

## CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

## § 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 of New South Wales, and published in the *Year Book* and the *Monthly Bulletin of Business Statistics* of that State.

The scope of the wholesale price index can best be understood by an examination of the list of commodities included which is given on page 10. This list is, to a large extent, comparable with that used in the compilation of the "Economist" and "Statist" index-numbers of Great Britain, but differs largely from that used for the wholesale price index-numbers of the United States (Bureau of Labour) or Canada (Department of Labour).

The items for computing the Melbourne wholesale price index comprise chiefly basic materials which in the form of raw material, food, or as a source of power, enter into production for home consumption. The purpose of the index, therefore, is to measure the changes in the price of these particular materials rather than the changes in prices generally. As Australia does not, to any extent, manufacture from imported raw materials commodities for export, the local consumption appears to give the most appropriate weighting. Any lack of uniformity in the variations of the index-numbers for these wholesale prices and for retail prices would indicate broadly changes in the relation of manufacturing and distributing charges to the cost of basic materials.

The index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912, and has been continued on the same lines since that year. It was resolved, however, at the Conference of Statisticians at Brisbane in 1930 that the time had come to revise and extend the items included in order to bring the index into line with the changed conditions. An investigation to that end is now almost completed, and the results will shortly be published.

2. **Commodities in Groups.**—The commodities are divided into eight groups, as set out on page 10. The descriptions of the groups are given in the table below, with the proportional cost of each group for the year 1936. These proportions may be used with fair accuracy as "weights" to combine any group index-numbers at the present time, but would give unsatisfactory results if used for a time when prices were relatively much different, as in 1929.

Groups of Commodities.

Group.	Description	Percentage of Aggregate Cost (1936).
I.	"Metals and Coal" .. .. .	14
II.	"Cotton, Wool", also jute, leather, &c. .. .. .	15
III.	"Agricultural Produce" .. .. .	27
IV.	"Dairy Produce" .. .. .	8
V.	"Groceries" .. .. .	17
VI.	"Meat" .. .. .	11
VII.	"Building materials" (mostly timber) .. .. .	7
VIII.	"Chemicals" (excluding fertilizers) .. .. .	1

It will be noticed that the group "Chemicals" is practically negligible.

The index relates chiefly to basic materials, but a certain proportion of Australian manufacturing costs enters into all groups. The amount is small in Meat (VI.), Agricultural Produce (III.), and Cotton, Wool (II.), and greater in 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 to warrant deductions of this nature 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.	Quality.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Commodity	Quality.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.				GROUP V.			
Iron—				Currants ..		lb.	1,400
Pig ..	Mxd Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins ..	Sultanas	lb.	1,400
Rod and Bar	Stafford	"	3½	Herrings ..	1-lb. fresh	doz 1-lb.	50
Angles ..	"	"	3½	Salmon ..	1-lb tall	"	50
Plate ..	"	"	3	Sardines ..	Alaska	doz. halves	100
Hoop ..	"	"	3	Coffee ..	Plantation	lb.	200
Galvanized	26 gauge	"	5	Cocoa ..	McKenzie's	"	100
Tinned Plates	1 G. Coke	box	60	Sugar ..	No. 1A	ton	22
Fencing Wire ..	No. 3	ton	6	Macaroni ..	"	lb.	200
Zinc, sheet	"	"	1	Tapioca ..	"	cwt.	7
Lead, sheet	"	"	1	Rice ..	"	ton	2
" pipes	"	"	1	Salt ..	Australian	"	7
Copper, sheet	"	lb.	2,000	Salt ..	Rock	"	1
Quicksilver ..	"	"	12	Mustard ..	Coleman's	doz. 1-lb.	6
Coal ..	Newcastle, on wharf	ton	600	Starch ..	Coleman's	lb.	100
GROUP II.				Starch ..	White	"	100
Branbags ..	"	doz.	110	Blue ..	Keen's	lb.	50
Cornsacks ..	"	"	250	Matches ..	Australian	gross	90
Woolpacks ..	"	each	200	Candles ..	Rangoon	lb.	1,600
Leather—				Tobacco ..	"	"	1,300
Chrome Box	"	ft.	1,700	Tea ..	"	"	3,000
White	"	"	"	Kerosene ..	"	gallon	1,700
Rough Tanned	"	lb.	600	GROUP VI.			
—Split	"	"	"	Beef ..	Average quality	100 lb.	390
Sole Leather—				Mutton ..	"	lb.	33,000
Factory ..	"	"	600	Veal ..	"	"	2,000
Sides ..	"	"	"	Lamb ..	"	"	5,600
Cotton ..	Raw	"	24,000	Pork ..	"	"	3,700
Wool ..	Greasy ..	"	12,300	GROUP VII.			
Twine ..	Reaper and Binder	"	150	Timber—	Flooring—		
Tallow ..	Mutton Prime	ton	1½		6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.	30
GROUP III.					6 x 2	"	30
Wheat ..	"	bushel	500		6 x 2½	"	30
Flour ..	"	ton	48		6 x 3	"	30
Bran ..	"	"	14		Weatherboards	"	200
Pollard ..	"	"	14		Oregon	1,000 ft. sup.	20
Oats ..	Milling ..	bushel	1,200		Shelving	"	10
Oatmeal ..	Colonial	ton	1½	Cement ..	Portland	cask	30
Barley ..	English	bushel	150	White Lead ..	"	ton	1
Malt ..	Cape ..	"	100	Slates ..	Welsh	1,000	1
Malt ..	"	"	1,000		20 x 10	"	1
Hay ..	Best Mngr.	ton	135	GROUP VIII.			
Chaff ..	Prime	"	735	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Straw ..	Victorian	"	25	Carbonate of Soda	"	ton	1
Peas ..	"	bushel	55	Saltpetre ..	Refined	"	1-20
Potatoes ..	"	ton	40	Sulphur ..	"	"	1
Malt ..	Victorian	bushel	140	Caustic Soda ..	"	cwt.	1
Onions ..	"	ton	3	Alum ..	Lump	ton	1
GROUP IV.				Cyanide of Potassium	"	lb.	570
Ham ..	"	lb.	800	GROUP IX.			
Bacon ..	"	"	3,200				
Cheese ..	"	"	1,500				
Butter ..	Best Fresh	"	9,500				
Lard ..	Bulk ..	"	200				
Eggs ..	Ordinary	doz.	1,800				
Honey ..	"	lb.	600				
Beeswax ..	"	"	40				
Condensed Milk	Bacchus Marsh	doz. lb.	160				

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

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers 1861 to March, 1937.

(Base: Year 1911 = 1,000.)

YEAR.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricultural Produce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861	1,433	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871	1,090	1,257	1,230	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,499	1,220
1881	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891	895	817	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
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
1914	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,031	1,253	1,149
1915	1,284	1,017	1,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,475	1,528	1,604
1916	1,695	1,423	1,205	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,058
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	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,908
1922	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,994
1924	1,835	2,418	1,047	1,655	1,721	1,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925	1,852	1,967	1,297	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,724	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,882
1927	1,952	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,824	1,866	1,817
1928	1,912	1,781	1,726	2,751	1,707	2,045	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929	1,912	1,556	2,794	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,598
1931	1,826	1,039	1,221	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,420
1932	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933	1,713	1,118	1,275	1,195	1,714	1,487	2,061	2,106	1,409
1934	1,660	1,261	1,283	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,018	1,471
1935	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,749	1,508	1,964	1,996	1,469
1936	1,566	1,331	1,180	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,997	1,543
1937—									
July	1,561	1,261	1,376	1,327	1,720	1,594	1,967	2,009	1,479
Aug.	1,629	1,210	1,377	1,314	1,730	1,693	1,952	2,009	1,498
Sept.	1,629	1,218	1,388	1,290	1,726	1,638	1,964	2,009	1,495
Oct.	1,567	1,260	1,397	1,268	1,726	1,672	1,941	2,009	1,499
Nov.	1,509	1,295	1,354	1,307	1,732	1,517	1,930	2,009	1,479
Dec.	1,570	1,284	1,307	1,307	1,754	1,446	1,930	2,009	1,460
1936—									
Jan.	1,571	1,285	1,333	1,305	1,730	1,536	1,942	2,017	1,475
Feb.	1,564	1,292	1,328	1,312	1,730	1,468	1,922	2,010	1,468
Mar.	1,567	1,312	1,359	1,337	1,736	1,487	1,948	2,010	1,485
April	1,567	1,326	1,410	1,380	1,725	1,590	1,946	2,010	1,515
May	1,597	1,324	1,413	1,395	1,726	1,640	1,948	2,010	1,521
June	1,566	1,303	1,415	1,374	1,730	1,705	1,954	2,010	1,523
July	1,556	1,330	1,433	1,348	1,731	1,931	1,957	2,006	1,552
Aug.	1,517	1,318	1,497	1,334	1,724	2,129	1,964	1,994	1,585
Sept.	1,558	1,301	1,497	1,338	1,727	2,000	1,973	1,994	1,573
Oct.	1,504	1,333	1,637	1,350	1,724	1,709	2,000	1,966	1,591
Nov.	1,578	1,404	1,721	1,368	1,736	1,571	2,021	1,966	1,620
Dec.	1,589	1,438	1,713	1,366	1,710	1,428	2,043	1,966	1,611
1937									
Jan.	1,701	1,528	1,658	1,381	1,716	1,528	2,138	1,966	1,644
Feb.	1,720	1,506	1,575	1,408	1,750	1,439	2,230	1,966	1,618
March	1,812	1,583	1,552	1,419	1,719	1,471	2,425	1,966	1,652

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

4. Variations since Outbreak of War.—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1936, and for each month from July, 1935, to March, 1937, 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. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials	VIII. Chem- icals.	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	1,397	1,130	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,361	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	1,695
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,602	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,439	2,228	1,340	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,764	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,750	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,495	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,379	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,653	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,828	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	1,364	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	1,483	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	2,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,893	1,581
" 1930 ..	1,695	1,935	1,839	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
" 1932 ..	1,577	918	1,152	1,083	1,712	831	1,885	2,074	1,237
" 1933 ..	1,550	1,026	1,100	994	1,661	917	1,882	2,034	1,233
" 1934 ..	1,568	1,158	1,205	1,059	1,682	950	1,839	1,968	1,290
" 1935 ..	1,456	1,116	1,258	1,100	1,677	931	1,792	1,946	1,288
" 1936 ..	1,422	1,222	1,385	1,123	1,678	1,038	1,798	1,918	1,353
1935—									
July ..	1,418	1,158	1,288	1,103	1,667	928	1,795	1,959	1,296
August ..	1,421	1,111	1,289	1,092	1,677	1,044	1,782	1,959	1,314
September ..	1,480	1,118	1,299	1,072	1,672	1,010	1,793	1,959	1,311
October ..	1,420	1,157	1,308	1,079	1,673	1,031	1,772	1,959	1,314
November ..	1,425	1,189	1,268	1,087	1,678	936	1,762	1,959	1,297
December ..	1,426	1,179	1,223	1,087	1,700	892	1,762	1,959	1,280
1936—									
January ..	1,427	1,179	1,248	1,085	1,685	947	1,773	1,967	1,293
February ..	1,421	1,186	1,243	1,091	1,682	905	1,755	1,961	1,285
March ..	1,423	1,205	1,272	1,112	1,683	917	1,778	1,961	1,301
April ..	1,423	1,217	1,320	1,154	1,672	981	1,777	1,961	1,328
May ..	1,423	1,216	1,323	1,160	1,673	1,012	1,778	1,961	1,334
June ..	1,422	1,197	1,324	1,142	1,677	1,052	1,783	1,961	1,335
July ..	1,413	1,221	1,341	1,121	1,678	1,191	1,786	1,957	1,361
August ..	1,405	1,210	1,401	1,109	1,671	1,313	1,793	1,945	1,390
September ..	1,415	1,194	1,402	1,112	1,674	1,239	1,801	1,945	1,379
October ..	1,420	1,224	1,532	1,122	1,671	1,054	1,834	1,918	1,395
November ..	1,433	1,280	1,614	1,137	1,683	960	1,843	1,918	1,420
December ..	1,443	1,330	1,603	1,136	1,687	880	1,865	1,918	1,412
1937—									
January ..	1,545	1,403	1,552	1,148	1,692	942	1,953	1,918	1,411
February ..	1,562	1,382	1,474	1,171	1,696	887	2,036	1,918	1,419
March ..	1,646	1,454	1,453	1,179	1,695	907	2,211	1,918	1,419

5. Prices, 1935 and 1936.—In Section I. of the Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular grades of commodities used in computing the index-numbers in the years 1935 and 1936. Corresponding information for previous years was given in the Appendices to preceding Reports. In Report No. I (1912), prices are given for each year from 1871 to 1911.

**§ 2. Retail Prices and Housing.**

I. General.—The methods adopted for the computation of retail price index-numbers have been described in earlier issues of this Report. For the principles involved, the reader is recommended to consult the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9:

2 **The New Composite Unit.**—The "Composite Unit" or "Regimen" upon which the retail price index-numbers for food, groceries, and rent are based has undergone some modifications since its original introduction in 1912. The constitution of the regimen used until the end of June, 1932, is published in Labour Report No. 23, and of that used until the end of June, 1936, in Labour Report No. 25. The new regimen, which was determined after full consideration by a Conference of the Commonwealth and State Statisticians in April, 1936, and adopted in the September quarter of 1936, appears on the next page.

