

CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

Section 1.—Wholesale Prices.

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

The scope of the wholesale price index can best be understood by study of the list of commodities included given on page 11. It is principally an index of the prices of raw material and food and is therefore in its scope fairly comparable with the "Economist" and "Statist" index-numbers of Great Britain. On the other hand, it is very different in scope from the wholesale price index-numbers of the United States (Bureau of Labour) or of Canada (Department of Labour).

It follows that the Melbourne index has not much significance as a general measure of prices or as a criterion of purchasing power. Its use is rather to indicate changes in the price of the basic materials which, whether as raw materials or as food or as a source of power, enter into production for home consumption. The commodities are, therefore, weighted (see page 11), in proportion to Australian consumption. As Australia does not to any extent turn imported raw material into manufactured exports, consumption alone appears to give the most appropriate weighting. The wholesale price index is, therefore, at one end of a scale, and the retail price index at the other. The difference between them indicates, not the spread between wholesale and retail prices, but rather the combined costs of manufacture and distribution. This is the general idea underlying the Australian wholesale price index, though it has not been consistently followed out.

The index-number of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912, and has been continued on the same lines for nearly twenty years. It was resolved at the Brisbane Conference of Statisticians in 1930 that the time had come to revise and extend it in harmony with changed conditions. An investigation to that end is now in progress and it is hoped that it will be possible to publish a full report on the question, with any revision of results that may be found necessary, in the Labour Report for 1932.

2. **Commodities in Groups.**—The commodities are divided into eight groups, as set out on page 11. The descriptions of the groups are given below with "weights", showing approximately the proportional cost of the consumption of each group in the middle of 1931. These weights may be used to combine any group index-numbers with fair accuracy at the present time, but would give unsatisfactory results if used for a time when prices were much different relatively, as in 1929.

Groups of Commodities.

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

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

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

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 August 1931, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

YEAR.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricultural Produce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Commodities combined.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,588	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,536
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,220
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,567	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	688	780	1,194	948
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,846	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	1,204	1,052	1,357	1,067	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,098
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,529	1,133	2,435	1,375	1,628	1,604
1916 ..	1,696	1,428	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,564
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,682
1918 ..	2,416	2,380	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,386	2,666	3,225	1,914
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,966	1,651	1,616	2,348	2,351	2,898	2,055
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	3,826	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	3,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,949
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,947	1,656	1,721	2,223	1,915	1,896	1,883
1925 ..	1,852	1,997	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	1,916	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,924	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,791	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,016	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,566	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,909
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,932	1,598
1929—									
Sept. ..	1,917	1,508	1,931	1,844	1,693	2,473	1,758	1,942	1,858
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	1,794	1,680	2,099	1,737	1,958	1,894
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	1,876	1,725	1,674	2,102	1,797	1,942	1,719
Feb. ..	1,917	1,234	1,624	1,746	1,681	2,082	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
April ..	1,917	1,207	1,594	1,798	1,675	2,004	1,863	1,968	1,662
May ..	1,917	1,255	1,698	1,788	1,669	2,111	1,915	1,958	1,683
June ..	1,837	1,172	1,600	1,784	1,669	2,096	1,909	1,968	1,557
July ..	1,837	1,122	1,569	1,702	1,677	2,217	1,887	1,968	1,544
Aug. ..	1,837	1,086	1,508	1,605	1,659	2,318	1,914	1,978	1,620
Sept. ..	1,824	984	1,384	1,503	1,648	2,105	1,895	1,973	1,532
Oct. ..	1,812	997	1,330	1,424	1,650	1,785	1,908	2,039	1,479
Nov. ..	1,836	964	1,231	1,346	1,666	1,717	1,911	2,033	1,437
Dec. ..	1,832	970	1,162	1,337	1,648	1,564	1,901	2,059	1,399
1931—									
Jan. ..	1,890	974	1,162	1,424	1,811	1,689	1,925	2,059	1,454
Feb. ..	1,868	1,098	1,105	1,492	1,841	1,455	1,992	2,161	1,448
March ..	1,868	1,170	1,066	1,522	1,814	1,471	1,996	2,161	1,456
April (a) ..	1,885	1,173	1,081	1,454	1,789	1,471	1,996	2,177	1,447
May ..	1,825	1,147	1,091	1,438	1,785	1,494	2,038	2,177	1,440
June ..	1,823	1,050	1,093	1,433	1,780	1,527	2,038	2,179	1,425
July ..	1,823	1,049	1,095	1,362	1,782	1,571	2,112	2,179	1,428
Aug. ..	1,810	914	1,087	1,356	1,769	1,583	2,091	2,179	1,399

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally. The index-numbers are reversible. Monthly index-numbers are shown above from September, 1929 the peak figure, and the highest monthly index-number recorded since January, 1928.

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

4. **Quarterly Variations in Price Levels.**—The following table gives the index-numbers for the four quarters of 1930 and the first and second quarters of 1931:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1930 and the First and Second Quarters, 1931. (Base—1911 = 1,000).

Group	No. of Commodities.	Index Numbers.					
		Jan. to March, 1930.	April to June, 1930.	July to Sept., 1930.	Oct. to Dec., 1930.	Jan. to March, 1931.	April to June, 1931.
I. Metals and Coal	14	1,017	1,890	1,833	1,826	1,875	1,844
II. Cotton, Wool, Leather, etc. .. .	10	1,257	1,211	1,044	977	1,081b	1,123
III. Agricultural Produce	16	1,612	1,507	1,487	1,241	1,118	1,089
IV. Dairy Produce	9	1,747	1,790	1,603	1,389	1,470	1,442
V. Groceries	21	1,076	1,071	1,061	1,055	1,222b	1,785
VI. Meat	5	2,123	2,070	2,213	1,689	1,535	1,497
VII. Building Materials	10	1,801	1,890	1,899	1,907	1,971	2,024
VIII. Chemicals	7	1,952	1,961	1,971	2,042	2,127	2,178
All Groups (a)	92	1,680	1,667	1,599	1,438	1,453	1,437

(a) Weighted average.

(b) Vide footnote on previous page.

5. **Variations since Outbreak of War.**—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1930, and for each month from January, 1930, to August, 1931, 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 1930, and Monthly January 1930, to August 1931. (Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricultural Produce.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Year 1915 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,639	1,307	1,130	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,841	1,084	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,085	1,695
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,449	2,602	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,784	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,495	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,643	1,823	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,641
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,856	1,781	1,633
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,661	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,582	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,661	1,456	1,654	1,242	1,590	1,976	1,671
" 1929 ..	1,737	1,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,895	1,591
" 1930 ..	1,695	1,035	1,389	1,353	1,614	1,249	1,712	1,933	1,399
1930—									
January ..	1,740	1,242	1,569	1,434	1,623	1,352	1,640	1,894	1,506
February ..	1,741	1,193	1,520	1,451	1,629	1,271	1,647	1,909	1,467
March ..	1,741	1,086	1,439	1,472	1,622	1,304	1,644	1,909	1,444
April ..	1,741	1,108	1,492	1,495	1,624	1,236	1,700	1,909	1,457
May ..	1,741	1,152	1,495	1,487	1,618	1,302	1,748	1,909	1,475
June ..	1,669	1,070	1,498	1,483	1,618	1,293	1,743	1,920	1,452
July ..	1,669	1,031	1,468	1,415	1,625	1,367	1,722	1,920	1,441
August ..	1,669	997	1,411	1,335	1,607	1,430	1,747	1,925	1,420
September ..	1,657	904	1,295	1,249	1,597	1,298	1,730	1,925	1,348
October ..	1,646	915	1,245	1,183	1,599	1,101	1,742	1,932	1,297
November ..	1,667	885	1,152	1,119	1,614	1,059	1,744	1,932	1,260
December ..	1,664	891	1,088	1,111	1,597	904	1,735	2,008	1,228
1931—									
January ..	1,717	895	1,087	1,184	1,755	1,042	1,757	2,008	1,275
February ..	1,697	1,008	1,035	1,240	1,785	897	1,818	2,108	1,270
March ..	1,697	1,074	1,017	1,266	1,768	907	1,822	2,108	1,276
April ..	1,712	1,077	1,012	1,209	1,733	907	1,822	2,123	1,268
May ..	1,657	1,053	1,021	1,195	1,730	921	1,860	2,123	1,262
June ..	1,656	964	1,023	1,191	1,725	942	1,860	2,126	1,249
July ..	1,656	963	1,025	1,132	1,727	969	1,928	2,126	1,252
August ..	1,644	839	1,027	1,111	1,715	976	1,908	2,126	1,227

6. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1930. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1930 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, 1930.

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)	1,680	1,667	1,599	1,438	1,596
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1930 as base (= 1,000)	1,052	1,044	1,002	901	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1911 as base (= 1,000)	1,739	1,723	1,667	1,665	1,672
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1930 as base (= 1,000)	1,086	1,030	997	936	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 a downward direction.

7. **Prices, 1929 and 1930.**—In Section I, Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular brands of commodities used in computing the index numbers in the years 1929 and 1930. Corresponding information for previous years as far back as 1871 was given in the Appendixes to previous Reports.

§ 2. Retail Prices.

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

2. **The Composite Unit.**—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."
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).			GROUP III.—MEAT.		
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	488	26. Beef, sirloin	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary	25 lb. bag	11	27. Beef, rib	"	82
3. Tea	lb.	30	28. Beef, flank	"	12
4. Coffee	"	2	29. Beef, shin	"	14
5. Sugar	"	460	30. Beef, steak, rump	"	24
6. Rice	"	50	31. Beef, steak, shoulder	"	53
7. Bago	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing	"	53
8. Jam	"	73	33. Beef, corned round	"	39
9. Oatmeal	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with bone	"	11
10. Raisins	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without bone	"	32
11. Currants	"	14	36. Mutton, leg	"	92
12. Starch	"	1	37. Mutton, shoulder	"	62
13. Blue	doz. sqs.	4	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	"	94
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.			44. Pork, loin	"	84
19. Milk	quart	300	45. Pork, belly	"	104
20. Butter	lb.	95	46. Pork, chops	"	84
21. Cheese	"	15	GROUP IV.—HOUSING.		
22. Eggs	dozen	18	47. House Accommodation	week	464
23. Bacon, middle	lb.	16			
24. Bacon, shoulder	"	16			
25. Ham	"	8			

The mass-units (or "weights") in the above table are the estimated consumption (in millions) of Australia in the years 1906-10. Objection is sometimes taken against using these old figures for Australian consumption in view of the changing habits of the people. It is true that the present consumption per head of some foods differs considerably from that in 1906-10, and for other items more accurate information is now available. But in general, when practically all prices have moved strongly in the same direction, considerable changes in the mass-units make little difference to the index-numbers, because the same mass-units, whatever they may be, must of course be used for both the base period and the period in question. The matter has been tested by using mass-units based on the latest estimates for Australian consumption, with the result that the index remains practically unaltered. There is no difficulty then in substituting the new "weights" for the old. This will be done as soon as the new estimates of consumption have been finally checked, because a divergent movement of prices in the future might introduce appreciable errors if the old "weights" were retained.

