

## CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

### § 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. General.—Information regarding variations in wholesale prices in Melbourne for 1929 and previous years is given herein. The investigation, commenced in 1912, included the collection of prices for years back to 1861 and the computation of index-numbers in connexion therewith.

The data upon which the investigation is based were obtained mainly from reports of Melbourne market prices published in the ordinary press and in special trade reviews. In any case of doubt as to the reliability of the figures, the records thus obtained were verified by reference to well-known business firms dealing in the articles in question. Every care was taken to ensure that the prices quoted for each article referred to a uniform quality, and, in cases where several sources of information were utilized for obtaining prices of single commodities, special precautions were taken to ensure substantial continuity of quality or grade. In most cases, monthly prices were obtained (but where daily or weekly quotations were available, these were adopted), and arithmetic averages for the several years were computed. In regard, however, to a few commodities, such as coal, tea, cotton and wool, since monthly prices were not available for back years, yearly averages, based in each case on reliable data, were secured.

Since 1912 the wholesale prices of the commodities included in the investigation have been recorded monthly, and index-numbers have been computed from these price data for monthly, quarterly, and annual periods. The results have been published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics and in the Annual Labour Reports.

It was at first intended to obtain records on the lines indicated for a uniform list of commodities for the capital city in each State. Owing, however, to the large amount of work involved, and to the difficulty experienced in obtaining the prices of anything like a uniform representative list of commodities from the information published in some of these cities for past periods, this idea was abandoned.

The matter has, however, been reviewed and it is hoped to compile wholesale price index numbers for each of the Capital cities from the beginning of 1931.

**2. Basis and Commodities Included.**—Retail prices have the advantage that a comparatively small list of commodities suffices to represent a large proportion of the average expenditure. They are, however, subject to the difficulty that their variations depend largely upon local conditions, and it is, therefore, necessary to collect the data over a wide area. Wholesale prices, on the other hand, are fixed usually at one or two centres but a much larger list of commodities must be covered.

The list which follows shows that the commodities included in this investigation embrace a large number of the staple articles of Australian consumption and production. The commodities have been distributed into eight groups, and index-numbers have been computed for each group separately, and for all groups combined.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of 80 commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to 92.\* The proposed revision of the present list with a view to increasing the number of commodities regarding which wholesale prices are collected was included in the Agenda for the Conference of Statisticians held during May, 1930, and an agreement was reached as to the items and quantities to be included.

The methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price index-numbers are the same as those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurements for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity in the units of measurement specified is used or consumed, are shown in the following statement.

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\* In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities in 1911 is taken.

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

Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.				GROUP V.			
Iron—				Currants ..	..	lb.	1,400
Pig ..	Mxd. Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins ..	Sultanas	..	1,600
Rod and Bar ..	Stafford	"	3½	Herrings ..	1-lb. fresh	doz. 1-lb.	50
Angle and Tee ..	"	"	3½			tins	
Plate ..	"	"	8	Salmon ..	1 lb. tall	"	50
Hoop ..	"	"	1		Alaska	"	
Galvanized ..	26 gauge	"	5	Sardines ..	Halves	doz. halves	100
Timned Plates ..	I.C. Coke	cwt.	60	Coffee ..	Plantation	lb.	200
Fencing Wire ..	No. 8	ton	6	Cocoa ..	McKenzie's	"	100
Zinc, sheet ..	"	"	1	Sugar ..	No. 1A	ton	200
Lead, sheet ..	"	"	1½	Macaroni ..	"	lb.	22
" Pipes ..	"	"	1	Sago ..	"	cwt.	7
Copper, sheet ..	"	lb.	2,000	Rice ..	"	ton	2
Quicksilver ..	"	"	12	Salt ..	Australian	"	7
Coal ..	Newcastle, on wharf	ton	600		fine		
				Salt ..	Rock ..	"	1
				Mustard ..	Coleman's	doz. 1-lb.	6
						tins	
				Starch ..	Coleman's	lb.	100
					White	"	
				Blue Matches ..	Keen's	"	50
					Australian	gross	90
				Candles ..	Safety	"	
				Tobacco ..	Rangoon	lb.	1,000
					Two Seas	"	1,300
				Tea ..	Po'ket Pcs.	"	3,000
				Kerosene ..	"	gallon	1,700
GROUP II.				GROUP VI.			
Branbaga ..	"	doz.	110	Beef ..	Average quality	100 lbs.	390
Cornacks ..	"	"	250	Mutton ..	"	lb.	33,000
Woolpacks ..	"	each	200	Venl ..	"	"	2,000
Leather—				Lamb ..	"	"	5,600
Chrome Box ..	"	ft.	600	Pork ..	"	"	3,700
Hide ..	"	"					
Rough Tanned ..	"	lb.	600				
Split ..	"	"					
Sole Leather—	"	"	600				
Factory Sides ..	"	"					
Cotton ..	Raw ..	"	24,000				
Wool ..	Greasy ..	"	12,200				
Twine ..	Reaper ..	"	150				
	and Binder	"					
Tallow ..	Mutton Prime	ton	1½				
GROUP III.				GROUP VII.			
Wheat ..	"	bushel	500	Timber—	Flooring—		
Flour ..	"	ton	48		6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.	30
Bran ..	"	"	14		6 x 2	"	30
Pollard ..	"	"	14		6 x 3	"	30
Oats ..	Milling	bushel	1,200		6 x 4	"	30
Oatmeal ..	Colonial	ton	1½		Weather-boards	"	200
Barley ..	English	bushel	150		Oregon	1,000 ft.	20
"	Cape ..	"	100			sup.	
Malge ..	"	"	1,000		Shelving	"	10
Hay ..	Best Mngt.	ton	135	Cement ..	Portland	cask	30
Chaff ..	Prime ..	"	135	White Lead ..	"	ton	1
Straw ..	Victorian	"	25	Slates ..	Welsh	1,000	1
Peas ..	"	bushel	55		20 x 10		
Potatoes ..	"	ton	40				
Malt ..	Victorian	bushel	140				
Onions ..	"	ton	3				
GROUP IV.				GROUP VIII.			
Ham ..	"	lb.	800	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Bacon ..	"	"	3,200	Carbonate of Soda	"	ton	1
Cheese ..	"	"	1,500	Saltpetre ..	Refined	"	1
Butter ..	Best Fresh	"	9,500	Sulphur ..	"	"	1
Lard ..	Bulk ..	"	200	Caustic Soda ..	"	cwt.	1
Eggs ..	Ordinary	doz.	1,800	Alum ..	Lump ..	ton	1
Honey ..	"	lb.	600	Cyanide of Potassium	"	lb.	570
Beeswax ..	"	"	40				
Condensed Milk	Bacchus Marsh	doz. lb.	160				

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

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers, 1861 to March, 1930, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Hute, Leather, Wool.	III. Agricul- tural Pro- ducts, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Grocer- ies.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Com- modities combined.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,063	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,408	1,228
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	838	780	1,104	845
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	905	1,088
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,091	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,520	1,193	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,994
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,908	1,495	1,322	2,515	1,401	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,894	2,171	1,682
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,223	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,050
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,309	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,823	2,489
1921 ..	2,173	1,862	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,963	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,816	1,866	1,868
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,818	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,791
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,653	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930—									
Jan. ..	1,889	1,728	1,786	1,678	1,682	1,903	1,741	1,942	1,793
Feb. ..	1,913	1,745	1,701	1,668	1,710	1,894	1,741	1,934	1,776
March ..	1,913	1,714	1,603	1,822	1,709	2,399	1,746	1,934	1,792
April ..	1,913	1,679	1,646	1,851	1,637	2,398	1,754	1,912	1,786
May ..	1,911	1,574	1,649	1,916	1,697	2,348	1,766	1,942	1,784
June ..	1,917	1,555	1,683	1,920	1,691	2,439	1,763	1,942	1,799
July ..	1,917	1,505	1,875	1,875	1,686	2,183	1,751	1,942	1,813
Aug. ..	1,917	1,520	1,900	1,842	1,683	2,245	1,751	1,942	1,826
Sept. ..	1,917	1,508	1,931	1,844	1,693	2,473	1,758	1,942	1,856
Oct. ..	1,915	1,373	1,971	1,852	1,678	2,365	1,748	1,942	1,832
Nov. ..	1,914	1,392	1,977	1,791	1,680	2,099	1,737	1,938	1,804
Dec. ..	1,914	1,369	1,792	1,784	1,678	2,195	1,800	1,958	1,760
1930—									
Jan. ..	1,916	1,353	1,676	1,725	1,674	2,192	1,797	1,942	1,710
Feb. ..	1,917	1,234	1,624	1,745	1,681	2,062	1,804	1,958	1,674
March ..	1,917	1,183	1,537	1,770	1,674	2,115	1,801	1,958	1,647

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

The index-numbers in each group have been computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base; in other words, they show the amount which would have had to be expended in each of the years specified in order to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911 distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities included in such group, and in all groups respectively. Thus, in the last column the cost of the relative quantities of the various commodities was 1,229 in 1871, and 974 in 1901, as compared with 1,000 in 1911 and 1,803 in 1929. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871 or 1929, and the purchasing-power of money in 1911 was accordingly greater. Again, prices were lower in 1901 than in 1911, and the purchasing-power of money in the former year was therefore greater.

The general index-number for the year 1929 shows an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with that for 1928. The index-numbers computed from the annual average wholesale prices of commodities in the following groups showed an increase as compared with those during 1928:—Agricultural Produce, etc. (III.), Dairy Produce (IV.), Meat (VI.), Building Materials (VII.), and Chemicals (VIII.), while the index-numbers of prices of Jute, Leather, Wool, etc. (II), and Groceries (V.) declined. The main increases were—Meat, 11.5 per cent., Dairy Produce, 5.8 per cent., and Agricultural Produce, 3.8 per cent. The average prices of Jute, Leather, Wool, etc. (Group II.), showed a decline of 12.6 per cent., mainly due to the fall in the price of wool. The variation in prices of commodities in the other groups during the two years was not sufficient to affect the index-numbers to any great extent.

The monthly index-numbers show the movement of prices from January, 1929, to March, 1930. Prices of the commodities included in the following groups—Jute, Leather, Wool, etc., Agricultural Produce, Dairy Produce, and Meat fluctuated considerably during the period under review, with a distinct downward tendency during the later months.

The decline in the prices of commodities included in Group II. was fairly constant during the period under review. The main factor in reducing the price-level here was the low price of wool. The downward tendency commenced during May and continued, with slight variations, to the end of the period. Cotton, leather, bran bags, cornsacks, woolpacks and tallow were lower in price in December, 1929, than at the beginning of the year. The general movement in prices of Agricultural Produce was downward until June. There was a sharp upward turn during July, and the peak was reached in November. The abnormal increase in the price of potatoes due to short supply on account of floods and failure of crops was the main contributing factor towards the increase in this index-number. Prices of potatoes commenced to fall during December and normal prices were recorded during the following months. Wheat prices were lower during the period—January to June—than during the seven months ending January, 1930. A noticeable decline in price was recorded during February and March, 1930. Onions were exceptionally high in price during August to October. The variations in the price-levels for Dairy Produce were mainly due to fluctuations in the prices of butter and eggs. Butter was highest in price in January, 1929, and lowest during January, February and March, 1930. The price of meat was increased considerably in March, 1929, and after slight fluctuations peak prices were recorded in September. A sharp decline occurred in November. Prices increased slightly in December and January but decreased during February, 1930. The increase in the price-level for Building Materials (Group VII.) in December and succeeding months was due to the higher prices recorded for timber.

Prices of metals and coal, groceries, and chemicals did not fluctuate greatly during the fifteen months under review.

4. **Quarterly Variations in Price Levels.**—The following table gives the index-numbers for the four quarters of 1929 and the first quarter of 1930:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1929 and First Quarter, 1930  
(Base—1911 = 1,000).

Group.	No. of Com- modities.	Index Numbers.				
		Jan. to March, 1929.	April to June, 1929.	July to Sept., 1929.	Oct. to Dec., 1929.	Jan. to March, 1930.
I. Metals and Coal ..	14	1,905	1,914	1,917	1,914	1,917
II. Jute, Leather, Wool, &c. ..	10	1,729	1,603	1,511	1,378	1,257
III. Agricultural Produce ..	16	1,806	1,659	1,902	1,918	1,612
IV. Dairy Produce ..	9	1,856	1,806	1,854	1,810	1,747
V. Groceries ..	21	1,700	1,691	1,687	1,679	1,676
VI. Meat ..	5	2,065	2,395	2,300	2,200	2,123
VII. Building Materials ..	10	1,743	1,761	1,758	1,782	1,801
VIII. Chemicals ..	7	1,936	1,942	1,942	1,952	1,952
All Groups (a) ..	92	1,788	1,794	1,832	1,799	1,680

(a) Weighted average.

5. **Variations since Outbreak of War.**—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1929, and for each month from January, 1929, to March, 1930, 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, July 1914, Years 1915 to 1929, and Monthly January, 1929, to March, 1930. (Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce.	IV. Dairy Pro- duce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mater- ials.	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 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,307	1,180	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,715	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	2,430	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,764	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,558	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,405	2,240	2,668
" 1922 ..	1,768	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,641
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,672	1,604	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,846	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,056	1,761	1,653
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,662	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,453	1,673	1,493	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,661	1,456	1,654	1,242	1,590	1,878	1,571
" 1929 ..	1,737	1,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,895	1,581
1929—									
January ..	1,716	1,587	1,671	1,561	1,630	1,174	1,589	1,894	1,572
February ..	1,737	1,602	1,502	1,559	1,657	1,168	1,590	1,886	1,568
March ..	1,737	1,573	1,501	1,515	1,656	1,479	1,594	1,886	1,571
April ..	1,737	1,542	1,541	1,539	1,635	1,479	1,601	1,894	1,576
May ..	1,736	1,445	1,543	1,593	1,644	1,448	1,612	1,894	1,564
June ..	1,741	1,428	1,575	1,596	1,638	1,504	1,608	1,894	1,577
July ..	1,741	1,381	1,765	1,559	1,634	1,346	1,598	1,894	1,590
August ..	1,741	1,395	1,778	1,532	1,631	1,385	1,599	1,894	1,600
September ..	1,741	1,385	1,808	1,533	1,641	1,525	1,605	1,894	1,629
October ..	1,739	1,261	1,844	1,540	1,626	1,458	1,595	1,894	1,606
November ..	1,738	1,278	1,850	1,492	1,628	1,294	1,585	1,909	1,582
December ..	1,738	1,257	1,677	1,484	1,626	1,364	1,643	1,909	1,543
1930—									
January ..	1,740	1,242	1,669	1,434	1,623	1,352	1,640	1,894	1,566
February ..	1,741	1,188	1,520	1,451	1,629	1,271	1,647	1,906	1,467
March ..	1,741	1,086	1,439	1,472	1,622	1,304	1,644	1,909	1,444

6. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1929. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1929 as base. Corresponding figures for purchasing-power of money (retail prices of food, groceries and cost of housing) have been included for comparative purposes.

Melbourne Wholesale and Retail Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers, 1929.

Particulars.	Jan. to March.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Whole Year.
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with 1911 as base (= 1,000)	1,738	1,794	1,822	1,799	1,803
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1929 as base (= 1,000)	991	995	1,016	998	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of House Rent) Index-Numbers with average for 1929 as base (= 1,000)	994	1,002	1,002	1,002	1,000

The results evidence a greater variation in wholesale prices than in retail prices, but in both instances the index-numbers show that the prices moved uniformly in an upward direction. Wholesale prices showed a decline in the fourth quarter while retail prices remained stationary. The reduction in retail prices commenced in December, and a marked decline was recorded in the first quarter, 1930.

7. **Prices, 1928 and 1929.**—In Section 1, Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular brands of commodities used in computing the index numbers in the years 1928 and 1929. Corresponding information for previous years as far back as 1871 was given in the Appendixes to previous Reports.

