah	1,161	1,477	1,556	960	1,262	1,361	971	1,287	1,373
Gladstone	1,105	1,414	1,499	948	1,245	1,369	878	1,192	1,289
Goondwindi	1,187	1,608	1,648	990	1,385	1,425	938	1,333	1,373
Gympie	1,100	1,464	1,525	886	1,234	1,362	878	1,185	1,269
Hughenden	1,287	1,748	1,868	1,082	1,516	1,595	1,069	1,494	1,595
Innisfail	1,328	1,940	2,118	1,017	1,544	1,708	990	1,576	1,681
Ipswich	1,027	1,357	1,457	855	1,159	1,246	838	1,094	1,183
Longreach	1,266	1,575	1,776	1,066	1,371	1,607	1,092	1,408	1,566
Mackay	1,147	1,707	1,851	956	1,412	1,547	951	1,368	1,478
Maryborough	1,106	1,418	1,619	876	1,238	1,428	887	1,216	1,347
Mount Morgan	1,189	1,321	1,387	970	1,102	1,168	963	1,128	1,161
Nambour	1,120	1,485	1,610	923	1,289	1,406	911	1,240	1,319
Roma	1,145	1,531	1,705	941	1,321	1,461	922	1,253	1,373
Stanthorpe	1,135	1,531	1,595	935	1,369	1,461	901	1,335	1,454
Townsville	1,158	1,631	1,730	917	1,372	1,456	984	1,399	1,460
Winton	1,286	1,746	1,834	1,064	1,380	1,498	1,003	1,374	1,503
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns)	1,057	1,439	1,564	863	1,211	1,330	859	1,178	1,276
South Australia—									
Adelaide	1,124	1,619	1,740	894	1,323	1,443	793	1,152	1,274
Kadina, etc.	1,235	1,432	1,475	998	1,186	1,226	879	1,068	1,112
Port Pirie	1,198	1,569	1,673	986	1,361	1,490	862	1,207	1,310
Mount Gambier	1,102	1,360	1,465	902	1,160	1,281	802	1,047	1,192
Peterborough	1,258	1,664	1,780	977	1,389	1,461	872	1,188	1,329
Freeling	1,112	1,441	1,556	892	1,207	1,319	832	1,095	1,161
Gawler	1,134	1,428	1,520	882	1,177	1,264	831	1,114	1,182
Kapunda	1,172	1,418	1,435	937	1,147	1,182	813	1,008	1,080
Kooringa	1,164	1,493	1,559	959	1,275	1,354	891	1,194	1,251
Millicent	1,052	1,477	1,559	875	1,279	1,358	842	1,207	1,280
Murray Bridge	1,128	1,506	1,613	899	1,250	1,340	791	1,054	1,153
Port Augusta	1,323	1,710	1,790	1,086	1,503	1,583	941	1,278	1,298
Quorn	1,287	1,561	1,654	1,005	1,294	1,378	871	1,156	1,210
Victor Harbour	1,153	1,734	1,898	925	1,479	1,626	869	1,329	1,467
Renmark	1,287	1,780	1,923	1,116	1,577	1,752	951	1,345	1,477
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns)	1,136	1,601	1,717	907	1,317	1,431	805	1,150	1,266
Western Australia—									
Perth and Fremantle	1,095	1,567	1,721	902	1,363	1,502	839	1,259	1,358
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,279	1,580	1,657	1,080	1,398	1,493	1,038	1,475	1,509
Northam	1,186	1,619	1,803	987	1,434	1,571	907	1,341	1,453
Bunbury	1,229	1,566	1,677	995	1,416	1,502	881	1,300	1,341
Geraldton	1,198	1,678	1,881	969	1,341	1,700	951	1,402	1,629