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 of food are obtained monthly from about ten tradespeople in each town in respect to the various items in the regimen. 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.

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

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

A return of rents is made at the middle of each quarter by ten or more house-agents in each capital city for houses classified according to the number of rooms both for brick and wooden houses. The return is the

average rent paid for all occupied houses that conform to a certain standard, excluding houses with special advantages or disadvantages. Old-fashioned, inconvenient houses and houses out of repair or poorly situated are not taken into account. Information on similar lines is collected quarterly in each of the country towns included in the investigation.

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

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

5. **Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1930.**—Index-numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, as well as the weighted average for all groups together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table. The index-numbers in the following tables, which have the period 1923—27 as base, can be converted to the old base 1911 by multiplying by 1000 and dividing by the index-number for 1911.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1930.

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 cost for the six cities taken together during the five-yearly period 1923—1927 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

Town.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	1,126	1,055	988	1,106	952
Melbourne	451	521	562	1,070	1,008	942	893	989	858
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,105	1,091	850	853	1,021	877
Adelaide	510	541	568	1,076	1,023	870	824	972	846
Perth	572	720	628	1,103	1,025	950	961	1,014	908
Hobart	601	666	604	1,087	1,019	965	927	1,025	917
Weighted Average (a) ..	499	564	599	1,093	1,064	993	939	1,037	899
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.									
Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	1,045	1,074	1,067	1,080	984
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,037	992	1,014	982	1,003	922
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	975	978	959	971	896
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	990	1,019	982	1,007	908
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	1,033	1,033	1,033	1,057	983
Hobart	664	587	695	1,091	977	988	963	993	921
Weighted Average (a) ..	562	591	654	1,072	1,014	1,034	1,016	1,038	946

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1930—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1926.	1917.	1928.	1929.	1930.
GROUP III.—MEAT.									
Sydney	519	501	668	960	913	957	1,035	1,068	1,034
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	987	968	981	1,029	991
Brisbane	635	488	610	897	879	840	982	823	741
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,005	1,123	1,141	1,162	1,232	1,107
Perth	789	824	881	1,103	1,081	1,065	1,218	1,220	1,025
Hobart	668	638	780	1,244	1,149	1,084	1,032	1,056	1,030
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	967	980	1,029	1,061	1,001
GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	1,044	1,032	1,021	1,000	984
Melbourne	517	529	610	1,063	992	969	942	1,004	918
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	1,000	940	935	951	844
Adelaide	532	570	670	1,060	1,046	1,030	993	1,055	937
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	1,043	1,004	1,053	1,084	961
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	1,045	1,000	966	1,025	952
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	1,023	1,000	985	1,044	941
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney	593	701	760	930	1,117	1,109	1,143	1,162	1,197
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	1,037	1,046	1,087	1,094	1,011
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	815	832	839	841	778
Adelaide	610	706	655	809	927	942	1,022	989	910
Perth	458	524	589	739	898	922	941	955	870
Hobart	405	452	518	881	906	966	939	832	914
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	1,020	1,030	1,066	1,073	1,047
ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	1,070	1,060	1,064	1,115	1,050
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	1,008	996	993	1,030	948
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	934	902	901	912	810
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	1,003	999	1,003	1,030	920
Perth	594	672	679	982	992	975	1,013	1,038	968
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	1,027	988	956	992	839
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	1,024	1,011	1,014	1,054	978

(a) For all capital cities.

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

7. **Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1926 to 1931.**—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (46 commodities), in 30 of the more important towns in Australia at yearly, quarterly, and monthly periods for the years specified. In addition, index-numbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1926 to 1931 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927, as Base (a) (= 1,000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Ooulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Dendigo.	Ceebing.	Warraam-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
FOOD AND GROCERIES—40 COMMODITIES												
1926 ..	1,044	1,035	1,184	1,035	1,002	1,046	992	1,013	1,008	985	981	993
1927 ..	1,032	1,025	1,205	1,030	996	1,036	969	989	990	965	949	970
1928 ..	1,021	1,017	1,206	1,035	989	1,026	942	965	900	953	928	944
1929 ..	1,090	1,061	1,286	1,094	1,046	1,092	1,004	1,020	1,041	1,010	990	1,006
1930 ..	984	974	1,182	977	964	986	913	952	1,051	909	932	916
1930 1st Qtr.	1,020	1,016	1,236	1,038	1,001	1,025	941	988	988	931	961	945
2nd "	1,011	1,004	1,227	1,007	993	1,016	938	986	907	935	956	942
3rd "	977	966	1,157	903	957	981	917	955	969	908	924	920
4th "	927	908	1,106	900	903	920	854	880	880	861	886	857
1931 1st Qtr.	990	998	1,063	875	884	903	835	854	863	806	842	836
2nd "	888	887	1,041	867	873	891	793	810	822	775	797	795
1930.												
January ..	1,024	1,022	1,250	1,060	1,010	1,030	948	994	995	941	962	951
February ..	1,017	1,015	1,231	1,039	999	1,022	940	986	981	930	964	943
March ..	1,019	1,012	1,233	1,015	996	1,024	936	985	987	921	957	939
April ..	1,017	1,008	1,231	1,021	999	1,022	941	993	968	937	969	946
May ..	1,012	1,004	1,227	999	995	1,016	940	985	997	930	954	944
June ..	1,004	999	1,224	999	985	1,009	932	979	996	931	951	937
July ..	993	980	1,200	986	971	998	931	967	985	917	928	933
August ..	989	960	1,153	975	964	991	922	963	970	914	923	925
September ..	951	939	1,117	929	937	954	899	937	952	892	922	902
October ..	930	923	1,098	907	925	934	870	903	913	885	917	874
November ..	931	908	1,110	896	883	933	850	877	862	858	881	852
December ..	919	895	1,111	895	902	921	843	859	865	840	859	845
1931.												
January ..	915	903	1,094	880	896	918	852	869	871	822	854	852
February ..	897	903	1,052	874	881	901	835	855	863	803	849	835
March ..	887	890	1,045	871	875	891	819	838	854	794	823	820
April ..	896	898	1,048	881	886	900	806	826	830	791	794	807
May ..	883	893	1,045	885	899	888	793	814	820	769	800	794
June ..	885	870	1,029	856	863	887	781	800	816	763	799	783
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1926 ..	1,117	1,039	673	1,065	891	1,007	1,037	625	730	960	740	1,008
1927 ..	1,109	1,062	693	1,135	866	1,093	1,046	631	788	997	793	1,015
1928 ..	1,143	1,080	702	1,193	885	1,125	1,087	675	793	980	831	1,055
1929 ..	1,162	1,082	701	1,240	860	1,142	1,094	704	817	941	849	1,060
1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,041	696	750	883	865	982
1930 1st Qtr.	1,245	1,066	728	1,221	1,049	1,215	1,048	692	789	932	864	1,017
2nd "	1,213	1,050	728	1,230	964	1,185	1,040	715	763	902	866	1,010
3rd "	1,176	1,038	725	1,183	966	1,151	1,005	697	740	885	866	979
4th "	1,162	1,021	725	1,091	980	1,128	950	680	727	834	866	926
1931 1st Qtr.	1,107	971	738	1,028	959	1,034	905	639	689	846	834	898
2nd "	1,057	924	730	975	938	1,036	875	619	664	823	816	854
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.												
1926 ..	1,070	1,036	1,009	1,046	963	1,064	1,008	876	909	976	896	997
1927 ..	1,060	1,038	1,023	1,008	950	1,056	990	862	918	976	894	986
1928 ..	1,064	1,043	1,027	1,037	952	1,061	993	862	904	962	894	983
1929 ..	1,115	1,068	1,078	1,146	937	1,110	1,036	914	902	985	940	1,026
1930 ..	1,059	998	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	948	861	884	900	909	940
1930 1st Qtr.	1,100	1,034	1,057	1,103	1,018	1,093	979	883	910	931	927	970
2nd "	1,083	1,020	1,050	1,086	990	1,076	974	890	914	923	925	966
3rd "	1,048	992	1,004	1,041	961	1,041	948	864	888	893	904	940
4th "	1,007	948	971	968	930	1,000	888	800	826	851	879	881
1931 1st Qtr.	973	924	948	929	911	967	860	778	801	820	839	853
2nd "	948	900	930	906	896	943	822	746	760	792	804	816

(a) See explanatory note at centre of page 15.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1926 to 1931: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-year period, 1923-1927, as Base (a) (= 1,000)—continued.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charter Towers.	Wurwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).												
1926 ..	1,000	890	1,048	1,135	1,004	1,008	1,045	1,077	1,116	1,024	1,109	1,049
1927 ..	940	912	1,006	1,139	969	951	1,030	1,071	1,071	1,015	1,102	1,033
1928 ..	935	891	970	1,037	930	940	993	1,059	1,048	997	1,110	999
1929 ..	951	929	1,011	1,102	971	961	1,055	1,137	1,111	1,034	1,166	1,061
1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	855	937	1,036	1,019	924	1,044	944
1930 1st Qtr.	893	839	975	1,036	923	909	905	1,036	1,072	982	1,093	1,002
2nd "	860	865	926	1,004	899	872	983	1,080	1,068	937	1,089	990
3rd "	833	837	901	926	870	844	913	1,023	998	916	1,043	922
4th "	784	794	847	899	817	795	855	951	939	862	950	863
1931 1st Qtr.	799	803	870	916	813	810	835	930	910	794	912	842
2nd "	788	766	848	916	804	797	810	896	868	774	884	816
1930.												
January ..	914	911	996	1,060	942	927	1,006	1,089	1,081	1,009	1,103	1,018
February ..	906	888	976	1,023	925	915	990	1,084	1,069	971	1,085	997
March ..	873	868	954	1,025	903	886	990	1,085	1,067	965	1,090	997
April ..	869	873	937	1,025	903	881	998	1,086	1,075	947	1,098	1,005
May ..	857	868	927	1,010	901	871	989	1,085	1,065	938	1,088	996
June ..	853	855	916	978	893	864	962	1,069	1,066	925	1,080	971
July ..	847	849	917	963	880	858	937	1,058	1,024	924	1,060	946
August ..	837	840	904	923	874	847	914	1,020	996	921	1,045	923
September ..	816	821	881	903	856	826	889	1,007	973	908	1,024	898
October ..	801	807	860	902	841	812	877	966	954	870	1,006	885
November ..	777	793	841	898	813	789	849	947	937	857	928	857
December ..	774	781	834	898	706	785	838	948	927	849	910	846
1931.												
January ..	795	794	858	903	706	804	846	949	932	829	917	854
February ..	806	814	877	920	819	817	850	931	916	781	914	837
March ..	708	802	876	925	825	809	829	911	881	772	906	834
April ..	707	783	804	920	809	807	824	903	875	779	897	829
May ..	787	768	845	914	810	796	812	885	868	775	882	817
June ..	780	746	834	914	792	787	796	870	857	768	873	801
HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1926 ..	815	739	603	568	714	785	927	505	694	529	745	894
1927 ..	832	743	498	564	745	802	942	508	701	511	801	908
1928 ..	839	727	453	477	679	805	1,022	481	699	548	770	879
1929 ..	841	719	433	745	678	806	960	443	695	561	816	945
1930 ..	775	727	655	720	668	759	916	398	715	586	810	832
1930 1st Qtr.	831	733	670	730	671	802	972	415	700	566	822	932
2nd "	782	741	701	739	671	768	944	396	711	588	814	906
3rd "	756	733	495	718	671	745	909	392	728	588	814	875
4th "	730	703	674	694	660	720	841	390	721	686	788	813
1931 1st Qtr.	690	622	646	657	600	679	807	385	703	586	735	781
2nd "	689	622	630	657	639	677	760	420	684	586	714	740
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
1926 ..	934	901	911	934	901	929	1,003	874	966	845	980	994
1927 ..	902	852	896	935	800	808	999	871	940	836	995	989
1928 ..	901	833	858	942	841	892	1,003	854	925	833	900	992
1929 ..	912	855	877	975	867	906	1,030	891	963	866	1,042	1,020
1930 ..	819	804	832	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	961	922
1930 1st Qtr.	874	834	867	927	834	871	987	848	940	841	966	977
2nd "	832	821	846	910	818	835	969	837	941	812	901	960
3rd "	806	800	828	852	800	809	912	802	902	800	962	906
4th "	765	761	795	827	761	768	850	752	862	764	893	845
1931 1st Qtr.	760	739	791	824	750	764	825	737	836	720	849	820
2nd "	753	715	770	824	745	754	792	723	803	707	824	789