## § 2. Retail Prices—Food, Groceries, and Rent.

1. **General.**—Information regarding the methods adopted for the computation of retail price index-numbers showing variations in the purchasing power of money and in the prices of separate groups of items of expenditure such as food, groceries, and housing has been furnished in various issues of the Labour Reports and Bulletins, and an analysis of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was given in Report No. 1. Complete understanding of the latter analysis was, perhaps, somewhat difficult for the ordinary reader, and it has been thought desirable to review briefly the methods adopted by the Bureau, not from a mathematical or technical standpoint, but from a popular point of view.

In the first place it is necessary to point out that any determination of expenditure on living depends on three elements, viz. :—

- (a) The particular series of commodities consumed.
- (b) The relative quantities consumed.
- (c) The price of the commodities.

A change in any one of these elements may result in a variation in the expenditure on living. The first two of these elements, which together constitute what is called the *standard of living*, are, of course, subject to individual control, so that the standard varies not only from time to time and as between nation and nation, but as between localities and classes, and in the last analysis between individuals. The third element is not subject to individual control, and the price of any commodity measures or expresses the value in exchange between the unit of money, i.e., in the case of Australia, the sovereign, and the particular commodity in question. From

period to period the prices of some commodities may increase, and of others decrease, the variations in price being often not in the same direction and usually not of the same degree. The purchasing power of the sovereign expressed in relation to any particular commodity varies according to the rise and fall in the price of that commodity, and since the variations in price are not identical, a different result will be obtained according to the particular commodity considered. For this reason, if it be desired to obtain a general result, recourse must be had to some suitable group of commodities, and as the figures obtained will be affected to some extent by the relative quantities used of each commodity included in the group, it becomes necessary, in order to obtain satisfactory returns, to determine approximately the relation between these quantities. In other words it is necessary to determine in some suitable manner the first two of the elements indicated above, viz.:—(a) the particular series of commodities consumed, and (b) the relative quantities consumed. That is to say before any investigation can be made as to the effect on the cost of living of variations in prices, it is essential that some suitable and definite standard of living be determined. When this has been established it becomes possible to investigate the effect of variations in prices on the cost of living, i.e., on the amount necessary to purchase a composite unit, or group of commodities constituting the definite standard or regimen which serves as the basis for comparisons.

It cannot be too explicitly stated that the investigations of the Bureau are not directly concerned in any change in the standard of living, whether due to variation in prices or to other causes. The object of the investigations is to measure the variation in the average retail price levels, that is, the variation in the cost of definite quantities of certain commodities, and the inquiries are not, in any way directly concerned with the question of how far people change their standard of living on account of change in these price levels.

**2. The Regimen or Composite Unit.**—The selection of the commodities to be included in the investigations was made after an exhaustive inquiry as to the relative quantity or extent to which each item is on the average consumed. After due investigation it was decided to collect retail prices of 46 items of food and groceries. The items making up this "composite unit" were divided into three groups, viz.:—(i) groceries and bread, (ii) dairy produce, and (iii) meat. Particulars relating to cost of a fourth group, housing, are also collected. The cost of these four groups covers about 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of a normal family.

The relative extent to which the commodities included in the composite unit were consumed was ascertained by an investigation of the average production for Australia and the average export and import returns for a period of five years.



The constitution of the "composite unit" is shown hereunder. The "mass-units" represent the proportionate consumption by the Australian community of the articles included.

Retail Prices. - Composite Unit.

Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."	Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."
<b>GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).</b>			<b>GROUP III.—MEAT.</b>		
1. Bread .. ..	2 lb loaf	468	26. Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary ..	25 lb. bags	11	27. Beef, rib .. ..	"	82
3. Tea .. ..	lb.	30	28. Beef, flank .. ..	"	12
4. Coffee .. ..	"	2	29. Beef, shin .. ..	"	14
5. Sugar .. ..	"	460	30. Beef, steak, rump ..	"	24
6. Rice .. ..	"	50	31. Beef, steak, shoulder ..	"	53
7. Sage .. ..	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing ..	"	63
8. Jam .. ..	"	73	33. Beef, corned round ..	"	39
9. Oatmeal .. ..	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with bone ..	"	11
10. Raisins .. ..	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without bone ..	"	32
11. Currants .. ..	"	14	36. Mutton, leg .. ..	"	92
12. Starch .. ..	"	1	37. Mutton, shoulder ..	"	62
13. Blue .. ..	doz. egs.	1	38. Mutton, loin .. ..	"	30
14. Candles .. ..	lb.	16	39. Mutton, neck .. ..	"	40
15. Soap .. ..	"	64	40. Mutton, chops, loin ..	"	62
16. Potatoes .. ..	14 lbs.	64	41. Mutton, chops, leg ..	"	15
17. Onions .. ..	lb.	68	42. Mutton, chops neck ..	"	31
18. Kerosene .. ..	gallon	17	43. Pork, leg .. ..	"	9
<b>GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>			44. Pork, loin .. ..	"	8
19. Milk .. ..	quart	300	45. Pork, belly .. ..	"	10
20. Butter .. ..	lb.	95	46. Pork, chop .. ..	"	8
21. Cheese .. ..	"	15	<b>GROUP IV.—HOUSING.</b>		
22. Eggs .. ..	dozen	18	47. House Accommodation ..	week	40
23. Bacon, middle ..	lb.	16			
24. Bacon, shoulder ..	"	16			
25. Ham .. ..	"	8			

3. **Collection of Data.**—The retail prices of the commodities included in the "composite unit" are collected from representative retail establishments in each of the five principal towns in each State (30 towns in all). The registers of traders are forwarded to the Bureau by the Government Statisticians of each State. The prices are obtained from about ten tradespeople in each town in respect to the various items in the regimen. The prices are in all cases, except Group IV., Housing, the predominant prices, or the price at which the bulk of the particular article is sold. In the case of Group IV., house agents are required to furnish average rentals of occupied houses. The tradespeople and agents who supply the information are carefully selected to ensure accurate and representative figures for the district as a whole. It may here be pointed out that every care is exercised in the collection and computation of the price data. Returns are queried and referred for verification when there is any reason to doubt the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of the commodities is scrutinized as a check on information indicating marked increases or decreases in retail prices.

**4. Method of Computation.**—The method by which the "index-numbers" are compiled is briefly described hereunder:—

- (a) The prices of the various articles as supplied by the several tradespeople in each section are "averaged," and represent "average predominant retail prices ruling at the 15th of each month." The average rent is computed quarterly from returns received from representative house agents.
- (b) These "averaged" prices are then "weighted" by a number representing their relative importance in the household consumption. The "composite unit" shows not only the list of articles, but the relative "weight" given to each. These "weights" represent the approximate relative annual consumption of the commodities set forth. It follows, therefore, that a small rise in the heavily-weighted articles would be immediately reflected in the resultant total, while a comparatively big rise in the lower-weighted commodities has little effect.
- (c) The "weighted aggregate cost" at a particular point of time resulting from the above operations compared with the "weighted aggregate cost" of an exactly similar series of commodities for another point, represents the variation over the intervening period. For convenience of comparison the whole of the "aggregates" are related to the aggregate cost of the corresponding series in the six capital cities for a specified period and this latter aggregate is made equal to 1,000. The fact that they are all related to the one base renders the resultant index-numbers comparable throughout.

Until recently the basic period was the year 1911. Owing to the great change in price-level since 1911, many countries have adopted a post-war period as base, and for Australia the period 1923-1927 has been adopted recently for this purpose, although the old basis is still frequently used.

The method outlined above by which the Bureau compiles its index-numbers was adopted after full and exhaustive investigations into the methods followed in various countries throughout the world. The system is mathematically sound, and has the endorsement of world-wide authorities as a simple and effective means of measuring price variations over a period of time. It should be noted that the prices being treated in the same way in respect of every date of collection, and the "composite unit" being kept constant, the method adopted provides a true index of the variations in prices as between any given dates.

The care taken by the Bureau to check the information received ensures that the prices and rentals are accurate, and represent those actually prevailing at the time when the returns are obtained.

A certain amount of misapprehension appears to exist in regard to the meaning and purpose of the retail price index-numbers issued by the Bureau. This is due in great measure to the fact that a more or less definite wage value has been attributed to them by industrial tribunals throughout Australia, and more particularly by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The wage value given to the index-numbers is, of course, a matter for which the Bureau is in no way responsible. The Bureau does not, by virtue of its index-numbers, determine either the "cost of living" or what a fair "basic wage" should be.

The purpose of the index-numbers is to provide a ready and effective means of measuring average retail price variations at stated periods of time.

**5. Investigations Concerning Retail Prices.**—(i) *General.*—Investigations concerning retail prices are made by the Bureau in respect of the following matters :—

- (a) Monthly variation in the cost of food and groceries in 30 towns.
- (b) Quarterly variations in retail prices and house rent in 30 towns.
- (c) Quarterly variations in retail prices of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure in 30 towns.
- (d) Annual variations in retail prices and house rent in 200 towns.
- (e) Intermittent Householders' Budget Inquiries.

In earlier Reports the results of comprehensive investigations concerning prices and price-indexes for past years were published, and an account was given of the methods used in the collection of data and the computation of results.

In the year 1912, the first series of index-numbers based on the methods described were published, covering the years 1901 to 1912. The publication of these index-numbers has since been continued quarterly for each of the five principal towns in each of the States of the Commonwealth.

(ii) *Price-Indexes for 200 Towns.*—Prior to 1912 investigations were made concerning the price-indexes in the capital cities only, but for 1912 and subsequent years monthly inquiries have been extended to the 30 towns indicated above. An investigation as to variation in price-indexes for 100 Australian towns was carried out for the months of November, 1913, and November, 1914. From 1915 to 1922 the number of towns from which such returns were collected annually was increased from 100 to 150, and from November, 1923, the number was further raised to 200. The results of the investigations for November of each year from 1913 to 1928 have been published in various

issues of the Report. The general agreement of the various results shows that the index-numbers for the capital cities only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years, fairly indicate the variations in the cost of food, groceries, and housing in each State and throughout Australia.

(iii.) *Householders' Budgets*.—The first collection of these was made in 1910–11, and the results, which covered a period of twelve months, were published in December, 1911. A second was made during 1913 for the month of November only, and results were given in a special report, entitled "Labour Report, No. 4, Expenditure on Living in the Commonwealth, November, 1913." In September, 1917, the Government of Western Australia appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the cost of the necessities of life in that State. Under the authority of this Commission budgets were obtained from householders showing their weekly expenditure in detail. The Commonwealth Statistician undertook the necessary analysis of the returns, and the report, when completed, was forwarded to the Western Australian Government, at whose request it was published in Labour Report No. 9, pp. 63–71.

(iv.) *Special Investigations*.—During recent years, in connexion with Arbitration Court proceedings, the question has been raised of the cost of living in certain country towns and districts as compared with the cost in the towns usually covered by the investigations of the Bureau. In order to ascertain the necessary particulars, inquiries were made in various towns and localities, and index-numbers were computed and submitted to the tribunals concerned.

(v.) *Investigations by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage*.—In December, 1919, the Commonwealth Government appointed a Commission consisting of three representatives of Employers' Organizations, and three representatives of the Federated Trade Unions, with an independent Chairman. The terms of the Commission and other particulars in regard to findings, etc., are given in this Report.

6. *Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1929*.—(i.) *General*.—Index numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, as well as the weighted average for all groups together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table. In this table the weighted aggregate expenditure for the whole of the capital cities in 1911 for each group or combination is taken as base (= 1,000), and the figures for the separate cities give the relative cost of the regimen. These index-numbers are comparable in all respects within the limits of a group or combination, since within such limits they show not only the variations

from year to year in each city, but comparisons also as to the relative cost in the different cities for the same year or for different years:—

### Retail Price Index-Numbers—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1929.

The index-numbers given in the separate groups of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing, and food and groceries, since the weighted average for the six cities taken together in 1911 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney .. ..	904	1,016	1,112	1,976	1,864	1,995	1,870	1,747	1,960
Melbourne .. ..	817	924	996	1,897	1,727	1,787	1,669	1,583	1,753
Brisbane .. ..	969	1,087	1,076	1,958	1,836	1,933	1,787	1,684	1,809
Adelaide .. ..	903	958	1,061	1,907	1,770	1,814	1,719	1,584	1,724
Perth .. ..	1,013	1,276	1,118	1,955	1,770	1,819	1,684	1,703	1,797
Hobart .. ..	838	1,003	1,079	1,927	1,736	1,807	1,692	1,642	1,817
Weighted Average (a) ..	885	1,000	1,062	1,937	1,777	1,836	1,760	1,665	1,839
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.									
Sydney .. ..	932	971	1,110	1,828	1,613	1,769	1,818	1,807	1,838
Melbourne .. ..	907	959	1,075	1,840	1,583	1,680	1,717	1,693	1,698
Brisbane .. ..	837	983	995	1,684	1,540	1,651	1,657	1,624	1,644
Adelaide .. ..	928	1,103	1,194	1,723	1,622	1,691	1,716	1,663	1,704
Perth .. ..	1,200	1,241	1,244	1,951	1,689	1,748	1,748	1,748	1,790
Hobart .. ..	955	994	1,177	1,848	1,484	1,654	1,673	1,630	1,682
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,108	1,815	1,600	1,717	1,751	1,720	1,753
GROUP III.—MEAT.									
Sydney .. ..	994	959	1,280	1,838	1,833	1,749	1,832	1,982	2,045
Melbourne .. ..	1,067	929	1,270	1,972	1,959	1,852	1,855	1,878	1,971
Brisbane .. ..	1,024	935	1,109	1,719	1,765	1,688	1,608	1,681	1,576
Adelaide .. ..	1,059	1,087	1,502	2,097	2,193	2,161	2,185	2,225	2,360
Perth .. ..	1,511	1,577	1,688	2,113	2,432	2,071	2,039	2,334	2,337
Hobart .. ..	1,279	1,221	1,493	2,332	2,286	2,201	2,077	1,976	2,022
Weighted Average (a) ..	1,074	1,000	1,323	1,934	1,961	1,852	1,878	1,972	2,032
GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney .. ..	936	989	1,166	1,898	1,785	1,867	1,846	1,826	1,948
Melbourne .. ..	925	935	1,091	1,901	1,748	1,774	1,732	1,634	1,795
Brisbane .. ..	947	1,018	1,078	1,612	1,734	1,788	1,680	1,671	1,701
Adelaide .. ..	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,840	1,868	1,811	1,775	1,887
Perth .. ..	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,938	1,866	1,796	1,832	1,936
Hobart .. ..	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,025	1,810	1,868	1,786	1,727	1,833
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,785	1,829	1,789	1,761	1,866
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney .. ..	969	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,870	1,828	1,814	1,868	1,900
Melbourne .. ..	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,604	1,695	1,710	1,773	1,799
Brisbane .. ..	463	610	762	1,030	1,165	1,333	1,361	1,372	1,375
Adelaide .. ..	935	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,676	1,516	1,540	1,672	1,611
Perth .. ..	749	857	903	1,209	1,340	1,469	1,507	1,539	1,561
Hobart .. ..	661	739	847	1,441	1,649	1,628	1,579	1,535	1,524
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,410	1,647	1,677	1,684	1,743	1,754
ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney .. ..	948	1,048	1,188	1,793	1,817	1,852	1,834	1,842	1,930
Melbourne .. ..	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,694	1,744	1,724	1,717	1,793
Brisbane .. ..	765	865	959	1,519	1,521	1,617	1,560	1,569	1,579
Adelaide .. ..	903	1,070	1,161	1,687	1,741	1,736	1,728	1,736	1,783
Perth .. ..	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,709	1,714	1,717	1,687	1,733	1,796
Hobart .. ..	879	938	1,075	1,806	1,760	1,778	1,710	1,655	1,717
Weighted Average (a) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,733	1,772	1,749	1,755	1,824

*Note.*—As to basis of index-numbers see remarks on previous pages.

