

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

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

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

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

2. Commodities in Groups.—The commodities are divided into eight groups, as set out on page 10. The descriptions of the groups are given below with the proportional cost of the consumption of each group in the middle of 1934. These proportions may be used with fair accuracy as "weights" to combine any group index-numbers at the present time, but would give unsatisfactory results if used for a time when prices were relatively much different, as in 1929.

Groups of Commodities.

Group	Description.	Percentage of Aggregate Cost (1934).
I.	" Metals and Coal "	15
II.	" Cotton, Wool ", also jute, leather, &c.	15
III.	" Agricultural Produce "	25
IV.	" Dairy Produce "	8
V.	" Groceries "	18
VI.	" Meat "	11
VII.	" Building materials " (mostly timber)	7
VIII.	" Chemicals " (excluding fertilizers)	1

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

The index relates chiefly to basic materials, but a certain proportion of Australian manufacturing costs enters into all groups. The amount is small in Meat (VI.), Agricultural Produce (III.), and Cotton, Wool (II.), and greater in others, but the difference is not sufficient to justify any inference

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

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

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

Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.							
Iron—				Currants	...	lb.	1,400
Pig	Mhd. Nos.	ton	6 <i>1</i>	Raisins	...	doz.	1,400
Rod and Bar	Stafford	"	3 <i>1</i>	Herrings	...	i-lb. fresh	50
Angles	"	"	3 <i>1</i>	Salmon	...	1 lb. salt	50
Plate	"	"	3	Sardines	...	Alaska Halves	100
Hoop	"	"	1	Coffees	...	Plantation	200
Galvanized	26 gauge	box	5	Cocoa	...	McKenzie's	100
Tinned Plates	J.C. Cole	box	60	Sugar	...	No. 1A	22
Fencing Wire	No. 8	ton	6	Macaroni	...	lb.	200
Zinc sheet	"	"	1	Tapioca	...	cwt.	7
Lead, sheet	"	"	1	Rice	...	ton	2
" pipes	"	"	1	Salt	...	Australiana	7
Copper, sheet	"	lb.	2,000	Rock	...	fine	1
Quicksaliver	"	"	12	Mustard	...	doz. i-lb.	6
Coal ..	Newcastle, on wharf	ton	600	Starch	...	Coleman's White	100
GROUP II.							
Branbags	"	doz.	110	Blue..	...	Keen's	30
Cornsacks	"	"	250	Matches	...	Australiana Safety	90
Woolpacks	"	each	200	Candles	...	Rangoon	1,600
Leather—				Tobacco	...	lb.	1,300
Chrome Box	"	ft.	1,200	Tea	...	"	3,000
Hide	"	b.	600	Kerosene	...	gallon	1,700
Rough Tanned	"	"	600	GROUP VI.			
—Split				GROUP VII.			
Sole Leather—				GROUP VIII.			
Factory Sides	"	"	600	Beef	...	Average quality	100 lb.
Cotton	Raw ..	"	24,000	Mutton	...	"	590
Wool	Greasy..	"	12,200	Veal	...	"	33,000
Twine	Reaper and Binder	"	150	Lamb	...	"	2,000
Tallow	Mutton Prime	ton	1 <i>1</i>	Pork	...	"	5,600
GROUP III.							
Wheat	"	bushel	500	Timber—		Flooring—	100 ft. lin.
Flour	"	ton	48			6 x 1 <i>1</i>	30
Bran	"	"	14			6 x 1 <i>1</i>	30
Potato	"	"	14			6 x 1 <i>1</i>	30
Oats ..	Milling ..	bushel	1,200			6 x 1 <i>1</i>	30
Oatmeal	Colonial	ton	1 <i>1</i>			Weather-boards	
Barley	English	bushel	150	Oregon	1,000 ft.	Oregon	200
"	Cape ..	"	100		sup.	"	20
Maize	"	"	1,000	Cement	Shelving	"	10
Hay ..	Best Migr.	ton	135	White Lead	Portland	cask	30
Chaff	Prime ..	"	135	Slates	"	ton	10
Straw	Victorian	"	25		Welsh	1,000	10
Peas ..	"	bushel	55		40 x 10	"	10
Potatoes	"	ton	40	GROUP IX.			
Malt ..	Victorian	bushel	140	GROUP X.			
Onions	"	ton	3	GROUP XI.			
GROUP IV.							
Ham ..	"	lb.	600	GROUP XII.			
Bacon	"	"	1,200	GROUP XIII.			
Cheese	"	"	1,500	GROUP XIV.			
Butter	Best Fresh	"	9,500	GROUP XV.			
Lard ..	Bulk ..	"	200	GROUP XVI.			
Eggs ..	Ordinary	doz.	1,800	GROUP XVII.			
Honey ..	"	lb.	600	GROUP XVIII.			
Beeswax	"	"	40	GROUP XIX.			
Condensed Milk	Bacchus Marsh	doz. lb.	160	GROUP XX.			

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

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers 1861 to June, 1934, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).*