(a) See note at centre of page 15.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1926 to 1931: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1928-1927, as Base (1) (= 1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam (a).	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie (a).	Devonport (a).	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.	Weighted Average of Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
1926	1,048	1,188	1,128	1,122	1,124	1,084	1,045	1,031	1,062	1,054	1,165	1,046	1,023	1,027
1927	1,004	1,148	1,098	1,109	1,101	1,026	1,000	987	1,017	1,006	1,105	1,001	1,000	1,004
1928	1,053	1,173	1,104	1,180	1,096	966	946	946	1,008	973	1,080	967	985	989
1929	1,094	1,267	1,157	1,173	1,149	1,108	1,025	985	1,028	1,140	1,024	1,024	1,044	1,047
1930	961	1,139	1,041	1,070	1,055	986	952	937	1,002	938	1,089	993	941	948
1930 1st Qtr.	1,011	1,167	1,084	1,128	1,105	1,039	985	970	1,028	961	1,085	985	980	986
2nd "	1,018	1,191	1,098	1,127	1,103	1,036	982	958	1,008	961	1,090	981	970	976
3rd "	981	1,182	1,047	1,071	1,040	980	954	989	988	862	1,023	965	935	941
4th "	866	1,081	942	951	946	887	886	880	938	862	1,023	801	877	862
1931 1st Qtr.	877	1,012	913	923	888	894	864	853	870	867	932	866	860	864
2nd "	866	1,007	892	916	895	864	826	822	847	827	829	829	829	841
1930.	1,025	1,164	1,090	1,144	1,110	1,045	995	931	1,032	965	1,087	994	987	995
January	1,011	1,168	1,080	1,123	1,101	1,038	984	962	1,020	957	1,084	992	978	983
February	1,015	1,169	1,082	1,117	1,101	1,039	977	966	1,028	960	1,085	979	974	980
March	1,013	1,181	1,089	1,123	1,103	1,085	985	959	1,046	963	1,085	982	976	982
April	1,022	1,205	1,100	1,123	1,103	1,047	989	960	1,046	962	1,085	985	972	978
May	985	1,208	1,090	1,121	1,104	1,027	974	956	1,031	958	1,080	974	961	965
June	988	1,190	1,090	1,121	1,104	1,027	974	946	1,024	962	1,087	965	952	958
July	987	1,189	1,094	1,081	1,061	986	964	942	1,018	952	1,076	963	942	947
August	911	1,128	1,003	1,038	1,055	941	882	825	978	832	1,058	937	912	918
September	887	1,082	993	978	1,004	919	894	894	944	851	988	901	889	895
October	882	1,082	993	945	920	879	885	865	944	888	1,025	966	876	880
November	865	984	926	931	914	873	879	852	919	869	1,026	966	867	871
December	865	984	926	931	914	873	879	852	919	869	1,026	966	867	871
1931.	870	998	937	922	826	887	875	867	896	864	1,027	879	872	876
January	879	1,018	914	820	838	889	866	856	864	876	979	867	849	864
February	882	1,020	837	826	848	890	850	837	880	860	971	852	849	854
March	870	1,017	889	823	845	880	836	828	854	849	928	841	847	861
April	889	1,009	901	813	837	887	833	819	847	830	925	832	835	840
May	889	995	886	813	823	868	806	818	840	811	904	815	835	832
June	849	995	886	813	823	868	806	818	840	811	904	815	835	832

HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1926	898	640	883	797	801	836	896	797	785	759	896	899	1,028	932
1927	822	644	884	713	870	876	866	757	770	743	878	878	1,030	896
1928	841	644	894	671	857	893	839	845	711	711	840	878	1,006	896
1929	835	643	917	676	885	806	832	831	781	738	820	873	1,073	1,037
1930	879	682	963	783	1,083	934	914	808	726	714	867	858	1,047	1,013
1930 1st Qtr.	1,001	662	905	786	1,012	849	923	809	780	780	859	865	1,090	1,052
2nd "	993	679	905	756	1,039	845	912	809	749	780	859	855	1,067	1,032
3rd "	983	693	901	779	1,101	847	911	804	707	773	871	854	1,085	1,008
4th "	931	692	809	780	1,100	890	911	808	694	761	879	853	1,094	1,068
1931 1st Qtr.	924	693	862	789	1,043	858	915	783	710	769	854	852	954	928
2nd "	895	627	862	796	1,042	870	923	783	710	787	804	852	954	928

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1926	902	961	1,032	975	1,031	990	1,027	948	904	850	892	964	1,024	1,015
1927	975	938	1,026	966	1,019	973	988	916	953	813	864	957	1,011	1,002
1928	1,013	949	1,038	967	1,047	1,007	956	916	926	880	880	936	1,014	1,004
1929	1,088	1,010	1,072	996	1,080	1,030	992	987	974	892	920	970	1,054	1,044
1930	968	941	992	856	1,058	857	939	891	802	880	890	919	978	970
1930 1st Qtr.	1,012	953	1,020	1,007	1,072	1,007	968	913	932	897	898	942	1,019	1,009
2nd "	1,005	974	1,026	1,006	1,080	964	957	905	889	889	902	937	1,004	996
3rd "	906	960	996	987	1,077	1,003	938	891	900	885	895	919	971	968
4th "	888	875	927	891	1,001	890	895	863	861	889	865	879	919	912
1931 1st Qtr.	894	864	897	876	975	892	882	829	813	832	848	861	893	887
2nd "	877	872	881	870	873	879	860	808	788	785	810	838	866	860

(a) The towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zealand (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). (b) See note at centre of page 15.

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

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the table cannot be directly compared with one another in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing and food and groceries, since the weighted average cost during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927 is in each 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 ..	890	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	Ft. Pirie	10	Northam	4	Burnie ..	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chris. Twrs.	9	Mt. Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	5
Bathurst	9	W'nambo'ly	8	Warwick	6	Peterbor'gh	2	Geraldton	4	Queenst'wn	3

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

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

Brisbane, or 10s. 10d. in Hobart, while 17s. 9d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1930 was equivalent to 8s. 10d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 13s. 5d. in Perth in 1911.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1931 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927, in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).									
	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.			
1907	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.	4 d.
1911	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8	10 8	10 8	10 8
1921	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 6	15 1	11 10	11 2	11 2	11 2	11 2
1925	20 0	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0
1926	20 0	19 7	19 5	20 7	21 8	22 3	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0
1927	20 11	19 10	20 0	20 11	20 10	20 11	20 5	20 5	20 5	20 5
1928	20 8	19 5	18 10	18 10	20 7	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0
1929	20 5	18 10	18 8	19 10	19 10	19 4	19 8	19 8	19 8	19 8
1930	21 10	20 1	19 0	21 1	21 8	20 6	20 11	20 11	20 11	20 11
1930	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10	18 10	18 10	18 10
1930	1st Qtr.	20 5	18 10	18 0	19 11	20 4	19 8	19 7	19 7	19 7
"	2nd "	20 3	18 9	17 2	19 8	20 3	19 5	19 5	19 5	19 5
"	3rd "	19 6	18 4	16 8	18 3	19 1	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 8
"	4th "	18 6	17 1	15 8	17 4	17 9	17 6	17 6	17 6	17 6
1931	1st "	18 0	16 8	16 0	16 8	17 7	17 3	17 3	17 3	17 3
"	2nd "	17 9	15 10	15 9	16 2	17 4	16 6	16 6	16 6	16 6

Year.	HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).									
	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.			
1907	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11	9 11	9 11	9 11
1911	14 0	11 5	7 7	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3
1921	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3	17 3	17 3	17 3
1925	22 11	19 7	14 3	19 3	16 5	20 2	20 2	20 2	20 2	20 2
1926	22 4	20 9	16 4	18 6	18 0	19 11	20 6	20 6	20 6	20 6
1927	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7	20 7	20 7	20 7
1928	22 10	21 9	16 9	20 5	18 10	18 8	21 4	21 4	21 4	21 4
1929	23 3	21 11	16 10	19 9	19 1	19 8	21 6	21 6	21 6	21 6
1930	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11	20 11	20 11	20 11
1930	1st Qtr.	24 11	21 0	16 7	19 5	20 0	18 6	18 6	18 6	18 6
"	2nd "	24 3	20 10	15 8	18 11	19 10	18 3	18 3	18 3	18 3
"	3rd "	23 6	19 0	15 1	18 2	19 10	18 3	18 3	18 3	18 3
"	4th "	23 1	19 0	14 7	16 10	18 7	18 3	18 3	18 3	18 3
1931	1st "	22 2	18 1	13 10	16 2	18 6	18 4	18 4	18 4	18 4
"	2nd "	21 2	17 6	13 9	15 2	18 0	18 6	18 6	18 6	18 6

Year.	FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.									
	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.			
1907	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5	10 5	10 5	10 5
1911	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 8	10 10	11 7	11 7	11 7	11 7
1921	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	18 11	19 10	19 10	19 10	19 10
1925	21 0	19 7	17 7	20 1	19 10	20 3	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0
1926	21 5	20 2	18 8	20 1	19 10	20 6	20 6	20 6	20 6	20 6
1927	21 2	19 11	18 0	20 0	19 6	19 9	20 3	20 3	20 3	20 3
1928	21 3	19 10	18 0	20 1	19 6	19 9	20 3	20 3	20 3	20 3
1929	22 4	20 9	18 3	20 7	20 9	19 10	21 1	21 1	21 1	21 1
1930	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7	19 7	19 7	19 7
1930	1st Qtr.	22 0	19 7	17 6	19 9	20 3	20 5	20 5	20 5	20 5
"	2nd "	21 8	19 6	16 8	19 5	19 9	20 1	20 1	20 1	20 1
"	3rd "	21 0	19 0	16 1	18 3	19 4	19 5	19 5	19 5	19 5
"	4th "	20 2	17 9	15 4	17 0	17 9	18 5	18 5	18 5	18 5
1931	1st "	19 19	17 2	15 2	16 6	17 11	17 10	17 10	17 10	17 10
"	2nd "	19 0	16 5	15 1	15 10	17 7	17 4	17 4	17 4	17 4

9. **Price Details, 1930.**—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 1930 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 included of investigations into retail price variations of all items ordinarily entering into household expenditure classified into four main groups:—Food and Groceries; Rent; Clothing; and Miscellaneous.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the cost of clothing and miscellaneous items. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to 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.