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii) *Groceries (18 Commodities)*.—The index-number for this group was higher in 1929 than in 1928 in all the capital cities. The increase for all cities in 1929 compared with 1928 amounted to 11.0 per cent.; compared with 1911 there has been an increase of 83.9 per cent. The average cost in 1929 of the commodities included was highest in Sydney and lowest in Adelaide.

(iii) *Dairy Produce (7 Commodities)*.—The index numbers for this group were higher for 1929 than for 1928 in all the capital cities of the Commonwealth. The index-number for all the cities in 1929 was 1.9 per cent. higher than in 1928, and 75.3 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost in 1929 of the commodities was highest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

(iv.) *Meat (21 Cuts or Joints of Butcher's Meat)*.—The index-numbers for this group in 1929 were higher than in 1928 in all capitals with the exception of Brisbane. The index-number of all the cities in 1929 was 3 per cent. higher than in 1928, and 103.2 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost for 1929 of the commodities included was highest in Adelaide and lowest in Brisbane.

(v.) *Food and Groceries (Groups I., II., and III. combined)*.—The index-numbers in this table show the aggregate effect of movements in prices of groceries, dairy produce, and meat. There was an increase in 1929 as compared with 1928 in all the capital cities. Taking the weighted average for all the capitals, the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries were 6.0 per cent. higher in 1929 than in 1928 and 86.6 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost of these items for 1929 was highest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

(vi) *Housing*.—The cost of housing increased in four capital cities during 1929, viz., Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth, and decreased in Adelaide and Hobart. The weighted average increase for the six capitals in 1929 compared with 1928 was 0.6 per cent. The increase in cost in 1929 compared with 1911 for the six capitals considered as a whole was 75.4 per cent. In 1928 the cost of housing was greatest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

(vii.) *Food, Groceries, and Housing combined*.—The weighted average index-numbers for the six capitals considered as a whole for the combined expenditure upon these items show an increase of 3.9 per cent. in 1929 compared with 1928, and an increase of 82.4 per cent. compared with 1911. The cost of the combined items was higher in 1929 than in 1928 in all of the capital cities of the Commonwealth. The average cost was highest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

In 1907, 1911 and 1914 the index-number for Perth for all groups combined was higher than for any other capital city. For the year 1921 the index-number for Hobart was the highest, and for the years 1925 to 1929 inclusive the index-number for Sydney was higher than for any other capital city.

**7. Change of Basis for Rent Constituent.**—From and after the first quarter of 1925, the basis employed in computing the variations in housing costs has been amended to accord with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand, held in Adelaide in August, 1924. The conclusion then reached was that "for purposes of computing price-levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account."

Up to that date the practice followed in computing the retail price index-number had been to take into account the rentals of all houses ranging from those of four rooms and under to those of seven rooms and upwards. In respect to rent this practice was, to some extent, a departure from the principle adopted with regard to prices of food and groceries, i.e., that of taking the price of the predominant type of commodity, inasmuch as the rent of houses of other than the predominant type had been included. The Census of 1921 disclosed the fact that while houses having five rooms predominated in some towns, in others the houses of four rooms predominated. Houses of four rooms represented 24 per cent. of the total dwellings, while those of five rooms represented 29 per cent.: the two types together representing 53 per cent. of the total. While the tables which included rent of all houses have been replaced in Labour Reports issued since the date mentioned and in the present issue by those including rent of houses of four and five rooms, the computation of index-numbers for food, groceries, and rent of all houses in the 30 towns of the Commonwealth has been made, quarterly and annually, for the use of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and the parties interested in Awards and Variations of Awards made by that Court, and the results have been published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, and are shown in Appendix VII of this Report for each quarter of the years 1925 to 1929.

**8. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1925 to 1929.**—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (46 commodities), in 30 of the more important towns in Australia at yearly, quarterly, and monthly periods for the years specified. In addition, index-numbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing. These are now computed to the same base as the index-numbers relating to the six capital cities, which go back to the year 1901

**Retail Price Index—Numbers 30 Towns, 1925 to 1929: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000).**

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Balaclava.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.</b>												
1925 ..	1,785	1,801	2,105	1,785	1,720	1,794	1,748	1,763	1,779	1,730	1,721	1,746
1926 ..	1,867	1,850	2,117	1,851	1,791	1,871	1,774	1,812	1,802	1,761	1,755	1,776
1927 ..	1,846	1,832	2,154	1,841	1,780	1,852	1,782	1,769	1,771	1,726	1,697	1,734
1928 ..	1,826	1,819	2,156	1,850	1,763	1,834	1,684	1,726	1,725	1,703	1,660	1,687
1929 ..	1,948	1,897	2,299	1,955	1,870	1,953	1,795	1,840	1,862	1,805	1,770	1,799
1928 1st Qtr.	1,833	1,828	2,204	1,852	1,760	1,842	1,715	1,741	1,738	1,710	1,692	1,717
2nd ..	1,844	1,823	2,158	1,858	1,785	1,850	1,709	1,735	1,737	1,712	1,675	1,711
3rd ..	1,810	1,814	2,129	1,849	1,771	1,810	1,658	1,723	1,724	1,687	1,631	1,663
4th ..	1,816	1,811	2,131	1,840	1,749	1,824	1,653	1,704	1,706	1,642	1,642	1,658
1929 1st Qtr.	1,953	1,912	2,271	1,947	1,898	1,958	1,773	1,802	1,841	1,792	1,708	1,776
2nd ..	1,933	1,879	2,254	1,935	1,846	1,937	1,800	1,812	1,832	1,784	1,719	1,800
3rd ..	1,941	1,885	2,299	1,951	1,850	1,945	1,800	1,856	1,888	1,809	1,810	1,805
4th ..	1,965	1,911	2,342	1,988	1,884	1,970	1,800	1,888	1,891	1,835	1,844	1,816
<b>1929.</b>												
January ..	1,952	1,921	2,298	1,977	1,907	1,958	1,765	1,798	1,857	1,799	1,724	1,771
February ..	1,973	1,931	2,261	1,957	1,914	1,976	1,762	1,823	1,847	1,804	1,709	1,769
March ..	1,935	1,883	2,254	1,906	1,873	1,938	1,700	1,785	1,820	1,774	1,690	1,700
April ..	1,981	1,893	2,287	1,946	1,869	1,963	1,801	1,802	1,842	1,780	1,717	1,801
May ..	1,910	1,877	2,272	1,927	1,853	1,917	1,792	1,810	1,821	1,784	1,711	1,792
June ..	1,929	1,867	2,292	1,931	1,816	1,933	1,806	1,825	1,831	1,778	1,729	1,806
July ..	1,917	1,876	2,277	1,930	1,830	1,922	1,792	1,848	1,864	1,803	1,763	1,797
August ..	1,938	1,880	2,314	1,949	1,841	1,942	1,797	1,847	1,890	1,811	1,805	1,803
September ..	1,969	1,900	2,307	1,975	1,880	1,971	1,810	1,874	1,895	1,812	1,823	1,816
October ..	2,022	1,934	2,336	2,015	1,893	2,022	1,850	1,907	1,910	1,839	1,876	1,855
November ..	2,014	1,967	2,387	2,037	1,935	2,020	1,840	1,914	1,919	1,868	1,872	1,847
December ..	1,859	1,832	2,304	1,912	1,823	1,869	1,736	1,843	1,834	1,800	1,785	1,746
<b>HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>												
1925 ..	1,870	1,654	1,901	1,687	1,373	1,823	1,604	1,034	1,089	1,322	1,222	1,548
1926 ..	1,826	1,699	1,911	1,741	1,457	1,793	1,695	1,022	1,194	1,569	1,211	1,640
1927 ..	1,814	1,737	1,933	1,861	1,416	1,787	1,710	1,031	1,288	1,631	1,296	1,660
1928 ..	1,868	1,781	1,947	1,935	1,447	1,839	1,778	1,103	1,297	1,602	1,359	1,722
1929 ..	1,900	1,769	1,945	2,028	1,438	1,867	1,789	1,152	1,335	1,599	1,398	1,734
1928 1st Qtr.	1,867	1,779	1,946	1,971	1,431	1,839	1,779	1,085	1,290	1,617	1,357	1,723
2nd ..	1,867	1,786	1,940	1,971	1,433	1,839	1,780	1,092	1,297	1,594	1,360	1,724
3rd ..	1,808	1,788	1,947	1,885	1,403	1,840	1,776	1,103	1,305	1,597	1,360	1,721
4th ..	1,869	1,770	1,947	1,910	1,403	1,840	1,775	1,132	1,294	1,597	1,360	1,721
1929 1st Qtr.	1,862	1,774	1,948	2,002	1,446	1,860	1,791	1,150	1,339	1,589	1,380	1,737
2nd ..	1,897	1,774	1,945	2,032	1,448	1,865	1,786	1,150	1,341	1,534	1,380	1,731
3rd ..	1,905	1,774	1,944	2,087	1,413	1,872	1,792	1,150	1,329	1,526	1,380	1,735
4th ..	1,905	1,784	1,944	2,089	1,446	1,871	1,788	1,158	1,332	1,563	1,412	1,732
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>												
1925 ..	1,817	1,746	1,691	1,749	1,500	1,805	1,694	1,489	1,520	1,577	1,533	1,673
1926 ..	1,852	1,793	1,735	1,810	1,666	1,842	1,744	1,515	1,574	1,689	1,551	1,725
1927 ..	1,834	1,796	1,770	1,848	1,644	1,828	1,724	1,492	1,589	1,690	1,548	1,706
1928 ..	1,842	1,805	1,777	1,882	1,648	1,836	1,719	1,492	1,565	1,663	1,547	1,701
1929 ..	1,930	1,849	1,866	1,993	1,708	1,920	1,793	1,581	1,664	1,705	1,627	1,775
1928 1st Qtr.	1,848	1,810	1,807	1,896	1,642	1,841	1,739	1,495	1,570	1,675	1,566	1,719
2nd ..	1,853	1,805	1,779	1,901	1,653	1,846	1,736	1,494	1,572	1,668	1,557	1,716
3rd ..	1,832	1,804	1,760	1,863	1,655	1,827	1,702	1,490	1,566	1,654	1,529	1,685
4th ..	1,836	1,799	1,762	1,866	1,641	1,830	1,699	1,490	1,561	1,664	1,536	1,682
1929 1st Qtr.	1,930	1,860	1,850	1,908	1,728	1,921	1,780	1,557	1,653	1,716	1,585	1,762
2nd ..	1,920	1,840	1,850	1,971	1,697	1,910	1,794	1,593	1,647	1,690	1,592	1,774
3rd ..	1,928	1,844	1,865	1,983	1,686	1,918	1,797	1,591	1,675	1,703	1,649	1,779
4th ..	1,943	1,852	1,892	2,007	1,719	1,933	1,801	1,614	1,681	1,770	1,682	1,784

(i) See explanatory note at head of page 21.



# Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1925 to 1929 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000) — continued.

QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS						
Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
										</	

## FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).

1925	1,734	1,674	1,749	1,876	1,668	1,734	1,840	1,854	1,934	1,753
1926	1,768	1,770	1,874	1,903	1,706	1,803	1,864	1,920	1,995	1,840
1927	1,680	1,631	1,736	1,806	1,583	1,593	1,641	1,695	1,815	1,676
1928	1,671	1,593	1,726	1,804	1,564	1,581	1,634	1,684	1,804	1,648
1929	1,701	1,661	1,801	1,970	1,737	1,778	1,837	1,903	1,966	1,848
1928 1st Qtr.	1,669	1,575	1,727	1,902	1,651	1,677	1,710	1,820	1,903	1,800
2nd "	1,660	1,564	1,735	1,919	1,655	1,677	1,698	1,805	1,905	1,799
3rd "	1,650	1,597	1,716	1,908	1,656	1,661	1,731	1,869	1,840	1,785
4th "	1,695	1,616	1,763	1,956	1,694	1,705	1,713	1,833	1,842	1,728
1929 1st Qtr.	1,729	1,670	1,833	2,013	1,755	1,745	1,844	1,903	1,974	1,895
2nd "	1,684	1,632	1,786	1,979	1,725	1,703	1,821	1,905	1,968	1,864
3rd "	1,684	1,631	1,791	1,979	1,725	1,703	1,821	1,905	1,968	1,864
4th "	1,700	1,691	1,813	1,940	1,756	1,719	1,800	2,073	2,014	1,869
1929.										
January	1,737	1,715	1,876	2,133	1,790	1,801	1,839	1,998	2,016	1,879
February	1,728	1,677	1,819	2,041	1,771	1,743	1,830	1,909	1,964	1,844
March	1,673	1,620	1,803	1,993	1,704	1,689	1,832	1,932	1,941	1,819
April	1,707	1,645	1,801	1,933	1,713	1,719	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
May	1,686	1,627	1,791	1,933	1,713	1,700	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
June	1,671	1,625	1,772	1,903	1,692	1,692	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
July	1,673	1,631	1,772	1,903	1,703	1,696	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
August	1,688	1,642	1,800	1,945	1,705	1,697	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
September	1,692	1,650	1,823	1,945	1,722	1,714	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
October	1,724	1,709	1,823	1,945	1,757	1,742	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
November	1,715	1,714	1,823	1,945	1,769	1,753	1,863	1,930	1,947	1,840
December	1,660	1,650	1,789	1,929	1,712	1,681	1,824	1,933	1,973	1,863

## HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1925	1,166	1,139	1,027	921	1,087	1,141	1,076	869	1,049	821
1926	1,133	1,103	1,033	929	1,103	1,115	1,076	825	1,035	805
1927	1,101	1,015	1,041	922	1,079	1,115	1,076	831	1,045	835
1928	1,072	1,015	1,068	1,104	1,110	1,110	1,076	831	1,045	835
1929	1,076	1,035	1,118	1,218	1,109	1,118	1,076	831	1,045	835
1928 1st Qtr.	1,053	1,088	1,082	1,036	1,115	1,115	1,076	831	1,045	835
2nd "	1,077	1,188	1,082	1,113	1,115	1,115	1,076	831	1,045	835
3rd "	1,065	1,188	1,071	1,113	1,104	1,104	1,076	831	1,045	835
4th "	1,064	1,190	1,037	1,103	1,104	1,104	1,076	831	1,045	835
1929 1st Qtr.	1,079	1,176	1,046	1,215	1,117	1,117	1,076	831	1,045	835
2nd "	1,081	1,176	1,029	1,220	1,106	1,106	1,076	831	1,045	835
3rd "	1,071	1,176	1,036	1,228	1,106	1,106	1,076	831	1,045	835
4th "	1,071	1,176	1,028	1,211	1,106	1,106	1,076	831	1,045	835

## FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1925	1,521	1,473	1,478	1,517	1,450	1,511	1,741	1,484	1,672	1,408
1926	1,517	1,459	1,577	1,617	1,500	1,503	1,736	1,513	1,672	1,408
1927	1,480	1,475	1,550	1,617	1,540	1,554	1,728	1,508	1,637	1,447
1928	1,459	1,441	1,494	1,629	1,455	1,543	1,736	1,478	1,600	1,451
1929	1,579	1,479	1,517	1,688	1,501	1,568	1,783	1,541	1,667	1,499
1928 1st Qtr.	1,501	1,430	1,485	1,614	1,450	1,544	1,757	1,487	1,617	1,453
2nd "	1,559	1,435	1,490	1,617	1,452	1,543	1,772	1,485	1,617	1,453
3rd "	1,643	1,443	1,473	1,609	1,448	1,529	1,720	1,462	1,583	1,454
4th "	1,571	1,456	1,491	1,677	1,472	1,566	1,696	1,469	1,582	1,453
1929 1st Qtr.	1,598	1,485	1,535	1,715	1,515	1,586	1,781	1,538	1,661	1,482
2nd "	1,574	1,461	1,502	1,674	1,484	1,560	1,793	1,521	1,651	1,460
3rd "	1,567	1,473	1,511	1,697	1,493	1,567	1,793	1,552	1,675	1,509
4th "	1,576	1,498	1,518	1,666	1,512	1,567	1,767	1,555	1,661	1,513

(a) See note at head of page 21.

**Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1925 to 1929: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (b) (= 1,000)—continued.**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.							TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.							Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam (a).	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie (a).	Devonport (a).	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.				
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).															
1925 ..	1,938	2,144	2,013	2,009	2,067	1,965	1,810	1,795	1,821	1,849	2,046	1,817	1,785	1,781	
1926 ..	1,866	2,124	2,018	2,006	2,009	1,902	1,868	1,843	1,899	1,885	2,084	1,871	1,829	1,837	
1927 ..	1,796	2,052	1,963	1,982	1,968	1,834	1,788	1,765	1,818	1,799	1,977	1,790	1,789	1,796	
1928 ..	1,882	2,097	1,974	2,021	1,960	1,911	1,727	1,696	1,800	1,739	1,931	1,729	1,761	1,769	
1929 ..	1,938	2,265	2,068	2,097	2,054	1,980	1,833	1,780	1,927	1,855	2,038	1,830	1,866	1,873	
1928 1st Qtr.	1,768	2,003	1,891	1,959	1,946	1,803	1,730	1,711	1,792	1,718	1,924	1,733	1,771	1,777	
2nd "	1,908	2,060	1,969	2,017	1,965	1,924	1,736	1,715	1,825	1,770	1,939	1,743	1,784	1,789	
3rd "	1,930	2,158	2,016	2,063	1,956	1,959	1,717	1,686	1,783	1,739	1,927	1,719	1,745	1,754	
4th "	1,929	2,166	2,020	2,043	1,981	1,959	1,725	1,673	1,799	1,731	1,934	1,721	1,746	1,755	
1929 1st Qtr.	1,952	2,245	2,057	2,062	2,021	1,988	1,838	1,760	1,839	1,844	2,039	1,826	1,859	1,866	
2nd "	1,994	2,324	2,124	2,123	2,068	2,035	1,824	1,747	1,892	1,836	2,025	1,813	1,865	1,869	
3rd "	1,937	2,312	2,078	2,127	2,089	1,986	1,823	1,772	1,957	1,870	2,034	1,824	1,867	1,874	
4th "	1,868	2,177	2,013	2,076	2,037	1,911	1,849	1,840	1,969	1,872	2,054	1,860	1,873	1,882	
1929.															
January ..	1,987	2,208	1,999	2,025	1,998	1,969	1,867	1,792	1,969	1,835	2,058	1,851	1,861	1,870	
February ..	1,945	2,256	2,047	2,071	2,025	1,984	1,843	1,766	1,918	1,873	2,050	1,834	1,862	1,869	
March ..	1,974	2,270	2,125	2,090	2,039	2,012	1,803	1,722	1,880	1,824	2,009	1,792	1,856	1,869	
April ..	1,994	2,274	2,130	2,107	2,066	2,030	1,835	1,737	1,892	1,845	2,009	1,817	1,877	1,880	
May ..	2,005	2,349	2,122	2,138	2,071	2,047	1,822	1,761	1,897	1,838	2,028	1,816	1,862	1,858	
June ..	1,982	2,349	2,120	2,125	2,068	2,028	1,814	1,742	1,887	1,824	2,039	1,805	1,864	1,869	
July ..	1,946	2,340	2,081	2,122	2,060	1,997	1,813	1,741	1,925	1,851	2,025	1,807	1,864	1,861	
August ..	1,939	2,345	2,068	2,154	2,098	1,992	1,823	1,773	1,963	1,869	2,039	1,824	1,867	1,874	
September ..	1,925	2,251	2,072	2,103	2,090	1,969	1,833	1,800	1,961	1,860	2,037	1,836	1,870	1,866	
October ..	1,918	2,260	2,003	2,080	2,034	1,964	1,864	1,846	2,004	1,894	2,060	1,807	1,819	1,824	
November ..	1,869	2,171	2,014	2,087	2,034	1,903	1,861	1,845	1,975	1,896	2,063	1,870	1,905	1,914	
December ..	1,827	2,099	1,960	2,061	1,992	1,867	1,832	1,829	1,928	1,825	2,037	1,842	1,794	1,807	
HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).															
1925 ..	1,340	898	1,405	1,167	1,398	1,293	1,649	1,319	1,339	1,247	810	1,495	1,647	1,589	
1926 ..	1,460	867	1,403	1,156	1,400	1,400	1,628	1,302	1,284	1,240	648	1,470	1,677	1,622	
1927 ..	1,507	885	1,462	1,165	1,422	1,432	1,579	1,266	1,259	1,215	693	1,435	1,684	1,632	
1928 ..	1,639	866	1,469	1,097	1,564	1,461	1,585	1,262	1,273	1,168	752	1,486	1,743	1,687	
1929 ..	1,561	868	1,499	1,063	1,610	1,461	1,524	1,356	1,277	1,199	850	1,428	1,754	1,696	
1928 1st Qtr.	1,536	875	1,541	1,088	1,547	1,457	1,539	1,399	1,273	1,238	721	1,446	1,744	1,687	
2nd "	1,540	875	1,488	1,068	1,547	1,459	1,537	1,399	1,273	1,170	772	1,442	1,745	1,689	
3rd "	1,540	898	1,483	1,115	1,547	1,463	1,520	1,361	1,273	1,120	761	1,424	1,741	1,685	
4th "	1,540	893	1,484	1,137	1,618	1,464	1,545	1,348	1,273	1,122	754	1,430	1,742	1,686	
1929 1st Qtr.	1,540	894	1,484	1,099	1,635	1,472	1,530	1,348	1,281	1,116	833	1,426	1,759	1,701	
2nd "	1,641	893	1,494	1,099	1,609	1,465	1,523	1,348	1,237	1,161	827	1,420	1,753	1,695	
3rd "	1,568	883	1,509	1,107	1,607	1,487	1,525	1,369	1,290	1,237	835	1,433	1,754	1,696	
4th "	1,585	883	1,509	1,107	1,588	1,500	1,520	1,369	1,300	1,237	905	1,433	1,751	1,693	
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.															
1925 ..	1,714	1,676	1,785	1,693	1,809	1,718	1,760	1,616	1,640	1,623	1,582	1,698	1,733	1,715	
1926 ..	1,717	1,664	1,787	1,687	1,784	1,713	1,778	1,640	1,668	1,643	1,545	1,720	1,772	1,756	
1927 ..	1,687	1,614	1,775	1,675	1,763	1,683	1,710	1,585	1,608	1,580	1,495	1,657	1,749	1,734	
1928 ..	1,753	1,642	1,796	1,674	1,811	1,742	1,656	1,573	1,602	1,523	1,488	1,619	1,755	1,738	
1929 ..	1,796	1,748	1,854	1,724	1,887	1,793	1,717	1,621	1,663	1,609	1,592	1,679	1,824	1,806	
1928 1st Qtr.	1,681	1,579	1,759	1,624	1,796	1,673	1,659	1,594	1,597	1,538	1,472	1,625	1,761	1,744	
2nd "	1,767	1,615	1,788	1,661	1,802	1,750	1,661	1,596	1,617	1,545	1,501	1,630	1,769	1,751	
3rd "	1,784	1,685	1,816	1,707	1,802	1,773	1,643	1,572	1,591	1,506	1,489	1,609	1,744	1,729	
4th "	1,783	1,688	1,819	1,703	1,845	1,773	1,658	1,561	1,601	1,509	1,491	1,612	1,744	1,729	
1929 1st Qtr.	1,801	1,738	1,842	1,700	1,876	1,794	1,722	1,605	1,661	1,588	1,586	1,676	1,821	1,804	
2nd "	1,824	1,787	1,887	1,739	1,896	1,821	1,711	1,597	1,646	1,582	1,575	1,665	1,823	1,804	
3rd "	1,798	1,776	1,866	1,744	1,908	1,799	1,711	1,620	1,706	1,632	1,584	1,677	1,824	1,807	
4th "	1,762	1,691	1,824	1,712	1,868	1,757	1,726	1,663	1,718	1,633	1,622	1,699	1,827	1,811	

(a) The towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zeehan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.)

(b) See note at head of page 21.

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 21 for the respective groups, and where they relate to the same period are identical in both tables

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the table cannot be directly compared with one another in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing and food and groceries, since the weighted average cost in 1911 is in each case made equal to 1,000.

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

Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney ..	899	Melbourne	766	Brisbane	210	Adelaide	255	Perth, etc.	155	Hobart	52
Newcastle	84	Ballarat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadina, etc.	13	Kalgo'lie, etc.	19	Launceston	24
Broken Hill	26	Bendigo ..	30	Rockham'n	24	Pt. Pirie	10	Norham	4	Burnie ..	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chrs. Twrs.	9	Mt. Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	5
Bathurst	9	W'nambo'1	8	Warwick	6	Peterbor'gh	2	Geraldton	4	Queenst'wn	5

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

9. **Relative Retail Prices, 30 Towns, Food and Groceries and Housing.**—  
 (i.) *General.*—The figures in the next table represent the index-numbers for the years 1927 to 1929 inclusive, for the 30 towns in respect of which particulars are regularly collected, comparing expenditure on food and groceries and housing separately with the total expenditure on food, groceries, and housing. These index-numbers are comparable in all respects. For each year the first column gives the relative expenditure on groceries and food; the second, the relative expenditure on housing; while the remaining column relates to food and groceries combined with housing.

Index-Numbers, 30 Towns, showing Relative Expenditure on Food and Groceries and on Housing (4 and 5 rooms) separately, and on these items combined. Basis of Table—Weighted Average Expenditure on Food, Groceries, and Housing (4 and 5 rooms) in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1927.			1928.			1929.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing. (4 & 5 rooms)	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing. (4 & 5 rooms)	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing. (4 & 5 rooms)	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney .. ..	1,153	681	1,834	1,140	702	1,842	1,217	713	1,930
Newcastle .. ..	1,144	652	1,796	1,136	669	1,805	1,185	684	1,849
Broken Hill .. ..	1,345	425	1,770	1,346	431	1,777	1,436	430	1,866
Goulburn .. ..	1,150	698	1,848	1,155	727	1,882	1,221	702	1,933
Bathurst .. ..	1,112	532	1,644	1,104	544	1,643	1,168	540	1,708
Weighted Average ..	1,157	671	1,828	1,146	691	1,836	1,219	701	1,920
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. ..	1,082	642	1,724	1,051	668	1,719	1,121	672	1,798
Ballarat .. ..	1,105	387	1,492	1,078	414	1,492	1,149	432	1,581
Bendigo .. ..	1,106	433	1,539	1,078	487	1,565	1,163	501	1,664
Geelong .. ..	1,078	612	1,690	1,064	601	1,665	1,127	578	1,705
Warrnambool .. ..	1,060	486	1,546	1,037	510	1,547	1,106	521	1,627
Weighted Average ..	1,083	623	1,706	1,054	647	1,701	1,124	651	1,775
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. ..	1,040	511	1,550	1,044	515	1,559	1,063	516	1,579
Toowoomba .. ..	1,018	467	1,475	995	446	1,441	1,037	442	1,479
Rockhampton .. ..	1,122	428	1,550	1,083	401	1,484	1,128	389	1,517
Charter Towers .. ..	1,271	340	1,617	1,214	415	1,629	1,231	457	1,688
Warwick .. ..	1,082	458	1,540	1,030	416	1,455	1,085	416	1,501
Weighted Average ..	1,062	492	1,554	1,040	494	1,543	1,073	495	1,568
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. ..	1,150	578	1,728	1,109	627	1,736	1,178	605	1,783
Kadina, &c. .. ..	1,196	312	1,508	1,183	205	1,478	1,269	272	1,541
Port Pirie .. ..	1,196	431	1,627	1,171	429	1,600	1,240	427	1,667
Mount Gambier .. ..	1,133	314	1,447	1,114	337	1,451	1,154	345	1,499
Peterborough .. ..	1,231	491	1,722	1,240	473	1,713	1,302	500	1,802
Weighted Average ..	1,154	557	1,711	1,115	601	1,716	1,185	580	1,765
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth, &c. .. ..	1,122	565	1,687	1,175	578	1,753	1,209	587	1,796
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. ..	1,282	332	1,614	1,309	333	1,642	1,414	334	1,748
Northam .. ..	1,226	549	1,775	1,233	563	1,796	1,291	563	1,864
Bunbury .. ..	1,238	437	1,675	1,262	412	1,674	1,310	414	1,724
Geraldton .. ..	1,229	534	1,763	1,224	587	1,811	1,282	605	1,887
Weighted Average ..	1,145	538	1,683	1,194	548	1,742	1,237	556	1,793
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. ..	1,117	593	1,710	1,078	577	1,655	1,145	572	1,717
Launceston .. ..	1,102	483	1,585	1,059	519	1,578	1,111	510	1,621
Burnie .. ..	1,135	473	1,608	1,124	478	1,602	1,203	480	1,683
Devonport .. ..	1,123	457	1,580	1,086	437	1,523	1,159	450	1,609
Queenstown .. ..	1,234	261	1,495	1,206	232	1,468	1,273	319	1,592
Weighted Average ..	1,118	539	1,657	1,080	539	1,619	1,143	536	1,679
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. ..	1,121	613	1,734	1,105	633	1,738	1,169	637	1,806
Weighted Average of Capital Cities ..	1,117	632	1,749	1,100	655	1,755	1,155	659	1,824

Expenditure in each town for food, groceries, and housing was multiplied by a number representing the population of the town, and a weighted result for all towns was thus computed. The population weights used are given on page 27. The relative expenditure in each town for (a) food and groceries, (b) housing, (four and five rooms), and (c) food, groceries, and housing combined, is shown,

the base being the weighted average expenditure in the six capital cities for 1911 = 1,000. Therefore, in each horizontal line for each year the sum of the index-number for food and groceries and that for rent is equal to the index-number for food, groceries, and housing combined. The items in the table are comparable in all respects, and in addition show the proportionate cost of food and groceries and of housing. For example, taking the last line but one in the table for the year 1929, the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and housing being £1,806, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £1,169 (1st column), and the average rental £637, the sum of the two latter amounts being £1,806. In addition to showing the relative cost of food and groceries and house rent in each town individually, the table also furnishes comparisons as to the relative cost of these items as between the several towns. Thus, taking food and groceries only for 1929, commodities which would cost £1,217 in Sydney can be purchased for £1,121 in Melbourne, or £1,178 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent, an expenditure of £1,793 in Melbourne is equivalent to £1,930 in Sydney, £1,783 in Adelaide, £1,748 in Kalgoorlie, or £1,887 in Geraldton.

The index-numbers are reversible, and may be used for comparisons between any of the towns included. Thus, if the average weekly rental of four and five-roomed houses in Melbourne is 23s. 0d. and the average rental of similar houses in Bendigo is required, the rental in Melbourne must be multiplied by the index-number for housing in Bendigo and divided by the index-number for Melbourne;  $23s. 0d. \times \frac{487}{468} = 16s. 9d.$

(ii) *Food and Groceries*.—The weighted average cost of food and groceries in the 30 towns considered as a whole was higher in 1929 than the weighted average cost of such commodities in the five towns of Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania, but lower than the average cost in the five towns of each of the remaining States.

(iii) *Housing*.—As regards housing accommodation, Sydney, Goulburn, Newcastle, Melbourne, Adelaide and Geraldton are the most expensive, while Queenstown, Kadina, Mt. Gambier, Rockhampton, and Kalgoorlie are the cheapest towns.

(iv.) *Food and Groceries and Housing combined*.—The average cost of food, groceries, and housing in 1929 was greatest in Goulburn, followed by Sydney, Geraldton, Broken Hill, Northam, and Newcastle, and was least in Toowoomba and Mt. Gambier.