YEAR.	I. Metals and Coal	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricul- tural Pro- duce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Grocer- ies.	VI. Meat	VII. Build- ing Mat- erials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups.
1861 ..	1,439	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,066	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,220
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,020	1,048	1,345	842	917	874
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,046	1,070	1,007	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,068
1914 ..	1,009	1,032	1,207	1,237	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,140
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,004
1916 ..	1,605	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,575	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,085	1,651	1,516	1,348	2,851	2,898	2,058
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,400
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,267	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,908
1922 ..	1,042	1,081	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	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,118	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,888
1927 ..	1,961	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,782
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,793	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,690
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,721	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,420
1932 ..	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933 ..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,195	1,714	1,487	2,061	2,106	1,409
1934 ..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,018	1,471
Oct. ..	1,698	1,174	1,150	1,237	1,731	1,774	2,017	2,081	1,445
Nov. ..	1,609	1,209	1,174	1,113	1,734	1,448	2,062	2,072	1,414
Dec. ..	1,698	1,213	1,243	1,087	1,735	1,495	2,051	2,078	1,430
1934—									
Jan. ..	1,701	1,383	1,195	1,076	1,744	1,332	2,059	2,078	1,458
Feb. ..	1,699	1,411	1,190	1,098	1,734	1,456	2,056	2,076	1,452
Mar. ..	1,699	1,374	1,203	1,141	1,765	1,478	2,034	2,044	1,458
Apr. ..	1,694	1,326	1,242	1,233	1,752	1,536	1,992	2,040	1,471
May ..	1,640	1,249	1,219	1,400	1,750	1,489	2,014	2,052	1,456
June ..	1,637	1,241	1,274	1,365	1,743	1,465	2,017	2,023	1,469
July ..	1,634	1,225	1,340	1,335	1,728	1,559	2,019	2,008	1,483
Aug. ..	1,639	1,226	1,361	1,326	1,718	1,687	2,005	2,006	1,500
Sept. ..	1,617	1,181	1,355	1,327	1,728	1,687	2,005	2,000	1,493
Oct. ..	1,630	1,170	1,404	1,335	1,717	1,601	1,994	1,986	1,493
Nov. ..	1,617	1,169	1,338	1,331	1,720	1,542	1,993	1,945	1,470
Dec. ..	1,647	1,181	1,350	1,322	1,725	1,445	1,991	1,950	1,480
1935—									
Jan. ..	1,638	1,191	1,315	1,318	1,728	1,475	1,988	1,950	1,450
Feb. ..	1,641	1,145	1,311	1,332	1,726	1,454	1,992	1,953	1,451
Mar. ..	1,641	1,117	1,321	1,336	1,731	1,404	1,984	1,998	1,443
Apr. ..	1,641	1,150	1,313	1,353	1,716	1,384	1,980	1,998	1,444
May ..	1,574	1,230	1,316	1,380	1,719	1,453	1,970	1,998	1,458
June ..	1,505	1,237	1,354	1,335	1,737	1,457	1,966	1,998	1,466

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

4. Variations since Outbreak of War.—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1934, and for each month from October, 1933, to June, 1935, are shown in the

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

Melbourne Wholesale Prices Index-Numbers.

(Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather	III. Agricul- tural Produce.	IV. Dairy Pro- duce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Build- ing Materi- als	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Year 1915 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,307	1,130	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,841	1,054	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,085	1,695
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,603	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,764	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,495	2,446	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,648	1,972	1,664	1,327	1,693	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,761	1,653
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,562	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,700	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,661	1,456	1,654	1,242	1,590	1,876	1,571
" 1929 ..	1,737	1,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,893	1,581
" 1930 ..	1,605	1,035	1,389	1,353	1,614	1,249	1,712	1,933	1,399
" 1931 ..	1,659	954	1,049	1,163	1,738	930	1,849	2,112	1,253
" 1932 ..	1,577	918	1,132	1,083	1,712	831	1,865	2,074	1,237
" 1933 ..	1,556	1,026	1,100	994	1,661	917	1,882	2,054	1,235
" 1934 ..	1,508	1,158	1,205	1,059	1,682	950	1,839	1,968	1,290
1933—									
October ..	1,542	1,078	1,077	1,028	1,678	1,094	1,860	2,029	1,266
November ..	1,543	1,110	1,099	927	1,681	893	1,883	2,020	1,240
December ..	1,542	1,114	1,103	904	1,682	923	1,872	2,027	1,239
1934—									
January ..	1,545	1,270	1,118	893	1,690	945	1,879	2,027	1,277
February ..	1,543	1,295	1,114	913	1,681	898	1,877	2,024	1,273
March ..	1,543	1,262	1,126	949	1,711	912	1,857	1,993	1,279
April ..	1,538	1,217	1,163	1,025	1,697	917	1,818	1,989	1,290
May ..	1,490	1,147	1,141	1,104	1,696	918	1,839	2,001	1,277
June ..	1,487	1,140	1,192	1,335	1,689	903	1,841	1,973	1,283
July ..	1,184	1,125	1,254	1,110	1,675	962	1,843	1,958	1,300
August ..	1,489	1,126	1,274	1,102	1,665	1,041	1,830	1,957	1,315
September ..	1,496	1,084	1,260	1,103	1,674	1,040	1,830	1,950	1,309
October ..	1,489	1,074	1,314	1,110	1,664	987	1,820	1,937	1,309
November ..	1,196	1,074	1,253	1,107	1,667	951	1,819	1,897	1,288
December ..	1,490	1,084	1,244	1,099	1,672	891	1,817	1,902	1,279
1935—									
January ..	1,488	1,094	1,231	1,096	1,675	909	1,815	1,902	1,279
February ..	1,490	1,051	1,227	1,107	1,682	897	1,818	1,905	1,272
March ..	1,490	1,025	1,237	1,117	1,677	866	1,811	1,949	1,265
April ..	1,490	1,056	1,229	1,129	1,663	853	1,807	1,949	1,266
May ..	1,429	1,129	1,231	1,148	1,666	896	1,798	1,949	1,278
June ..	1,421	1,135	1,267	1,110	1,674	898	1,795	1,949	1,285

5. Seasonal Fluctuations.—To show seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1934. These are given in the following table, with the year 1911 as base, also with the average prices for the year 1934 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, 1934.

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)	1,156	1,463	1,492	1,459	1,471
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1934 as base (= 1,000)	990	995	1,014	992	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1911 as base (= 1,000)	1,335	1,364	1,375	1,392	1,367
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1931 as base (= 1,000) .. .	977	998	1,006	1,018	1,000

The results evidence a greater variation in wholesale than in retail prices, but in both instances the index-numbers show that the prices increased during the first three quarters of the year. In the fourth quarter wholesale prices dropped whilst retail prices rose slightly.

6. Prices, 1933 and 1934.—In Section I. of the Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular grades of commodities used in computing the index-numbers in the years 1933 and 1934. Corresponding information for previous years was given in the Appendices to preceding Reports. In Report No. 1 (1912), prices are given for each year from 1871 to 1911.

§ 2. Retail Prices.