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

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

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

5. **Retail Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov. 1914 to 2nd Quarter 1931.**—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	638	..	..	..	..	..	610	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	964	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924
Years 1923-27	1,012	1,015	1,155	1,018	974	1,016	978	989	993	967	967	978
Year 1926 ..	1,044	1,035	1,184	1,035	1,002	1,046	992	1,013	1,008	985	981	993
" 1927 ..	1,032	1,025	1,205	1,050	996	1,036	990	988	990	965	949	970
" 1928 ..	1,021	1,017	1,208	1,035	989	1,020	942	965	966	953	928	944
" 1929 ..	1,090	1,061	1,286	1,094	1,046	1,092	1,004	1,029	1,041	1,010	990	1,006
" 1930 ..	984	974	1,182	977	964	998	913	952	959	900	932	916
1930 1st Qtr.	1,020	1,016	1,238	1,038	1,001	1,025	941	968	998	931	961	945
" 2nd "	1,011	1,004	1,227	1,007	993	1,016	938	988	997	935	958	942
" 3rd "	977	966	1,157	988	957	961	917	955	969	908	924	920
" 4th "	927	908	1,100	900	903	929	854	880	880	861	856	857
1931 1st Qtr.	899	898	1,063	875	834	903	835	854	868	806	842	836
" 2nd "	888	887	1,041	867	873	891	793	816	822	776	797	795

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, and Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	951	936	950	941	945	968	928	997	948
Years 1923-27	960	934	938	1,074	951	965	1,025	1,032	1,060	989	1,064	1,026
Year 1926 ..	1,000	990	1,043	1,135	1,004	1,008	1,045	1,077	1,116	1,024	1,100	1,049
" 1927 ..	940	912	1,005	1,139	969	951	1,080	1,071	1,071	1,015	1,102	1,033
" 1928 ..	935	891	970	1,037	930	940	993	1,059	1,048	997	1,110	999
" 1929 ..	951	929	1,011	1,102	971	961	1,055	1,137	1,111	1,034	1,166	1,061
" 1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	855	937	1,036	1,019	924	1,044	944
1930 1st Qtr.	898	889	975	1,036	923	909	995	1,086	1,072	932	1,093	1,002
" 2nd "	860	865	926	1,004	899	872	933	1,080	1,068	937	1,089	990
" 3rd "	833	837	901	926	870	844	913	1,023	998	918	1,043	922
" 4th "	784	794	847	899	817	795	855	951	939	862	950	863
1931 1st Qtr.	799	803	870	916	813	810	835	930	910	794	912	842
" 2nd "	738	706	848	916	804	797	810	836	808	774	884	816

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	746	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,005	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	968	1,108	906	1,077	1,011	950	954
Years 1923-27	1,042	1,179	1,104	1,094	1,112	1,060	1,027	1,013	1,040	1,053	1,127	1,027	1,000	1,003
Year 1926 ..	1,043	1,188	1,128	1,122	1,124	1,064	1,045	1,031	1,062	1,054	1,165	1,046	1,023	1,027
" 1927 ..	1,004	1,148	1,098	1,109	1,101	1,026	1,000	987	1,017	1,006	1,105	1,001	1,000	1,004
" 1928 ..	1,053	1,179	1,104	1,130	1,096	1,068	966	949	1,008	973	1,080	967	985	989
" 1929 ..	1,084	1,267	1,157	1,173	1,149	1,108	1,025	995	1,078	1,038	1,140	1,034	1,044	1,047
" 1930 ..	961	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,053	988	952	937	1,002	988	1,068	953	941	946
1930 1st Qtr.	1,018	1,107	1,084	1,128	1,105	1,030	935	970	1,025	961	1,085	985	980	985
" 2nd "	1,011	1,191	1,093	1,127	1,103	1,036	922	958	1,038	961	1,090	981	970	976
" 3rd "	951	1,162	1,047	1,071	1,064	980	954	939	1,006	946	1,073	955	935	941
" 4th "	865	1,031	942	951	940	867	866	880	938	832	1,023	891	877	882
1931 1st Qtr.	877	1,012	913	922	938	894	864	853	870	867	992	866	860	864
" 2nd "	866	1,007	892	916	935	834	826	822	847	827	929	829	837	841

(a) Base.

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Barrat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov. 1914 ..	738	685	669	881	806	606	608	479	527	688	685	789								
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	869	1,050	801	1,084	848	607	679	868	883	969								
Years 1923-27 ..	1,111	994	917	1,050	801	1,084	993	607	679	868	793	969								
Year 1929 ..	1,117	1,039	978	1,065	891	1,087	1,087	625	625	730	960	740								
" 1927 ..	1,109	1,063	998	1,138	898	1,093	1,046	681	681	788	793	783								
" 1928 ..	1,143	1,059	702	1,183	886	1,185	1,005	675	675	793	987	783								
" 1929 ..	1,162	1,082	701	1,240	880	1,194	1,094	704	704	817	941	849								
" 1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	696	696	750	868	865								
1930, 1st Qtr.	1,245	1,066	729	1,221	1,049	1,215	1,048	692	692	769	932	894								
" 2nd "	1,219	1,050	728	1,230	984	1,185	1,040	715	715	763	902	866								
" 3rd "	1,176	1,039	725	1,183	964	1,181	1,005	697	697	740	805	866								
" 4th "	1,152	1,021	725	1,091	980	1,188	950	680	680	727	834	866								
1931, 1st Qtr.	1,107	971	738	1,028	959	1,084	905	639	639	664	846	834								
" 2nd "	1,057	924	730	975	938	1,036	875	619	619	664	823	834								
												854								
												854								

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mooltas, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.								
Nov. 1914 ..	463	547	470	538	535	594	611	566	608	492	506	781								
" 1921 ..	629	682	590	679	679	726	819	500	631	506	788	899								
Years 1923-27 ..	754	682	590	680	679	726	932	500	631	506	788	899								
Year 1929 ..	815	739	669	868	714	785	927	505	694	529	745	894								
" 1927 ..	892	749	698	894	745	802	942	508	701	511	801	806								
" 1928 ..	839	727	658	877	679	1,022	1,022	491	699	649	770	879								
" 1929 ..	941	719	633	745	678	1,066	1,066	448	695	561	816	945								
" 1930 ..	776	727	685	730	668	759	916	398	715	686	810	892								
1930, 1st Qtr.	831	733	670	730	671	802	972	416	700	586	822	832								
" 2nd "	782	741	701	739	671	768	944	396	711	586	814	906								
" 3rd "	756	738	695	716	671	720	909	392	728	586	814	875								
" 4th "	789	703	674	694	660	745	841	390	721	589	789	813								
1931, 1st Qtr.	690	622	646	657	639	679	807	385	703	586	735	781								
" 2nd "	689	622	630	657	639	677	760	428	684	586	714	740								

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.						
Nov. 1914 ..	586	578	616	643	719	709	628	676	334	160	435	449	623	623						
" 1921 ..	704	610	646	643	719	709	670	676	334	160	435	449	623	623						
Years 1923-27 ..	847	686	622	709	847	613	678	766	399	159	461	459	665	665						
Year 1929 ..	898	649	688	707	891	856	696	797	756	759	396	426	692	692						
" 1927 ..	922	641	894	713	870	878	696	787	770	743	432	426	698	698						
" 1928 ..	941	641	917	678	937	893	699	846	778	711	400	426	692	692						
" 1929 ..	932	638	937	678	965	906	682	851	751	731	420	426	697	697						
" 1930 ..	979	682	903	753	1,063	934	614	806	736	774	567	558	701	701						
1930, 1st Qtr.	1,001	692	905	739	1,032	949	629	809	744	789	530	490	702	702						
" 2nd "	993	679	905	786	1,039	945	612	809	740	789	600	497	702	702						
" 3rd "	998	693	901	779	1,101	947	611	804	707	779	571	493	703	703						
" 4th "	931	692	899	780	1,100	896	608	804	694	694	579	494	703	703						
1931, 1st Qtr.	924	683	870	789	1,048	898	616	785	710	708	684	494	703	703						
" 2nd "	894	627	862	789	1,042	870	623	789	710	737	694	494	703	703						

(a) Base.