This Conference not only recommended extensive revisions of the regimen on which the index-numbers are based, but also considered methods of collection and compilation. As a result of its deliberations, and subsequent discussions by correspondence, many improvements and refinements have been introduced. The resolutions of the Conference are reprinted in Appendix XI. of this issue of the Labour Report.

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

Changes of the nature mentioned are commonly made in price indexes without seriously impairing their continuity. In accordance with established principles of procedure in changing the regimen (see Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paragraphs 14 and 18), the general level of the index was taken as determined by the old regimen for the September quarter of 1936\*, and the new regimen has been used to measure variations in the price-level after that date. The linking up of the index-numbers on the old and the new basis was effected by the usual method of equating their respective weighted aggregates for the six capital cities. This naturally involves some slight alteration of the relative positions of individual towns, but the effect is noticeable more in the "group" index-numbers than in the complete "C" Series index-numbers.

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, the units of quantity, and the "mass units" or estimated annual consumption *per capita*. In the last column the approximate relative importance of the items making up the new regimen is shown for Melbourne for the fourth quarter of 1936. The relative importance will, of course, change slightly with variation of prices, and revised figures will be published from time to time as may be necessary.

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

## Retail Prices—"New Composite Unit."

## GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

No.	Item.	Unit.	Mass Unit (per capita)	(a) Cost of Items in Hemmen as percentage of Aggregate— Melbourne, 4th Quarter, 1936.
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.				
1	Bread, white flour (cash delivered) ..	2-lb. loaf	100	6.1
2	Flour, ordinary .. ..	2 lb. ..	25	1.2
3	Flour, self-raising .. ..	2-lb. pkt.	12	1.0
4	Tea .. ..	1-lb. pkt. . .	8	2.8
5	Sugar, white granulated, 1A .. ..	1 lb. ..	100	5.0
6	Rice, polished (Australian) .. ..	1 lb. ..	8	0.3
7	Sago, seed tapioca .. ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.1
8	Jam, plum .. ..	1½-lb. tin ..	8	0.8
9	Golden Syrup .. ..	2-lb. tin ..	1	0.1
10	Oats, flaked, loose .. ..	1 lb. ..	8	0.3
11	Raisins, seeded .. ..	1-lb. pkt. . .	5	0.6
12	Currants, loose, 2-Crown .. ..	1 lb. ..	2	0.2
13	Apricots, dried, loose, 2-Crown .. ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.2
14	Peaches, canned .. ..	30-oz. tin	3	0.3
15	Pears, canned .. ..	30-oz. tin	1	0.1
16	Salmon, in tins .. ..	1-lb. tin ..	3	0.4
17	Potatoes, new and old .. ..	7 lb. ..	18	2.6
18	Onions, brown .. ..	1 lb. ..	14	0.5
19	Soap .. ..	1 lb. ..	16	1.324
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk .. ..	quart ..	4	0.3

## SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

21	Butter, factory "choicest" .. ..	1 lb. ..	30	6.4
22	Cheese, ordinary, mild .. ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.6
23	Eggs, standard, new laid .. ..	1 doz. ..	6	1.1
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle .. ..	1 lb. ..	12	2.6
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened .. ..	1 can ..	5	0.5
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or not bottled .. ..	quart ..	72	5.8

## SECTION C.—MEAT.

Beef (fresh)—				
27	Si:loin (Roast) .. ..	1 lb. ..	18	2.0
28	Rib (Roast) .. ..	1 lb. ..	22	2.0
29	Steak—Rump .. ..	1 lb. ..	11	1.8
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing) .. ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.4
31	Sausages .. ..	1 lb. ..	7	0.5
Beef (corned)—				
32	Silverside, average quality .. ..	1 lb. ..	14	1.3
33	Brisket, rolled .. ..	1 lb. ..	15	1.0
Mutton (fresh)—				
34	Leg .. ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.7
35	Forequarter .. ..	1 lb. ..	15	0.8
36	Loin .. ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.3
37	Chops—Loin .. ..	1 lb. ..	30	3.0
38	Chops—Leg .. ..	1 lb. ..	15	1.0
Pork (fresh)—				
39	Leg .. ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.4
40	Loin .. ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.4
41	Chops .. ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.4

## GROUP II.—HOUSING.—SECTION D.—RENT.

42	House Accommodation .. ..	week ..	52(c)	40.8(b)
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(a) "B" Series.

(b) Four and five roomed houses.

(c) Per household.

Foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions, have not been included in the new regimen, owing to the fact that comparable prices for a standard grade for these items cannot be obtained; while a further difficulty arises from the seasonal character of their production and consumption. The inclusion of such items, therefore, would impair the accuracy and stability of the index, and even if accurate information could be obtained, the index would probably not be materially affected by their inclusion. In the old regimen certain omissions were made partly on account of the difficulty of securing comparable prices. Some of the joints of meat, for example, were not only insufficiently standardized, but anomalies in price were not uncommon. In making these deletions, however, the total weight given to meat is distributed amongst the more standardized joints.

**3. Collection of Data.**—Retail prices of the commodities included in the "composite unit" are collected from representative retail establishments in each of five selected towns in each State (30 towns in all), and in certain other towns which are not included in the weighted averages.

The actual collection of the data is carried out, under the direct supervision of the State Statisticians, by specially qualified officers of the Bureau, while a supervising field officer is provided to assist in the co-ordination of activities in the several States. The prices of foods are obtained monthly from about ten retailers in each town. Tradespeople and agents are carefully selected in order to ensure the supply of representative figures for the whole of each town, and returns are carefully verified if there should be any doubt as to the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be abnormal.

Returns of rents are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number of house-agents in each town, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to the number of rooms. The returns in the larger cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, on the basis of which variations from a pre-determined standard are measured. This standard, which affects the index-numbers only in respect of the relative levels of rents in the different towns, and not in respect of their absolute height, was determined by means of a special investigation of the 1933 Census data relating to rentals of all 4 and 5-roomed wooden and brick houses occupied by fully-employed wage and salary-earners. This method not being applicable to the circumstances of small country towns, on account of the greater diversity of average "quality" of houses, returns from these centres show the average rent of occupied houses of a defined standard. As opportunity permits the system of listing and inspecting individual houses in country towns is being extended.

**4. Change of Base Period.**—In 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 as base = 1,000, while the total household expenditure tabulations, (i.e., food and groceries, rent of four and five rooms, clothing and miscellaneous items) were compared with the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in November, 1914 as base = 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-year period 1923-1927 be adopted as base for

retail price indexes. In accordance with this resolution, the index-numbers in the following tables, with the exception of those given in the table showing relative costs in the 200 towns of Australia, have been re-computed to the base specified.

**5. Retail Price Index-Numbers and Wage Assessment.**—In view of the fact that several "series" of retail price index-numbers are still associated with the variation of wages, the following short explanation of their significance is given.

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

(i) "**A**" Series.—The "A" series of indexes covers the items food and groceries and the rent of all houses, with the year 1911 as the base (1,000). This is the series which the Commonwealth Arbitration Court adopted in 1913 to determine the relative basic wage for towns throughout Australia, and to vary what is popularly known as the "Harvester" Basic Wage of 1907—the wage (42s. per week for Melbourne) declared by Mr. Justice Higgins to be sufficient to meet the "normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being, living in a civilized community." This series has had very little application since May, 1933, as the result of the adoption by the Court successively of the "D" series at that date, the "C" series in May, 1934, and the "Court" series in July, 1937. The "A" series of indexes are published in Appendix VII. of this Report.

(ii) "**B**" Series.—The "B" series covers the items food and groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, with the prices ruling in the years 1923–1927 as the base (1,000). This series has never been used in connexion with the fixation or adjustment of wages by any Industrial Tribunal. This series appears on pages 18 to 24 of this Report.

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

This series was introduced as the result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and the regimen adopted was practically that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission.

The series was not used in connexion with the variation of wages until its partial adoption by the Commonwealth Court in May, 1933, when that Court introduced the "D" series of indexes (for explanation of which see below); but in its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted the "C" series as the sole basis of the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment.

This series, covering as it does a far wider range of commodities, displays a different relationship between the towns from that shown in the preceding series ("A" and "B"). This series is published on pages 25 to 37 of this Report.

(iv) *The "Court" Series.*—The "Court" series of index-numbers was created by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, for the purpose of providing a set of index-numbers which would be compiled by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible for the fixation and adjustment of wage-rates; but its introduction has the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the most convenient manner for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards. It is based on the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index and is obtained as follows:—The "C" series index-number for any town for the quarter in question is multiplied by .081, and the first three figures on the left of the product are taken as the corresponding number in the "Court" series. This number itself states in whole and decimal figures the number of shillings with current purchasing power equivalent to that of 81s. when the "C" series index-number is 1,000. The judgment provides that the nearest whole number of shillings (a decimal of .5 or over being regarded as a whole number) shall be taken as the "needs" basic wage, to which will be added the relevant fixed "prosperity loadings" granted by the Court. The "Court" series entirely supersedes the "C" series for all wage adjustments decreed by the Commonwealth Court. A set of index-numbers under this series is reproduced in Appendix IX. of this Report.

(v) *"D" Series.*—The "D" series is a combination of the "A" and "C" series, and was created by the Commonwealth Court in May, 1933, for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. "cut" imposed by the Court in January, 1931.

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

This series has been superseded almost entirely by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" series, and continues to operate only in a few industries.

The index-numbers of this series are given in Appendix VIII.

(vi) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen of food and groceries is a component part of each of the series of retail price index-numbers mentioned above. Details of the regimen will be found in paragraph 2 of this section. An index computed from the prices of food and groceries only is used for the adjustment of old-age and invalid pensions and the wages of the members of the North Australian Workers' Union above the 20th parallel.

(vii) *The "200 Towns" Table.*—This table is tabulated for the month of November each year in respect of 200 of the more important towns of the Commonwealth, and covers the cost of food and groceries combined with the rent of 4 and of 5-roomed houses respectively. This table has

been used mostly in discussions of suitable relative rates for country towns, but the index-numbers have not been directly employed by Arbitration Tribunals in this connexion. The base of this table is the weighted average cost of food, groceries and rent of all houses in the six capital cities in 1911 = 1,000. The table will be found on page 38.

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

Thus, taking the movement of the following retail price indexes for the six capital cities over the two periods 1911 to 1936 and 1929 to 1936, as disclosed by the table in Appendix X. of this Report, the changes are substantially of the same order:—

	Increase per cent., 1911-1936.	Decrease per cent., 1929-1936.
Food and Groceries only .. .. .	48	21
Rent of All Houses .. .. .	44	18
Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses .. .. .	44	18
Food and Rent of All Houses ("A" Series)	46	20
Food and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses ("B" Series) .. .. .	46	20
"All Items" of Household Expenditure ("C" Series) .. .. .	41*	18

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

6. **Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1936.**—Index-numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, also 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. ("B" Series.)

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 housing, and food and groceries, since 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.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
<b>GROUP I.—GROCERIES.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	510	574	627	1,115	923	844	851	875	859
Melbourne .. .. .	461	521	562	1,070	701	714	758	824	824
Brisbane .. .. .	547	614	607	1,105	831	771	806	846	868
Adelaide .. .. .	510	541	598	1,076	754	718	782	804	811
Perth .. .. .	572	720	628	1,103	825	761	846	852	861
Hobart .. .. .	501	566	601	1,087	853	789	810	812	810
Weighted Average (a) .. .. .	400	564	590	1,093	845	771	800	846	846
<b>GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	551	574	656	1,080	810	788	780	788	791
Melbourne .. .. .	571	597	635	1,087	743	687	718	750	773
Brisbane .. .. .	495	581	588	983	732	686	683	691	709
Adelaide .. .. .	548	651	705	1,018	695	677	690	715	728
Perth .. .. .	709	733	735	1,152	785	731	765	801	816
Hobart .. .. .	564	587	695	1,091	695	641	665	701	702
Weighted Average (a) .. .. .	561	591	654	1,072	764	715	730	758	771

(a) For six capital cities.

## Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921	1932	1933	1934.	1935.	1936.
GROUP III.—MEAT.									
Sydney .. ..	519	501	668	960	781	764	821	835	881
Melbourne .. ..	557	485	663	1,030	711	732	758	755	809
Brisbane .. ..	535	488	610	897	509	599	647	719	761
Adelaide .. ..	553	541	781	1,095	839	809	832	804	839
Perth .. ..	789	824	881	1,103	794	777	798	788	867
Hobart .. ..	668	638	730	1,244	809	817	861	849	928
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	753	746	784	792	841

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

Sydney .. ..	513	553	646	1,062	852	800	825	840	818
Melbourne .. ..	517	523	610	1,063	758	713	748	781	809
Brisbane .. ..	530	569	603	1,014	738	699	727	763	791
Adelaide .. ..	532	570	679	1,066	761	731	767	780	798
Perth .. ..	670	753	728	1,116	804	757	807	821	853
Hobart .. ..	565	592	678	1,133	797	757	786	792	827
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	796	751	783	806	825

## GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

Sydney .. ..	593	701	760	989	894	864	860	891	930
Melbourne .. ..	455	569	618	820	816	801	808	850	882
Brisbane .. ..	383	373	466	630	641	681	691	720	766
Adelaide .. ..	510	706	655	809	691	694	700	736	795
Perth .. ..	458	524	589	739	810	795	794	792	841
Hobart .. ..	405	452	518	581	868	860	865	890	908
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	817	804	810	831	879

## ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING

Sydney .. ..	518	606	687	1,036	867	822	840	858	878
Melbourne .. ..	495	539	616	977	778	742	769	808	835
Brisbane .. ..	442	500	554	877	704	690	713	747	781
Adelaide .. ..	524	618	671	975	736	716	742	764	796
Perth .. ..	594	672	679	982	805	768	802	810	849
Hobart .. ..	508	512	621	1,044	822	792	814	827	856
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	803	768	792	818	814

(a) For six capital cities.

7. **Change of Basis for Housing Constituent.**—The preceding table takes into account the rent of houses of four and five rooms only. 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.). The *movements* of these two indexes differ little one from the other in the same city, but the index-numbers for "all houses" may be seriously affected between towns by the different proportions of four and five-roomed houses in the total of all houses.

8. **Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1932 to 1937.**—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (44 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 ("B" Series).

(Base (a): Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 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
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	801	760
1933 ..	800	799	880	785	779	802	713	732	733	738	746	715
1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	774	774	783	760	783	751
1935 ..	840	800	955	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	816	786
1936 ..	848	860	949	841	838	851	803	839	824	806	823	810
1936 Mar. Qtr.	845	865	930	833	837	848	782	808	798	773	812	783
June ..	837	849	933	835	838	840	794	817	805	792	814	795
Sept. "	843	850	953	837	833	846	825	842	825	825	824	829
Dec. "	866	875	979	858	844	869	831	870	851	832	843	833
1937 Mar. Qtr.	872	885	978	857	858	875	817	853	845	815	832	819
1936.												
January ..	846	867	927	837	839	849	784	806	804	771	812	785
February ..	849	872	933	832	836	852	784	811	801	775	817	785
March ..	841	856	930	831	836	841	777	807	799	772	806	778
April ..	839	819	934	834	839	842	793	817	799	788	813	791
May ..	838	852	935	830	840	841	794	817	806	793	815	795
June ..	834	817	932	833	837	837	797	816	809	796	813	798
July ..	835	818	928	837	840	837	783	836	817	810	817	813
August ..	846	859	934	839	846	849	817	857	837	827	825	817
September ..	855	868	903	848	839	853	835	831	836	837	829	816
October ..	861	870	972	851	831	861	834	870	843	838	835	836
November ..	863	869	977	855	838	865	833	872	856	833	844	835
December ..	875	885	989	869	860	873	828	869	848	825	849	830
1937.												
January ..	878	887	978	860	860	880	829	862	857	820	839	830
February ..	872	887	977	857	857	875	815	853	840	817	832	817
March ..	865	882	980	854	848	863	808	845	838	810	821	810
<b>HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>												
1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	804	799
1933 ..	864	779	630	812	781	850	801	636	641	721	795	785
1934 ..	860	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	658	741	803	796
1935 ..	891	830	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	813	838
1936 ..	930	857	653	879	814	918	882	683	702	861	836	869
1936 Mar. Qtr.	918	862	648	882	812	907	880	663	715	838	837	867
June ..	929	868	651	886	812	918	881	667	715	851	836	868
Sept. "	927	843	655	873	816	914	871	701	683	876	827	863
Dec. "	945	855	657	873	817	931	892	701	693	878	843	879
1937 Mar. Qtr.	949	818	657	873	817	932	898	698	713	845	842	884
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>												
1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773
1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	742	696	698	731	761	738
1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766
1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	760	766	802	826	805
1936 ..	878	858	837	854	829	875	835	780	777	825	827	831
1936 Mar. Qtr.	871	864	830	850	828	869	817	757	769	796	821	813
June ..	870	856	833	853	829	868	825	764	773	813	821	821
Sept. "	874	846	835	849	825	870	844	795	778	843	824	840
Dec. "	895	865	851	862	832	891	853	802	787	848	841	849
1937 Mar. Qtr.	900	857	851	861	840	895	847	791	792	825	834	813

(a) See explanatory note at top of table on page 18.

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

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

Period	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers	Warwick	Weighted Average, Queensland	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Port Gambler	Peterborough	Weighted Average, S. A.

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1932 ..	738	729	808	876	770	749	761	848	818	772	816	767
1933 ..	699	678	749	802	727	700	731	802	750	740	773	735
1934 ..	727	694	766	807	712	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
1935 ..	761	732	803	849	754	765	780	860	813	777	812	784
1936 ..	791	761	846	880	781	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
1936 Mar. Qtr	783	753	850	892	789	788	772	852	819	781	802	777
June ..	771	744	836	874	763	776	799	864	856	799	831	803
Sept. "	788	752	834	863	763	790	815	885	886	826	863	820
Dec. "	827	796	864	892	809	824	804	893	893	816	856	811
1937 Mar. Qtr.	840	818	866	898b	869c	845	811	903	898	832	857	818
1936												
January ..	783	755	856	896	799	789	770	856	807	782	801	771
February ..	790	756	850	888	801	791	781	855	815	781	807	785
March ..	776	745	843	893	766	781	766	845	834	780	797	771
April ..	777	748	840	877	765	782	793	859	844	793	808	797
May ..	768	741	841	875	766	774	801	867	856	795	844	805
June ..	767	743	828	869	757	772	803	868	868	809	846	806
July ..	776	747	829	866	761	780	812	878	871	808	865	817
August ..	779	750	826	858	760	782	817	865	889	822	872	822
September ..	783	761	835	864	769	787	812	883	887	821	867	818
October ..	805	774	849	879	772	807	795	881	883	807	856	802
November ..	830	800	864	889	820	823	804	890	896	815	851	811
December ..	838	815	879	907	835	841	813	908	901	826	861	820
1937.												
January ..	859	837	884	905b	885c	863	816	898	906	835	852	822
February ..	838	815	858	896b	863c	842	810	910	898	829	860	817
March ..	822	804	857	896b	861c	830	808	902	891	831	866	814

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1932 ..	641	649	582	542	617	633	691	378	624	610	700	675
1933 ..	661	708	567	517	610	666	694	379	601	610	710	676
1934 ..	691	732	595	515	625	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
1935 ..	720	746	596	530	615	707	736	393	625	626	663	710
1936 ..	766	798	608	510	622	748	795	381	629	648	721	772
1936 Mar. Qtr	727	758	599	538	645	714	756	397	622	627	696	737
June ..	739	795	599	538	643	727	768	393	626	627	711	718
Sept. "	788	817	631	485	595	769	849	365	629	668	737	822
Dec. "	809	821	599	480	606	783	809	369	638	669	737	782
1937 Mar. Qtr.	817	834	726	3,486	576L	806	813	369	638	691	737	791

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1932 ..	704	699	728	758	716	708	736	681	749	714	774	734
1933 ..	690	684	684	706	684	689	716	651	695	693	748	713
1934 ..	713	705	705	703	664	712	742	680	725	701	746	739
1935 ..	747	737	730	736	716	715	764	694	746	723	759	761
1936 ..	781	774	757	741	721	777	796	689	775	745	783	791
1936 Mar. Qtr	763	754	761	766	738	762	766	691	749	726	764	763
June ..	760	762	752	754	720	758	788	697	774	738	789	784
Sept. "	787	776	754	714	666	789	826	680	784	759	812	810
Dec. "	814	801	759	729	728	806	802	687	792	757	808	798
1937 Mar. Qtr.	829	823	809	876b	753c	828	810	693	795	775	809	806

(a) See note at top of page 18.

(b) Townsville.

(c) Mundaherg

Retail Prices Index-Numbers. ("B" Series.)—continued.  
(Base (a): Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average, 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 20 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Ingham.	C Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Derwentport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1932 ..	804	974	854	831	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798	796	801
1933 ..	757	936	807	793	760	777	757	736	764	766	873	756	751	754
1934 ..	807	987	849	846	81	823	786	765	793	795	899	784	783	786
1935 ..	821	977	857	850	816	834	792	789	830	868	905	797	808	810
1936 ..	853	998	898	866	910	868	827	806	847	831	898	824	826	828
1936 Mar. Qtr.	814	972	847	811	840	825	793	784	823	868	895	796	808	812
June ..	853	998	893	872	889	866	797	781	826	801	887	796	814	816
Sept. ..	882	1,014	939	880	949	891	845	813	815	831	887	836	833	835
Dec. ..	867	1,008	911	871	961	886	872	847	894	882	923	868	845	848
1937 Mar. Qtr.	862	1,010	915	881	973	881	864	846	891	880	922	862	845	849
1936.														
January ..	810	971	845	816	854	823	784	783	820	807	894	790	809	812
February ..	813	971	849	844	844	827	797	784	816	808	897	798	812	815
March ..	811	975	849	844	842	823	799	783	833	810	894	800	801	807
April ..	824	987	855	860	858	835	811	799	836	816	900	800	812	815
May ..	844	992	879	869	905	857	787	776	810	791	881	788	813	816
June ..	862	1,014	943	887	903	862	793	776	823	797	879	792	810	818
July ..	883	1,019	945	886	943	895	811	784	828	800	897	805	822	823
August ..	887	1,020	911	897	953	899	816	804	852	818	889	831	837	839
September ..	878	1,020	929	889	933	891	863	822	865	880	895	852	839	842
October ..	864	1,003	909	869	949	877	871	837	802	875	907	866	841	841
November ..	863	1,006	910	873	960	876	874	841	883	873	920	862	843	847
December ..	875	1,015	914	872	973	888	873	861	907	897	940	871	850	854
1937.														
January ..	867	1,014	913	880	977	881	870	847	895	801	930	870	853	857
February ..	863	1,009	907	880	973	877	870	842	892	878	919	861	841	846
March ..	873	1,007	921	881	969	886	851	830	886	871	917	842	837	842

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	888	760	702	694	673	816	817	800
1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	813	804	788
1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	769	657	682	706	811	810	798
1935 ..	792	1,050	767	810	910	813	800	778	698	736	730	845	830	828
1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	872	908	811	750	729	755	853	879	866
1936 Mar. Qtr.	815	1,077	761	836	966	837	902	784	713	740	747	845	862	852
June ..	821	1,092	763	838	966	843	909	782	747	740	710	849	872	859
Sept. ..	888	1,260	826	933	1,043	915	931	840	768	704	771	881	886	873
Dec. ..	853	1,265	827	940	1,053	888	888	839	775	718	771	856	893	880
1937 Mar. Qtr.	857	1,305	831	958	1,053	895	893	822	773	721	771	854	899	885

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1932 ..	805	892	836	804	902	817	822	772	784	777	822	804	803	800
1933 ..	768	890	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	809	774	768	765
1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	870	826	827	785	785	783	843	811	818	816
1936 ..	879	1,084	858	873	945	867	858	807	810	790	844	835	844	841
1936 Mar. Qtr.	813	1,009	817	839	885	820	832	784	784	791	843	813	828	826
June ..	842	1,031	846	860	916	858	837	781	798	770	831	815	834	831
Sept. ..	882	1,108	893	899	985	901	877	822	813	780	840	852	852	848
Dec. ..	860	1,106	876	894	994	881	876	812	845	816	862	861	862	850
1937 Mar. Qtr.	862	1,123	890	909	1,002	884	873	835	813	816	861	857	864	861

(a) See note at top of table on page 18.

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 the numbers are identical in both tables.

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the tables cannot be directly compared with one another in order to show the relative cost of 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.

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

Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight	Town.	Weight	Town.	Weight	Town.	Weight.
Sydney	1235	Melbourne	992	Brisbane	300	Adelaide	373	Perth, etc.	208	Hobart	60
Newcastle	165	Ballarat	33	T'woonba	26	Kadina, etc.	11	Kid'le, etc.	17	Launceston	33
Broken Hill	27	Bendigo	29	Rockham'n	29	Pt. Pirie	12	Northam	5	Burnie	4
Goulburn	15	Geelong	39	Chrs Twrs	7	Mt. Gamb't	5	Bunbury	5	Devonport	5
Hathurst	10	W'nambool	9	Warwick	7	Peterbor'gh	3	Geraldton	3	Queens'wn	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	Total ..	369	Total ..	344	Total ..	240	Total ..	106

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

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

10. **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.

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

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 during the period 1923-1927 in the Six Capital Cities as a whole.

("B" Series.)