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

2. The New Composite Unit.—The constitution of the "composite unit" used until the end of June, 1932, is published in Labour Report, No. 23, and preceding issues, together with the reasons for its replacement by the new one appearing below. In accordance with the general principles of procedure in changing the regimen (see Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paras. 14, 18) the index was taken as determined by the old regimen for the June quarter of 1932, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price-level after that date. The breach of continuity is very slight, and the index-number may be regarded as recording as accurately as possible the changes in retail prices through the whole period since 1911. In the old regimen, the weights represented in millions the annual total consumption for Australia in the years 1906 to 1910. In the new regimen, the weights are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes during the years 1927 to 1929. Small adjustments in the crude average consumption have been made in two ways. Consumption by factories, when the product did not go into household use in Australia, was deducted. On the other hand, the weights given to some foods, such as dried apricots and canned peaches, cover also the consumption of other similar foods. The following table gives the new regimen, and the weights of corresponding items of the old regimen, reduced for comparison to the same basis of annual consumption per head. In the last column, the approximate relative importance of the items making up the new regimen is shown for the third quarter of 1932. The relative importance will, of course, change slightly with variation of prices, and revised figures will be published from time to time as may be necessary.

Retail Prices—"New Composite Unit."

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

Commodity.	Unit of Quantity.	"New" Regimen Mass Units (per capita).	(a) "Old" Regimen Mass Units (per capita).	(b) Cost of Items in "New" Regimen as percentage of Aggregate—Melbourne, 3rd Quarter, 1932.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).				
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	100	109.86	5.8
2. Flour, ordinary	25 lb. bag	2	2.58	1.0
3. " self-raising	2 lb. pkt.	12	..	1.0
4. Tea	lb.	8	7.04	2.9
5. Sugar	"	100	107.98	6.5
6. Rice	"	8	11.74	0.4
7. Sago	"	1	1.38	0.1
8. Jam, apricot	1½ lb. tin	8	17.14	1.2
9. Golden Syrup	2 lb. tin	1	..	0.1
10. Oatmeal	lb.	8	8.22	0.3
11. Raisins, seeded	"	5	3.29	0.7
12. Currants	"	2	3.29	0.2
13. Apricots, dried	"	1	..	0.2
14. Peaches, canned	2 lb. tin	3	..	0.5
15. Pears, canned	"	1	..	0.2
16. Salmon, in tins	lb. tin	3	..	0.7
17. Potatoes	1½ lb.	9	15.02	1.1
18. Onions	lb.	14	15.96	0.9
19. Soap, household, ordinary	"	16	15.02	1.2
20. Candles	"	1	3.76	0.2
21. Kerosene	gallon	1	3.99	0.3
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.				
22. Milk, fresh	quart	72	70.42	6.3
23. Butter, factory	lb.	30	22.30	7.6
24. Cheese, mild	"	4	3.52	0.7
25. Milk, condensed, sweetened	tin	5	..	0.7
26. Eggs, fresh	dozen	6	4.23	1.3
27. Bacon, rashers	lb.	10	7.51	2.1
28. Ham, rashers, uncooked	"	2	1.88	0.4
GROUP III.—MEAT.				
29. Beef, sirloin	lb.	18		
30. " ribs	"	22		
31. " steak, rump	"	11		
32. " steak, stewing	"	20	107	90.85
33. " sausages	"	7		
34. " corned round	"	14		
35. " brisket with bone	"	15		
36. Mutton, leg	"	20		
37. " shoulder	"	15		
38. " loin	"	18	79	77.93
39. " chops, loin	"	16		
40. " chops, leg	"	10		
41. Pork, leg	"	2		
42. " loin	"	2	9	8.69
43. " chops	"	2		
44. " sausages	"	3		
GROUP IV.—HOUSING.				
45. House Accommodation	week	11	10.92	38.1

(a) The mass units given for the "Old" regimen are obtained by dividing the "total consumption" weights of the "Old" regimen by the mean population of Australia for the years 1906 to 1910.

(b) Relative importance of items, "New" regimen.

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

3. Collection of Data.—Retail prices of the commodities included in the "composite unit" are collected from representative retail establishments in each of the five selected towns in each State (30 towns in all). The addresses of traders are forwarded to the Bureau by the Government Statisticians of each State, and prices of foods included in the regimen are obtained monthly from about ten tradespeople in each town. A careful selection is made from the lists of tradespeople and agents to ensure the supply of representative figures for the district as a whole, and returns are sent back for verification if there is any doubt in regard to the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be abnormal.

Misunderstanding has occurred in connexion with 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, No. 9, 1918.

The grades and qualities quoted for by the individual retailers have in fact been kept practically constant. Any appreciable change would be detected in the tabulated prices, and the return would be sent back for explanation or amendment. In 1931, with the very sudden fall in real wages and real incomes of all kinds, there was a possibility of considerable changes taking place in the predominant grade for some commodities. Retailers were therefore requested to take special care not to change the grade or quality quoted for, and the word "predominant" has been abandoned, 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 brick and wooden houses respectively classified according to the number of rooms. The return shows the average rent paid for all occupied houses of an average standard. Houses with special advantages or disadvantages, are, therefore, 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.—In the issues of the Labour Report up to the year 1929, the retail prices of food and groceries and cost of housing (four and five rooms) were compared with the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in 1911 = 1,000, while the total household expenditure tabulations, (i.e., food and groceries, rent of four and five rooms, clothing and miscellaneous items) were computed to the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in November, 1914 = 1,000. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the average of the five-yearly period—1923-1927—be adopted as base for retail price indexes. Consequently, the index-numbers in the following tables, with the exception of those given in the table showing relative cost in the 200 towns of Australia, have been re-computed to the base specified.

5. Retail Price Index-Numbers and Wage Assessment.—In view of the many "Series" of Retail Price index-numbers which are now associated with the fixation and variation of wages, the following short explanation of the various Series involved is considered necessary.

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

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

(ii) "*B*" Series.—The "*B*" Series covers the items Food and Groceries and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-1927 as the base (1,000).

This series has never been used in connexion with wages by any Industrial Tribunal, and is published on pages 18 to 24.

(iii) "*C*" Series—(See page 25).—The "*C*" Series covers all items of Household Expenditure, viz., Food and Groceries; Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses; Clothing (man, wife and three children); Household Drapery and Hardware; Fuel; Lighting; and other miscellaneous items, with the year 1923-1927 as base (1,000).