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

Period	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	977	944	825	928	815	965	895	769	780	844	855	876		
Years 1923-27	1,047	1,004	964	1,029	912	1,040	933	853	882	930	891	971		
Year 1926 ..	1,070	1,036	1,003	1,046	963	1,064	1,008	876	909	976	896	997		
" 1927 ..	1,060	1,038	1,023	1,068	950	1,050	996	892	918	976	894	986		
" 1928 ..	1,064	1,043	1,027	1,087	952	1,061	993	882	904	962	894	983		
" 1929 ..	1,115	1,068	1,073	1,146	987	1,110	1,036	914	962	985	940	1,026		
" 1930 ..	1,059	998	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	948	861	884	900	909	940		
1930 1st Qtr.	1,100	1,034	1,057	1,103	1,018	1,093	979	883	910	931	927	970		
" 2nd "	1,083	1,020	1,050	1,086	990	1,076	974	890	914	923	925	966		
" 3rd "	1,048	992	1,004	1,041	961	1,041	948	864	888	893	904	940		
" 4th "	1,007	948	971	968	930	1,000	888	800	826	851	879	881		
1931 1st Qtr.	973	924	948	929	911	967	860	778	801	820	839	853		
" 2nd "	948	900	930	906	890	943	822	746	766	792	804	816		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	560	..	..	..	..	..	668	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820	794	824	898	911	839	770	844	865		
Years 1923-27	887	845	847	892	854	880	892	865	915	818	848	981		
Year 1926 ..	934	901	911	934	901	929	1,003	874	906	848	980	994		
" 1927 ..	902	852	896	935	890	898	999	871	940	836	985	989		
" 1928 ..	901	883	858	942	841	892	1,003	854	925	838	990	992		
" 1929 ..	912	855	877	975	867	906	1,030	891	963	866	1,042	1,020		
" 1930 ..	819	804	832	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	961	922		
1930 1st Qtr.	874	834	867	927	834	871	937	848	940	841	996	977		
" 2nd "	832	821	846	910	818	835	969	837	941	812	991	960		
" 3rd "	806	800	828	852	800	809	912	802	902	800	962	908		
" 4th "	765	761	785	827	761	768	850	762	862	764	893	845		
1931 1st Qtr.	760	739	791	824	759	764	825	737	830	720	849	820		
" 2nd "	753	715	770	824	745	754	792	723	803	707	824	789		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av. G. W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av. G. Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	689	650
" 1921 ..	916	928	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	896	871	911	844	907
Years 1923-27	978	958	1,004	957	1,018	978	1,008	933	951	937	891	977	1,000	990
Year 1926 ..	992	961	1,032	975	1,031	990	1,027	943	964	950	892	994	1,024	1,015
" 1927 ..	976	933	1,026	968	1,019	973	988	916	929	913	864	957	1,011	1,002
" 1928 ..	1,013	949	1,038	967	1,047	1,007	956	912	926	880	860	935	1,014	1,004
" 1929 ..	1,038	1,010	1,072	996	1,090	1,036	992	937	972	930	920	970	1,054	1,044
" 1930 ..	968	941	992	968	1,055	967	939	891	904	890	890	919	978	970
1930 1st Qtr.	1,012	953	1,020	1,007	1,072	1,007	963	913	932	897	898	942	1,019	1,009
" 2nd "	1,005	974	1,026	1,006	1,080	1,004	957	905	923	898	902	937	1,004	996
" 3rd "	960	960	935	967	1,077	968	938	891	900	885	895	919	971	963
" 4th "	888	875	927	891	1,001	890	895	853	851	839	865	878	919	912
1931 1st Qtr.	894	864	897	875	975	892	882	829	813	832	848	861	893	887
" 2nd "	877	872	851	870	978	879	860	808	798	795	810	838	866	860

(a) Base.

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov. 1914 ..	755	1,327	1,259	1,374	1,201	1,204	780	1,599	1,573	1,468	1,612	1,326								
" 1921 ..	1,255	1,327	1,259	1,374	1,201	1,204	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,468	1,612	1,326								
Years 1923-27	950	1,015	907	1,108	1,022	958	1,008	1,075	1,022	1,058	1,159	1,014								
Year 1926 ..	947	1,003	897	1,160	1,057	953	976	1,075	995	1,029	1,139	984								
" 1927 ..	930	1,002	890	1,162	1,078	944	975	1,069	992	1,037	1,139	984								
" 1928 ..	978	984	878	1,167	1,022	979	991	1,099	1,018	1,022	1,121	998								
" 1929 ..	988	982	887	1,102	1,000	981	992	1,093	1,009	993	1,086	998								
" 1930 ..	931	1,012	801	1,106	957	937	964	1,023	1,027	949	1,080	970								
1930 1st Qtr.	946	1,031	805	1,111	966	951	990	1,056	1,060	969	1,107	1,000								
" 2nd "	950	1,035	829	1,107	984	956	995	1,050	1,042	980	1,106	985								
" 3rd "	924	1,018	803	1,093	948	931	957	993	1,029	941	1,082	991								
" 4th "	906	964	787	1,114	921	910	916	982	978	907	1,044	921								
1931 1st Qtr.	850	931	731	1,100	839	828	871	941	952	865	1,017	878								
" 2nd "	843	912	729	1,042	838	848	847	897	948	852	1,077	864								
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mooltas, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.								
Nov. 1914 ..	637	1,408	1,452	1,568	1,519	1,235	756	1,435	1,480	1,607	1,180	1,238								
" 1921 ..	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,568	1,519	1,235	1,105	1,435	1,480	1,607	1,180	1,238								
Years 1923-27	1,024	1,070	1,056	915	1,000	1,028	1,084	1,094	1,089	1,209	1,088	1,084								
Year 1926 ..	1,009	1,054	1,063	876	1,104	1,014	1,086	1,087	1,022	1,219	1,108	1,083								
" 1927 ..	965	1,049	1,023	831	1,105	975	1,007	1,048	1,016	1,207	1,108	1,082								
" 1928 ..	946	1,068	1,011	847	1,099	960	1,089	1,065	1,012	1,201	1,096	1,088								
" 1929 ..	944	1,050	972	822	1,102	954	1,082	1,044	1,090	1,199	1,084	1,081								
" 1930 ..	910	1,052	834	826	1,066	923	969	1,094	923	1,174	1,087	985								
1930 1st Qtr.	929	1,057	902	821	1,090	941	1,010	1,014	945	1,185	1,083	1,011								
" 2nd "	923	1,052	950	835	1,089	936	981	1,011	951	1,178	1,093	985								
" 3rd "	907	1,068	931	880	1,056	922	940	1,095	924	1,167	1,087	946								
" 4th "	880	1,036	884	810	1,038	893	911	987	916	1,166	1,083	919								
1931 1st Qtr.	870	1,002	859	779	938	878	907	953	803	1,083	1,027	912								
" 2nd "	843	982	832	784	938	856	876	935	808	1,038	1,010	880								
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.						
Nov. 1914 ..	698	1,382	1,382	1,454	1,320	1,277	825	1,427	1,070	1,625	1,504	1,518	754							
" 1921 ..	1,282	1,378	1,382	1,454	1,320	1,277	1,427	1,070	1,625	1,405	1,504	1,518	1,200							
Years 1923-27	1,010	1,136	972	1,046	1,010	1,031	1,175	1,110	1,052	1,033	1,217	1,148	1,007							
Year 1926 ..	1,008	1,133	958	1,016	967	1,015	1,149	1,092	1,020	1,023	1,223	1,122	986							
" 1927 ..	1,019	1,127	934	967	1,009	1,022	1,146	1,077	1,027	1,006	1,188	1,098	975							
" 1928 ..	1,027	1,130	969	974	1,019	1,035	1,098	1,109	1,058	1,025	1,208	1,098	997							
" 1929 ..	1,023	1,136	961	966	966	1,031	1,093	1,090	1,045	1,068	1,212	1,098	996							
" 1930 ..	1,002	1,117	938	988	972	1,012	1,044	1,138	1,020	1,072	1,206	1,076	951							
1930 1st Qtr.	1,021	1,120	941	999	990	1,028	1,078	1,144	1,029	1,083	1,230	1,097	975							
" 2nd "	1,013	1,124	930	993	991	1,021	1,058	1,150	1,026	1,071	1,210	1,077	970							
" 3rd "	1,006	1,116	946	987	962	1,014	1,038	1,148	1,020	1,061	1,216	1,071	943							
" 4th "	968	1,109	935	971	947	982	1,016	1,117	1,005	1,081	1,170	1,051	914							
1931 1st Qtr.	948	1,086	883	944	953	902	997	1,093	972	1,005	1,137	1,020	877							
" 2nd "	851	1,095	893	853	830	804	971	1,034	956	924	1,117	990	850							
													886							
													887							

(4) Base.

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	786	..	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..
.. 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	980	1,015		
Years 1923-27	1,021	933	1,072	908	934	1,013	993	932	944	954	874	988		
Year 1926 ..	1,020	928	1,074	905	920	1,011	991	933	945	949	868	985		
.. 1927 ..	1,048	954	1,089	908	925	1,038	989	933	945	944	865	983		
.. 1928 ..	1,048	958	1,055	900	928	1,037	991	932	945	942	861	984		
.. 1929 ..	1,046	947	1,050	901	925	1,035	986	927	944	943	859	980		
.. 1930 ..	1,040	935	1,041	909	924	1,020	973	922	935	938	853	967		
1930 1st Qtr.	1,046	942	1,052	899	925	1,035	981	927	944	945	855	975		
.. 2nd ..	1,041	937	1,049	914	925	1,030	980	925	941	944	854	974		
.. 3rd ..	1,041	932	1,042	912	925	1,030	978	921	933	930	852	967		
.. 4th ..	1,030	927	1,023	912	921	1,019	957	912	922	922	851	952		
1931 1st Qtr.	1,021	918	1,011	910	918	1,010	949	901	916	905	845	944		
.. 2nd ..	1,014	916	1,037	906	916	1,005	936	896	915	899	848	931		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kodjina, Meunina, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..
.. 1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009	988	958	1,033	1,005	1,065	1,032	1,000	1,086		
Years 1923-27	934	942	922	969	927	935	1,025	1,010	1,020	986	1,012	1,024		
Year 1926 ..	928	951	915	959	919	930	1,028	1,013	1,019	981	1,021	1,025		
.. 1927 ..	936	951	919	977	927	937	1,023	996	1,017	977	1,013	1,020		
.. 1928 ..	936	949	917	972	927	936	1,027	996	1,016	990	1,005	1,024		
.. 1929 ..	935	949	911	971	922	935	1,028	993	1,009	983	995	1,023		
.. 1930 ..	931	943	906	972	912	931	1,019	991	989	978	970	1,016		
1930 1st Qtr.	932	940	905	970	912	932	1,031	991	1,002	974	987	1,027		
.. 2nd ..	932	945	903	971	912	931	1,023	992	994	974	983	1,020		
.. 3rd ..	931	944	905	973	914	931	1,014	992	995	974	967	1,011		
.. 4th ..	930	937	910	975	910	930	1,009	987	965	971	903	1,005		
1931 1st Qtr.	926	939	892	971	898	925	1,008	979	957	965	977	1,004		
.. 2nd ..	920	938	892	970	897	927	995	966	967	968	964	992		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	730	699	749	..
.. 1921 ..	1,020	1,020	1,016	977	1,102	1,020	932	985	941	960	956	952	1,010	1,009
Years 1923-27	938	975	938	935	1,013	985	917	927	848	849	842	911	1,000	993
Year 1926 ..	980	970	932	936	978	977	905	916	841	842	821	900	998	990
.. 1927 ..	978	972	927	937	981	976	899	918	837	857	828	897	1,008	1,000
.. 1928 ..	987	975	929	933	981	983	904	910	855	856	826	896	1,010	1,001
.. 1929 ..	987	969	930	931	1,011	984	904	908	834	855	829	898	1,007	998
.. 1930 ..	979	970	929	930	1,002	978	900	890	850	855	808	891	999	996
1930 1st Qtr.	980	975	925	935	1,017	978	905	899	829	854	811	894	1,005	996
.. 2nd ..	979	969	927	934	1,018	977	905	902	828	855	809	895	1,002	993
.. 3rd ..	980	969	929	933	992	977	903	901	827	854	805	894	999	990
.. 4th ..	975	969	931	914	982	972	889	896	835	857	807	882	988	980
1931 1st Qtr.	972	968	916	908	978	969	874	893	848	850	811	875	981	973
.. 2nd ..	960	968	907	895	976	966	876	886	849	849	804	874	973	965

(a) Base.