10. *Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency*.—In each section of the next table the average cost for the six capital cities in the year 1911 has been taken as base = 20s. The figures measure the variations in the cost of:—(a) food and groceries; (b) house rent; and (c) food, groceries, and house rent combined from year to year in each city separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several cities in each year (in the horizontal lines). Thus, by referring to the section of the table relating to food, groceries, and house rent combined it will be seen that 21s. in

Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 17s. 4d. in Brisbane, or 18s. 9d. in Hobart, while 36s. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1929 was equivalent to 15s. 4d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 23s. 3d. in Perth in 1911.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary or the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1929 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 in 1911 in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
1907	18 0	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 J
1911	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0a
1921	38 0	38 0	36 3	38 1	40 0	40 6	38 0
1922	34 1	32 11	32 2	34 6	35 6	35 11	33 8
1923	36 5	36 1	33 10	36 6	36 7	37 3	36 1
1924	34 8	33 8	33 10	35 10	37 10	37 0	34 8
1925	35 8	35 0	34 8	36 10	38 9	36 2	35 8
1926	37 4	35 6	35 9	37 5	37 4	37 4	36 7
1927	36 11	34 8	33 7	36 10	35 11	35 9	35 9
1928	36 6	33 8	33 5	35 6	37 8	34 6	35 3
1929	39 0	35 11	34 0	37 9	38 9	36 8	37 4
1929 1st Qtr.	39 1	35 6	34 7	36 11	39 1	36 9	37 2
„ 2nd Qtr.	38 8	36 0	33 10	37 10	39 11	36 6	37 4
„ 3rd Qtr.	38 10	36 0	33 8	38 5	39 9	36 6	37 4
„ 4th Qtr.	39 4	36 2	34 0	37 10	37 4	37 0	37 6
HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).							
1907	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 9	20 0a
1921	32 4	26 10	20 7	26 5	24 2	28 10	28 2
1922	33 7	28 10	22 7	27 6	25 1	27 2	28 9
1923	34 9	30 8	23 0	29 0	25 11	30 1	31 1
1924	36 7	31 6	23 2	30 10	26 3	31 10	32 4
1925	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1926	36 6	33 11	26 8	30 4	29 5	32 7	33 7
1927	36 3	34 2	27 3	30 10	30 2	31 7	33 8
1928	37 4	35 7	27 5	33 5	30 9	30 8	34 10
1929	38 0	35 9	27 6	32 3	31 3	30 6	35 1
1929 1st Qtr.	37 10	35 10	27 7	33 6	31 0	30 7	35 2
„ 2nd Qtr.	37 11	35 9	27 8	32 7	30 10	30 6	35 1
„ 3rd Qtr.	38 1	35 10	27 5	31 7	31 4	30 6	35 1
„ 4th Qtr.	38 1	35 9	27 5	31 3	31 8	30 5	35 0
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.							
1907	19 0	17 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0a
1921	35 10	33 10	30 5	33 9	34 0	36 1	34 4
1922	33 10	31 5	28 6	31 10	31 7	32 7	32 2
1923	35 10	34 0	29 10	33 8	32 6	34 7	34 2
1924	35 5	32 10	29 10	33 11	33 6	35 1	33 9
1925	36 4	33 11	30 5	34 10	34 3	35 0	34 8
1926	37 1	34 11	32 4	34 9	34 4	35 7	35 5
1927	36 8	34 6	31 2	34 7	33 9	34 2	35 0
1928	36 10	34 5	31 2	34 9	35 1	33 1	35 1
1929	38 7	35 10	31 7	35 8	35 11	34 4	36 6
1929 1st Qtr.	38 7	35 7	32 0	35 7	36 0	34 5	36 5
„ 2nd Qtr.	38 5	35 11	31 6	35 10	36 6	34 3	36 6
„ 3rd Qtr.	38 7	35 11	31 4	35 10	36 0	34 3	36 6
„ 4th Qtr.	38 10	36 0	31 6	35 4	35 3	34 6	36 6

(a) Rate of each Section.

11. **Price Details, 1929.**—The summarized results of price-movements are published quarterly, and the average retail prices of food and groceries for each month are published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics. In Section II. of the Appendix to this Report the average retail price of each item of the food and groceries regimen during 1929 is given for the 30 towns included in the investigation. Information with regard to house rents is published quarterly in the Summary, and annually in the Labour Reports. In appendixes to Labour Report, No. 1, detailed particulars were given of retail prices and house rents in the capital cities for each year, 1901 to 1911. In Report, No. 2, and subsequent issues information in detail regarding retail prices and rents during each year has been published.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and house rent,\* the commodities method and weighting already in use, and the commodities and quantities conform very closely to those given in the "Indicator Lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of

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



5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

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

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

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

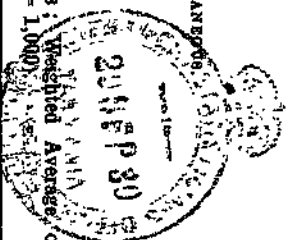
3. **Base.**—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some period as base. In the case of index-numbers for food, groceries, and housing, already published, the year 1911 was selected. For the new index-numbers, covering all items of household expenditure, November, 1914, was adopted owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. While the index-numbers for 1914 in the following tables relate to the month of November, they may be accepted as typical of conditions immediately preceding the war. For base the weighted average cost for the six capital cities has been taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November, 1914, made equal to 1,000.

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

5. **Retail Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov., 1914, to 4th Quarter, 1929.**—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.



Housing (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns. Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).



N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

Period.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,148	1,364	662	1,357	919	1,468	937	738	612	1,030	1,056	1,316
Year 1923 ..	1,639	1,385	833	1,450	984	1,587	1,203	860	838	1,190	1,135	1,392
" 1924 ..	1,726	1,433	870	1,655	1,183	1,674	1,446	905	930	1,104	1,186	1,427
" 1925 ..	1,763	1,559	944	1,591	1,294	1,719	1,412	978	1,027	1,247	1,152	1,459
" 1926 ..	1,722	1,602	1,038	1,641	1,473	1,800	1,568	963	1,126	1,479	1,144	1,546
" 1927 ..	1,710	1,638	1,068	1,754	1,335	1,885	1,615	972	1,214	1,537	1,252	1,663
" 1928 ..	1,791	1,679	1,082	1,828	1,395	1,935	1,673	1,040	1,232	1,510	1,251	1,692
" 1929 ..	1,791	1,668	1,080	1,912	1,366	1,760	1,687	1,066	1,269	1,460	1,309	1,683
1929 1st Qtr.	1,734	1,673	1,063	1,887	1,363	1,754	1,689	1,084	1,262	1,498	1,301	1,639
" 2nd Qtr.	1,789	1,673	1,080	1,916	1,365	1,758	1,684	1,084	1,284	1,446	1,301	1,632
" 3rd Qtr.	1,796	1,673	1,079	1,920	1,382	1,765	1,689	1,084	1,253	1,449	1,301	1,636
" 4th Qtr.	1,794	1,654	1,079	1,923	1,363	1,764	1,685	1,092	1,256	1,417	1,331	1,623

QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

Period.	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 ..	714	843	724	814	824	916	945	872	929	739	872	1,204
Year 1923 ..	1,085	927	730	842	925	1,028	1,397	1,003	934	769	860	1,325
" 1924 ..	1,091	974	764	868	1,034	1,048	1,452	933	947	764	1,165	1,400
" 1925 ..	1,097	1,074	868	868	1,076	1,170	1,485	819	989	715	1,197	1,427
" 1926 ..	1,267	1,139	1,021	876	1,101	1,210	1,429	778	1,070	846	1,149	1,477
" 1927 ..	1,283	1,146	1,075	869	1,149	1,246	1,456	783	1,050	787	1,234	1,539
" 1928 ..	1,294	1,121	1,007	1,043	1,046	1,241	1,576	741	1,078	840	1,187	1,509
" 1929 ..	1,297	1,108	976	1,148	1,045	1,243	1,519	682	1,072	865	1,257	1,466
1929 1st Qtr.	1,300	1,168	986	1,145	1,053	1,247	1,580	736	1,076	868	1,255	1,518
" 2nd Qtr.	1,302	1,168	970	1,150	1,043	1,246	1,536	664	1,076	867	1,257	1,471
" 3rd Qtr.	1,292	1,108	977	1,157	1,043	1,240	1,489	678	1,052	867	1,240	1,412
" 4th Qtr.	1,292	1,108	969	1,142	1,043	1,238	1,472	653	1,062	867	1,272	1,412

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.

Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	904	692	949	1,000	1,201	1,004	1,341	1,042	416	631	704	1,123	1,000	1,263
Year 1923 ..	1,182	868	1,057	1,088	1,272	1,181	1,471	1,172	1,198	1,156	764	1,366	1,242	1,408
" 1924 ..	1,226	868	1,254	1,093	1,272	1,196	1,501	1,200	1,294	1,204	764	1,366	1,252	1,402
" 1925 ..	1,285	846	1,324	1,101	1,318	1,212	1,556	1,243	1,263	1,176	764	1,410	1,257	1,402
" 1926 ..	1,385	846	1,323	1,090	1,328	1,290	1,538	1,291	1,161	1,179	611	1,366	1,257	1,432
" 1927 ..	1,421	835	1,378	1,096	1,340	1,350	1,489	1,213	1,167	1,145	654	1,383	1,257	1,439
" 1928 ..	1,451	835	1,413	1,085	1,475	1,377	1,447	1,303	1,200	1,096	709	1,383	1,257	1,439
" 1929 ..	1,472	838	1,418	1,040	1,518	1,386	1,437	1,260	1,204	1,130	802	1,386	1,257	1,439
1929 1st Qtr.	1,441	843	1,398	1,037	1,541	1,388	1,443	1,270	1,208	1,095	785	1,345	1,257	1,439
" 2nd Qtr.	1,453	842	1,408	1,037	1,517	1,381	1,438	1,270	1,166	1,085	779	1,345	1,257	1,439
" 3rd Qtr.	1,478	833	1,423	1,044	1,515	1,402	1,431	1,294	1,216	1,166	788	1,381	1,257	1,439
" 4th Qtr.	1,456	833	1,423	1,044	1,498	1,414	1,438	1,290	1,226	1,166	864	1,381	1,257	1,439

(a) Base.

**Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).**

Period.		N. S. W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.													
		Sydney.		Newcastle.		Broken Hill.		Goulburn.		Bathurst.		Weighted Average, N. S. W.		Melbourne.		Ballarat.		Bendigo.		Geelong.		Warrnambool.		Weighted Average, Victoria.	
Nov. 1914	1,057	1,467	1,282	1,438	1,266	1,409	852	1,380	1,194	1,212	1,311	1,328	1,361	1,398	1,430	1,458	1,478	1,458	1,502	1,597	1,602	1,581	1,596	1,602	
Year 1923	1,617	1,614	1,418	1,556	1,342	1,561	1,557	1,577	1,312	1,342	1,410	1,387	1,506	1,476	1,485	1,496	1,476	1,455	1,492	1,528	1,480	1,592	1,587	1,597	
Year 1924	1,588	1,493	1,409	1,582	1,346	1,573	1,475	1,573	1,312	1,342	1,410	1,387	1,506	1,476	1,485	1,496	1,476	1,455	1,492	1,528	1,480	1,592	1,587	1,597	
1925	1,631	1,567	1,517	1,569	1,437	1,630	1,550	1,570	1,336	1,364	1,451	1,426	1,517	1,388	1,532	1,468	1,458	1,492	1,528	1,480	1,592	1,587	1,597	1,602	
1926	1,662	1,609	1,557	1,624	1,495	1,663	1,566	1,587	1,360	1,412	1,510	1,388	1,532	1,468	1,458	1,492	1,458	1,492	1,528	1,480	1,592	1,587	1,597	1,602	
1927	1,646	1,612	1,589	1,659	1,475	1,649	1,547	1,567	1,339	1,412	1,510	1,388	1,532	1,468	1,458	1,492	1,458	1,492	1,528	1,480	1,592	1,587	1,597	1,602	
1928	1,633	1,630	1,595	1,639	1,479	1,648	1,558	1,568	1,330	1,412	1,510	1,388	1,532	1,468	1,458	1,492	1,458	1,492	1,528	1,480	1,592	1,587	1,597	1,602	
1929	1,752	1,669	1,660	1,706	1,561	1,724	1,567	1,597	1,397	1,458	1,540	1,452	1,581	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	
1st Qtr.	1,723	1,651	1,666	1,706	1,561	1,724	1,567	1,597	1,397	1,458	1,540	1,452	1,581	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	
" 2nd "	1,730	1,655	1,674	1,706	1,561	1,724	1,567	1,597	1,397	1,458	1,540	1,452	1,581	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	
" 3rd "	1,730	1,655	1,674	1,706	1,561	1,724	1,567	1,597	1,397	1,458	1,540	1,452	1,581	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	
" 4th "	1,744	1,662	1,698	1,802	1,543	1,735	1,567	1,597	1,397	1,458	1,540	1,452	1,581	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	1,538	1,480	
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
		Brisbane.		Toowoomba.		Rockhampton.		Charters Towers.		Warwick.		Weighted Average, Queensland.		Adelaide.		Kadma, Moonta, and Wallaroo.		Port Pirie.		Mt. Gambier.		Peterborough.		Weighted Average, S. A.	
Nov. 1914	870	1,108	1,219	1,274	1,238	1,239	1,021	1,394	1,265	1,305	1,311	1,376	1,386	1,400	1,413	1,428	1,443	1,458	1,473	1,488	1,503	1,518	1,533	1,548	
Year 1923	1,387	1,272	1,295	1,329	1,281	1,271	1,261	1,313	1,255	1,284	1,294	1,309	1,324	1,339	1,354	1,369	1,384	1,399	1,414	1,429	1,444	1,459	1,474	1,489	
Year 1924	1,387	1,272	1,295	1,329	1,281	1,271	1,261	1,313	1,255	1,284	1,294	1,309	1,324	1,339	1,354	1,369	1,384	1,399	1,414	1,429	1,444	1,459	1,474	1,489	
1925	1,386	1,282	1,327	1,361	1,301	1,291	1,281	1,333	1,275	1,304	1,314	1,329	1,344	1,359	1,374	1,389	1,404	1,419	1,434	1,449	1,464	1,479	1,494	1,509	
1926	1,431	1,309	1,416	1,451	1,400	1,443	1,433	1,485	1,427	1,456	1,466	1,481	1,496	1,511	1,526	1,541	1,556	1,571	1,586	1,601	1,616	1,631	1,646	1,661	
1927	1,400	1,294	1,361	1,451	1,382	1,396	1,386	1,438	1,380	1,409	1,419	1,434	1,449	1,464	1,479	1,494	1,509	1,524	1,539	1,554	1,569	1,584	1,599	1,614	
1928	1,399	1,293	1,362	1,462	1,394	1,397	1,387	1,439	1,381	1,410	1,420	1,435	1,450	1,465	1,480	1,495	1,510	1,525	1,540	1,555	1,570	1,585	1,600	1,615	
1929	1,417	1,327	1,382	1,515	1,347	1,347	1,407	1,457	1,389	1,418	1,428	1,443	1,458	1,473	1,488	1,503	1,518	1,533	1,548	1,563	1,578	1,593	1,608	1,623	
1929 1st Qtr.	1,434	1,352	1,380	1,539	1,360	1,423	1,403	1,453	1,391	1,420	1,430	1,445	1,460	1,475	1,490	1,505	1,520	1,535	1,550	1,565	1,580	1,595	1,610	1,625	
" 2nd "	1,413	1,311	1,348	1,502	1,332	1,400	1,409	1,459	1,382	1,411	1,421	1,436	1,451	1,466	1,481	1,496	1,511	1,526	1,541	1,556	1,571	1,586	1,601	1,616	
" 3rd "	1,408	1,322	1,356	1,523	1,340	1,398	1,408	1,458	1,385	1,414	1,424	1,439	1,454	1,469	1,484	1,499	1,514	1,529	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	
" 4th "	1,415	1,334	1,368	1,498	1,357	1,406	1,416	1,466	1,393	1,422	1,432	1,447	1,462	1,477	1,492	1,507	1,522	1,537	1,552	1,567	1,582	1,597	1,612	1,627	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
		Perth.		Kalgoorlie.		Northam.		Bunbury.		Geraldton.		Weighted A'v'ge, W. A.		Hobart.		Launceston.		Burnie.		Devonport.		Queensdown.		Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	
Nov. 1914	1,071	1,395	1,400	1,463	1,426	1,608	1,533	1,275	1,081	1,352	1,415	1,436	1,457	1,478	1,499	1,520	1,541	1,562	1,583	1,604	1,625	1,646	1,667	1,688	
Year 1923	1,438	1,441	1,477	1,420	1,530	1,675	1,448	1,468	1,453	1,587	1,500	1,515	1,530	1,545	1,560	1,575	1,590	1,605	1,620	1,635	1,650	1,665	1,680	1,695	
Year 1924	1,460	1,400	1,422	1,477	1,507	1,671	1,470	1,472	1,457	1,576	1,489	1,504	1,519	1,534	1,549	1,564	1,579	1,594	1,609	1,624	1,639	1,654	1,669	1,684	
1925	1,502	1,409	1,422	1,477	1,507	1,675	1,470	1,472	1,457	1,576	1,489	1,504	1,519	1,534	1,549	1,564	1,579	1,594	1,609	1,624	1,639	1,654	1,669	1,684	
1926	1,558	1,504	1,492	1,516	1,537	1,688	1,590	1,472	1,476	1,586	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	1,634	1,649	1,664	1,679	1,694	1,709	1,724	1,739	
1927	1,541	1,493	1,493	1,514	1,535	1,688	1,574	1,472	1,476	1,586	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	1,634	1,649	1,664	1,679	1,694	1,709	1,724	1,739	
1928	1,574	1,449	1,493	1,514	1,535	1,688	1,574	1,472	1,476	1,586	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	1,634	1,649	1,664	1,679	1,694	1,709	1,724	1,739	
1929	1,612	1,560	1,604	1,547	1,604	1,809	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	
1929 1st Qtr.	1,617	1,560	1,603	1,529	1,604	1,811	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	
" 2nd "	1,637	1,604	1,601	1,561	1,702	1,934	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	
" 3rd "	1,614	1,594	1,674	1,566	1,717	1,914	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	1,549	
" 4th "	1,631	1,618	1,637	1,537	1,677	1,917	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	1,569	
TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
		Launceston.		Burnie.		Devonport.		Queensdown.		Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.		Weighted Average, 30 Towns Australia.													
Nov. 1914	1,071	1,395	1,400	1,463	1,426	1,608	1,533	1,275	1,081	1,352	1,415	1,436	1,457	1,478	1,499	1,520	1,541	1,562	1,583	1,604	1,625	1,646	1,667	1,688	
Year 1923	1,438	1,441	1,477	1,420	1,530	1,675	1,448	1,468	1,453	1,587	1,500	1,515	1,530	1,545	1,560	1,575	1,590	1,605	1,620	1,635	1,650	1,665	1,680	1,695	
Year 1924	1,460	1,400	1,422	1,477	1,507	1,671	1,470	1,472	1,457	1,576	1,489	1,504	1,519	1,534	1,549	1,564	1,579	1,594	1,609	1,624	1,639	1,654	1,669	1,684	
1925	1,502	1,409	1,422	1,477	1,507	1,675	1,470	1,472	1,457	1,576	1,489	1,504	1,519	1,534	1,549	1,564	1,579	1,594	1,609	1,624	1,639	1,654	1,669	1,684	
1926	1,558	1,504	1,492	1,516	1,537	1,688	1,590	1,472	1,476	1,586	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	1,634	1,649	1,664	1,679	1,694	1,709	1,724	1,739	
1927	1,541	1,493	1,493	1,514	1,535	1,688	1,574	1,472	1,476	1,586	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	1,634	1,649	1,664	1,679	1,694	1,709	1,724	1,739	
1928	1,574	1,449	1,493	1,514	1,535	1,688	1,574	1,472	1,476	1,586	1,544	1,559	1,574	1,589	1,604	1,619	1,634	1,649	1,664	1,679	1,694	1,709	1,724	1,739	
1929	1,612	1,560	1,604	1,547	1,604	1,809	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	
1929 1st Qtr.	1,617	1,560	1,603	1,529	1,604	1,811	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	
" 2nd "	1,637	1,604	1,601	1,561	1,702	1,934	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	
" 3rd "	1,614	1,594	1,674	1,566	1,717</																				