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

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

This Series, covering as it does a far wider range of commodities, displays a different relationship between the towns than is shown in the preceding Series ("A" and "B"), and has given rise to the sharp differences in the wages allotted to certain country towns compared with the former rates.

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

The Series has for its base the "A" Series Index for each town for the 4th Quarter of 1929, which is varied according to the ratio of change indicated by the "C" Series Index for the whole of 1929 and the corresponding "C" Index for the town for the Quarter upon which the adjustment is to be made. It will thus be seen that whereas the "D" Indexes for each town from the 4th Quarter of 1929 to date are in the same ratio as the "C" Indexes for the same town, the relationship of different towns is that of the "A" Series for the 4th Quarter of 1929, slightly modified by the difference in movement of the "A" Series and the "C" Series Index for each town.

This Series has been superseded almost entirely by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" Series, and will only continue to operate in the few industries exempted in the judgment for further consideration.

A set of index-numbers under this Series is included in Appendix VIII.

(v) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen of Food and Groceries is a component part of each of the Series of Retail Price index-numbers before mentioned, and details of the regimen comprising it will be found in paragraph 2 of this section. An index computed from the prices of food and groceries only is used for the adjustment of Old-age and Invalid Pensions.

(vi) *The "200 Towns" Table.*—This table is tabulated for the month of November each year in respect of 200 of the more important towns of the Commonwealth, and covers the cost of Food and Groceries combined with the Rent of 4 and of 5-roomed Houses respectively. This table has been used mostly for arguing relative rates for country towns, but the index-numbers have not been directly employed by Arbitration Tribunals in this connexion. The base of this table is the weighted average cost of Food, Groceries and Rent of All Houses in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 = 1000. The table will be found on page 38.

(vii) *Relative Merits of Series.*—The relative merits of the various series of index-numbers have been much discussed. Prices of all commodities do not change simultaneously, and consequently over short periods there may be differences of some magnitude between the results ascertained from the different series, but over longer periods these differences tend to be much reduced.

Thus, taking the movement of the following Retail Price Indexes for the Six Capital Cities over the two periods 1911 to 1934 and 1929 to 1934, the changes are substantially of the same order, viz.:—

		Increase per cent., 1911-1934.	Decrease per cent., 1929-1934.
Food and Groceries only..	..	40	.. 25
Rent of All Houses	..	37	.. 22
Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses	..	32	.. 25
Food and Rent of All Houses ("A" Series)	..	39	.. 24
Food and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses ("B" Series)	..	37	.. 25
"All Items" of Household Expenditure ("C" Series)	..	36*	.. 21

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

A simple discussion of the retail price index for food and rent, and of its accuracy and adequacy, particularly in connexion with wage adjustment, was given in Labour Report No. 21, Appendix VIII., which is printed also as a separate pamphlet entitled "Wages and Prices."

6. Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1934.—Index-numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, also the weighted average for all groups together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table. The index-numbers in the following tables, which have the period 1923-27 as base, can be converted to the old base 1911 by multiplying by 1,000 and dividing by the index-number for 1911.

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

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

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
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GROUP I.—GROCERIES

Sydney	..	510	574	627	1,115	952	912	923	844	851
Melbourne	..	461	521	562	1,070	858	775	791	714	758
Brisbane	..	547	614	607	1,105	877	854	831	771	806
Adelaide	..	510	541	598	1,076	846	753	754	718	782
Perth	..	572	720	628	1,103	908	844	825	761	846
Hobart	..	501	566	604	1,087	917	828	853	789	810
Weighted Average (a)	..	499	564	599	1,093	899	833	845	774	809

GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

Sydney	..	551	574	656	1,080	934	841	810	758	780
Melbourne	..	571	567	635	1,087	922	804	743	687	718
Brisbane	..	495	581	588	983	896	793	732	686	683
Adelaide	..	548	651	705	1,018	908	758	695	677	690
Perth	..	709	733	735	1,152	983	857	785	731	765
Hobart	..	564	587	695	1,091	921	768	695	641	665
Weighted Average (a)	..	563	591	654	1,072	946	815	764	725	739

(a) For all capital cities.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities—continued.

TOWNS.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1930	1931.	1932.	1933	1934
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GROUP III—MEAT

Sydney	..	519	501	668	960	1,034	853	781	764	821
Melbourne	..	557	485	663	1,030	991	804	722	732	758
Brisbane	..	535	488	610	897	741	644	599	599	647
Adelaide	..	553	541	784	1,095	1,107	876	839	809	832
Perth	..	289	824	881	1,103	1,025	802	794	777	798
Hobart	..	608	638	780	1,244	1,036	842	809	817	861
Weighted Average (a)	..	558	522	691	1,010	1,001	817	753	746	784

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

Sydney	..	523	553	646	1,062	984	876	852	800	825
Melbourne	..	517	523	610	1,063	913	791	758	713	748
Brisbane	..	530	569	603	1,014	844	778	733	699	727
Adelaide	..	532	570	679	1,066	937	789	761	731	767
Perth	..	670	751	728	1,116	961	836	804	757	807
Hobart	..	565	592	678	1,133	952	816	797	757	786
Weighted Average (a)	..	533	560	640	1,064	941	826	796	751	783

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

Sydney	..	593	701	760	989	1,197	1,026	894	864	869
Melbourne	..	455	569	628	820	1,011	867	816	801	808
Brisbane	..	283	373	466	630	775	680	641	681	691
Adelaide	..	510	706	655	809	916	755	661	694	700
Perth	..	458	524	589	739	979	881	810	795	794
Hobart	..	405	452	518	581	914	901	868	860	865
Weighted Average (a)	..	497	612	662	862	1,047	901	817	804	810

ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING

Sydney	..	548	606	687	1,036	1,059	929	867	823	840
Melbourne	..	495	539	616	977	948	813	778	742	769
Brisbane	..	442	500	554	877	819	743	704	690	713
Adelaide	..	524	618	671	975	920	777	736	716	742
Perth	..	594	672	679	982	968	852	805	768	802
Hobart	..	508	542	621	1,044	939	846	824	792	814
Weighted Average (a)	..	520	578	648	992	978	852	803	768	792

(a) For all capital cities.