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Barrat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warman-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003		
Years 1923-27	1,020	994	970	1,041	941	1,017	990	917	925	903	950	984		
Year 1926 ..	1,033	1,010	988	1,050	978	1,030	998	931	933	934	946	992		
" 1927 ..	1,029	1,015	1,000	1,062	952	1,027	990	922	940	935	945	985		
" 1928 ..	1,042	1,014	997	1,074	964	1,038	992	929	930	973	941	987		
" 1929 ..	1,073	1,028	1,018	1,108	979	1,007	1,017	957	969	930	960	1,011		
" 1930 ..	1,026	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	909	926	917	939	951		
1930 1st Qtr.	1,055	1,018	998	1,070	990	1,050	983	930	950	942	956	978		
" 2nd "	1,045	1,009	999	1,061	979	1,041	979	935	943	940	955	974		
" 3rd "	1,018	987	964	1,031	951	1,014	954	904	928	912	931	950		
" 4th "	987	948	933	992	927	982	906	866	877	876	912	903		
1931 1st Qtr.	954	925	909	996	895	950	873	836	855	845	861	874		
" 2nd "	935	906	902	937	836	932	847	807	833	824	856	844		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mc-Gambur.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,025	994	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	943	992		
Years 1923-27	927	914	908	910	921	923	1,019	936	961	930	991	1,012		
Year 1926 ..	950	945	947	925	951	949	1,026	935	988	956	1,016	1,020		
" 1927 ..	922	914	929	918	946	923	1,018	932	970	945	1,023	1,012		
" 1928 ..	917	906	908	925	914	915	1,027	927	960	948	1,017	1,019		
" 1929 ..	923	916	904	939	931	922	1,037	943	990	963	1,048	1,030		
" 1930 ..	859	885	868	883	882	868	952	885	927	919	980	948		
1930 1st Qtr.	897	904	895	910	906	898	1,000	910	952	943	1,006	994		
" 2nd "	870	895	882	903	895	875	981	904	942	924	939	976		
" 3rd "	861	885	866	867	878	858	936	881	923	914	984	853		
" 4th "	820	855	829	849	850	825	391	846	892	892	937	859		
1931 1st Qtr.	814	834	824	839	823	817	875	823	870	846	912	873		
" 2nd "	804	816	810	840	815	807	847	813	845	831	891	846		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burula.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted A'vge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 20 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	707	687
" 1921 ..	1,006	1,043	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
Years 1923-27	926	1,002	985	974	1,015	988	1,031	973	957	944	953	1,005	1,000	934
Year 1926 ..	992	1,002	998	978	1,012	994	1,035	973	957	948	958	1,007	1,011	1,006
" 1927 ..	984	984	988	963	1,010	985	998	958	936	925	932	977	1,002	937
" 1928 ..	1,012	995	1,003	963	1,029	1,009	980	957	941	909	934	966	1,009	1,003
" 1929 ..	1,028	1,032	1,022	973	1,051	1,026	1,000	967	966	948	972	866	1,033	1,026
" 1930 ..	877	866	869	866	1,029	979	956	949	918	920	949	951	973	971
1930 1st Qtr.	1,008	965	986	933	1,044	1,007	979	963	937	935	960	970	1,006	1,001
" 2nd "	1,002	1,003	987	991	1,049	1,003	970	961	936	930	957	964	996	991
" 3rd "	977	998	972	966	1,036	980	954	951	916	920	954	950	963	965
" 4th "	922	945	929	913	985	925	921	921	884	894	926	918	929	926
1931 1st Qtr.	920	933	897	896	971	921	907	894	856	875	968	900	905	901
" 2nd "	910	940	888	893	964	913	888	873	843	834	880	879	882	880

(a) Base.

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

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

2. **Results—1923 to 1930.**—The results of the investigation in November 1930 are set out in the tables on the following pages, compared with the particulars recorded during the previous two 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 1,535 (see page 35), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; and 1,400 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November 1930. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 932 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November 1930. 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 1,535, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,518; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,380, compared with an expenditure of 1,400 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 (all houses) 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, 1928, 1929, and 1930, 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.	1928. November.			1929. November.			1930. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New South Wales—									
Sydney	1,072	1,630	1,776	1,186	1,751	1,897	930	1,537	1,082
Newcastle	1,058	1,542	1,767	1,159	1,649	1,852	956	1,458	1,002
Broken Hill	1,239	1,606	1,724	1,408	1,772	1,892	1,109	1,551	1,871
Goulburn	1,082	1,648	1,778	1,200	1,801	1,939	944	1,491	1,582
Bathurst	1,019	1,401	1,505	1,140	1,510	1,616	930	1,339	1,446
Albany	1,063	1,754	1,914	1,161	1,822	1,942	930	1,536	1,653
Armidale	1,031	1,513	1,566	1,127	1,603	1,701	937	1,375	1,463
Ballina	1,113	1,607	1,733	1,191	1,684	1,809	1,000	1,395	1,527
Bega	1,097	1,419	1,530	1,181	1,506	1,622	957	1,319	1,431
Berry	1,000	1,445	1,550	1,175	1,504	1,635	973	1,302	1,394
Blackheath	1,230	1,675	1,800	1,272	1,733	1,812	1,036	1,463	1,582
Bourke	1,287	1,550	1,613	1,374	1,611	1,684	1,039	1,418	1,484
Bowral	1,096	1,522	1,614	1,219	1,794	1,856	991	1,478	1,636
Castro	1,056	1,532	1,771	1,164	1,690	1,836	916	1,443	1,574
Cessnock	1,075	1,568	1,634	1,164	1,503	1,576	935	1,307	1,420
Conar	1,231	1,363	1,428	1,312	1,510	1,549	1,119	1,333	1,386
Cooma	1,133	1,463	1,672	1,256	1,599	1,816	1,053	1,382	1,571
Coonamble	1,121	1,486	1,611	1,260	1,614	1,763	1,033	1,358	1,523
Coonamundra	1,049	1,548	1,762	1,166	1,712	1,866	942	1,440	1,615
Corrimal	1,096	1,539	1,671	1,159	1,613	1,751	974	1,459	1,610
Cowra	1,081	1,610	1,687	1,189	1,680	1,817	899	1,347	1,504
Cronulla	1,123	1,644	1,817	1,275	1,827	1,998	1,090	1,601	1,740
Dennilquin	1,098	1,480	1,625	1,203	1,583	1,734	1,053	1,516	1,667
Dubbo	1,139	1,780	1,834	1,196	1,854	1,941	913	1,604	1,673
Fortes	1,055	1,401	1,500	1,166	1,781	1,900	918	1,512	1,632
Gilgandra	1,184	1,477	1,546	1,268	1,643	1,692	979	1,321	1,436
Glen Innes	1,007	1,414	1,575	1,112	1,546	1,697	881	1,302	1,427
Grafton	993	1,487	1,649	1,060	1,546	1,705	876	1,404	1,574
Grenfell	1,065	1,473	1,674	1,173	1,568	1,766	961	1,395	1,553
Griffith	1,101	1,503	1,613	1,293	1,614	1,764	1,033	1,440	1,581
Gulgong	1,121	1,417	1,490	1,207	1,512	1,622	982	1,344	1,434
Gunnedah	1,046	1,445	1,593	1,131	1,667	1,694	897	1,349	1,401
Hay	1,104	1,545	1,765	1,273	1,677	1,871	1,026	1,420	1,618
Inverell	1,108	1,569	1,645	1,155	1,662	1,737	930	1,445	1,622
Junee	1,095	1,770	1,806	1,205	1,669	1,896	903	1,587	1,697
Katoomba	1,160	1,752	1,904	1,250	1,848	1,980	1,048	1,691	1,776
Kempsey	1,088	1,639	1,639	1,037	1,517	1,607	837	1,226	1,408
Kiama	1,152	1,514	1,614	1,211	1,612	1,724	1,027	1,373	1,601
Kurri Kurri	1,108	1,497	1,588	1,163	1,510	1,603	878	1,372	1,442
Leeton	1,190	1,908	1,980	1,284	2,003	2,060	1,018	1,724	1,788
Lismore	1,085	1,604	1,766	1,111	1,678	1,837	959	1,485	1,691
Lithgow	1,094	1,531	1,610	1,196	1,643	1,716	951	1,412	1,606
Maitland	1,026	1,450	1,567	1,142	1,504	1,609	919	1,331	1,441
Mores	1,149	1,617	1,672	1,243	1,712	1,873	1,004	1,596	1,793
Moss Vale	1,036	1,652	1,751	1,191	1,787	1,868	959	1,439	1,584
Mudgee	1,108	1,626	1,720	1,166	1,701	1,802	898	1,424	1,490
Narrabri	1,088	1,519	1,666	1,205	1,658	1,799	1,009	1,486	1,607
Narrandera	1,122	1,677	1,908	1,205	1,730	1,961	1,053	1,580	1,744
Nowra	1,135	1,589	1,661	1,198	1,659	1,761	1,010	1,446	1,571
Orange	1,067	1,643	1,771	1,147	1,700	1,873	960	1,503	1,656
Parkes	1,077	1,630	1,758	1,213	1,761	1,912	916	1,436	1,549
Penrith	1,096	1,545	1,624	1,145	1,692	1,898	926	1,334	1,456
Port Kembla	1,137	1,699	1,821	1,216	1,777	1,920	1,023	1,549	1,689
Portland	1,112	1,650	1,858	1,234	1,641	1,763	1,024	1,418	1,484
Queanbeyan	1,141	1,600	1,700	1,236	1,690	1,781	986	1,432	1,525