Clothing.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																				VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Period.		Sydney.					Newcastle.					Broken Hill.					Goulburn.					Bathurst.					Weighted Average, N.S.W.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
Nov. 1914	1,002	1,065	1,760	1,688	1,892	1,672	1,676	1,676	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,6

(a) Base.

Miscellaneous.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,022						971					
" 1921	1,348	1,328	1,471	1,270	1,321	1,350	1,364	1,277	1,352	1,370	1,175	1,356
Year 1923	1,364	1,242	1,438	1,226	1,264	1,353	1,316	1,233	1,259	1,285	1,183	1,308
" 1924	1,358	1,253	1,432	1,221	1,262	1,340	1,342	1,256	1,261	1,279	1,173	1,332
" 1925	1,333	1,210	1,426	1,198	1,238	1,324	1,329	1,246	1,262	1,277	1,162	1,320
" 1926	1,362	1,249	1,434	1,209	1,236	1,350	1,324	1,246	1,261	1,267	1,159	1,315
" 1927	1,400	1,274	1,427	1,210	1,234	1,386	1,321	1,240	1,261	1,260	1,156	1,312
" 1928	1,399	1,272	1,409	1,201	1,239	1,385	1,324	1,244	1,261	1,258	1,150	1,314
" 1929	1,396	1,264	1,402	1,202	1,235	1,382	1,317	1,238	1,261	1,258	1,148	1,306
1929 1st Qtr.	1,397	1,267	1,400	1,203	1,234	1,383	1,321	1,242	1,262	1,259	1,148	1,311
" 2nd "	1,398	1,268	1,397	1,203	1,234	1,383	1,317	1,240	1,261	1,260	1,145	1,308
" 3rd "	1,395	1,267	1,398	1,203	1,231	1,381	1,316	1,240	1,260	1,257	1,148	1,307
" 4th "	1,395	1,255	1,412	1,200	1,242	1,380	1,316	1,231	1,259	1,257	1,149	1,306

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charter Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	971						1,029					
" 1921	1,261	1,273	1,338	1,347	1,320	1,279	1,370	1,423	1,423	1,378	1,336	1,383
Year 1923	1,247	1,239	1,247	1,296	1,261	1,249	1,370	1,361	1,368	1,312	1,314	1,368
" 1924	1,252	1,246	1,238	1,301	1,224	1,251	1,371	1,359	1,366	1,335	1,308	1,369
" 1925	1,246	1,208	1,222	1,286	1,240	1,247	1,370	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,300	1,366
" 1926	1,240	1,270	1,222	1,280	1,227	1,242	1,370	1,362	1,360	1,309	1,303	1,368
" 1927	1,250	1,269	1,227	1,304	1,238	1,251	1,365	1,329	1,357	1,304	1,332	1,362
" 1928	1,249	1,268	1,224	1,297	1,237	1,250	1,371	1,330	1,356	1,321	1,342	1,368
" 1929	1,248	1,267	1,216	1,296	1,231	1,248	1,373	1,325	1,348	1,313	1,328	1,369
1929 1st Qtr.	1,249	1,266	1,219	1,297	1,231	1,249	1,369	1,327	1,359	1,319	1,335	1,366
" 2nd "	1,248	1,266	1,219	1,297	1,230	1,248	1,367	1,328	1,352	1,318	1,326	1,364
" 3rd "	1,248	1,268	1,213	1,298	1,231	1,248	1,376	1,323	1,342	1,299	1,320	1,371
" 4th "	1,248	1,266	1,211	1,293	1,232	1,247	1,379	1,324	1,338	1,317	1,325	1,374

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tas.
Nov. 1914	1,041						984					
" 1921	1,374	1,375	1,357	1,304	1,471	1,374	1,245	1,315	1,257	1,282	1,280	1,271
Year 1923	1,344	1,302	1,251	1,240	1,401	1,336	1,242	1,255	1,141	1,143	1,230	1,237
" 1924	1,326	1,309	1,278	1,249	1,395	1,323	1,246	1,248	1,147	1,121	1,083	1,231
" 1925	1,313	1,304	1,251	1,249	1,350	1,310	1,224	1,240	1,132	1,133	1,098	1,215
" 1926	1,308	1,295	1,245	1,250	1,308	1,304	1,209	1,223	1,123	1,124	1,096	1,201
" 1927	1,306	1,298	1,238	1,252	1,310	1,303	1,200	1,226	1,118	1,144	1,106	1,198
" 1928	1,317	1,306	1,240	1,246	1,310	1,313	1,208	1,215	1,115	1,143	1,102	1,190
" 1929	1,319	1,293	1,242	1,243	1,351	1,313	1,208	1,213	1,114	1,142	1,107	1,198
1929 1st Qtr.	1,319	1,286	1,244	1,243	1,350	1,313	1,209	1,215	1,114	1,142	1,110	1,200
" 2nd "	1,319	1,296	1,242	1,244	1,350	1,314	1,209	1,213	1,114	1,142	1,109	1,199
" 3rd "	1,319	1,295	1,241	1,242	1,349	1,314	1,209	1,212	1,114	1,143	1,108	1,199
" 4th "	1,318	1,296	1,241	1,243	1,353	1,313	1,208	1,211	1,115	1,140	1,102	1,195

Period.	Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914	1,000	
" 1921	1,349	1,347
Year 1923	1,334	1,334
" 1924	1,340	1,330
" 1925	1,324	1,316
" 1926	1,332	1,322
" 1927	1,346	1,336
" 1928	1,348	1,336
" 1929	1,349	1,339
1929 1st Qtr.	1,346	1,334
" 2nd "	1,345	1,333
" 3rd "	1,345	1,333
" 4th "	1,344	1,332

(a) Base.

Total Household Expenditure.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,036						976					
" 1921	1,523	1,515	1,419	1,504	1,379	1,516	1,460	1,443	1,458	1,483	1,504	1,460
Year 1923	1,488	1,444	1,394	1,490	1,345	1,481	1,460	1,344	1,364	1,405	1,391	1,450
" 1924	1,458	1,408	1,354	1,511	1,334	1,450	1,420	1,304	1,312	1,358	1,397	1,409
" 1925	1,478	1,435	1,414	1,498	1,361	1,472	1,432	1,330	1,328	1,383	1,371	1,422
" 1926	1,503	1,470	1,438	1,527	1,423	1,498	1,453	1,355	1,357	1,431	1,377	1,444
" 1927	1,498	1,478	1,455	1,546	1,385	1,495	1,441	1,341	1,368	1,433	1,376	1,438
" 1928	1,516	1,475	1,452	1,563	1,403	1,510	1,444	1,332	1,363	1,415	1,369	1,436
" 1929	1,561	1,496	1,481	1,612	1,425	1,553	1,481	1,393	1,411	1,426	1,397	1,472
1929 1st Qtr.	1,560	1,502	1,473	1,603	1,438	1,552	1,478	1,385	1,407	1,436	1,375	1,469
" 2nd "	1,555	1,493	1,477	1,608	1,421	1,548	1,482	1,386	1,403	1,425	1,379	1,478
" 3rd "	1,563	1,493	1,481	1,614	1,413	1,554	1,480	1,397	1,414	1,421	1,411	1,472
" 4th "	1,568	1,495	1,494	1,623	1,429	1,559	1,481	1,405	1,420	1,421	1,423	1,473
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	889						1,018					
" 1921	1,344	1,381	1,415	1,491	1,447	1,370	1,440	1,452	1,492	1,497	1,379	1,444
Year 1923	1,343	1,309	1,287	1,324	1,325	1,334	1,467	1,385	1,362	1,353	1,360	1,457
" 1924	1,332	1,296	1,269	1,314	1,303	1,322	1,478	1,352	1,372	1,330	1,410	1,466
" 1925	1,344	1,337	1,320	1,304	1,314	1,339	1,496	1,353	1,411	1,363	1,475	1,466
" 1926	1,383	1,375	1,378	1,346	1,384	1,381	1,493	1,381	1,438	1,392	1,479	1,473
" 1927	1,342	1,330	1,352	1,336	1,376	1,343	1,482	1,356	1,412	1,376	1,489	1,484
" 1928	1,334	1,319	1,314	1,346	1,331	1,332	1,495	1,349	1,397	1,379	1,480	1,483
" 1929	1,344	1,333	1,316	1,367	1,354	1,341	1,509	1,373	1,426	1,401	1,518	1,499
1929 1st Qtr.	1,354	1,332	1,329	1,381	1,361	1,352	1,514	1,375	1,427	1,395	1,518	1,509
" 2nd "	1,342	1,326	1,314	1,363	1,346	1,339	1,516	1,363	1,421	1,398	1,512	1,504
" 3rd "	1,385	1,328	1,312	1,371	1,351	1,338	1,512	1,375	1,426	1,406	1,521	1,502
" 4th "	1,341	1,344	1,310	1,353	1,359	1,339	1,496	1,378	1,428	1,405	1,522	1,487
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tas.
Nov. 1914	1,029						999					
" 1921	1,467	1,526	1,499	1,520	1,537	1,484	1,556	1,552	1,459	1,316	1,501	1,538
Year 1923	1,422	1,464	1,404	1,400	1,478	1,427	1,517	1,433	1,413	1,391	1,409	1,479
" 1924	1,430	1,468	1,410	1,430	1,473	1,434	1,529	1,433	1,409	1,383	1,388	1,486
" 1925	1,440	1,468	1,467	1,433	1,494	1,450	1,496	1,408	1,385	1,369	1,423	1,458
" 1926	1,444	1,458	1,452	1,423	1,472	1,446	1,506	1,416	1,393	1,380	1,392	1,466
" 1927	1,433	1,433	1,437	1,401	1,469	1,433	1,453	1,387	1,362	1,346	1,357	1,422
" 1928	1,472	1,440	1,400	1,401	1,408	1,409	1,425	1,393	1,369	1,323	1,360	1,407
" 1929	1,493	1,502	1,487	1,423	1,529	1,493	1,456	1,408	1,405	1,380	1,414	1,435
1929 1st Qtr.	1,494	1,493	1,483	1,414	1,523	1,492	1,459	1,408	1,395	1,363	1,414	1,436
" 2nd "	1,508	1,523	1,508	1,431	1,533	1,508	1,458	1,404	1,388	1,362	1,409	1,431
" 3rd "	1,495	1,519	1,492	1,433	1,538	1,497	1,453	1,400	1,417	1,395	1,408	1,432
" 4th "	1,475	1,470	1,460	1,416	1,519	1,474	1,459	1,419	1,421	1,400	1,426	1,442
												1,503
												1,493

(a) Basis of Table.

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

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

2. **Results—1927 to 1929.**—The results of the investigation in November, 1929, are set out in the tables on the following pages, compared with the particulars recorded during the two previous years. Aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-rooms, and food, groceries, and rent of 5-rooms are shown for each year for each town. The index-number 1,773 (see page 44), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,634 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1929. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,133 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1929. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for the 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1,773, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,795; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,647, compared with an expenditure of 1,634 on the average for 200 towns.

The change made in Report No. 13 in the basis on which the index-numbers were computed is continued in this issue. Previously the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the same base is taken as in the tables referring to 30 towns and 6 capital cities, i.e., the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing in the 6 capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1,000.



Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns for November, 1927, 1928, and 1929, compared with the Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent for all houses in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 as base (=1,000).