7. Change of Basis for Rent Constituent.—The preceding table takes into account the rent of houses of four and five rooms only. Up till the end of 1924, the rent of "all houses" was the basis of the index. The "all houses" index is still continued for the use of the Arbitration Court (Appendix VII.). The movements of these two indexes differ little one from the other in the same city, but the index-numbers for "all houses" may be seriously affected between towns by the different proportions of four and five-roomed houses in the total of all houses.

8. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1930 to 1935.—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (44 commodities), in 30 of the more important towns in Australia at yearly, quarterly, and monthly periods for the years specified. In addition, index-numbers are inserted showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing.

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

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS						
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geslona.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1930 ..	984	971	1,182	977	964	988	913	952	958	909	933	916
1931 ..	876	868	1,011	843	857	879	791	815	825	781	810	793
1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	728	801	760
1933 ..	800	799	880	785	770	801	213	232	231	238	746	715
1934 ..	825	834	817	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
1931 1st Qtr.	814	820	892	802	803	816	726	758	757	747	761	730
2nd ..	821	836	917	817	811	824	749	782	786	768	791	752
3rd ..	827	836	926	818	788	829	750	771	794	756	783	753
4th ..	839	844	932	822	806	840	766	784	794	769	797	768
1935 1st Qtr.	826	844	939	825	802	829	774	800	798	789	811	776
2nd ..	825	849	934	806	823	829	778	808	812	801	831	781
January ..	810	817	895	800	806	812	723	755	758	749	760	727
February ..	814	820	890	801	803	816	727	756	751	745	762	730
March ..	817	824	890	806	800	819	728	762	760	746	760	732
April ..	829	836	904	816	811	830	747	780	781	771	786	750
May ..	827	848	923	829	824	831	762	796	794	781	807	765
June ..	808	824	924	807	797	811	739	770	781	752	781	742
July ..	816	824	931	822	701	819	743	760	780	750	780	746
August ..	832	837	928	818	789	831	752	773	802	759	782	754
September ..	833	838	919	813	785	831	757	772	799	759	787	759
October ..	848	841	939	825	791	848	777	790	802	776	803	779
November ..	830	849	924	824	809	838	758	777	794	757	789	760
December ..	832	843	933	816	819	835	763	785	786	773	797	765
1935												
January ..	832	848	940	834	792	835	774	804	799	786	811	776
February ..	825	845	942	822	802	829	775	800	799	793	813	778
March ..	819	839	935	813	806	823	773	795	797	788	807	775
April ..	817	845	931	819	820	821	770	806	811	799	818	771
May ..	825	817	935	797	823	826	782	809	812	805	822	785
June ..	833	853	936	801	825	836	782	810	812	798	823	784
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS)												
1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	606	750	883	865	982
1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	813	823	847
1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	764	709
1933 ..	864	729	630	812	781	850	801	636	641	731	705	785
1934 ..	869	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	650	741	803	796
1934 1st Qtr.	863	778	635	821	782	848	799	693	656	721	793	785
2nd ..	866	784	642	824	779	855	801	651	662	742	804	790
3rd ..	872	795	644	823	779	861	817	650	662	747	805	805
4th ..	873	800	646	823	778	862	815	651	653	751	809	803
1935 1st Qtr.	879	822	644	853	776	869	841	663	666	802	850	820
2nd ..	881	833	644	860	776	872	847	664	691	812	845	835
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.												
1930 ..	1,059	928	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	918	861	881	900	909	940
1931 ..	929	877	901	882	866	923	818	746	764	793	815	812
1932 ..	867	823	835	831	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773
1933 ..	822	791	289	794	778	818	742	666	668	731	761	738
1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766
1934 1st Qtr.	830	806	799	805	793	827	751	719	720	737	770	748
2nd ..	837	818	817	819	799	835	767	736	741	758	795	765
3rd ..	843	821	826	820	793	840	774	728	747	753	791	771
4th ..	851	828	831	822	796	848	783	737	741	764	801	780
1935 1st Qtr.	844	836	834	835	793	813	798	751	751	794	825	795
2nd ..	845	843	831	825	806	844	802	757	769	805	830	800