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

State and Town.	1928. November.			1929. November.			1930. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Quirindi	1,075	1,420	1,599	1,169	1,493	1,636	1,046	1,352	1,596
Richmond	1,034	1,478	1,626	1,140	1,535	1,732	944	1,372	1,519
Scone	1,050	1,488	1,636	1,077	1,537	1,675	941	1,415	1,533
Singleton	1,098	1,508	1,611	1,148	1,543	1,684	976	1,419	1,508
Tamworth	1,006	1,430	1,614	1,109	1,537	1,725	889	1,336	1,474
Taree	1,103	1,621	1,772	1,149	1,682	1,833	960	1,509	1,625
Temora	1,120	1,664	1,827	1,222	1,782	1,913	1,005	1,565	1,663
Teuterville	1,132	1,648	1,851	1,199	1,642	1,678	954	1,403	1,494
Tumut	1,046	1,626	1,671	1,136	1,639	1,778	938	1,465	1,629
Umarra	1,045	1,407	1,538	1,126	1,508	1,653	973	1,427	1,565
Wagga Wagga	1,056	1,736	1,794	1,182	1,911	1,923	937	1,627	1,792
Walcha	1,048	1,463	1,618	1,198	1,666	1,758	962	1,302	1,488
Wellington	1,058	1,415	1,577	1,237	1,598	1,704	945	1,274	1,379
Weston	1,077	1,538	1,582	1,157	1,618	1,684	957	1,333	1,425
Windsor	1,077	1,558	1,703	1,142	1,622	1,767	941	1,501	1,583
Wollongong	1,117	1,665	1,898	1,173	1,724	1,785	985	1,508	1,640
Wyalong	1,135	1,530	1,595	1,236	1,631	1,697	997	1,359	1,425
Yam	1,127	1,593	1,749	1,247	1,765	1,896	1,032	1,503	1,602
Young	1,056	1,632	1,701	1,204	1,769	1,862	1,008	1,356	1,666
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	1,078	1,613	1,757	1,187	1,727	1,871	978	1,513	1,662
Victoria—									
Melbourne	968	1,518	1,684	1,084	1,647	1,795	895	1,380	1,518
Ballarat	1,002	1,297	1,491	1,127	1,440	1,624	923	1,213	1,407
Bendigo	1,002	1,375	1,507	1,130	1,503	1,661	908	1,241	1,383
Geelong	954	1,495	1,610	1,099	1,572	1,691	903	1,305	1,448
Warrnambool	961	1,377	1,538	1,103	1,537	1,698	928	1,263	1,526
Ararat	1,088	1,494	1,614	1,161	1,551	1,695	969	1,360	1,535
Bacchus Marsh	1,033	1,494	1,573	1,153	1,613	1,686	980	1,421	1,559
Bairnsdale	1,049	1,427	1,600	1,167	1,529	1,732	984	1,350	1,544
Beechworth	1,047	1,333	1,382	1,178	1,461	1,617	990	1,287	1,352
Benslia	1,057	1,433	1,504	1,151	1,546	1,692	935	1,305	1,385
Camperdown	1,056	1,411	1,575	1,135	1,549	1,705	1,017	1,435	1,593
Casterton	1,032	1,438	1,541	1,113	1,508	1,639	936	1,265	1,462
Castlemaine	1,002	1,252	1,425	1,108	1,397	1,527	941	1,170	1,342
Colac	1,009	1,568	1,696	1,102	1,663	1,771	912	1,481	1,576
Creswick	1,006	1,131	1,190	1,115	1,234	1,293	930	1,128	1,141
Daylesford	1,034	1,363	1,429	1,076	1,372	1,498	938	1,218	1,279
Dunolly	1,028	1,194	1,234	1,118	1,272	1,361	920	1,081	1,150
Echuca	1,017	1,433	1,593	1,113	1,548	1,715	934	1,294	1,460
Euroa	1,083	1,427	1,590	1,156	1,504	1,666	1,028	1,354	1,508
Hamilton	1,033	1,455	1,646	1,162	1,633	1,774	1,038	1,511	1,596
Healesville	1,039	1,377	1,503	1,173	1,504	1,594	942	1,245	1,327
Horsham	1,117	1,644	1,832	1,218	1,731	1,885	948	1,395	1,611
Kerang	1,001	1,582	1,714	1,155	1,748	1,879	969	1,495	1,627
Koroit	1,008	1,295	1,368	1,102	1,382	1,446	937	1,213	1,279
Korumburra	1,038	1,476	1,580	1,153	1,614	1,679	990	1,376	1,508
Kyneton	1,019	1,397	1,468	1,122	1,458	1,583	947	1,241	1,447
Lilydale	1,025	1,404	1,582	1,179	1,567	1,732	970	1,383	1,484
Maffra	981	1,350	1,639	1,106	1,671	1,763	959	1,520	1,670
Maldon	1,040	1,185	1,238	1,124	1,279	1,325	961	1,093	1,145
Maryborough	1,055	1,350	1,472	1,160	1,524	1,623	921	1,264	1,359
Mildura	1,106	1,698	1,873	1,217	1,843	2,000	1,000	1,584	1,804
Morwell	1,045	1,554	1,685	1,115	1,628	1,723	964	1,455	1,567
Nhill	1,089	1,582	1,897	1,248	1,748	1,906	971	1,366	1,577
Orbost	1,088	1,494	1,733	1,182	1,560	1,757	989	1,371	1,575
Portland	1,047	1,376	1,474	1,162	1,475	1,656	967	1,305	1,434

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

State and Town.	1928. November.			1929. November.			1930. 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.
Victoria—continued.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Port Fairy	1,035	1,347	1,424	1,109	1,409	1,507	948	1,211	1,333
St. Arnaud	1,107	1,462	1,699	1,206	1,635	1,812	1,033	1,357	1,533
Sale	984	1,342	1,545	1,110	1,450	1,661	960	1,266	1,507
Seymour	1,105	1,433	1,532	1,186	1,581	1,673	969	1,371	1,479
Shepparton	1,022	1,582	1,756	1,172	1,785	1,874	960	1,502	1,659
Stowell	1,132	1,459	1,602	1,232	1,550	1,721	993	1,305	1,414
Swan Hill	1,074	1,732	1,837	1,139	1,819	1,929	937	1,521	1,702
Terang	1,023	1,417	1,536	1,137	1,480	1,683	984	1,340	1,537
Trarigon	1,011	1,450	1,507	1,082	1,489	1,643	931	1,322	1,483
Wangaratta	1,087	1,511	1,630	1,195	1,636	1,832	907	1,461	1,592
Warracknabeal	1,067	1,587	1,743	1,210	1,676	1,838	947	1,332	1,495
Warragul	904	1,496	1,672	1,075	1,573	1,746	922	1,428	1,633
Wonthaggi	1,028	1,404	1,566	1,088	1,468	1,614	922	1,323	1,442
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	931	1,497	1,658	1,096	1,623	1,770	905	1,366	1,507
Queensland—									
Brisbane	997	1,392	1,528	1,010	1,409	1,542	818	1,164	1,281
Toowoomba	948	1,252	1,419	1,010	1,310	1,475	835	1,112	1,297
Rockhampton	1,046	1,331	1,449	1,074	1,355	1,474	886	1,195	1,310
Charters Towers	1,163	1,510	1,598	1,122	1,521	1,561	945	1,311	1,360
Warwick	998	1,344	1,409	1,042	1,392	1,452	856	1,185	1,262
Ayr	1,188	1,643	1,775	1,197	1,688	1,771	996	1,404	1,522
Barcaldine	1,253	1,582	1,678	1,265	1,669	1,728	1,062	1,447	1,566
Bowen	1,156	1,531	1,697	1,197	1,592	1,731	1,002	1,355	1,490
Bundaberg	1,030	1,329	1,441	1,011	1,384	1,478	877	1,203	1,298
Cairns	1,115	1,656	1,773	1,192	1,766	1,904	947	1,483	1,698
Charleville	1,139	1,578	1,812	1,181	1,604	1,839	1,005	1,487	1,742
Chillagoe	1,236	1,499	1,552	1,279	1,542	1,595	1,168	1,379	1,431
Cloncurry	1,253	1,648	1,779	1,310	1,705	1,836	1,141	1,540	1,658
Cooktown	1,193	1,286	1,351	1,249	1,446	1,499	1,189	1,367	1,452
Cunnamulla	1,186	1,647	1,706	1,251	1,711	1,803	1,054	1,501	1,580
Dalby	1,009	1,362	1,454	1,099	1,415	1,570	872	1,227	1,464
Gayndah	1,142	1,458	1,537	1,161	1,477	1,566	960	1,282	1,381
Gladstone	1,052	1,341	1,440	1,105	1,414	1,499	943	1,245	1,369
Goondiwindi	1,094	1,501	1,574	1,187	1,608	1,648	900	1,385	1,425
Gympie	1,074	1,412	1,523	1,100	1,464	1,525	886	1,234	1,362
Hughenden	1,239	1,719	1,844	1,287	1,748	1,868	1,082	1,516	1,595
Innisfail	1,255	1,648	2,054	1,328	1,940	2,118	1,017	1,544	1,708
Ipawich	1,009	1,394	1,524	1,027	1,357	1,457	855	1,159	1,248
Longreach	1,228	1,581	1,762	1,266	1,575	1,778	1,066	1,371	1,607
Mackay	1,103	1,637	1,730	1,147	1,707	1,851	956	1,412	1,547
Maryborough	1,050	1,319	1,461	1,106	1,418	1,619	876	1,238	1,423
Mount Morgan	1,111	1,243	1,295	1,189	1,321	1,387	970	1,102	1,163
Nambour	1,088	1,470	1,672	1,120	1,485	1,610	923	1,289	1,406
Roma	1,031	1,459	1,610	1,145	1,531	1,705	941	1,321	1,461
Stanthorpe	1,036	1,395	1,517	1,135	1,531	1,596	935	1,369	1,461
Townsville	1,191	1,677	1,785	1,158	1,631	1,730	917	1,372	1,456
Winton	1,295	1,726	1,822	1,288	1,746	1,834	1,064	1,830	1,498
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	1,040	1,415	1,642	1,057	1,439	1,564	863	1,211	1,330
South Australia—									
Adelaide	997	1,509	1,673	1,124	1,619	1,740	894	1,323	1,443
Hadina, etc.	1,088	1,326	1,422	1,235	1,432	1,475	968	1,186	1,226
Port Pirie	1,073	1,452	1,564	1,198	1,569	1,675	966	1,361	1,490
Mount Gambier	1,023	1,279	1,381	1,102	1,360	1,465	902	1,160	1,281
Peterborough	1,101	1,572	1,656	1,256	1,664	1,780	977	1,359	1,461
Freeling	1,083	1,392	1,507	1,112	1,441	1,556	892	1,207	1,319
Gawler	1,040	1,364	1,471	1,134	1,438	1,520	882	1,177	1,244
Kapunda	1,007	1,204	1,277	1,172	1,413	1,486	887	1,147	1,182
Kooronga	1,060	1,389	1,456	1,164	1,438	1,559	959	1,276	1,354
Millicent	985	1,340	1,402	1,052	1,477	1,559	875	1,279	1,358