Year.	Sydney	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
	<i>s. d.</i>						
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
1927 ..	20 8	19 5	18 10	20 7	20 1	20 0	20 0
1932 ..	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1933 ..	16 0	14 3	14 0	14 7	15 2	15 2	15 0
1934 ..	16 6	15 0	14 7	15 4	16 2	15 9	15 8
1935 ..	16 10	15 8	15 3	15 7	16 5	15 10	16 1
1936 ..	17 0	16 2	15 10	16 0	17 1	16 6	16 6
1936 Mar. Qtr.	16 11	15 8	15 8	15 5	16 3	15 10	16 2
" June "	16 9	15 11	15 5	16 0	17 1	15 11	16 3
" Sept. "	16 11	16 11	15 9	16 4	17 8	16 11	16 8
" Dec. "	17 4	16 7	16 5	16 1	17 4	17 5	16 11
1937 Mar. "	17 5	16 4	16 10	16 3	17 4	17 3	16 11

HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).

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
1927 ..	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7
1932 ..	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1933 ..	17 3	16 0	13 7	13 11	15 11	17 2	16 1
1934 ..	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1935 ..	17 10	17 0	14 5	14 9	15 10	17 10	16 9
1936 ..	18 7	17 8	15 4	15 11	16 11	18 2	17 7
1936 Mar. Qtr.	18 4	17 7	14 7	15 1	16 4	18 1	17 3
" June "	18 7	17 7	14 9	15 4	16 5	18 2	17 5
" Sept. "	18 7	17 6	15 9	16 11	17 9	18 7	17 9
" Dec. "	18 11	17 10	16 2	16 2	17 1	17 9	17 10
1937 Mar. "	19 0	18 0	16 4	16 3	17 2	17 10	18 0

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

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
1927 ..	21 2	19 11	18 0	20 0	19 6	19 9	20 3
1932 ..	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1933 ..	16 5	14 10	13 10	14 4	15 4	15 10	15 4
1934 ..	16 10	15 5	14 3	14 10	16 1	16 3	15 10
1935 ..	17 2	16 2	14 11	15 3	16 2	16 7	16 4
1936 ..	17 7	16 8	15 7	15 11	17 0	17 1	16 11
1936 Mar. Qtr.	17 5	16 4	15 3	15 4	16 3	16 8	16 7
" June "	17 5	16 6	15 2	15 9	16 10	16 9	16 8
" Sept. "	17 6	16 11	15 9	16 6	17 8	17 7	17 1
" Dec. "	17 11	17 1	16 3	16 1	17 2	17 6	17 3
1937 Mar. "	18 0	16 11	16 7	16 2	17 3	17 6	17 3

II. **Price Details, 1936.**—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 and in the Monthly Review of Business Statistics. In Section II. of the Appendix to this Report, the average retail price of each item of the food and groceries group during 1936 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 appendices to Labour Report No. 1, particulars were given of retail prices and house rents in the capital cities for the years 1901 to 1911.

### § 3. Food, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous. ("C" Series.)

I. **General.**—The following section includes the results of investigations into retail price variations of all items ordinarily entering into household expenditure, divided into four main groups:—Food and groceries; housing; clothing; and miscellaneous requirements. This series of index-numbers has been designated the "All Items" ("C" Series) index. It became more important because of its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from 1st May, 1934, for the adjustment of wages controlled by that Court. It is used at present, as the basis of the "Court" series of index-numbers, adopted from July, 1937, by the same Court.

The tabulation of this series was undertaken by the Bureau following a 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.

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

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

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

(a) Weighted Average Six Capitals—£5 13s. 8d.

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

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

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

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

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

The ordinary expenditure of a household has been grouped under four heads—(i) Food and groceries; (ii) housing; (iii) clothing; and (iv) other miscellaneous requirements.

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and housing the commodities, methods and weighting already in use, which conformed very closely with those given in the "Indicator 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. The figures used by this Bureau cover 4 and 5-roomed houses, and are not confined to any particular type, but they fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Previous inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items. The relative "weights" allotted to each item were based substantially on those given in the "Indicator list" of the Basic Wage Commission.

With regard to miscellaneous requirements, inquiries were made regarding prices of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery and other items in the "Indicator lists", and index-numbers were computed in the same manner as for clothing.

The item "groceries (not food)" was omitted from miscellaneous requirements, though it was treated as such by the Commission, as the index-numbers for food and groceries already published by the Bureau covered the articles included under this heading.

The regimen used in the original tabulation by the Bureau has been altered on several occasions to accord with varying usages. The following is a list of the clothing and miscellaneous items adopted from the September quarter of 1936, in accordance with the resolutions of a Conference of Statisticians which met in Canberra in April, 1936 (particulars of which will be found in Appendix XI). The regimen for food and housing (4 and 5 rooms) is the same as that appearing on page 14 of this Report. The grafting of the new regimen to the old followed the lines adopted in the case of food and groceries, particulars of which will be found on page 13.

**The Regimen for Clothing and Miscellaneous Items.**

**GROUP III.—CLOTHING.**

No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita).	No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita).
<b>SECTION E.—CLOTHING—MAN.</b>			<b>SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN—continued</b>		
1	Suit, ready-made, Worsted (Australian)	0 67	40	Apron, Cotton .. .. .	6 00
2	Trousers, working, Cotton Tweed (Australian)	2 00	41	Cardigan, All Wool .. .. .	0 50
3	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0 25	42	Shoes (for best wear), Glace Kid	1 50
4	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)	1 00	43	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf	1 50
5	Shirt, Fashion, with two collars ..	1 67	<b>SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).</b>		
6	Shirt, working—Drill .. .. .	4 00	41	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1 00
7	Collar, semi-soft, white .. .. .	6 00	45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3 00
8	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1 00	46	Overcoat ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0 33
9	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1 00	47	Cap, Skull, Cloth .. .. .	1 50
10	Underpants, Wool and Cotton (full length)	1 00	48	.. .. .	.. .. .
11	Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" (plain)	1 00	49	Shirt, Sports .. .. .	5 00
12	Sox, All Wool (fancy) .. .. .	2 00	50	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1 00
13	Sox, Wool and Cotton (fancy) ..	4 00	51	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1 00
14	Traces .. .. .	1 33	52	Traces .. .. .	1 00
15	Handkerchief, Cotton .. .. .	6 00	53	Stockings, Golf, All Wool .. ..	4 00
16	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1 50	54	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1 50
17	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	1 00	55	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0 50
18	Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf ..	0 50	56	Shoes (for best wear), Box Yearling	1 00
19	Boots, working, Box Hide .. .. .	1 50	57	Boots (school), Box Yearling ..	2 00
<b>SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN.</b>			<b>SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS).</b>		
20	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0 50	58	Dress, Wool-de-chine .. .. .	1 00
21	Skirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1 25	59	.. .. .	.. .. .
22	.. .. .	.. .. .	60	Dress, Cotton .. .. .	3 00
23	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)	0 75	61	Top Coat, Tweed (Australian)	0 33
24	Hat, Straw .. .. .	1 50	62	Hat, Wool Felt (Australian)	1 00
25	Frock, ready-made, Cotton .. ..	1 50	63	Hat, Straw .. .. .	2 00
26	Frock, ready-made, Art Silk .. ..	1 50	64	.. .. .	.. .. .
27	Brossiers, Cotton Brocade .. ..	4 50	65	Pottecoat, Art Silk .. .. .	1 00
28	Undervest, Wool and Art Silk ..	1 50	66	Singlet, Silk and Wool .. .. .	0 50
29	Undervest, Art Silk .. .. .	1 50	67	Singlet, Art Silk .. .. .	0 50
30	.. .. .	.. .. .	68	Bloomers, Cotton, fleecy-lined ..	2 00
31	Bloomers, Art Silk .. .. .	4 50	69	Bloomers, Art Silk .. .. .	2 00
32	Princess Slip, Art Silk .. .. .	1 00	70	Stockings, Cashmere .. .. .	4 00
33	Stockings, Silk .. .. .	6 00	71	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	0 33
34	Stockings, Lisle .. .. .	3 00	72	Pyjamas, Art Silk .. .. .	0 33
35	Gloves, Fabric .. .. .	2 25	73	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0 50
36	Gloves, Nappa .. .. .	0 75	74	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	0 67
37	Nightdress, Art Silk .. .. .	1 50	75	Shoes (school), Box Yearling <sup>1</sup> ..	1 50
38	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1 50			
39	Dressing Gown, Art Silk .. .. .	0 50			

<sup>1</sup> The total cost of each group is multiplied by a group "weight" representing the proportion of the population covered by the group.

## The Regimen for Clothing and Miscellaneous Items—continued.

## GROUP III—CLOTHING.—continued.

No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita) *	No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita) *
SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS).			SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS)—continued.		
76	House Coat ..	3 00	82	Sov. Art Silk and Lisle ..	1 00
77	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	3.00	83	Pyjamas, Winceyette ..	2.00
78	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.33	84	Pullover, All Wool ..	0.50
79	Hat, Cloth ..	1.33	85	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather ..	1.00
80	Singlet, Wool and Cotton ..	1.00	86	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling ..	2.00
81	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1 00			

## GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Item	Mass Unit (per household) *	No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per household) *
SECTION K.—HOUSEHOLD DRAPERY.			SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS—continued.		
1	Blankets, D.B. (pair) ..	0.07	26	Knife, Table (stainless) ..	0.10
2	Blankets, S.B. (pair) ..	0.14	27	Spoon, Tea (stainless) ..	0.08
3	Quilt, D.L. Marcella ..	0.25	28	Spoon, Dessert (stainless) ..	0.08
4	.. ..	..	29	Fork, Table (stainless) ..	0.10
5	Sheets, D.B. (pair) ..	0.50	30	Globe, Electric Light (gas-filled) ..	1.00
6	Sheets, S.B. (pair) ..	1.00	31	Iron, Electric (full size) ..	0.10
7	Pillow Slip, Cotton ..	5.00	SECTION M.—FUEL AND LIGHT.		
8	Towel ..	3.00	32	Firewood (blocks) (cwt) (a) ..	40
9	Table Cloth ..	0.20	33	Gas, cooking (units) (a) ..	1,513
10	Tea Towel (yard) ..	4.00	34	Electric lighting (units) ..	130
			35	Electric power (units) (a) ..	130
SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.			No.	Item.	Amount per week (per household).
11	Cup and Saucer (Stone China) ..	2 00	SECTION N—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS.		
12	Plate, Dinner (Stone China) ..	2.00	36	Union Dues ..	d.
13	Jug, Quart (Brownware) ..	1.00	37	Lodge Dues ..	(b)
14	Teapot, Brownware (2-pint) ..	0.25	38	Medicine ..	24
15	Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 6-inch ..	1 00	39	Newspapers ..	(b)
16	Tumbler (9-oz) ..	1.00	40	Recreation ..	24
17	Kettle, Enamel (6-pint) ..	0.20	41	Smoking ..	(b)
18	Kettle, Aluminium (6-pint) ..	0.20	42	Fares ..	(b)
19	Saucepan, Aluminium (3-pint) ..	0.40	43	School requisites ..	3
20	Bucket, Galvanized (12-inch) ..	0.20			
21	Dipper, Galvanized (2-quart) ..	0.20			
22	Broom, Millet ..	0.50			
23	Broom, Hair, complete (11-inch) ..	0 33			
24	Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch) ..	1.50			
25	Mop, Polishing, complete ..	0.20			

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

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

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

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

3. **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 as base. This base 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. As a base for comparing different places, the weighted average cost for the six capital cities was taken, and the aggregate cost of the regimen in November, 1914, made equal to 1,000. The index-numbers were computed to this base up to and including the December 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. 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 cost of the regimen in this period being made equal to 1,000. This new series may be converted to the 1914 base by multiplying the index-numbers in the various sections by the following factors:—Food—1.5601; housing—1.5408; food and housing—1.5528; clothing—1.3263; miscellaneous—1.3351; all items—1.4556. To convert the 1914 base index-numbers to the 1923-27 base the former should be multiplied by the following factors:—Food—0.64116; housing—0.64872; food and housing—0.64384; clothing—0.75412; miscellaneous—0.74891; all items—0.68715.

4. **Variations—Thirty Towns.**—The investigations were carried out in the five principal towns in each State for the months of November, 1921, May, August, and November, 1922, and quarterly thereafter. It was considered unnecessary to obtain information for previous years regarding prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals; while, so far as the capitals were 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 regularly published.

5. **Retail Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov. 1914 to March Quarter 1937.**—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) food and groceries; (ii) housing; (iii) food, groceries and housing combined; (iv) clothing; (v) miscellaneous requirements; and (vi) food and groceries, housing, clothing, and miscellaneous requirements combined.