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

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

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Brisbane	Toowoomba	Rockhampton	Charters Towers	Watwick	Weighted Average, Queensland	Adelaide	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo	Port Pirie	Mt. Gambier	Peterborough	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1930 ..	844	846	913	966	877	855	937	1,036	1,019	924	1,044	944
1931 ..	778	764	843	902	798	788	789	869	853	774	864	793
1932 ..	738	729	808	876	770	749	761	848	818	772	816	767
1933 ..	699	678	749	802	727	706	731	802	750	740	773	735
1934 ..	727	700	786	807	732	732	767	840	795	745	796	770
1934 1st Qtr ..	719	690	735	804	735	724	750	832	772	743	793	762
2nd ..	731	700	778	811	745	735	786	855	808	755	810	788
3rd ..	728	688	762	801	723	729	754	831	791	732	783	757
4th ..	730	699	767	807	725	732	767	843	809	748	793	771
1935 1st Qtr ..	745	715	781	822	728	717	770	854	808	767	809	775
2nd ..	744	720	785	828	731	717	779	854	816	766	807	783
January ..	721	691	747	800	736	724	754	820	770	745	791	758
February ..	720	690	735	801	738	724	758	833	771	741	793	761
March ..	718	689	762	803	731	723	761	835	774	744	797	768
April ..	736	700	775	812	745	738	793	866	817	761	816	793
May ..	737	714	792	824	759	742	795	870	816	765	821	798
June ..	720	687	769	802	730	723	769	836	790	740	794	772
July ..	725	684	763	806	728	727	747	823	782	722	778	750
August ..	726	687	758	797	718	727	756	836	793	738	785	760
September ..	732	693	763	801	722	733	758	833	799	736	786	762
October ..	738	703	775	811	734	740	764	840	810	740	789	768
November ..	726	695	761	802	721	728	774	849	813	751	806	778
December ..	727	699	762	807	720	729	763	840	805	751	798	767
1935 ..	741	711	776	821	728	743	772	852	808	769	806	776
January ..	742	715	782	827	727	749	768	856	807	768	810	773
February ..	748	700	766	832	730	750	771	855	808	763	811	775
March ..	741	722	789	828	733	745	777	860	811	768	812	781
April ..	749	722	786	829	731	744	780	853	820	766	803	783
June ..	751	717	781	828	735	752	781	848	817	764	805	785
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1930 ..	775	727	685	720	668	759	916	398	715	586	810	882
1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	402	675	586	715	734
1932 ..	641	649	582	542	617	633	691	378	624	610	700	673
1933 ..	681	708	567	517	610	666	694	379	601	610	710	676
1934 ..	691	732	590	515	625	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
1934 1st Qtr ..	697	727	586	516	599	681	699	383	596	608	652	680
2nd ..	687	750	599	509	599	629	700	394	599	603	652	683
3rd ..	686	725	599	509	651	678	698	388	601	630	652	683
4th ..	691	725	594	525	651	685	703	388	596	644	655	688
1935 1st Qtr ..	709	758	596	522	643	699	727	392	621	624	664	711
2nd ..	721	716	591	522	618	708	734	388	626	624	661	717
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
1930 ..	819	801	832	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	961	922
1931 ..	743	716	765	805	745	777	703	790	707	811	774	
1932 ..	704	699	728	758	716	768	736	681	749	714	774	734
1933 ..	690	681	684	700	684	689	716	651	665	693	748	713
1934 ..	713	705	705	703	694	712	742	680	725	701	746	739
1934 1st Qtr ..	709	699	694	701	686	706	736	672	709	694	743	733
2nd ..	713	713	714	706	693	713	755	691	734	702	755	752
3rd ..	713	707	704	697	697	711	734	674	724	696	737	731
4th ..	718	708	706	707	699	716	744	681	733	711	747	741
1935 1st Qtr ..	732	730	715	710	698	730	755	690	741	716	758	752
and ..	736	729	718	720	701	733	763	689	749	715	755	759

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

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1922-1927, as Base (b) (=1,000). ("B" Series)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					Weighted Average, 6 Capital Towns, 30 Towns, Australia.	
	Perth	Kalgoorlie,	Northam.(a)	Bunbury	Geraldton	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart	Launceston	Burnie.(a)	Devonport	Queenstown	
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1930 ..	951	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,055	986	952	937	1,002	938	1,068	953
1931 ..	830	904	883	886	918	856	816	812	814	827	931	821
1932 ..	804	924	851	831	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798
1933 ..	757	936	807	793	760	777	757	736	704	766	873	756
1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	889	784
1934: 1st Qtr ..	811	947	832	825	774	803	716	729	743	753	871	746
and ..	824	1,007	870	866	830	839	785	770	801	797	901	786
3rd ..	809	1,003	851	843	821	825	798	771	805	804	909	793
4th ..	810	939	841	843	831	825	814	788	834	824	909	810
1935 1st Qtr ..	814	973	838	851	839	827	794	780	812	801	907	798
2nd ..	828	976	860	856	853	840	793	792	830	807	906	795
1934												
January ..	775	931	814	807	765	792	737	721	739	744	868	738
February ..	783	952	831	825	775	802	753	730	742	719	873	750
March ..	295	939	848	842	781	813	747	736	749	765	880	750
April ..	824	997	878	858	810	838	771	756	789	787	889	772
May ..	831	1,016	880	884	845	847	797	778	809	801	914	796
June ..	816	1,007	851	855	836	832	787	777	803	800	910	790
July ..	805	1,004	834	849	830	822	788	778	809	805	908	791
August ..	815	1,005	861	848	832	831	802	774	808	802	913	798
September ..	807	999	852	847	829	823	804	768	797	804	901	790
October ..	816	997	852	848	837	831	817	781	821	818	911	809
November ..	813	991	845	844	835	828	813	786	821	815	913	809
December ..	803	975	826	836	822	817	813	799	831	818	904	813
1935												
January ..	813	971	834	850	824	826	795	789	826	812	909	799
February ..	811	977	837	849	837	825	794	794	824	798	907	799
March ..	818	972	842	853	855	831	793	783	817	794	904	793
April ..	822	971	847	859	853	835	795	791	828	805	903	799
May ..	831	977	862	855	857	813	793	791	831	808	906	800
June ..	830	980	871	853	849	842	788	790	831	808	909	796
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1930 ..	979	582	903	783	1,063	934	914	806	726	771	567	858
1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840
1932 ..	743	805	756	979	805	863	760	702	691	673	816	817
1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	609	813
1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	769	657	682	786	814
1934: 1st Qtr ..	792	849	784	776	925	801	864	772	649	674	706	815
and ..	795	908	779	773	925	805	865	772	661	679	706	815
3rd ..	797	908	780	774	921	807	860	763	658	687	699	809
4th ..	792	940	779	777	924	805	872	769	658	686	712	818
1935 1st Qtr, 2nd ..	780	1,037	768	806	933	810	881	775	690	729	723	830
	280	1,055	767	817	941	812	887	780	700	737	723	835
Food, Groceries, and Housing.												
1930 ..	968	941	992	958	1,038	957	939	801	901	880	890	919
1931 ..	852	824	872	846	960	857	816	800	707	791	815	828
1932 ..	805	862	836	854	932	877	822	772	781	777	822	804
1933 ..	768	870	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	809	771
1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794
1934: 1st Qtr ..	786	900	811	806	826	800	786	742	700	723	812	768
and ..	811	968	838	832	864	827	813	770	751	753	833	795
3rd ..	805	969	827	842	864	810	820	720	753	762	834	800
4th ..	801	972	819	819	861	813	835	762	775	839	813	802
1935 1st Qtr, 2nd ..	805	996	813	835	872	821	826	784	776	776	842	809
	814	1,004	827	842	884	830	826	788	784	782	841	811

(a) The towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zeehan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1933 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). (b) See note at top of table on page 16.

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

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

The last two columns in each division of the table on the preceding page refer to the weighted average for the six capital cities and for the 30 towns.