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

State and Town.	1928. November.			1929. November.			1930. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
South Australia—continued.									
Murray Bridge ..	1,036	1,456	1,560	1,129	1,506	1,613	899	1,250	1,340
Port Augusta ..	1,243	1,630	1,710	1,323	1,710	1,790	1,066	1,503	1,583
Quorn ..	1,080	1,391	1,445	1,287	1,561	1,654	1,008	1,294	1,378
Victor Harbour ..	1,034	1,561	1,758	1,153	1,734	1,898	925	1,479	1,626
Renmark ..	1,207	1,657	1,800	1,287	1,780	1,923	1,116	1,577	1,752
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	1,011	1,492	1,645	1,136	1,601	1,717	907	1,317	1,431
Western Australia—									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,126	1,593	1,719	1,095	1,567	1,721	902	1,363	1,502
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,271	1,582	1,652	1,270	1,580	1,657	1,080	1,398	1,493
Northam ..	1,196	1,642	1,795	1,186	1,619	1,803	987	1,434	1,571
Bunbury ..	1,201	1,541	1,665	1,229	1,566	1,677	995	1,416	1,502
Geraldton ..	1,162	1,659	1,839	1,198	1,678	1,831	969	1,541	1,700
Albany ..	1,282	1,911	1,693	1,105	1,513	1,616	933	1,337	1,409
Beverley ..	1,196	1,489	1,546	1,187	1,483	1,549	987	1,307	1,382
Bridgetown ..	1,377	1,622	1,667	1,266	1,649	1,693	1,072	1,427	1,516
Broome ..	1,390	1,929	2,015	1,458	1,932	2,114	1,325	1,801	1,983
Garrarvon ..	1,321	1,795	1,903	1,347	1,808	1,956	1,158	1,683	1,774
Collie ..	1,244	1,704	1,764	1,234	1,712	1,817	999	1,462	1,568
Greenbushes ..	1,266	1,477	1,529	1,234	1,477	1,550	1,048	1,250	1,342
Katanning ..	1,154	1,502	1,614	1,173	1,565	1,745	920	1,323	1,494
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,369	1,666	1,832	1,412	1,609	1,676	1,247	1,444	1,510
Meekatharra ..	1,367	1,630	1,715	1,378	1,642	1,734	1,229	1,466	1,624
Narrogin ..	1,185	1,759	1,843	1,173	1,711	1,826	943	1,491	1,601
Wagin ..	1,182	1,544	1,636	1,124	1,635	1,806	1,007	1,434	1,464
York ..	1,124	1,460	1,562	1,130	1,466	1,568	940	1,273	1,377
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	1,155	1,596	1,713	1,132	1,576	1,719	937	1,378	1,508
Tasmania—									
Hobart ..	1,018	1,487	1,658	1,006	1,573	1,712	932	1,390	1,557
Launceston ..	982	1,366	1,673	1,087	1,492	1,692	911	1,308	1,474
Burnie ..	1,047	1,496	1,590	1,163	1,586	1,731	994	1,355	1,489
Devonport ..	1,016	1,430	1,460	1,118	1,565	1,693	935	1,379	1,492
Queenstown ..	1,130	1,394	1,407	1,215	1,627	1,657	1,068	1,387	1,444
Beaconsfield ..	989	1,094	1,120	1,052	1,144	1,183	919	997	1,050
Campbelltown ..	975	1,163	1,212	1,079	1,266	1,315	971	1,183	1,238
Deloraine ..	953	1,295	1,348	1,019	1,393	1,440	881	1,213	1,276
Franklin ..	1,024	1,235	1,288	1,118	1,328	1,381	950	1,187	1,239
New Norfolk ..	995	1,317	1,403	1,067	1,382	1,461	923	1,292	1,318
Scottsdale ..	980	1,265	1,379	1,084	1,374	1,466	913	1,209	1,286
Ulverstone ..	1,000	1,315	1,421	1,080	1,409	1,511	883	1,217	1,348
Zeehan ..	1,189	1,367	1,430	1,293	1,490	1,523	1,103	1,301	1,334
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,013	1,434	1,583	1,102	1,529	1,666	935	1,349	1,492
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns) ..	1,040	1,536	1,683	1,133	1,634	1,773	932	1,400	1,535

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, 1930, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne

(column A) is 895. Subtracting this from 1,380 (column B) gives a difference of 485, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1518 (column C) gives a difference of 623, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. The relative cost of housing can be ascertained similarly for each of the towns included.

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

The index-numbers for November 1921 to 1930, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above with 1913 as base (= 1,000), are shown in the following table:—

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Australia, 1921 to 1930.

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
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FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns	1,000	1,578	1,683	1,675	1,691	1,625	1,770	1,455
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,679	1,670	1,690	1,618	1,769	1,454
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,588	1,689	1,683	1,705	1,627	1,781	1,463

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns	1,000	1,268	1,526	1,571	1,586	1,641	1,635	1,541
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,509	1,554	1,570	1,632	1,622	1,516
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,261	1,455	1,496	1,507	1,571	1,562	1,453

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns	1,000	1,461	1,623	1,636	1,651	1,632	1,719	1,488
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,613	1,625	1,643	1,623	1,712	1,478
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,455	1,594	1,607	1,624	1,604	1,692	1,459

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

§ 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 1931 in Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913, the year before the war, being taken as base (= 100). These figures are obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations. It must be understood that the figures do not show the relative prices in the various countries, but the fluctuations in prices in each country separately.

Index-Numbers, Wholesale Prices, Various Countries 1913 to 1931 (Prices in 1913 as Base = 100).

PERIOD	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA)	CHINA (SHANGHAI)	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT. (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	IRELAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	"Finanzblende."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1913	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	807	291	293	201	152	152	154	154	152	152	152	152	1436
1920	159	101	154	6138	6159	159	1,008	210	166	152	550	1,129	912
1925	148	150	143	123	148	164	954	163	159	132	703	6142	138
1927	142	144	138	133	148	170	979	153	154	121	617	145	158
1928	140	142	135	130	145	161	977	158	149	120	620	145	140
1929	137	135	127	130	141	164	919	150	148	116	611	139	137
1930	120	114	107	117	118	180	5118	180	134	103	530	123	125
1930 IX.	116	107	101	115	111	188	413	126	129	104	524	125	123
I.	107	101	91	105	98	188	109	118	119	100	484	122	115
II.	108	101	92	107	99	188	109	117	115	100	482	122	114
III.	108	101	91	107	100	188	111	116	111	105	482	122	114
IV.	106	99	90	108	98	188	110	115	108	100	484	121	114
V.	104	97	88	107	97	188	109	113	104	97	470	120	118

PERIOD.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
	Consiglio Econ. del Ministero di Agricoltura.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1913	100	96	109	100	100	101	100	100	98	104	102	104	97
1914	259	259	292	253	125	188	161	162	221	228	244	207	233
1920	654	179	145	198	9181	181	149	145	143	168	156	154	123
1927	527	170	148	167	119	172	146	142	137	167	153	146	124
1928	491	171	149	161	120	167	148	145	140	165	151	147	120
1929	481	166	142	153	113	171	140	141	138	166	149	147	116
1930	411	137	117	143	98	172	122	127	124	147	136	143	103
1930 IX.	398	130	112	141	94	174	119	123	121	141	129	144	100
I.	362	120	105	135	85	173	115	115	110	134	120	140	102
II.	358	119	104	139	85	175	114	115	108	138	119	137	99
III.	356	120	108	131	86	174	113	114	107	134	117	136	99
IV.	353	119	102	130	88	172	112	112	105	133	116	134	99
V.	347	116	102	128	88	169	111	111	102	133	114	133	99

a June, 1914. b Gold Index. c February. d July. e End of year. f Official since year 1926.
 g New series. A Average of eight months. i January. j Until end of 1925 "Lorenz."

2. Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices, (i) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (ii) foodstuffs only for the month of July in each year from 1914 to 1930, and quarterly for 1930 and 1931, the prices for July, 1914 being taken as base (= 100). It must be understood, however, that the figures which have been obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries for the Month of July 1914 to 1930, and quarterly for 1930 and 1931, with Prices in July 1914 as Base (= 100).

(i) COST OF LIVING.

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BULGARIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	LUXEMBURG.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	Vienna.	60	12	100	21	Paris.	72	Milan.	1/x'm-burg.
July 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
" 1920	255	6,100	1,858	1,919	203	4931	341	1,085	441	383
" 1921	222	9,972	174	2,886	237	1,214	807	1,250	494	988
" 1922	170	6103	204	2,788	184	2154	435	7142	649	988
" 1927	164	108	205	2,911	176	157	525	150	648	2176
" 1928	165	108	205	2,911	176	161	5105	153	7143	118
" 1929	169	112	216	2,911	173	160	113	154	143	112
" 1930	157	112	227	98	165	147	116	149	146	127
1st Quarter, 1930	161	112	232	112	170	152	115	150	143	128
2nd " 1930	155	112	225	101	167	146	116	147	145	128
3rd " 1930	157	112	229	95	165	147	120	148	144	127
4th " 1930	155	109	227	89	162	143	121	144	142	125
1st " 1931	150	105	213	84	159	139	120	139	134	117

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.
No. of Towns and Localities.	81	Warsaw.	49	34	Bombay.	9	60	Whole Country.	80	25
July 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
" 1920	307	11,178	270	224	190	170	200	205	147	182
" 1921	294	25,709	236	200	177	162	165	163	147	178
" 1922	220	178	172	162	157	131	157	166	146	163
" 1927	208	115	169	160	156	131	155	162	145	161
" 1928	193	123	173	161	147	131	155	161	146	161
" 1929	180	123	169	161	148	131	156	162	149	161
" 1930	175	119	164	158	139	128	156	152	140	157
1st Quarter, 1930	177	119	167	160	144	129	160	159	146	159
2nd " 1930	175	116	165	158	140	129	157	156	144	158
3rd " 1930	175	117	164	159	137	127	155	152	140	157
4th " 1930	173	118	163	157	128	126	152	150	135	155
1st " 1931	170	109	161	155	114	125	147	143	131	150

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

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries for the month of July 1914 to 1930
and monthly for 1931, with Prices in July 1914 as Base (=100)—continued.

(H) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	Vienna.	59	Whole Country.	100	21	Paris.	72	10
1914—July	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920	262	..	..	..	253	1,018	373	1,252	..
1921	228	57,900	100	1,303	236	1,323	306	1,491	..
1926	161	6115	185	870	159	6144	574	6145	91
1927	156	122	210	962	153	144	557	157	89
1928	156	119	204	943	153	151	6111	154	91
1929	163	123	212	925	149	146	123	156	90
1930	144	119	206	6130	137	126	122	146	83
1931 I.	136	109	195	117	127	117	132	134	78
II.	134	106	187	115	..	115	132	131	77
III.	129	105	133	114	..	115	131	130	75
IV.	129	104	180	114	123	114	130	129	74
V.	127	104	177	115	..	111	129	130	74

Period.	ITALY.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
No. of Towns and Localities.	Milan.	31	Warsaw.	40	33	Bombay.	9	60	51	30	25	Madrid.
1914—July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920	445	319	..	207	..	..	197	224	215	194	167	160
1921	506	232	45,655	232	211	174	139	149	145	161	164	189
1926	654	198	207	156	159	155	116	151	153	159	149	187
1927	524	175	143	151	157	154	119	143	150	152	144	189
1928	140	173	144	157	157	143	116	146	149	155	147	176
1929	144	157	139	151	155	145	116	148	155	160	146	181
1930	142	151	126	340	152	136	109	149	144	147	143	187
1931 I.	127	145	110	133	143	111	108	134	133	135	135	193
II.	126	143	110	132	146	106	107	129	127	133	130	196
III.	127	142	109	133	144	103	107	124	126	131	128	194
IV.	127	141	109	132	142	104	107	121	122	131	125	190
V.	125	138	109	130	141	102	108	116	120	129	125	190

a Gold index. b New series. c Yearly average. d January. e Average of second quarter. f New series, November, 1927. g Since 1924 "Reichsmark" prices. h Since 1923 "Zloty" prices recalculated—base October, 1926. i December. j Third quarter of year. k From 1915, for month of August. l For 1921-24, includes fuel and soap, since 1925 exclusive of these items. m Base 1921-25. n 1st June.