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

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle	Broken Hill	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Raratot.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warram-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	638	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	964	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924
Year 1931 ..	876	868	1,011	843	857	879	791	815	825	778	810	793
" 1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	801	760
" 1933 ..	800	799	880	785	779	801	713	732	733	738	746	715
" 1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
" 1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	816	786
" 1936 ..	848	860	949	841	838	851	809	839	824	806	823	810
1936 Mar. Qtr.	845	865	930	833	837	848	782	808	798	773	812	783
" June ..	837	849	933	835	838	840	794	817	805	792	814	795
" Sept. ..	843	850	953	837	833	846	828	859	822	825	824	829
" Dec. ..	866	875	970	858	844	869	831	870	851	832	843	833
1937 Mar. Qtr	872	885	978	857	858	875	817	853	845	815	832	819

  

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Medina, Mounta, and Wialaroo.	Port Pirie.	All Gamber.	Peter-borough	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	981	936	950	941	945	968	923	997	943
Year 1931 ..	778	764	843	902	798	788	789	869	853	774	864	795
" 1932 ..	738	729	808	876	770	749	761	848	818	772	816	767
" 1933 ..	699	678	749	802	727	706	731	802	750	740	773	735
" 1934 ..	727	694	766	807	732	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
" 1935 ..	763	732	803	849	754	765	780	866	813	777	812	784
" 1936 ..	791	761	846	880	781	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
1936 Mar. Qtr.	783	752	840	892	789	788	772	852	819	781	802	777
" June ..	771	744	826	874	763	776	799	864	856	799	831	803
" Sept. ..	788	752	834	863	763	790	815	885	836	820	863	820
" Dec. ..	821	795	864	892	809	824	864	893	893	816	856	811
1937 Mar. Qtr	840	818	866	898	869	845	811	901	898	832	857	818

  

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 20 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	746	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	641	..
" 1921 ..	1,005	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,011	950	954
Year 1931 ..	836	904	883	886	918	856	816	812	844	827	934	821	826	830
" 1932 ..	804	974	854	831	862	824	797	779	840	822	944	798	796	801
" 1933 ..	757	936	897	793	760	777	737	736	764	766	873	768	751	754
" 1934 ..	807	987	849	846	877	823	786	765	793	795	899	784	783	786
" 1935 ..	821	977	852	850	846	834	792	769	830	808	908	797	806	810
" 1936 ..	853	998	898	866	910	866	827	866	847	831	898	824	826	828
1936 Mar. Qtr.	811	972	817	841	840	825	795	781	823	808	895	796	808	812
" June ..	855	908	893	872	839	866	797	781	826	801	887	796	814	816
" Sept. ..	887	1,011	939	880	949	864	845	813	845	811	887	836	833	835
" Dec. ..	867	1,008	911	871	961	880	872	847	894	882	923	869	845	848
1937 Mar. Qtr.	868	1,010	915	881	973	881	854	846	891	880	922	862	845	849

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1915 to 1920, see page 36. (b) Townsville. (c) Bunzlberg.

**Housing (4 and 5 rooms)—Retail Prices Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)**  
 (Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Geelong.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	758	..	..	..	..	..	608	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	479	527	668	685	789
Year 1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	802	1,005	867	620	653	815	823	847
" 1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	804	799
" 1933 ..	861	779	630	812	781	850	801	636	611	721	795	785
" 1934 ..	869	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	658	741	803	790
" 1935 ..	891	839	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	843	838
" 1936 ..	930	857	653	879	814	918	882	683	702	861	836	869
1936 Mar. Qtr.	918	862	618	882	812	907	880	663	715	838	837	867
" June ..	949	868	651	886	812	918	881	667	715	851	836	868
" Sept ..	927	843	655	873	816	914	874	701	683	870	827	863
" Dec ..	915	855	657	873	817	931	892	701	693	878	843	879
1937 Mar. Qtr.	949	818	657	873	817	932	898	698	713	815	842	884

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 (a)	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	528	535	594	819	566	603	492	566	781
" 1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	402	675	586	715	731
" 1932 ..	641	649	582	542	617	633	691	378	624	610	700	675
" 1933 ..	681	708	567	317	610	666	694	379	601	610	710	676
" 1934 ..	691	732	595	515	625	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
" 1935 ..	720	746	596	530	645	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
Year 1936 ..	766	798	608	510	622	748	795	381	629	648	721	772
1936 Mar. Qtr.	727	758	599	538	645	714	756	397	622	627	696	737
" June ..	739	795	599	538	643	727	768	393	626	627	714	748
" Sept ..	788	817	634	485	595	709	819	365	629	668	737	822
" Dec ..	809	821	599	480	606	733	805	369	638	669	737	782
1937 Mar. Qtr.	817	834	726	848b	576c	806	814	369	638	691	737	791

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Hunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..	649	..
" 1921 ..	754	578	616	649	779	709	870	676	294	150	495	729	877	823
Year 1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840	901	876
" 1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	694	673	816	816	817	800
" 1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	813	804	788
" 1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	709	657	682	706	814	810	798
" 1935 ..	792	1,059	767	810	940	813	890	778	698	736	730	836	839	826
" 1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	872	908	811	750	726	755	858	879	866
1936 Mar. Qtr.	815	1,077	761	836	966	837	902	784	713	740	747	845	864	852
" June ..	821	1,092	762	838	966	813	909	782	747	740	730	849	872	859
" Sept ..	888	1,260	826	915	1,053	918	911	840	768	701	774	881	886	873
" Dec ..	853	1,265	827	936	1,053	888	888	839	773	718	771	856	893	880
1937 Mar. Qtr.	857	1,395	831	938	1,053	895	893	822	773	721	771	854	899	885

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1915 to 1920, see page 36. (b) Townsville.  
 (c) Dundaberg.

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

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Bellarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	977	944	825	916	815	965	895	769	780	844	855	866		
Year 1931 ..	929	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	764	793	815	812		
" 1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773		
" 1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	742	696	698	731	761	738		
" 1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766		
" 1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	760	766	802	826	805		
" 1936 ..	878	858	837	854	829	875	835	780	777	825	827	831		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	871	861	830	850	828	869	817	757	769	796	821	813		
" June "	870	856	833	853	829	868	825	764	773	813	821	821		
" Sept. "	874	846	835	849	825	870	844	795	778	843	824	840		
" Dec. "	895	865	851	862	832	891	853	802	787	848	841	849		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	900	847	851	861	840	895	847	791	792	825	834	843		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS								
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Radina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	566	..	..	..	..	..	658	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820	794	824	898	811	839	770	844	885		
Year 1931 ..	743	716	765	805	745	745	777	793	790	797	811	774		
" 1932 ..	704	699	728	758	716	768	736	681	749	714	774	734		
" 1933 ..	690	684	684	700	684	689	716	651	695	693	748	713		
" 1934 ..	713	705	705	703	694	712	742	680	725	701	746	739		
" 1935 ..	747	737	730	736	716	745	764	694	746	723	759	761		
" 1936 ..	781	774	757	741	721	777	796	689	775	745	793	791		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	763	754	761	766	738	762	766	691	749	726	764	763		
" June "	760	762	752	754	730	753	758	697	774	738	789	784		
" Sept. "	787	776	754	714	696	780	826	686	784	739	812	819		
" Dec. "	814	804	759	729	728	806	802	687	792	757	805	798		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	829	821	809	876	753	828	810	693	795	775	809	806		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS					TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS								
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	689	..	..	..	..	..	630	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	916	928	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	696	871	911	924	807
Year 1931 ..	852	874	872	846	960	857	816	800	797	791	815	828	852	847
" 1932 ..	805	892	836	804	902	817	822	772	754	777	822	804	803	800
" 1933 ..	768	890	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	569	774	768	765
" 1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
" 1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	783	783	843	811	818	816
" 1936 ..	849	1,064	818	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	841	835	844	841
1936 Mar. Qtr.	813	1,009	817	839	885	820	832	784	784	784	843	813	828	826
" June "	842	1,031	846	860	916	858	837	781	798	779	831	815	834	831
" Sept. "	852	1,168	893	899	985	901	877	822	813	786	840	852	852	848
" Dec. "	860	1,106	876	894	994	881	876	842	845	816	862	861	862	859
1937 Mar. Qtr.	861	1,123	880	909	1,002	884	873	835	843	816	861	857	864	861

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1915 to 1920, see page 36.

(b) Townsville.

(c) Bundaberg.

Clothing.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)

(Base: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923.27 = 1,000.)

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Dandigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	755	..	..	..	..	..	780	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,255	1,327	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,463	1,612	1,326
Year 1931 ..	835	903	727	1,042	829	840	848	906	952	811	990	855
" 1932 ..	769	841	722	983	798	777	819	851	931	804	935	825
" 1933 ..	743	820	711	948	796	751	811	839	936	794	928	817
" 1934 ..	746	811	666	935	797	753	802	840	929	784	921	807
" 1935 ..	746	810	680	922	790	751	794	856	884	843	912	802
" 1936 ..	778	809	753	878	811	782	791	845	816	862	863	795
1936 Mar. Qtr.	756	830	692	930	819	763	789	855	820	862	908	796
" June ..	758	837	695	938	821	765	790	866	820	880	910	797
" Sept. ..	793	780	811	826	799	793	791	839	812	801	848	794
" Dec. ..	806	787	813	817	804	805	792	821	811	793	816	794
1937 Mar. Qtr.	809	788	813	822	805	807	787	822	809	794	816	790

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 (a)	657	..	..	..	..	..	756	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,568	1,519	1,235	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,697	1,130	1,238
Year 1931 ..	847	990	849	774	935	858	876	931	861	1,054	1,015	882
" 1932 ..	813	921	835	759	850	822	834	877	792	969	950	838
" 1933 ..	791	912	832	764	844	804	830	828	796	961	951	833
" 1934 ..	786	897	815	750	840	796	846	828	794	944	904	851
" 1935 ..	772	818	824	761	791	779	833	810	803	937	827	852
" 1936 ..	777	779	831	794	767	782	833	803	819	890	851	832
1936 Mar. Qtr.	774	764	839	779	747	778	867	805	831	947	801	865
" June ..	777	761	829	782	746	780	875	813	839	955	802	871
" Sept. ..	780	800	828	807	791	786	796	803	805	848	815	798
" Dec. ..	777	791	816	806	782	782	792	791	799	811	806	793
1937 Mar. Qtr.	780	793	817	805b	791c	786	801	790	801	813	809	801

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Ferth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Perth.	Geraldton.	Weighted Ave. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Ave. Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	698	..	..	..	..	..	825	..	..	..	..	..	754	..
" 1921 ..	1,232	1,376	1,382	1,454	1,320	1,277	1,425	1,670	1,525	1,405	1,504	1,513	1,246	1,290
Year 1931 ..	911	1,079	875	944	909	928	950	1,015	937	924	1,108	972	853	861
" 1932 ..	843	1,045	825	901	856	866	886	964	867	840	1,067	911	804	813
" 1933 ..	819	1,033	791	874	834	843	881	962	847	831	1,061	905	787	797
" 1934 ..	815	1,035	767	864	821	834	882	959	839	844	1,048	907	785	794
" 1935 ..	825	1,056	775	811	839	843	903	938	813	827	987	910	783	790
" 1936 ..	815	959	808	878	851	827	857	938	807	826	875	859	792	796
1936 Mar. Qtr.	832	1,060	785	931	864	852	916	945	808	834	953	919	788	795
" June ..	835	1,080	786	920	865	854	921	916	811	840	941	923	790	798
" Sept. ..	803	849	830	838	846	809	799	814	808	808	800	804	792	794
" Dec. ..	799	825	805	814	819	794	790	786	801	811	804	790	796	797
1937 Mar. Qtr.	793	823	809	816	820	796	796	795	802	814	808	797	797	798

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1915 to 1920, see page 36.

(b) Townsville.

(c) Bundaberg

Miscellaneous.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)  
(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 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-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	766	..	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,015		
Year 1931 ..	1,013	908	1,025	902	910	1,003	939	893	945	898	845	934		
" 1932 ..	996	901	984	883	898	986	925	882	910	856	833	921		
" 1933 ..	988	913	985	871	879	970	916	874	904	885	827	912		
" 1934 ..	975	921	988	867	884	969	914	877	908	880	825	917		
" 1935 ..	976	927	964	863	867	970	922	880	922	873	851	916		
" 1936 ..	949	900	1,007	867	881	945	917	958	977	947	922	943		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	977	907	949	866	869	965	919	880	929	868	864	916		
" June ..	975	910	973	866	855	968	916	906	925	889	872	914		
" Sept. ..	909	888	1,051	909	804	910	992	1,043	1,047	1,041	1,001	997		
" Dec. ..	934	895	1,053	906	904	933	961	1,002	1,006	988	951	965		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	933	892	1,055	807	901	932	968	990	1,008	992	951	971		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Kroonit, and Warburton.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009	988	958	1,033	1,005	1,005	1,032	1,000	1,036		
Year 1931 ..	923	933	892	974	898	922	997	969	953	962	964	993		
" 1932 ..	907	917	884	969	898	908	987	948	939	962	957	983		
" 1933 ..	900	909	881	973	897	901	983	944	944	957	956	980		
" 1934 ..	900	907	876	967	891	900	976	937	944	949	958	973		
" 1935 ..	904	909	877	1,015	929	905	973	944	921	930	968	969		
" 1936 ..	917	929	920	1,067	993	922	993	978	936	970	1,003	991		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	886	903	878	1,038	944	891	961	948	901	924	971	958		
" June ..	886	895	876	1,039	943	890	961	960	901	921	971	959		
" Sept. ..	956	946	958	1,082	1,050	959	1,034	1,018	954	1,023	1,057	1,031		
" Dec. ..	940	973	968	1,110	1,034	949	1,017	984	989	1,013	1,012	1,015		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	937	972	968	996	1,006	948	1,018	978	989	1,011	1,010	1,016		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avge. Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 20 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	780	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	749	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	932	983	941	960	959	932	1,010	1,009
Year 1931 ..	966	967	905	896	976	963	873	893	845	848	805	874	973	965
" 1932 ..	934	967	899	895	979	953	866	863	829	829	804	860	958	950
" 1933 ..	943	963	895	894	966	945	860	864	825	827	803	856	950	944
" 1934 ..	942	961	902	894	966	943	855	864	825	823	804	853	944	939
" 1935 ..	927	973	925	909	972	931	856	864	793	831	824	855	946	941
" 1936 ..	932	990	964	966	1,002	937	883	908	839	850	841	887	947	946
1936 Mar. Qtr.	912	979	928	907	967	918	845	864	809	832	826	848	941	936
" June ..	912	979	929	906	970	918	847	865	808	832	825	850	940	935
" Sept. ..	958	1,017	975	911	1,014	963	907	914	876	885	856	914	956	958
" Dec. ..	945	984	953	901	1,049	949	934	960	864	838	855	935	952	954
1937 Mar. Qtr.	944	978	933	902	1,049	948	934	946	863	879	855	930	954	955

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1915 to 1920, see page 36.