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

Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney ..	1235	Melbourne ..	992	Brisbane ..	300	Adelaide ..	313	Perth, etc ..	208	Hobart ..	60
Newcastle ..	105	Dandenong ..	58	T'woompa ..	26	Kadina, etc ..	11	Kalg'lie, etc ..	17	Launceston ..	53
Broken Hill ..	27	Bendigo ..	29	Rockhampton ..	29	Pt. Pirie ..	12	Northam ..	5	Burnie ..	4
Goulburn ..	15	Geelong ..	39	Chrt. Twrs. ..	7	Mt. Gamb'r ..	5	Bunbury ..	5	Devonport ..	5
Bathurst ..	10	W'nambool ..	9	Warwick ..	7	Peterbor'gh ..	3	Geraldton ..	5	Queenst'wn ..	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	Total ..	369	Total ..	314	Total ..	240	Total ..	106

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

The new weights given above make very slight differences in the derived Indexes, compared with those obtained from the weights previously in use, based upon the 1921 Census, which were published in Labour Report, No. 23.

10. Retail Prices Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—In each section of the next table the average cost for the six capital cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 has been taken as base = 100. 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. 1d. in Hobart, while 15s. 8d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1934 was equivalent to 8s. 1d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 13s. 5d. in Perth in 1911.

*The official index-numbers, however, are calculated by similarly operating on the "aggregate expenditures" of the towns concerned, which may produce slightly different results to the above.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1935 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.

(“B” Series.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'n'e.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
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FOOD AND GROCERIES.

	s. d.	- s. d.					
1907 ..	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911 ..	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1921 ..	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1927 ..	20 8	19 5	18 10	20 7	20 1	20 0	20 0
1930 ..	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10
1931 ..	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1932 ..	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1933 ..	16 0	14 3	14 0	14 7	15 2	15 2	15 0
1934 ..	16 6	15 0	14 7	15 4	16 2	15 9	15 8
1934 1st Qtr.	16 3	14 6	14 5	15 2	15 8	14 11	15 4
“ 2nd ”	16 5	15 0	14 7	15 9	16 6	15 8	15 8
“ 3rd ”	16 7	15 0	14 7	15 1	16 2	16 0	15 8
“ 4th ”	16 9	15 4	14 7	15 4	16 2	16 3	15 11
1935 1st ”	16 6	15 6	14 11	15 5	16 3	15 11	15 11
“ 2nd ”	16 6	15 7	14 11	15 7	16 7	15 10	15 11

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

1907 ..	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911 ..	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1921 ..	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1927 ..	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7
1930 ..	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931 ..	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1932 ..	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1933 ..	17 3	16 0	13 7	13 11	15 11	17 2	16 1
1934 ..	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1934 1st Qtr.	17 3	16 0	13 11	14 0	15 10	17 3	16 1
“ 2nd ”	17 4	16 0	13 9	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
“ 3rd ”	17 5	16 4	13 9	14 0	15 11	17 2	16 3
“ 4th ”	17 6	16 4	13 11	14 1	15 10	17 5	16 4
1935 1st ”	17 7	16 10	14 2	14 7	15 9	17 8	16 7
“ 2nd ”	17 7	16 11	14 5	14 8	15 9	17 9	16 8

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.

1907 ..	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911 ..	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1921 ..	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1927 ..	21 2	19 11	18 0	20 0	19 6	19 9	20 3
1930 ..	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931 ..	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1932 ..	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1933 ..	16 5	14 10	13 10	14 4	15 4	15 10	15 4
1934 ..	16 10	15 5	14 3	14 10	16 1	16 3	15 10
1934 1st Qtr.	16 7	15 0	14 2	14 9	15 9	15 9	15 7
“ 2nd ”	16 9	15 4	14 3	15 1	16 3	16 3	15 10
“ 3rd ”	16 10	15 6	14 3	14 8	16 1	16 5	15 11
“ 4th ”	17 0	15 8	14 4	14 11	16 1	16 8	16 1
1935 1st ”	16 11	16 0	14 8	15 1	16 1	16 6	16 2
“ 2nd ”	16 11	16 1	14 9	15 3	16 3	16 6	16 2

11. Price Details, 1934.—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 group during 1934 is given for the 30 towns included in the investigation. Information with regard to house rents is published quarterly in the Summary, and annually in the Labour Reports. In appendices to Labour Report No. 1, particulars were given of retail prices and house rents in the capital cities for the years 1901 to 1911. In Report No. 2 and subsequent issues detailed information will be found regarding retail prices and rents during each year.

§ 3. Food, Rent, Clothing and Miscellaneous.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX—"C" SERIES).

I. General.—The following Section includes the results of investigations into retail price variations of all items ordinarily entering into household expenditure divided into four main groups:—Food and Groceries; Rent; Clothing; and Miscellaneous. This series of index-numbers has been designated the "All Items" ("C" Series) Index. It has become important because of its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from 1st May, 1934, for the fixation and adjustment of wages controlled by that Court.

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

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

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

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

(a) Weighted Average Six Capitals—£5 15s. 8d

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

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

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

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

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

2. Methods and Regimen Adopted.—The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of the adopted regimen, which is described as the "Indicator List" contained in the Report. It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations by this Bureau would have been somewhat impaired if limited in the manner 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; and (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 with those given in the "Indicator Lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-rooined house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau covering 4 and 5-rooined houses, and not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

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

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

In respect to clothing and a considerable amount of miscellaneous expenditure, it is impossible to lay down the more or less definite grades or qualities of articles, as is the case with food and groceries; but in order to preserve the index as far as practicable as a measure of variations of prices, and not of the "standard of living", retailers have been asked to continue to render the price of the same article for each period in respect of which prices are supplied. The grade or quality of the article originally selected would of course represent the "predominant," or the grade most frequently sold by the particular retailer at that time.

The regimen used for the original tabulation by the Bureau has been somewhat modified to accord with present-day usage, and the following represents the Clothing and Miscellaneous items adopted from the 1st Quarter of 1935—the regimen for Food and Rent (4 and 5 rooms) being the same as that appearing on page 14 of this Report. The grafting of the new regimen to the old followed the lines adopted in the case of Food and Groceries, particulars of which will be found on page 13.