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1929. November.			1930. November.			1931. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
Western Australia—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	B	A	B	C
Albany	1,195	1,513	1,616	983	1,337	1,400	961	1,290	1,349
Beverley	1,187	1,483	1,549	987	1,307	1,382	921	1,256	1,342
Bridgetown	1,266	1,649	1,693	1,072	1,427	1,516	1,042	1,359	1,447
Brooms	1,456	1,932	2,114	1,325	1,801	1,983	1,276	1,752	1,934
Carnarvon	1,347	1,808	1,956	1,188	1,683	1,774	1,117	1,606	1,670
Collie	1,234	1,712	1,817	990	1,462	1,568	906	1,277	1,375
Greenbushes	1,334	1,477	1,550	1,046	1,250	1,342	1,020	1,197	1,243
Katanning	1,173	1,565	1,745	929	1,323	1,494	891	1,252	1,391
Leonora and Gwalia	1,412	1,609	1,675	1,247	1,444	1,510	1,135	1,398	1,464
Meekatharra	1,378	1,642	1,734	1,229	1,466	1,624	1,098	1,467	1,592
Narrogin	1,173	1,711	1,826	943	1,491	1,601	884	1,315	1,421
Wagin	1,124	1,535	1,606	1,007	1,434	1,464	970	1,282	1,367
York	1,130	1,466	1,568	940	1,275	1,377	864	1,193	1,272
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns)	1,132	1,576	1,719	937	1,378	1,508	875	1,292	1,384
Tasmania—									
Hobart	1,096	1,573	1,712	932	1,300	1,557	834	1,281	1,419
Launceston	1,087	1,492	1,692	911	1,308	1,474	826	1,212	1,350
Burnie	1,163	1,586	1,731	994	1,355	1,480	881	1,267	1,348
Devonport	1,116	1,565	1,603	935	1,379	1,402	844	1,265	1,329
Queenstown	1,215	1,527	1,557	1,068	1,387	1,444	961	1,288	1,369
Beaconsfield	1,052	1,144	1,183	919	997	1,050	871	977	1,003
Campbelltown	1,079	1,266	1,315	971	1,183	1,238	884	1,116	1,151
Deloraine	1,019	1,193	1,440	881	1,213	1,276	823	1,113	1,218
Franklin	1,118	1,328	1,381	950	1,187	1,239	952	1,162	1,215
New Norfolk	1,067	1,382	1,461	923	1,292	1,318	832	1,148	1,214
Scottsdale	1,084	1,374	1,466	913	1,209	1,286	887	1,090	1,151
Ulverstone	1,080	1,409	1,511	883	1,217	1,348	841	1,050	1,269
Zeehan	1,293	1,490	1,523	1,103	1,301	1,334	1,002	1,200	1,233
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns)	1,102	1,529	1,666	935	1,349	1,492	843	1,246	1,371
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns)	1,133	1,634	1,778	932	1,400	1,535	864	1,271	1,378

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in columns B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing is ascertained. Thus, for November, 1931, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 812. Subtracting this from 1,246 (column B) gives a difference of 434, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,360 (column C) gives a difference of 548, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. The relative cost of housing can be ascertained similarly for each of the towns included.

3. Comparison of Capitals and other Towns.—Three sets of index-numbers for food and rent have been given in the preceding pages, for the six capitals, for the thirty towns, and for the 200 towns. The first two are based on monthly prices of food and quarterly rents, and the third on prices and rents in the month of November. The three series, reduced to a common base (1913 = 1,000) are given in the table below. It will be seen that since 1913 food prices have increased slightly more in the capitals than in the larger groups of towns, but the increase in rents has been substantially greater outside the capitals than in them.

The index-numbers for November 1921 to 1931, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above with 1913 as base (= 1,000), are shown in the following tables:—

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Australia.

Particulars	1913.	1921.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
-------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns	1,000	1,578	1,675	1,691	1,625	1,770	1,455	1,349
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,670	1,690	1,618	1,769	1,454	1,343
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,588	1,683	1,705	1,627	1,781	1,463	1,351

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns	1,000	1,268	1,571	1,586	1,641	1,635	1,541	1,314
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,554	1,570	1,632	1,622	1,516	1,288
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,261	1,496	1,507	1,571	1,562	1,453	1,229

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns	1,000	1,461	1,636	1,651	1,632	1,719	1,488	1,336
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,625	1,643	1,623	1,712	1,478	1,322
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,455	1,607	1,624	1,604	1,692	1,459	1,301

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

4. **Rent Reduction Acts.**—Legislation was enacted in New South Wales and Western Australia prescribing a reduction in rents during 1931. In New South Wales, the Reduction of Rents Act, No. 45 of 1931, came into operation on 9th October, and the Western Australian Reduction of Rents Act, No. 21 of 1931, was assented to on 18th August. The Acts, which are on practically similar lines, prescribe that a general reduction of 22½ per cent. is to be made in rents, unless the lessor obtains an order permitting him to charge and receive rent under the lease at a higher rate. The order in New South Wales must be obtained from a Court of Petty Sessions, and in Western Australia from a Commissioner appointed by the Governor for the purposes of Part VI. of the *Financial Emergency Act 1931*. A special circumstance to be considered by the tribunal is the amount by which the rent of the premises, the subject of the lease, may have been reduced since the 30th June, 1930. Any such reduction shall be taken into account in calculating the reduction to be effected, but the lessor may not charge a higher rent than was charged at the commencement of the Act. The measures, which are of a temporary nature, expire on 31st December, 1932, and do not apply to premises which were not leased on 30th June, 1930, unless a lease was entered into earlier than three months before the commencement of the Acts.