(b) Townsville.

(c) Bundaberg.

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

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Bairnat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warram-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,044	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003		
Year 1931 ..	922	888	882	922	867	918	846	808	833	822	860	843		
" 1932 ..	867	840	834	872	820	863	813	776	808	794	838	811		
" 1933 ..	832	819	806	813	801	830	789	766	789	772	812	787		
" 1934 ..	812	834	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	816	801		
" 1935 ..	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	824	850	824		
" 1936 ..	866	853	848	864	833	865	844	826	821	816	851	843		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	863	863	819	871	833	862	828	800	808	823	848	826		
" June "	862	861	825	875	832	861	832	811	810	841	850	832		
" Sept. "	860	817	868	853	830	858	857	819	831	848	853	857		
" Dec. "	880	851	878	858	837	878	857	842	830	860	853	856		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	884	846	878	857	842	880	854	831	833	847	849	853		
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.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,025	991	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992		
Year 1931 ..	768	816	806	827	815	801	837	801	834	831	884	836		
" 1932 ..	764	788	779	794	777	768	802	772	794	816	848	801		
" 1933 ..	751	778	752	762	757	753	789	747	762	800	832	787		
" 1934 ..	762	785	759	759	761	764	806	753	778	800	832	804		
" 1935 ..	780	785	776	789	769	780	820	768	789	809	833	817		
" 1936 ..	804	802	802	810	779	803	839	765	813	816	843	835		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	787	782	799	816	775	788	823	761	794	811	829	820		
" June "	785	785	793	809	764	786	838	760	811	819	814	834		
" Sept. "	814	811	806	801	780	813	856	768	818	826	856	852		
" Dec. "	828	831	808	815	795	825	838	763	828	814	843	835		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	836	842	838	851b	806c	830	845	765	830	825	844	811		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Ave. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Ave. Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	707	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	697	..
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
Year 1931 ..	885	937	878	877	951	891	875	865	817	831	861	869	873	870
" 1932 ..	840	940	844	842	904	852	844	832	811	800	875	838	830	829
" 1933 ..	811	937	814	824	851	825	825	817	775	773	867	820	804	806
" 1934 ..	830	975	825	843	866	842	837	828	780	787	876	831	817	816
" 1935 ..	834	1,011	829	865	886	848	849	834	794	801	873	841	832	831
" 1936 ..	856	1,027	860	889	933	876	860	840	814	809	850	839	850	848
1936 Mar. Qtr.	841	1,021	828	872	894	850	854	835	794	804	865	844	838	838
" June "	842	1,034	847	884	914	867	858	833	803	804	856	846	842	841
" Sept. "	877	1,032	862	886	960	891	863	841	821	803	832	851	856	854
" Dec. "	859	1,019	873	876	964	873	866	850	837	826	846	857	862	860
1937 Mar. Qtr.	860	1,028	877	885	969	875	865	845	836	825	846	855	854	862

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1915 to 1920, see p. 36.

(b) Townsville.

(c) Bundaberg

## All Items of Household Expenditure.

"C" SERIES INDEX.

Six Capital Cities, 1915-1920.—Index-Numbers showing variations in the prices of Food and Groceries, Housing (4 and 5 rooms), Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Requirements.

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

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (a)
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>							
Nov. 1915 ..	844	835	860	858	819	858	842
" 1916 ..	833	791	748	835	854	807	812
" 1917 ..	877	798	825	805	828	949	836
" 1918 ..	877	843	882	862	816	918	861
" 1919 ..	1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
" 1920 ..	1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209
<b>HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>							
Nov. 1915 ..	780	611	472	574	581	571	659
" 1916 ..	791	625	467	573	592	574	665
" 1917 ..	797	657	492	606	602	586	685
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.</b>							
Nov. 1915 ..	825	756	722	758	734	756	777
" 1916 ..	818	732	648	742	761	724	760
" 1917 ..	848	748	707	734	748	820	782
" 1918 ..	861	792	756	789	746	810	812
" 1919 ..	1,000	893	904	904	867	936	934
" 1920 ..	1,138	1,074	945	1,068	973	1,155	1,082
<b>CLOTHING.</b>							
Nov. 1915 ..	805	797	690	821	760	833	792
" 1916 ..	903	870	779	919	849	940	881
" 1917 ..	1,009	976	899	1,049	980	1,041	992
" 1918 ..	1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
" 1919 ..	1,237	1,213	1,192	1,303	1,277	1,344	1,238
" 1920 ..	1,323	1,422	1,274	1,384	1,359	1,430	1,365
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>							
Nov. 1915 ..	798	770	756	803	822	770	786
" 1916 ..	808	784	766	832	869	780	802
" 1917 ..	889	879	836	883	926	865	882
" 1918 ..	988	950	931	988	1,035	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194
<b>ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.</b>							
Nov. 1915 ..	816	768	721	780	755	776	782
" 1916 ..	836	773	698	798	800	783	795
" 1917 ..	892	823	773	832	832	879	847
" 1918 ..	938	890	848	887	885	923	905
" 1919 ..	1,065	988	981	1,018	1,005	1,042	1,022
" 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

(a) Weighted average of each group = 1,000.

All Items of Household Expenditure.

"C" SERIES INDEX.

Relative Cost of Each Group of Items.

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

Town.	1935.					1936.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
<b>New South Wales—</b>										
Sydney .. .. .	381	222	201	196	1,000	366	238	202	194	1,000
Newcastle .. .. .	389	208	218	185	1,000	376	223	213	188	1,000
Broken Hill .. .. .	441	167	192	200	1,000	417	171	199	212	1,000
Goulburn .. .. .	369	212	247	172	1,000	363	226	229	182	1,000
Bathurst .. .. .	392	202	224	182	1,000	376	217	220	187	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	383	219	203	195	1,000	366	236	204	194	1,000
<b>Victoria—</b>										
Melbourne .. .. .	368	220	222	190	1,000	358	231	211	200	1,000
Ballarat .. .. .	391	177	245	187	1,000	379	184	230	207	1,000
Bendigo .. .. .	382	178	249	191	1,000	374	190	224	212	1,000
Geelong .. .. .	374	210	235	181	1,000	355	225	222	198	1,000
Warrnambool .. .. .	372	211	247	170	1,000	360	219	228	193	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	369	216	225	190	1,000	358	229	212	201	1,000
<b>Queensland—</b>										
Brisbane .. .. .	378	196	228	198	1,000	367	211	218	204	1,000
Toowoomba .. .. .	361	203	239	197	1,000	354	221	218	207	1,000
Rockhampton .. .. .	399	164	245	192	1,000	394	168	234	201	1,000
Charlton Towers .. .. .	416	143	222	219	1,000	406	140	220	234	1,000
Warwick .. .. .	380	178	237	205	1,000	375	177	221	227	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	379	192	231	198	1,000	370	207	219	204	1,000
<b>South Australia—</b>										
Adelaide .. .. .	368	191	239	202	1,000	355	210	224	211	1,000
Kadina, etc. .. .. .	135	110	245	210	1,000	426	110	237	227	1,000
Port Pirie .. .. .	398	169	234	199	1,000	396	172	226	206	1,000
Mount Gambler .. .. .	371	164	267	198	1,000	367	176	246	211	1,000
Peterborough .. .. .	377	160	256	198	1,000	371	190	228	211	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	371	187	240	202	1,000	359	205	225	211	1,000
<b>Western Australia—</b>										
Perth, etc. .. .. .	380	203	228	189	1,000	371	220	215	191	1,000
Kalgoorlie, etc. .. .. .	374	221	141	164	1,000	363	254	211	172	1,000
Northam .. .. .	398	197	215	190	1,000	390	205	210	195	1,000
Bunbury .. .. .	379	199	243	179	1,000	367	224	225	184	1,000
Geraldton .. .. .	369	226	218	187	1,000	363	240	206	191	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	380	204	228	188	1,000	371	223	215	191	1,000
<b>Tasmania—</b>										
Hobart .. .. .	360	223	245	172	1,000	357	235	224	184	1,000
Launceston .. .. .	366	199	259	176	1,000	358	214	235	193	1,000
Burnie .. .. .	406	187	237	170	1,000	358	204	225	183	1,000
Devonport .. .. .	391	195	237	177	1,000	383	199	229	189	1,000
Queenstown .. .. .	400	178	260	162	1,000	394	198	232	176	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	366	212	250	172	1,000	361	225	228	186	1,000
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. .. .	377	212	218	193	1,000	364	226	212	198	1,000
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. .. .	374	214	218	194	1,000	363	229	209	199	1,000
Townsville (Q.) (a) .. .. .	393	196	229	182	1,000	382	209	211	195	1,000
Port Augusta (S.A.) (a) .. .. .	414	159	230	197	1,000	408	165	222	205	1,000

(a) Not included in above Weighted Averages.

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

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

2. **Results—1934 to 1936.**—The base of the index-numbers in the following table is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911. This is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the standard of housing in the base itself differs from that used in the index-numbers, but the latter are comparable throughout.

Column A shows the relative cost of food in the various towns; column B the relative cost of food and rent of 4-roomed houses; and column C the relative cost of food and rent of 5-roomed houses. The difference between columns B and A, and C and A, represents in each case the relative rents of 4-roomed and 5-roomed houses for each town. In comparing rents for various towns, therefore, these differences must first be ascertained in order to make the necessary allowance for the differences due to food as between towns.

#### Retail Price Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns.

(Base: Weighted average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of All Houses in Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000.)

State and Town	1934. November.			1935. November.			1936. 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
<b>New South Wales—</b>									
Allure .. .. .	836	1,280	1,364	846	1,311	1,408	902	1,379	1,485
Armidale .. .. .	817	1,160	1,247	865	1,220	1,273	851	1,212	1,304
Ballina .. .. .	846	1,175	1,280	855	1,223	1,315	858	1,250	1,374
Bathurst .. .. .	852	1,217	1,270	857	1,226	1,320	882	1,277	1,342
Bega .. .. .	866	1,217	1,261	896	1,258	1,320	909	1,503	1,435
Berry .. .. .	906	1,222	1,301	920	1,315	1,407	919	1,314	1,379
Blackheath .. .. .	896	1,265	1,295	929	1,310	1,335	968	1,353	1,411
Bourke .. .. .	892	1,221	1,352	920	1,249	1,328	919	1,343	1,468
Bowral .. .. .	876	1,229	1,337	893	1,258	1,392	907	1,275	1,468
Broken Hill .. .. .	973	1,313	1,478	978	1,311	1,478	1,028	1,552	1,505
Casino .. .. .	832	1,240	1,359	900	1,352	1,471	913	1,457	1,517
Cessnock .. .. .	834	1,103	1,246	890	1,171	1,258	894	1,215	1,285
Cobar .. .. .	1,028	1,217	1,278	1,066	1,307	1,379	1,086	1,358	1,391
Cooma .. .. .	881	1,204	1,342	943	1,294	1,436	926	1,259	1,351
Coolambie .. .. .	927	1,254	1,328	966	1,313	1,401	1,012	1,332	1,465