State and Town.	1927. November.			1928. November.			1929. 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.
<b>New South Wales—</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>
Sydney .. .. .	1,129	1,673	1,790	1,072	1,630	1,776	1,186	1,751	1,897
Newcastle .. .. .	1,103	1,637	1,793	1,058	1,542	1,767	1,159	1,649	1,852
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,300	1,663	1,775	1,239	1,606	1,724	1,406	1,772	1,892
Goulburn .. .. .	1,111	1,650	1,827	1,082	1,648	1,778	1,200	1,801	1,939
Bathurst .. .. .	1,057	1,440	1,516	1,019	1,401	1,505	1,140	1,519	1,616
Albury .. .. .	1,087	1,404	1,975	1,063	1,754	1,914	1,161	1,822	1,962
Armidale .. .. .	1,058	1,522	1,624	1,041	1,513	1,590	1,127	1,603	1,701
Ballina .. .. .	1,118	1,604	1,669	1,113	1,607	1,733	1,191	1,684	1,809
Bega .. .. .	1,122	1,461	1,536	1,097	1,419	1,530	1,181	1,506	1,622
Berry .. .. .	1,182	1,537	1,656	1,090	1,445	1,550	1,175	1,504	1,635
Blackheath .. .. .	1,232	1,657	1,795	1,230	1,675	1,800	1,272	1,733	1,812
Bourke .. .. .	1,289	1,533	1,599	1,287	1,550	1,613	1,374	1,611	1,684
Bowral .. .. .	1,119	1,765	1,831	1,090	1,723	1,814	1,219	1,794	1,956
Casino .. .. .	1,106	1,550	1,759	1,086	1,532	1,771	1,164	1,690	1,836
Cessnock .. .. .	1,109	1,652	1,718	1,075	1,568	1,634	1,164	1,503	1,576
Coabar .. .. .	1,329	1,438	1,487	1,231	1,363	1,428	1,312	1,510	1,549
Cooma .. .. .	1,233	1,542	1,741	1,133	1,463	1,672	1,256	1,599	1,816
Coonamble .. .. .	1,214	1,558	1,682	1,121	1,485	1,611	1,250	1,614	1,753
Cootamundra .. .. .	1,130	1,624	1,821	1,049	1,548	1,782	1,166	1,712	1,866
Corrimal .. .. .	1,106	1,455	1,567	1,096	1,539	1,671	1,159	1,613	1,751
Cowra .. .. .	1,106	1,633	1,657	1,081	1,610	1,667	1,189	1,680	1,817
Cronulla .. .. .	1,144	1,675	1,844	1,128	1,644	1,817	1,275	1,827	1,998
Darlinghurst .. .. .	1,080	1,471	1,583	1,008	1,480	1,625	1,208	1,583	1,734
Dubbo .. .. .	1,158	1,709	1,791	1,139	1,700	1,834	1,196	1,854	1,941
Forbes .. .. .	1,123	1,684	1,822	1,055	1,601	1,801	1,196	1,781	1,990
Gilgandra .. .. .	1,203	1,532	1,611	1,124	1,477	1,546	1,268	1,643	1,692
Glen Innes .. .. .	1,029	1,431	1,569	1,007	1,414	1,575	1,112	1,546	1,697
Grafton .. .. .	1,060	1,661	1,718	993	1,467	1,649	1,060	1,546	1,705
Grenfell .. .. .	1,076	1,499	1,668	1,065	1,473	1,674	1,173	1,568	1,766
Griffith .. .. .	1,254	2,175	2,406	1,161	2,083	2,313	1,293	2,214	2,444
Gulgong .. .. .	1,162	1,432	1,527	1,121	1,417	1,490	1,207	1,512	1,622
Gunnedah .. .. .	1,127	1,512	1,658	1,046	1,445	1,593	1,131	1,567	1,684
Hay .. .. .	1,136	1,514	1,704	1,104	1,545	1,785	1,273	1,677	1,871
Inverell .. .. .	1,122	1,561	1,639	1,108	1,569	1,645	1,155	1,682	1,737
Junee .. .. .	1,123	1,781	1,787	1,095	1,770	1,806	1,205	1,869	1,896
Katoomba .. .. .	1,159	1,797	1,938	1,160	1,752	1,904	1,250	1,848	1,980
Kempsey .. .. .	1,100	1,599	1,691	1,088	1,539	1,639	1,087	1,517	1,607
Kiama .. .. .	1,145	1,507	1,606	1,152	1,514	1,614	1,211	1,612	1,724
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	1,150	1,619	1,678	1,108	1,497	1,588	1,163	1,510	1,603
Leeton .. .. .	1,216	1,890	1,972	1,190	1,908	1,980	1,284	2,003	2,060
Lismore .. .. .	1,101	1,581	1,703	1,085	1,604	1,766	1,111	1,676	1,837
Lithgow .. .. .	1,093	1,543	1,627	1,094	1,531	1,610	1,196	1,643	1,716
Maitland .. .. .	1,090	1,567	1,690	1,026	1,450	1,567	1,142	1,504	1,609
Morree .. .. .	1,155	1,666	1,917	1,149	1,617	1,872	1,243	1,712	1,973
Moss Vale .. .. .	1,126	1,701	1,797	1,086	1,652	1,751	1,191	1,787	1,868
Mudgee .. .. .	1,143	1,582	1,680	1,106	1,626	1,720	1,196	1,701	1,802
Narrabri .. .. .	1,163	1,557	1,712	1,089	1,519	1,666	1,205	1,658	1,799
Narrandera .. .. .	1,123	1,627	1,855	1,122	1,677	1,908	1,205	1,730	1,961
Nowra .. .. .	1,180	1,628	1,703	1,135	1,586	1,661	1,198	1,659	1,761
Orange .. .. .	1,082	1,619	1,746	1,067	1,584	1,771	1,147	1,700	1,873
Parkes .. .. .	1,132	1,685	1,855	1,077	1,630	1,758	1,213	1,761	1,912
Penrith .. .. .	1,069	1,509	1,634	1,098	1,545	1,624	1,145	1,592	1,698
Port Kembla .. .. .	1,166	1,655	1,764	1,137	1,699	1,821	1,216	1,777	1,920
Portland .. .. .	1,151	1,602	1,714	1,112	1,550	1,658	1,234	1,641	1,763
Queanbeyan .. .. .	1,169	1,627	1,956	1,141	1,600	1,700	1,235	1,690	1,781
Quirindi .. .. .	1,103	1,458	1,649	1,075	1,599	1,699	1,169	1,493	1,686
Richmond .. .. .	1,116	1,521	1,669	1,034	1,478	1,626	1,140	1,535	1,732
Scots .. .. .	1,064	1,497	1,574	1,050	1,488	1,636	1,077	1,537	1,675
Singleton .. .. .	1,177	1,539	1,621	1,096	1,508	1,611	1,148	1,543	1,684
Tamworth .. .. .	1,053	1,484	1,633	1,006	1,430	1,614	1,109	1,537	1,725
Taree .. .. .	1,134	1,610	1,827	1,103	1,621	1,772	1,149	1,682	1,833
Temora .. .. .	1,136	1,712	1,843	1,120	1,664	1,827	1,222	1,782	1,913
Tenterfield .. .. .	1,157	1,544	1,682	1,132	1,548	1,581	1,199	1,642	1,673
Tumut .. .. .	1,133	1,626	1,725	1,046	1,526	1,671	1,136	1,639	1,778
Ulanarra .. .. .	1,088	1,450	1,549	1,045	1,407	1,538	1,126	1,506	1,653
Wagga Wagga .. .. .	1,066	1,770	1,800	1,056	1,786	1,794	1,182	1,911	1,923

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

State and Town.	1927. November.			* 1928. November.			1929. 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.
<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>
Walcha .. .. .	1,078	1,440	1,621	1,048	1,463	1,618	1,198	1,666	1,758
Wellington .. ..	1,111	1,492	1,645	1,058	1,415	1,577	1,237	1,598	1,704
Wenton .. .. .	1,106	1,603	1,656	1,077	1,558	1,562	1,157	1,618	1,684
Windsor .. .. .	1,141	1,602	1,766	1,077	1,558	1,703	1,142	1,622	1,767
Wollongong .. ..	1,147	1,706	1,762	1,117	1,665	1,698	1,173	1,724	1,785
Wyalong .. .. .	1,171	1,615	1,654	1,135	1,530	1,595	1,236	1,631	1,697
Yass .. .. .	1,149	1,593	1,724	1,127	1,593	1,749	1,247	1,766	1,890
Young .. .. .	1,057	1,582	1,643	1,056	1,632	1,701	1,204	1,769	1,862
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	1,129	1,656	1,776	1,078	1,613	1,757	1,187	1,727	1,871
<b>Victoria—</b>									
Melbourne .. ..	1,036	1,573	1,728	908	1,518	1,684	1,084	1,647	1,795
Ballarat .. .. .	1,040	1,316	1,485	1,002	1,297	1,481	1,127	1,440	1,624
Geelong .. .. .	1,049	1,426	1,574	1,002	1,375	1,507	1,130	1,603	1,651
Geelong .. .. .	1,027	1,500	1,655	984	1,405	1,610	1,099	1,572	1,691
Warrnambool .. .	1,007	1,424	1,584	961	1,377	1,538	1,103	1,537	1,698
Ararat .. .. .	1,175	1,543	1,674	1,088	1,494	1,614	1,161	1,551	1,695
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,013	1,467	1,573	1,033	1,494	1,573	1,153	1,613	1,686
Ballarat .. .. .	1,081	1,486	1,651	1,049	1,427	1,606	1,107	1,625	1,732
Beechworth .. ..	1,102	1,407	1,447	1,047	1,333	1,382	1,173	1,481	1,517
Benalla .. .. .	1,076	1,427	1,488	1,057	1,433	1,504	1,151	1,540	1,592
Camperdown .. .	1,072	1,445	1,587	1,056	1,411	1,575	1,135	1,549	1,705
Casterton .. ..	1,064	1,453	1,565	1,032	1,458	1,541	1,113	1,508	1,659
Castlemaine .. .	1,079	1,384	1,481	1,002	1,252	1,425	1,102	1,307	1,527
Colac .. .. .	1,025	1,558	1,685	1,009	1,569	1,696	1,102	1,683	1,771
Creswick .. .. .	1,055	1,186	1,249	1,006	1,151	1,190	1,115	1,234	1,293
Dunstanford .. .	1,040	1,369	1,435	1,034	1,363	1,420	1,076	1,372	1,456
Dunolly .. .. .	1,055	1,206	1,272	1,023	1,194	1,234	1,118	1,272	1,361
Echuca .. .. .	1,091	1,483	1,634	1,017	1,453	1,593	1,113	1,548	1,715
Euroa .. .. .	1,103	1,422	1,586	1,083	1,427	1,590	1,156	1,504	1,666
Hamilton .. .. .	1,082	1,523	1,630	1,033	1,455	1,646	1,162	1,633	1,774
Healesville .. .	1,054	1,423	1,482	1,039	1,377	1,503	1,173	1,504	1,594
Horsham .. .. .	1,130	1,687	1,846	1,117	1,644	1,832	1,218	1,731	1,885
Kerang .. .. .	1,096	1,629	1,820	1,001	1,582	1,714	1,155	1,748	1,879
Koroit .. .. .	1,038	1,321	1,377	1,008	1,298	1,365	1,102	1,382	1,448
Korumburra .. .	1,118	1,579	1,677	1,038	1,476	1,580	1,153	1,614	1,679
Kyneton .. .. .	1,057	1,425	1,501	1,019	1,357	1,408	1,122	1,456	1,588
Lilydale .. .. .	1,088	1,450	1,648	1,025	1,404	1,563	1,179	1,567	1,732
Maffra .. .. .	1,031	1,632	1,722	981	1,659	1,639	1,106	1,671	1,763
Maldon .. .. .	1,066	1,222	1,284	1,040	1,185	1,238	1,124	1,279	1,325
Maryborough .. .	1,097	1,369	1,477	1,055	1,350	1,472	1,160	1,524	1,623
Mildura .. .. .	1,136	1,757	1,906	1,106	1,698	1,873	1,217	1,848	2,000
Morwell .. .. .	1,120	1,638	1,783	1,045	1,554	1,685	1,115	1,622	1,723
Nhill .. .. .	1,116	1,589	1,688	1,089	1,582	1,697	1,248	1,748	1,906
Orbost .. .. .	1,093	1,476	1,751	1,088	1,494	1,733	1,182	1,560	1,757
Portland .. .. .	1,081	1,394	1,522	1,047	1,376	1,474	1,162	1,475	1,656
Port Fairy .. .	1,062	1,391	1,470	1,035	1,347	1,424	1,109	1,409	1,507
St. Arnaud .. .	1,183	1,586	1,813	1,107	1,462	1,699	1,206	1,535	1,812
Sale .. .. .	1,021	1,409	1,588	984	1,342	1,545	1,110	1,450	1,661
Seymour .. .. .	1,135	1,497	1,643	1,105	1,433	1,532	1,186	1,581	1,673
Shepparton .. .	1,082	1,615	1,789	1,022	1,582	1,756	1,172	1,785	1,874
Stewell .. .. .	1,169	1,485	1,632	1,132	1,459	1,602	1,232	1,550	1,721
Swan Hill .. ..	1,125	1,757	1,889	1,074	1,732	1,837	1,139	1,819	1,929
Terang .. .. .	1,066	1,459	1,581	1,023	1,417	1,536	1,137	1,480	1,683
Traralgon .. ..	1,037	1,454	1,604	1,011	1,450	1,597	1,082	1,489	1,643
Wangaratta .. .	1,120	1,585	1,697	1,087	1,511	1,630	1,195	1,630	1,832
Warracknabeal ..	1,076	1,636	1,999	1,067	1,537	1,743	1,210	1,676	1,838
Warragul .. ..	1,082	1,608	1,743	994	1,496	1,672	1,075	1,573	1,746
Wonthaggi .. .	1,105	1,488	1,611	1,023	1,404	1,568	1,088	1,468	1,614
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	1,043	1,550	1,700	981	1,497	1,658	1,096	1,623	1,770
<b>Queensland—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	1,004	1,339	1,553	997	1,392	1,528	1,010	1,409	1,542
Toowoomba .. .	968	1,291	1,444	948	1,252	1,419	1,010	1,310	1,476
Rockhampton .. .	1,052	1,382	1,482	1,046	1,331	1,449	1,074	1,355	1,474
Charters Towers ..	1,200	1,481	1,642	1,163	1,510	1,598	1,122	1,621	1,661