In Victoria, the Landlord and Tenant (Rent Reduction) Act, provides for reduction of rents payable under long leases by 22½ per cent. Orders for reduction may be made by lower Courts, where rent under lease does not exceed £208 per annum.

§ 5. International Comparison of Price Index-Numbers.

I. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices for the years 1913 to 1932 in Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913, the year before the war, being taken as base (= 100). These figures are obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations. It must be understood that the figures do not show the relative prices in the various countries, but the fluctuations in prices in each country separately.

Index-Numbers, Wholesale Prices, Various Countries. (Prices in 1913 as Base=100).

PERIOD.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	FINLAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist."	Official.	Official.	National Tariff Commission.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1913 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920 ..	307	291	283	201	201	201	201	201	201	201	201	201	201
1925 ..	159	160	154	1136	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160
1926 ..	148	150	143	123	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
1928 ..	140	142	135	130	145	102	979	153	149	120	645	145	140
1929 ..	137	134	127	130	141	105	924	150	148	116	627	139	137
1930 ..	120	113	107	117	117	115	6117	130	134	103	554	128	125
1931 ..	104	98	89	109	96	126	107	114	105	97	502	119	111
1931 IX.	99	95	90	108	91	129	105	109	99	91	473	112	109
1932 I.	106	100	98	114	97	120	101	118	93	89	439	133	100
II.	105	102	92	112	97	118	101	119	92	91	446	132	100
III.	105	99	90	113	94	118	101	117	92	93	444	131	100
IV.	102	97	86	112	92	118	100	115	89	90	439	126	98
V.	101	94	83	116	89	117	97	114	..	86	438	125	97

PERIOD.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
	Consiglio Prov. dell' Economia di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1913 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	96	109	100	100	101	100	100	98	106	102	104	97
1920 ..	259	259	292	202	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221
1925 ..	6646	202	155	253	188	161	162	148	170	160	160	207	128
1926 ..	634	179	145	198	181	149	145	143	168	156	154	123	123
1928 ..	491	171	149	157	167	148	145	139	165	151	147	120	116
1929 ..	481	166	142	149	171	140	141	137	166	149	147	116	116
1930 ..	411	137	117	137	172	122	127	124	147	135	143	103	103
1931 ..	342	116	97	122	174	111	110	105	131	113	133	100	100
1931 IX.	331	113	91	120	178	109	106	102	128	109	131	99	99
1932 I.	326	121	84	123	176	109	101	96	130	108	132	96	96
II.	323	122	83	123	178	110	100	95	133	108	131	..	..
III.	322	120	82	122	180	109	99	95	132	108	130	..	..
IV.	319	116	80	120	181	109	98	94	132	107	129	..	..
V.	313	114	79	120	177	109	96	92	129	106	129	..	..

a June, 1914. b Gold index. c Base. d July. e End of year. f Official since year 1925. g New series. h Average of eight months. i Base, 1927. j Until end of 1925. "Lorenz." k Not available own o "ke."

2. **Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.**—The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices, (i) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (ii) foodstuffs only for the month of July in each year from 1914 to 1931, and quarterly for 1931 and 1932, the prices for July, 1914 being taken as base (= 100). It must be understood, however, that the figures which have been obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries, with Prices in July, 1914, as Base (=100).

(i) COST OF LIVING.