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

State and Town.	1934. November.			1935. November.			1936. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 1- 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
<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>									
Cootamundra .. ..	831	1,246	1,366	868	1,301	1,419	895	1,398	1,516
Cornwall .. ..	861	1,255	1,321	878	1,270	1,439	922	1,360	1,507
Cowra .. ..	851	1,313	1,408	889	1,344	1,448	905	1,361	1,532
Cronulla .. ..	877	1,266	1,418	905	1,350	1,456	922	1,382	1,467
Denmiquin .. ..	910	1,256	1,401	930	1,282	1,433	955	1,310	1,485
Dubbo .. ..	812	1,311	1,372	887	1,302	1,468	893	1,353	1,481
Foibles .. ..	866	1,289	1,494	930	1,375	1,576	908	1,342	1,533
Gulgandra .. ..	891	1,220	1,253	919	1,325	1,397	910	1,357	1,436
Glen Innes .. ..	807	1,162	1,288	850	1,230	1,366	857	1,205	1,407
Goulburn .. ..	868	1,306	1,345	891	1,351	1,377	900	1,353	1,390
Grafton .. ..	823	1,281	1,440	867	1,392	1,553	899	1,420	1,604
Grenfell .. ..	849	1,293	1,411	874	1,350	1,471	882	1,362	1,531
Griffith .. ..	956	1,997	1,864	901	1,715	1,816	900	1,795	1,872
Gulgong .. ..	823	1,100	1,132	865	1,191	1,266	900	1,236	1,319
Gunnedah .. ..	816	1,177	1,343	873	1,231	1,410	887	1,336	1,458
Hay .. ..	945	1,293	1,460	951	1,334	1,524	980	1,409	1,574
Inverell .. ..	851	1,306	1,382	893	1,383	1,501	844	1,365	1,513
Junee .. ..	861	1,371	1,499	872	1,382	1,510	922	1,398	1,572
Katoomba .. ..	877	1,421	1,525	913	1,462	1,566	932	1,478	1,581
Kempsey .. ..	853	1,238	1,357	845	1,253	1,342	854	1,257	1,378
Kiama .. ..	935	1,225	1,421	935	1,231	1,461	952	1,281	1,478
Kurri Kurri .. ..	861	1,107	1,192	851	1,114	1,180	884	1,147	1,213
Lecton .. ..	893	1,489	1,620	933	1,591	1,722	941	1,599	1,764
Lismore .. ..	823	1,300	1,455	878	1,411	1,531	933	1,458	1,648
Lutjigow .. ..	899	1,216	1,224	904	1,178	1,218	852	1,127	1,178
Maitland .. ..	830	1,128	1,193	877	1,191	1,257	876	1,223	1,335
Moree .. ..	925	1,476	1,579	933	1,504	1,621	952	1,546	1,667
Moss Vale .. ..	856	1,246	1,330	889	1,325	1,418	894	1,347	1,476
Mudgee .. ..	814	1,273	1,339	863	1,356	1,396	864	1,316	1,430
Narrabri .. ..	885	1,321	1,364	924	1,368	1,409	942	1,426	1,521
Narrandera .. ..	893	1,406	1,499	909	1,446	1,541	916	1,535	1,653
Newcastle .. ..	864	1,284	1,397	927	1,356	1,467	915	1,344	1,469
Nowra .. ..	885	1,319	1,420	949	1,431	1,545	947	1,467	1,567
Orange .. ..	814	1,219	1,361	861	1,283	1,403	856	1,299	1,442
Parkes .. ..	847	1,220	1,350	888	1,227	1,373	905	1,307	1,470
Pennrith .. ..	829	1,132	1,209	849	1,204	1,277	862	1,220	1,322
Port Kembla .. ..	901	1,276	1,374	912	1,356	1,412	936	1,426	1,468
Portland .. ..	885	1,148	1,214	908	1,171	1,237	903	1,133	1,175
Queanbeyan .. ..	895	1,205	1,275	931	1,269	1,377	933	1,303	1,406
Quirindi .. ..	900	1,242	1,351	910	1,253	1,358	912	1,259	1,411
Richmond .. ..	884	1,298	1,341	910	1,298	1,393	860	1,353	1,450
Seone .. ..	852	1,293	1,389	881	1,302	1,414	906	1,347	1,436
Singleton .. ..	827	1,174	1,224	870	1,275	1,294	856	1,244	1,321
Sydney .. ..	880	1,316	1,413	806	1,340	1,414	909	1,365	1,473
Tamworth .. ..	826	1,188	1,303	849	1,296	1,390	848	1,408	1,495
Taree .. ..	827	1,296	1,432	893	1,397	1,507	906	1,416	1,520
Temora .. ..	845	1,328	1,416	846	1,394	1,480	867	1,514	1,597
Ternterfield .. ..	813	1,177	1,237	875	1,287	1,334	911	1,328	1,423
Tumut .. ..	853	1,324	1,422	876	1,348	1,437	882	1,366	1,468
Ulmara .. ..	872	1,267	1,398	897	1,201	1,423	939	1,334	1,531
Wagga Wagga .. ..	819	1,342	1,500	880	1,404	1,557	895	1,414	1,570
Walcha .. ..	880	1,238	1,294	976	1,344	1,423	890	1,265	1,311
Wellington .. ..	875	1,237	1,281	861	1,225	1,297	872	1,234	1,306
Weston .. ..	834	1,136	1,179	861	1,153	1,205	870	1,171	1,211
Windsor .. ..	830	1,274	1,356	894	1,172	1,421	896	1,390	1,456

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<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Wollongong .. .. .	850	1,307	1,419	873	1,354	1,480	898	1,462	1,650
Wyalong .. .. .	858	1,187	1,253	907	1,235	1,302	916	1,245	1,311
Yass .. .. .	856	1,250	1,292	895	1,323	1,390	881	1,421	1,507
Young .. .. .	898	1,310	1,367	900	1,317	1,378	888	1,348	1,447
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	878	1,303	1,401	898	1,334	1,437	909	1,359	1,469
<b>Victoria—</b>									
Ararat .. .. .	872	1,203	1,333	901	1,247	1,361	966	1,302	1,460
Bacchus Marsh .. ..	830	1,175	1,247	863	1,206	1,265	906	1,233	1,325
Bairnsdale .. .. .	891	1,161	1,339	908	1,237	1,369	926	1,270	1,416
Ballarat .. .. .	818	1,129	1,264	861	1,173	1,316	919	1,264	1,398
Beechworth .. .. .	856	1,152	1,191	872	1,168	1,234	932	1,228	1,300
Benalla .. .. .	874	1,200	1,384	895	1,232	1,431	927	1,273	1,461
Bendigo .. .. .	836	1,154	1,274	855	1,202	1,313	902	1,280	1,349
Camperdown .. .. .	857	1,236	1,382	894	1,258	1,418	908	1,268	1,410
Casterton .. .. .	879	1,261	1,340	890	1,272	1,351	935	1,330	1,469
Castlemaine .. .. .	816	1,104	1,198	872	1,208	1,289	890	1,219	1,326
Colac .. .. .	856	1,274	1,371	861	1,296	1,407	887	1,345	1,471
Creswick .. .. .	831	989	1,041	882	1,040	1,093	904	1,036	1,088
Daylesford .. .. .	831	1,041	1,128	856	1,067	1,144	888	1,125	1,199
Dunolly .. .. .	836	1,047	1,083	880	1,087	1,177	936	1,160	1,233
Echuca .. .. .	826	1,135	1,283	868	1,184	1,316	890	1,217	1,382
Euroa .. .. .	846	1,142	1,251	890	1,219	1,324	921	1,269	1,391
Geelong .. .. .	798	1,172	1,332	838	1,237	1,430	877	1,297	1,486
Hamilton .. .. .	847	1,218	1,304	900	1,272	1,368	960	1,335	1,465
Healesville .. .. .	861	1,124	1,216	875	1,131	1,236	939	1,207	1,334
Horsham .. .. .	843	1,231	1,301	919	1,380	1,446	975	1,502	1,669
Kerang .. .. .	862	1,250	1,298	915	1,303	1,343	912	1,324	1,419
Korot .. .. .	838	1,114	1,167	872	1,135	1,201	880	1,144	1,218
Korumburra .. .. .	823	1,142	1,274	824	1,170	1,318	879	1,224	1,346
Kyneton .. .. .	797	1,088	1,227	827	1,131	1,248	896	1,186	1,357
Lilydale .. .. .	858	1,180	1,252	890	1,219	1,284	931	1,309	1,434
Maffra .. .. .	826	1,150	1,247	869	1,198	1,296	949	1,278	1,410
Maldon .. .. .	871	1,093	1,068	893	1,054	1,114	922	1,100	1,168
Maryborough .. .. .	826	1,087	1,206	855	1,122	1,230	935	1,223	1,373
Melbourne .. .. .	795	1,207	1,346	839	1,268	1,398	877	1,341	1,465
Mildura .. .. .	917	1,463	1,650	950	1,550	1,714	988	1,576	1,739
Morwell .. .. .	865	1,287	1,379	887	1,308	1,400	904	1,361	1,483
Mtiff .. .. .	898	1,214	1,326	962	1,291	1,405	1,007	1,312	1,466
Orbost .. .. .	857	1,149	1,305	916	1,245	1,376	960	1,261	1,397
Portland .. .. .	847	1,136	1,269	908	1,213	1,289	909	1,249	1,370
Port Fairy .. .. .	824	1,127	1,252	863	1,162	1,258	908	1,203	1,307
St Arnaud .. .. .	897	1,223	1,348	921	1,290	1,398	980	1,390	1,499
Salc .. .. .	826	1,217	1,302	871	1,273	1,379	942	1,331	1,492
Seymour .. .. .	893	1,216	1,324	926	1,249	1,357	919	1,333	1,454
Shepparton .. .. .	847	1,238	1,390	863	1,313	1,432	910	1,362	1,511
Stawell .. .. .	907	1,157	1,270	959	1,252	1,348	999	1,310	1,436
Swan Hill .. .. .	877	1,387	1,568	920	1,446	1,644	967	1,491	1,669
Terang .. .. .	863	1,218	1,328	921	1,290	1,428	908	1,298	1,430
Traralgon .. .. .	828	1,187	1,348	859	1,216	1,366	883	1,206	1,357
Wangaratta .. .. .	828	1,293	1,402	871	1,356	1,432	926	1,444	1,529
Warracknabeat .. ..	830	1,157	1,258	871	1,200	1,283	904	1,262	1,389
Warragul .. .. .	799	1,344	1,501	826	1,350	1,502	871	1,381	1,507
Warrnambool .. .. .	831	1,232	1,307	864	1,274	1,430	889	1,318	1,439
Wonthaggi .. .. .	836	1,165	1,267	847	1,117	1,219	942	1,264	1,324
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	805	1,203	1,334	846	1,261	1,391	885	1,332	1,458

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	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>Queensland—</b>									
Ayr .. .. .	862	1,314	1,446	869	1,321	1,474	886	1,328	1,472
Barcaldine .. .. .	928	1,303	1,327	988	1,352	1,400	1,010	1,372	1,414
Bowen .. .. .	935	1,284	1,363	932	1,287	1,370	950	1,309	1,422
Brisbane .. .. .	765	1,112	1,196	822	1,175	1,274	863	1,249	1,347
Hundaberg .. .. .	793	1,052	1,118	845	1,122	1,183	920	1,197	1,313
Cairns .. .. .	881	1,424	1,593	934	1,487	1,605	963	1,524	1,728
Charleville .. .. .	928	1,339	1,511	1,000	1,438	1,614	1,042	1,531	1,748
Charters Towers .. .. .	845	1,086	1,170	923	1,180	1,255	936	1,166	1,222
Chillagoe .. .. .	961	1,159	1,211	946	1,145	1,198	953	1,161	1,226
Cloacurry .. .. .	979	1,348	1,461	1,085	1,479	1,568	1,081	1,502	1,599
Cooktown .. .. .	968	1,113	1,166	1,015	1,159	1,212	1,038	1,209	1,262
Cunnamulla .. .. .	941	1,336	1,463	977	1,371	1,503	988	1,445	1,547
Dalby .. .. .	800	1,169	1,261	850	1,251	1,346	916	1,331	1,399
Gayndah .. .. .	834	1,110	1,215	896	1,192	1,317	955	1,232	1,377
Gladstone .. .. .	812	1,155	1,260	871	1,227	1,336	917	1,299	1,382
Goondiwindi .. .. .	864	1,290	1,399	936	1,384	1,463	962	1,357	1,489
Gympie .. .. .	814	1,139	1,268	903	1,223	1,350	994	1,216	1,351
Hughenden .. .. .	938	1,340	1,431	968	1,375	1,461	980	1,390	1,506
Innisfail .. .. .	955	1,491	1,624	993	1,532	1,674	1,025	1,500	1,717
Ipswich .. .. .	785	1,002	1,120	826	1,041	1,177	863	1,113	1,278
Longreach .. .. .	970	1,314	1,452	1,030	1,378	1,527	1,043	1,370	1,525
Mackay .. .. .	850	1,267	1,416	918	1,379	1,534	946	1,428	1,604
Maryborough .. .. .	761	1,090	1,200	836	1,163	1,275	872	1,217	1,352
Mount Morgan .. .. .	875	1,059	1,072	900	1,035	1,098	930	1,162	1,235
Nambour .. .. .	808	1,098	1,177	878	1,177	1,261	889	1,171	1,269
Rockhampton .. .. .	805	1,113	1,165	883	1,198	1,245	910	1,223	1,271
Itoma .. .. .	866	1,116	1,208	924	1,226	1,292	932	1,217	1,368
Stanthorpe .. .. .	816	1,172	1,237	845	1,201	1,247	866	1,176	1,268
Toowoomba .. .. .	732	1,111	1,169	791	1,166	1,253	843	1,289	1,313
Townsville .. .. .	860	1,257	1,364	934	1,333	1,430	952	1,393	1,478
Warwick .. .. .	759	1,057	1,171	834	1,134	1,246	864	1,162	1,222
Winton .. .. .	968	1,244	1,395	981	1,270	1,402	1,002	1,350	1,502
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. .. .	787	1,127	1,214	849	1,201	1,300	886	1,264	1,361
<b>South Australia—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	815	1,159	1,290	826	1,193	1,313	847	1,242	1,371
Freeling .. .. .	809	1,072	1,138	847	1,110	1,176	867	1,130	1,196
Gawler .. .. .	818	1,073	1,182	813	1,095	1,181	858	1,107	1,247
Kaduna, etc .. .. .	894	1,076	1,159	914	1,097	1,184	938	1,118	1,204
Kapunda .. .. .	803	981	1,079	835	1,046	1,116	855	1,066	1,138
Koorunga .. .. .	832	1,128	1,244	914	1,221	1,348	926	1,228	1,375
Millicent .. .. .	849	1,162	1,244	847	1,167	1,264	864	1,207	1,270
Mount Gambier .. .. .	791	1,065	1,204	845	1,142	1,252	858	1,153	1,268
Murray Bridge .. .. .	771	1,004	1,123	803	1,035	1,137	817	1,076	1,193
Peterborough .. .. .	848	1,212	1,289	860	1,225	1,302	896	1,258	1,359
Port Augusta .. .. .	910	1,202	1,326	939	1,234	1,359	975	1,270	1,405
Port Pirie .. .. .	856	1,162	1,275	854	1,166	1,279	944	1,263	1,370
Quorn .. .. .	844	1,160	1,229	893	1,222	1,275	886	1,180	1,314
Renmark .. .. .	956	1,334	1,396	969	1,373	1,447	968	1,402	1,490
Victor Harbour .. .. .	833	1,162	1,281	859	1,260	1,346	884	1,299	1,434
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. .. .	820	1,154	1,280	833	1,183	1,305	856	1,236	1,361
<b>Western Australia—</b>									
Albany .. .. .	917	1,238	1,354	930	1,259	1,391	944	1,351	1,444
Beverley .. .. .	920	1,336	1,413	947	1,354	1,431	967	1,394	1,493
Bridgetown .. .. .	967	1,278	1,395	980	1,335	1,440	1,006	1,414	1,499
Broome .. .. .	1,217	1,677	1,875	1,203	1,663	1,861	1,243	1,644	1,703
Bunbury .. .. .	889	1,294	1,379	890	1,309	1,424	919	1,386	1,475