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

State and Town.	1927. November.			1928. November.			1929. 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.
<b>Queensland—continued.</b>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Warwick ..	1,026	1,370	1,509	998	1,344	1,409	1,042	1,392	1,462
Ayr ..	1,170	1,631	1,702	1,183	1,643	1,775	1,197	1,688	1,771
Barcaldine ..	1,249	1,545	1,663	1,253	1,562	1,678	1,265	1,669	1,728
Bowen ..	1,130	1,523	1,656	1,130	1,531	1,697	1,197	1,592	1,731
Bundaberg ..	1,032	1,363	1,416	1,030	1,329	1,441	1,011	1,384	1,478
Calra ..	1,174	1,731	1,876	1,215	1,856	1,773	1,192	1,766	1,904
Charleville ..	1,154	1,631	1,771	1,139	1,578	1,812	1,181	1,604	1,839
Chillagoe ..	1,225	1,489	1,541	1,230	1,490	1,552	1,279	1,542	1,595
Cloncurry ..	1,231	1,616	1,729	1,253	1,648	1,779	1,310	1,705	1,836
Cooktown ..	1,147	1,239	1,323	1,193	1,286	1,351	1,249	1,446	1,499
Cunnamulla ..	1,235	1,695	1,761	1,186	1,647	1,706	1,251	1,711	1,803
Dalby ..	1,011	1,350	1,449	1,009	1,362	1,454	1,099	1,415	1,570
Gayndah ..	1,059	1,323	1,454	1,142	1,438	1,537	1,161	1,477	1,556
Gladstone ..	1,040	1,303	1,435	1,052	1,341	1,440	1,105	1,414	1,499
Goondiwindi ..	1,092	1,473	1,568	1,094	1,501	1,574	1,187	1,608	1,643
Gympie ..	1,044	1,373	1,489	1,074	1,412	1,528	1,100	1,404	1,525
Hughenden ..	1,245	1,738	1,870	1,239	1,719	1,844	1,287	1,748	1,868
Innisfail ..	1,266	1,685	2,046	1,255	1,648	2,054	1,328	1,940	2,118
Ipswich ..	1,093	1,339	1,487	1,069	1,304	1,524	1,027	1,357	1,467
Lougheach ..	1,252	1,613	1,772	1,228	1,561	1,702	1,266	1,575	1,776
Mackay ..	1,086	1,590	1,694	1,103	1,637	1,730	1,147	1,707	1,851
Maryborough ..	1,009	1,285	1,437	1,050	1,319	1,461	1,106	1,418	1,619
Mount Morgan ..	1,100	1,258	1,284	1,111	1,243	1,295	1,189	1,321	1,387
Nambour ..	1,080	1,441	1,586	1,093	1,470	1,772	1,120	1,485	1,610
Roma ..	1,053	1,416	1,571	1,091	1,450	1,610	1,145	1,531	1,706
Stanthorpe ..	1,015	1,337	1,528	1,036	1,395	1,517	1,133	1,531	1,595
Townsville ..	1,186	1,672	1,771	1,191	1,677	1,763	1,158	1,631	1,750
Winton ..	1,236	1,719	1,796	1,265	1,725	1,822	1,286	1,746	1,834
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	1,042	1,412	1,555	1,049	1,415	1,542	1,057	1,439	1,564
<b>South Australia—</b>									
Adelaide ..	1,079	1,567	1,702	997	1,509	1,673	1,124	1,619	1,740
Kadina, etc. ..	1,116	1,370	1,462	1,095	1,326	1,422	1,235	1,432	1,475
Port Pirie ..	1,109	1,490	1,594	1,073	1,452	1,564	1,198	1,569	1,675
Mount Gambier ..	1,093	1,310	1,413	1,023	1,379	1,381	1,102	1,360	1,465
Peterborough ..	1,158	1,568	1,655	1,161	1,572	1,656	1,258	1,664	1,780
Freeling ..	1,083	1,424	1,490	1,063	1,392	1,507	1,112	1,441	1,566
Gawler ..	1,052	1,395	1,480	1,040	1,364	1,471	1,134	1,428	1,520
Kapunda ..	1,062	1,268	1,326	1,007	1,204	1,277	1,172	1,418	1,435
Koorlinga ..	1,090	1,419	1,485	1,060	1,389	1,455	1,164	1,493	1,559
Millicent ..	991	1,317	1,402	965	1,340	1,402	1,062	1,477	1,559
Murray Bridge ..	1,113	1,508	1,661	1,036	1,456	1,540	1,123	1,506	1,613
Port Augusta ..	1,210	1,586	1,642	1,243	1,630	1,710	1,323	1,710	1,790
Quorn ..	1,116	1,480	1,503	1,060	1,391	1,445	1,237	1,561	1,654
Victor Harbour ..	1,075	1,504	1,602	1,034	1,561	1,758	1,163	1,734	1,896
Renmark ..	1,101	1,651	1,743	1,207	1,657	1,900	1,287	1,736	1,923
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	1,083	1,545	1,673	1,011	1,492	1,645	1,136	1,601	1,717
<b>Western Australia—</b>									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,052	1,516	1,649	1,126	1,593	1,718	1,095	1,567	1,721
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,185	1,495	1,564	1,271	1,582	1,652	1,279	1,580	1,657
Northam ..	1,157	1,526	1,750	1,196	1,642	1,795	1,186	1,619	1,803
Bunbury ..	1,179	1,535	1,636	1,201	1,541	1,665	1,229	1,566	1,677
Geraldton ..	1,172	1,610	1,777	1,163	1,650	1,839	1,198	1,678	1,881
Albany ..	1,193	1,518	1,597	1,262	1,611	1,693	1,195	1,513	1,616
Beverley ..	1,174	1,453	1,536	1,199	1,489	1,548	1,167	1,463	1,549
Bridgetown ..	1,220	1,592	1,647	1,272	1,622	1,667	1,266	1,649	1,693
Broome ..	1,380	1,663	2,104	1,390	1,926	2,015	1,450	1,932	2,114
Carnarvon ..	1,327	1,621	1,935	1,321	1,795	1,963	1,347	1,808	1,956
Collie ..	1,237	1,723	1,764	1,244	1,704	1,764	1,234	1,712	1,817
Greenbushes ..	1,247	1,445	1,497	1,266	1,477	1,529	1,234	1,477	1,550
Katanning ..	1,068	1,444	1,548	1,154	1,502	1,614	1,173	1,565	1,745
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,398	1,646	1,577	1,369	1,566	1,632	1,412	1,609	1,675
Meekatharra ..	1,385	1,648	1,714	1,367	1,630	1,715	1,378	1,642	1,734
Narrogin ..	1,131	1,671	1,789	1,185	1,759	1,843	1,173	1,711	1,826
Wagin ..	1,093	1,428	1,537	1,132	1,544	1,636	1,124	1,535	1,606
York ..	1,061	1,427	1,629	1,124	1,460	1,562	1,130	1,406	1,568
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	1,087	1,525	1,648	1,155	1,596	1,713	1,132	1,576	1,719

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

State and Town.	1927. November.			1928. November			1929. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5- and 6- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5- and 6- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5- and 6- Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>Tasmania—</b>									
Hobart ..	1,025	1,506	1,666	1,016	1,487	1,658	1,096	1,573	1,712
Launceston ..	1,011	1,417	1,574	982	1,386	1,573	1,087	1,492	1,692
Burnie ..	1,052	1,473	1,600	1,047	1,496	1,596	1,163	1,586	1,731
Devonport ..	1,015	1,455	1,527	1,016	1,430	1,460	1,116	1,565	1,699
Queenstown ..	1,150	1,430	1,440	1,180	1,394	1,407	1,215	1,527	1,557
Beaconsfield ..	1,009	1,114	1,140	980	1,094	1,120	1,052	1,144	1,183
Campbelltown ..	1,045	1,236	1,281	975	1,103	1,212	1,070	1,206	1,315
Dorvaline ..	978	1,320	1,373	953	1,205	1,348	1,010	1,303	1,440
Franklin ..	1,021	1,231	1,284	1,024	1,235	1,288	1,118	1,323	1,381
New Norfolk ..	998	1,333	1,406	995	1,317	1,403	1,067	1,382	1,461
Scottsdale ..	986	1,284	1,359	980	1,265	1,370	1,084	1,374	1,466
Ulverstone ..	1,026	1,335	1,460	1,000	1,315	1,421	1,080	1,400	1,511
Zeehan ..	1,193	1,382	1,427	1,189	1,387	1,430	1,293	1,490	1,523
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,028	1,455	1,594	1,013	1,434	1,583	1,102	1,529	1,666
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns)	1,082	1,670	1,703	1,040	1,538	1,683	1,133	1,634	1,773

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in columns B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing is ascertained. Thus, for November, 1929, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1084. Subtracting this from 1,647 (column B) gives a difference of 563, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,795 (column C) gives a difference of 711, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. The relative cost of housing can be ascertained similarly for each of the towns included.

3. Comparisons with Quarterly Results.—To determine the accuracy of the figures relating to variations in prices prior to 1912 for the capital cities only, and those since the beginning of 1912 for the 30 towns, the comparisons of the results have been made annually with the results obtained from the investigations covering all towns.

The general closeness of the results is remarkable and indicates that the index-numbers for the capital cities only for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and for subsequent years reflect with a substantial degree of accuracy the variations in retail prices for Australia. The trend in the cost of housing was consistent in the three tabulations, the capital cities showing a slightly lower increase since 1913 than the other groups of towns. During the period November, 1913, to November, 1929, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 77 per cent.; the cost of housing increased 63.5 per cent.; and the cost of food, groceries and housing combined increased approximately 71.9 per cent.

## § 5. International Comparison of Price Index-Numbers.

1. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices for the years 1913 to 1929 in Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913, the year before the war, being taken as base (= 1,000). These figures are obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations. It must be understood that the figures do not show the relative prices in the various countries, but the fluctuations in prices in each country separately.

Index-Numbers, Wholesale Prices, Various Countries 1913 to 1929 (Prices in 1913 as Base = 1,000).

YEAR.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	NETHERLANDS.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	FINLAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	"Finanzstatistik."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1915	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1916	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1917	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1918	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1919	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1920	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1921	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1922	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1923	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1924	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1925	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1926	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1927	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1928	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1929	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

YEAR.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
	Camera di Commercio di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1915	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1916	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1917	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1918	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1919	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1920	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1921	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1922	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1923	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1924	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1925	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1926	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1927	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1928	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1929	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

a June, 1914. b Gold index. c February. d July. e End of year. f Official since year 1925.

g 000,000 omitted. h New series. i Average of eight months. j For "Ekononisk Revue".

series from 1913 to 1923, see Labour Report No. 14, p. 138.

k January.

l Until end 1925, "Lorenz."

2. **Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.**—The following table gives index-numbers of retail prices, (a) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (b) food only for the month of July in each year from 1914 to 1929, and where available, for December, 1929, the prices for July, 1914 being taken as base (= 1,000). It must be understood, however, that the figures which have been obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries for the Month of July, 1914 to 1929, and December, 1929, with Prices in July, 1914, as Base (= 1,000).

(a) COST OF LIVING.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BULGARIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	LUXEMBURG.
	Localities.	Vienna.				Paris.			Milan.	1,000- bours.
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,250	1,250	..	1,250	1,180	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1916	1,800	1,800	..	1,800	1,550	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1917	2,100	2,100	..	2,100	1,820	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1918	2,150	2,150	..	2,150	2,110	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1919	2,550	2,550	..	2,550	2,692	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1920	2,820	2,820	..	2,820	2,870	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1921	1,810	1,810	..	1,810	2,370	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1922	1,710	1,710	..	1,710	2,040	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1923	1,730	1,730	..	1,730	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1924	1,710	1,710	..	1,710	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1925	1,700	1,700	..	1,700	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1926	1,640	1,640	..	1,640	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1927	1,640	1,640	..	1,640	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1928	1,680	1,680	..	1,680	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1929	1,680	1,680	..	1,680	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Dec. 1929	1,680	1,680	..	1,680	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,250	1,250	..	1,250	1,180	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1916	1,800	1,800	..	1,800	1,550	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1917	2,100	2,100	..	2,100	1,820	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1918	2,150	2,150	..	2,150	2,110	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1919	2,550	2,550	..	2,550	2,692	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1920	2,820	2,820	..	2,820	2,870	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1921	1,810	1,810	..	1,810	2,370	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1922	1,710	1,710	..	1,710	2,040	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1923	1,730	1,730	..	1,730	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1924	1,710	1,710	..	1,710	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1925	1,700	1,700	..	1,700	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1926	1,640	1,640	..	1,640	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1927	1,640	1,640	..	1,640	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1928	1,680	1,680	..	1,680	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1929	1,680	1,680	..	1,680	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Dec. 1929	1,680	1,680	..	1,680	2,140	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

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

## Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries, &amp;c.—continued.

## (b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
	630	Vienna.	59	Whole Country	100	21	Paris.	72	10
July 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	c
" 1915 ..	1,320	..	..	1,280	1,280	1,200	1,200	1,200	s
" 1916 ..	1,610	..	..	1,460	1,460	1,290	1,290	1,290	..
" 1917 ..	2,040	..	..	1,660	1,660	1,830	1,830	1,830	..
" 1918 ..	2,100	..	..	1,870	1,870	2,060	2,060	2,060	..
" 1919 ..	2,170	..	..	2,120	2,120	2,610	2,610	2,610	..
" 1920 ..	2,620	..	..	2,530	2,530	10,130	3,730	12,520	..
" 1921 ..	2,280	579,000	1,000	13,030	2,360	13,230	3,060	14,910	..
" 1922 ..	1,750	3,282,360	870	14,300	1,840	11,410	2,970	68,360	1,020
" 1923 ..	1,650	12,911,000	1,050	9,210	1,880	10,020	3,210	44,510,000	930
" 1924 ..	1,640	14,362,900	1,240	9,090	2,000	10,520	3,600	91,316	940
" 1925 ..	1,680	..	1,330	9,160	2,100	11,450	4,210	1,578	950
" 1926 ..	1,610	51,159	1,850	8,760	1,590	11,440	5,740	1,453	910
" 1927 ..	1,560	1,220	2,100	9,620	1,530	1,440	5,570	1,568	890
" 1928 ..	1,560	1,190	2,040	9,430	1,530	1,510	11,110	1,541	910
" 1929 ..	1,530	1,230	2,120	9,250	1,490	1,460	1,280	1,557	900
Dec. 1929 ..	1,570	1,220	2,270	11,287	1,460	1,420	1,250	1,522	890

No. of Towns and Localities.	ITALY.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
	Milan.	31	Warsaw.	49	33	Bombay.	9	60	51	30	25	Madrid.
July 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	c
" 1915 ..	1,230	1,230	..	1,230	..	1,070	1,040	930	1,308	1,124	1,080	..
" 1916 ..	1,510	1,520	..	1,360	..	1,160	1,120	1,090	1,302	1,193	1,160	..
" 1917 ..	2,100	2,030	..	1,750	..	1,280	1,530	1,430	1,263	1,280	1,280	..
" 1918 ..	3,250	2,710	..	2,610	..	1,340	1,730	1,650	1,308	1,393	1,540	..
" 1919 ..	3,100	2,900	..	3,100	..	1,390	1,840	1,860	1,473	1,459	1,740	..
" 1920 ..	4,450	3,190	..	2,970	..	1,970	2,240	2,150	1,942	1,677	1,900	..
" 1921 ..	5,060	3,920	456,550	2,320	2,110	1,740	1,390	1,490	1,450	1,612	1,641	1,890
" 1922 ..	4,920	2,330	744	1,790	1,570	1,600	1,160	1,300	1,390	1,482	1,421	1,810
" 1923 ..	4,960	2,180	714	1,600	1,660	1,480	1,160	1,350	1,440	1,644	1,480	1,770
" 1924 ..	5,080	2,480	1,391	1,590	1,700	1,510	1,170	1,310	1,460	1,485	1,483	1,840
" 1925 ..	6,020	2,600	1,739	1,690	1,690	1,710	1,200	1,380	1,560	1,559	1,509	1,990
" 1926 ..	6,540	1,980	2,070	1,560	1,590	1,740	1,170	1,510	1,530	1,588	1,498	1,870
" 1927 ..	5,240	1,750	1,431	1,510	1,570	1,730	1,190	1,480	1,500	1,517	1,447	1,890
" 1928 ..	11,400	1,730	1,441	1,570	1,570	1,610	1,160	1,470	1,490	1,547	1,470	1,760
" 1929 ..	11,440	1,570	1,392	1,510	1,550	1,630	1,160	1,500	1,550	1,590	1,460	1,810
Dec. 1929 ..	1,490	1,570	1,435	1,470	1,570	1,670	1,120	1,610	1,540	1,552	1,460	1,810

a Gold index. b New series. c Yearly average. d January. e Average of second quarter. f New series, November, 1927. g Since 1924 "Zloty" prices. h New series, November, 1927. i Since 1922 "Zloty" prices recalculated—base October, 1923. j December. k Third quarter of year. l From 1915, for month of August. m For 1921-24, includes fuel and soap, since 1925 exclusive of those items. n Base 1921-23=1,000. o 1st June.