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BULGARIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY	ITALY.	LUXEMBURG
No. of Towns and Localities	630	Vienna.	59	12	100	21	Paris.	72	Milan.	L'x'm-burg.
July 1914 ..	100	100	..	c 100	100	100	e100	100	100	100
" 1920 ..	255	5,100	..	1,858	262	d931	341	1,005	441	..
" 1921 ..	222	9,972	100	1,910	237	1,214	307	1,250	494	383
" 1926 ..	170	d103	174	2,886	184	e154	485	d142	649	686
" 1928 ..	165	108	205	2,911	176	161	a105	153	f 143	a113
" 1929 ..	163	112	216	a123	173	160	113	154	148	112
" 1930 ..	157	112	227	98	165	147	116	149	145	127
" 1931 ..	145	107	203	82	154	133	120	137	132	115
1st Quarter, 1931	150	105	213	84	157	139	120	139	134	117
2nd " 1931	146	105	206	81	154	135	120	137	134	114
3rd " 1931	145	107	202	79	154	133	118	135	131	114
4th " 1931	147	108	197	80	154	135	108	132	129	106
1st " 1932	146	108	186	76	155	136	108	123	129	100

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.
No. of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	49	34	Bombay.	9	60	Whole Country.	30	25
July 1914 ..	100	h ..	100	c 100	100	c 100	p100	o ..	100	k 100
" 1920 ..	307	..	270	224	190	179	200	e119	..	182
" 1921 ..	294	..	236	200	177	162	165	103	147	178
" 1926 ..	220	..	172	162	157	131	157	104	1146	163
" 1928 ..	193	101	173	161	147	131	155	100	146	161
" 1929 ..	180	102	169	161	148	131	156	100	149	161
" 1930 ..	175	95	164	158	139	128	156	96	104	157
" 1931 ..	152	86	158	150	122	123	137	87	125	142
1st Quarter, 1931	156	89	160	155	128	124	147	90	131	148
2nd " 1931	153	89	158	150	124	124	140	87	128	145
3rd " 1931	151	85	158	149	122	122	137	89	125	142
4th " 1931	150	83	157	147	122	122	135	84	123	141
1st " 1932	150	80	157	142	124	120	132	80	123	139

NOTE.—With the following exceptions the index-numbers in the above table, are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items:—Belgium, exclusive of housing; Switzerland and British India, exclusive of miscellaneous items; Luxemburg, exclusive of housing and miscellaneous. For footnotes, see next page.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries with Prices in July, 1914, Base (=100).—continued.

(ii) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK	FINLAND	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	Vienna.	50	Whole Country.	100	21	Paris.	72	10
1914—July	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920 ..	263	..	..	..	253	1,073	373	1,552	..
1921 ..	226	157,900	100	1,303	236	1,323	306	1,491	..
1926 ..	161	6115	185	876	159	6144	574	2145	91
1928 ..	156	119	204	943	153	151	6111	154	91
1929 ..	153	123	212	925	149	146	123	156	90
1930 ..	144	119	206	6130	137	126	122	146	83
1931 ..	128	110	173	108	119	110	125	130	74
1932 I.	131	111	157	106	..	120	114	116	68
II.	129	110	151	106	..	119	115	114	67
III	126	109	148	106	116	119	115	114	66
IV	125	107	144	106	..	116	115	113	64
V.	123	108	145	108	..	114	114	113	63

Period	ITALY.	NORWAY	POLAND	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA	UNITED STATES	AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
No. of Towns and Localities.	Milan.	31	Warsaw	49	33	Bombay.	9	60	51	30	25	Madrid.
1914—July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920 ..	445	319	..	297	..	..	197	224	215	194	167	190.
1921 ..	506	292	..	232	211	174	139	140	145	161	162	189.
1926 ..	654	198	..	156	159	155	116	151	157	159	147	187.
1928 ..	140	173	98	157	157	143	116	146	153	155	143	176.
1929 ..	144	157	95	151	155	145	116	148	158	160	145	181.
1930 ..	142	151	83	140	152	136	109	149	144	147	139	187.
1931 ..	123	140	72	130	140	113	104	110	119	125	121	193.
1932 I.	118	135	65	127	132	116	99	105	109	125	118	199
II.	118	135	65	127	129	115	99	100	105	127	115	199
III	122	135	65	127	128	116	99	99	105	127	113	195
IV	123	134	68	128	128	111	99	98	104	127	113	197
V.	121	133	71	126	126	111	98	94	101	125	112	184

a Gold index. b New series. c Yearly average. d January. e Average of second quarter. f New series, November, 1927. g Since 1924. "Reichsmarks" prices. A Base 1927. i December. j Third quarter of year. k From 1915, for month of August. l For 1921-24, includes fuel and soap, since 1925 exclusive of those items. m Base 1921-25. n 1st June. o Base 1923. p Base 1913.