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<b>Western Australia—contd</b>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Caruarvon .. .. .	1,061	1,491	1,621	1,097	1,500	1,646	1,110	1,633	1,745
Collie .. .. .	903	1,247	1,329	900	1,285	1,371	919	1,271	1,373
Geraldton .. .. .	880	1,361	1,497	885	1,368	1,525	1,011	1,521	1,649
Greenbushes .. .. .	973	1,121	1,190	996	1,128	1,174	1,011	1,143	1,182
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,047	1,570	1,659	1,033	1,579	1,702	1,059	1,624	1,801
Katanning .. .. .	889	1,173	1,205	873	1,202	1,314	931	1,286	1,386
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,147	1,403	1,464	1,152	1,481	1,546	1,200	1,520	1,595
Mechalharra .. .. .	1,103	1,585	1,739	1,146	1,606	1,790	1,204	1,664	1,818
Narrogin .. .. .	919	1,367	1,521	909	1,403	1,448	959	1,410	1,199
Northam .. .. .	890	1,295	1,359	895	1,301	1,401	958	1,372	1,451
Perth and Fremantle ..	856	1,251	1,344	857	1,259	1,353	900	1,332	1,419
Wagin .. .. .	860	1,145	1,222	901	1,191	1,267	973	1,218	1,326
York .. .. .	844	1,180	1,233	905	1,240	1,293	893	1,235	1,288
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	878	1,281	1,374	879	1,269	1,337	920	1,360	1,453
<b>Tasmania—</b>									
Beaconsfield .. .. .	843	988	1,054	861	1,058	1,124	886	1,083	1,149
Burnie .. .. .	864	1,222	1,318	881	1,252	1,339	930	1,311	1,426
Camplletown .. .. .	858	1,100	1,154	905	1,156	1,274	925	1,136	1,221
Deloraine .. .. .	830	1,159	1,185	829	1,158	1,181	837	1,179	1,232
Devonport .. .. .	879	1,296	1,354	868	1,291	1,355	919	1,312	1,371
Franklin .. .. .	936	1,173	1,232	943	1,180	1,259	914	1,177	1,216
Hobart .. .. .	856	1,300	1,435	839	1,268	1,419	920	1,300	1,504
Lauceston .. .. .	827	1,219	1,343	835	1,236	1,343	880	1,209	1,412
New Norfolk .. .. .	866	1,182	1,234	874	1,242	1,295	958	1,326	1,379
Queenstown .. .. .	961	1,356	1,415	948	1,347	1,415	969	1,388	1,460
Scottsdale .. .. .	811	1,047	1,159	822	1,070	1,193	858	1,121	1,265
Ulverstone .. .. .	858	1,126	1,220	856	1,163	1,293	935	1,264	1,403
Zeehan .. .. .	1,017	1,214	1,247	993	1,190	1,223	1,033	1,230	1,263
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	855	1,261	1,379	848	1,262	1,373	913	1,312	1,443
<b>Territories (a)—</b>									
Canberra .. .. .	964	1,530	1,638	980	1,574	1,656	999	1,532	1,667
<b>Weighted Averages—</b>									
Australia (200 Towns)	840	1,236	1,345	868	1,279	1,390	896	1,328	1,442
Thirty Towns .. .. .	837	1,239	1,349	863	1,278	1,391	892	1,329	1,442
Six Capitals .. .. .	834	1,241	1,352	860	1,280	1,393	888	1,332	1,445

(a) Not included in Weighted Averages.

3. Comparison of Capitals and other Towns.—Three sets of index-numbers for food and housing have been given in the preceding pages, for the six capitals, for the 30 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 (November, 1913 = 1,000), are given for the years 1921 to 1936 in the next table. This shows that, since 1913, food prices have increased slightly more in the capitals than in the larger groups of towns, while the increase in housing has been generally greater outside the capitals.

## Retail Prices Index-Numbers—November—Australia.

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>								
All Towns (200) ..	1,000	1,578	1,349	1,267	1,241	1,312	1,356	1,400
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,343	1,264	1,240	1,314	1,355	1,400
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,588	1,351	1,270	1,248	1,324	1,365	1,410

## RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (200) ..	1,000	1,268	1,314	1,258	1,261	1,291	1,333	1,394
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,288	1,233	1,239	1,279	1,304	1,358
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,261	1,229	1,169	1,176	1,182	1,232	1,286

## FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (200) ..	1,000	1,461	1,336	1,264	1,249	1,304	1,348	1,398
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,322	1,252	1,240	1,298	1,336	1,384
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,455	1,301	1,229	1,219	1,269	1,311	1,359

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

4. **Rent Reduction Acts.**—During the years 1931 and 1932 Acts were passed in all States with the exception of Tasmania providing for reductions of rents. The Acts were framed for the most part on similar lines, and enforced reductions up to 22½ per cent. on rentals paid, subject to various provisos which were more or less common to all Acts.

In New South Wales, the Reduction of Rents Act 1931, came into operation on 9th October, 1931, and it has been extended up to 31st December, 1938.

In Victoria, the Landlord and Tenant (Rent Reduction) Act 1931, came into operation on 24th December, 1931, and it has been extended up to 23rd December, 1937.

In Queensland, the Lessees Relief Act 1931, was extended by Order in Council to 31st December, 1937.

In South Australia, the operation of the Landlord and Tenant (Rent Reduction) Act 1932, was extended to 30th June, 1937.

In Western Australia, the Reduction of Rents Act 1931, continued to operate until 31st December, 1935.



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

### Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries.

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

#### (i) COST OF LIVING.\*

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna	59	100	21	Paris.	72	50	Tokio	Amsterdam.
1929 .. .. .	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1931 .. .. .	95	96	93	89	83	102	88	87	75	90
1932 .. .. .	88	97	84	89	84	95	78	83	75	81
1933 .. .. .	85	95	83	93	82	94	77	86	80	83
1934 .. .. .	86	95	79	96	80	93	79	76	82	83
1935 .. .. .	87	94	80	99	81	87	80	77	84	81
1936 .. .. .	89	94	85	100	82	91	81	83	88	79
1936—										
March Qtr. ..	89	95	85	105	81	87	81	81	87	78
June .. .. .	88	94	83	100	80	89	81	82	88	78
Sept. .. .. .	90	94	84	101	81	91	81	82	88	79
Dec. .. .. .	92	95	88	101	83	97	81	85	88	79
1937—										
March Qtr. ..	92	91	90	103		104	81	86	91	80

  

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
No. of Towns and Localities	31	Warsaw.	Madrid	49	34	51-174	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1929 .. .. .	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1931 .. .. .	92	85	107	94	93	87	85	74	90	90	91
1932 .. .. .	90	77	103	92	86	79	81	73	82	81	90
1933 .. .. .	89	70	100	91	81	76	78	69	79	79	88
1934 .. .. .	89	66	102	91	80	79	80	65	79	81	87
1935 .. .. .	91	63	99	94	80	81	81	68	86	85	88
1936 .. .. .	93	60		93	81	85	83	69	81	86	89
1936—											
March Qtr. ..	92	59	97	93	81	84	82	68	80	84	88
June .. .. .	93	60		93	81	84	82	67	80	84	89
Sept. .. .. .	93	60		92	81	86	83	69	81	87	88
Dec. .. .. .	93	61		93	82	86	83	70	82	88	89
1937—											
March Qtr. ..	96	61		95	81	87	81	70	82	89	89

\* With the following exceptions the index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items:—Belgium and Japan, exclusive of housing; Switzerland and British India, exclusive of miscellaneous items; Netherlands and Spain, exclusive of clothing and rent.

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

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

## (II) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.†

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna.	59	100	21*	Paris.	72	Milan.	Tokyo.	Amsterdam.
1927 ..	104	98	95	103	99	92	93	98	104	100
1928 ..	102	98	95	102	102	92	98	98	100	103
1929 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930 ..	94	97	96	91	86	104	94	94	85	93
1931 ..	85	89	81	81	77	105	84	82	74	84
1932 ..	82	90	69	79	80	94	74	78	78	74
1933 ..	78	85	69	82	80	92	71	73	79	71
1934 ..	70	83	65	80	78	91	76	70	81	76
1935 ..	81	83	67	94	81	83	77	72	84	73
1936 ..	84	83	73	95	80	90	79	77	91	74
1935—										
April ..	77	80	61	..	70	..	76	72	81	..
May ..	78	80	62	..	78	84	77	72	82	..
June ..	82	84	65	95	70	..	78	73	80	72
July ..	82	84	66	..	81	..	79	72	81	..
August ..	81	83	67	..	83	80	79	72	85	..
September ..	83	83	71	94	83	..	78	..	87	71
October ..	85	84	73	..	84	..	77	..	86	..
November ..	85	84	75	..	84	82	77	..	86	..
December ..	85	84	73	94	83	..	78	..	87	73
1936—										
January ..	84	84	74	..	81	..	79	..	89	..
February ..	84	83	74	..	81	85	79	..	91	..
March ..	82	81	..	95	81	..	78	..	92	..

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
No. of Towns and Localities.	51	Warsaw.	Madrid	49	34	51	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1927 ..	110	105	104	101	101	102	96	103	97	97	103
1928 ..	106	103	97	103	101	98	95	99	98	99	103
1929 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930 ..	96	86	103	93	97	92	90	92	98	96	96
1931 ..	88	76	107	86	90	75	79	70	77	83	91
1932 ..	85	67	103	83	80	63	77	70	64	77	81
1933 ..	83	60	100	81	75	64	72	64	63	72	86
1934 ..	84	54	102	81	74	71	75	60	69	76	90
1935 ..	87	51	99	85	73	76	77	63	70	82	88
1936 ..	91	50	..	89	77	78	79	64	73	86	88
1935—											
April ..	85	49	104	83	71	78	76	62	68	81	90
May ..	86	50	90	85	71	78	77	63	69	82	90
June ..	87	51	94	86	72	78	77	64	69	82	90
July ..	89	54	97	87	74	76	78	64	71	82	89
August ..	89	53	97	87	74	76	78	64	70	82	88
September ..	89	54	99	87	74	76	70	64	72	83	87
October ..	90	54	98	87	75	77	79	66	72	86	87
November ..	90	54	99	88	76	77	78	66	73	86	87
December ..	90	50	98	88	76	79	78	66	73	84	88
1936—											
January ..	90	49	98	89	76	78	78	64	72	83	88
February ..	91	48	97	80	76	77	78	64	73	82	88
March ..	91	48	..	89	76	76	77	63	70	82	88

† Extracted from I.L.O. Year Book of Labour Statistics.