The Regimen for Clothing and Miscellaneous Items.

Item.	Annual Consumption *	Item.	Annual Consumption *
CLOTHING—MEN.			
Suit— To measure	.22	Suit— Wool-de-chine	.50
Ready-made (tweed)	.22	Tweed	.33
Ready-made (worsted)	.22	Blouse— Silk	1.38
Hat—Felt (Australian)	1.00	Cotton	2.78
Stocks— Wool	1.00	Brassiere	4.00
Cashmere (plain)	2.50	Undervest— Wool	.50
Fancy	2.50	Silk	.50
Tie	2.00	Cotton	1.00
Collar—Semi-soft, white	6.00	Bloomers— Winceyette	.33
Handkerchief— Cotton	4.00	Art Silk	.33
Linen	4.00	Cotton	.33
Braces	1.33	Nightdress— Winceyette	.33
Shirt— Working	4.00	Art Silk	.33
Best	1.67	Cotton	.33
Singlet— Wool	.67	Pajamas— Winceyette	.33
Wool and Cotton	.67	Art Silk	.33
Cotton	.67	Cotton	.33
Underpants— Wool	.67	Princess Slip—Silk	.67
Wool and Cotton	.67	Corsets	1.50
Cotton	.67	Dressing Gown— Wool	.11
Pajamas— Winceyette	.67	Silk	.11
Cotton	.67	Cotton	.11
Trousers— Working (Cotton Tweed)	2.00	Apron—Cotton	4.00
Overcoat— Tweed	.13	Stockings— Silk	1.50
Waterproof	.13	Art Silk	1.50
Umbrella	.33	Cashmere	1.50
Pullover	.33	Lisle	1.50
Borts— Best (box calf)	.50	Gloves— Wool	.50
Working	1.33	Silk	.50
Repairs (sole and heel)	3.00	Fabric	.50
CLOTHING—WOMEN—continued.			
Hat ..	1.50	Skin	.50
Costume—Winter ..	.33	Top Coat— Tweed	.13
Frock— Cotton (Summer) ..	.17	Velour	.13
Silk ..	.17	Golfer—Wool	.33
		Umbrella	.33
		Shoes— Best (leather)	1.00
		Second (leather)	1.00
		Repairs (Sole and Heel)	2.00
CLOTHING—WOMEN.			

* The total cost of each Group is multiplied by a Group "Weight" representing the proportion the population covered by the Group.

The Regimen for Clothing and Miscellaneous Items—continued.

Item.	Annual Consumption.*	Item.	Annual Consumption.*
CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).			
Overcoat ..	.33	Pyjamas—	
Suit ..	1.00	Winceyette ..	1.00
Pants ..	2.00	Cotton ..	1.00
Jersey ..	.50	Boots, Best ..	1.00
Summer Coat ..	1.00	Shoes ..	2.00
Shirt ..	4.00	Repairs (Sole and Heel) ..	1.00
Stockings—Golf ..	4.00		
Hat—		MISCELLANEOUS—HOUSEHOLD DRAPERY.	
Straw ..	.50	Blankets—	
Soft ..	1.00	D.H. pair ..	.07
Cap ..	1.00	S.B. pair ..	.14
Braces ..	1.00	Quilt—	
Tie ..	2.00	D.B.—Marcella ..	.07
Singlets—		S.B.—Marcella ..	.20
Wool ..	.67	Sheets—	
Wool and Cotton ..	.67	D.B. pair ..	.50
Cotton ..	.67	S.B. pair ..	1.00
Pyjamas—		Pillow Slip ..	5.00
Winceyette ..	.67	Towel ..	3.00
Cotton ..	.67	Table-cloth (White) full ..	.20
Boots—		Table Napkin ..	1.00
Best (leather) ..	1.00	Window Curtains—	
School (leather) ..	2.00	Silk, pair ..	.25
Repairs (Sole and heel) ..	2.00	Cotton, pair ..	.25
CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS).			
Singlet—		MISCELLANEOUS—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.	
Wool ..	.33	Cup and Saucer (Stone China) ..	1.00
Wool and Cotton ..	.33	Plate, Dinner (Stone China) ..	1.00
Cotton ..	.33	Jug, Quart (Stone China) ..	1.00
Bloomers—		Teapot (Brownware) ..	.25
Wool ..	.50	Toilet Set ..	.05
Cotton ..	2.00	Basin, Pudding (enamelled) ..	1.00
Petticoat—		Dinner Set (Stone China) ..	.05
Winter ..	.50	Ten Set (Stone China) ..	.05
Summer ..	.50	Tumbler ..	1.00
Dress—		Kettle—	
Wool ..	1.00	Enamelled (5-pint) ..	.20
Silk ..	1.00	Aluminium (5-pint) ..	.20
Cotton ..	2.00	Saucepans, Aluminium (5-pints) ..	.20
Jumpers—		Bucket, Galvanized ..	.20
Hat ..	.50	Colander, Tin ..	.20
Cap ..	2.00	Dipper, Tin ..	.20
Pyjamas—		Broom—	
Winceyette ..	.33	Millet ..	.13
Cotton ..	.33	Soft ..	.13
Socks ..	2.00	Brush—	
Stockings ..	2.00	Bannister ..	1.00
Top Coat—		Scrubbing ..	1.00
Wool ..	.17	Black Lead ..	1.00
Waterproof ..	.17	Knife—	
Boots—		Table, stainless ..	.05
Best (leather) ..	.67	Dessert, stainless ..	.05
School (leather) ..	1.33	Spoon—	
Repairs (sole and heel) ..	2.00	Tea, whitemetal ..	.05
CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS).		Dessert, whitemetal ..	.05
Overcoat ..	.33	Table, whitemetal ..	.05
Suit—		Fork—	
Light ..	.50	Dessert, whitemetal ..	.05
Heavy ..	.50	Table, whitemetal ..	.05
Pants ..	1.00		
Pullover—Wool ..	.50	MISCELLANEOUS—FUEL AND LIGHT.	
Blouse Coat ..	1.00	Fuel—Wood, cwt. ..	1.50
Shirt ..	2.00	Light—Electric Lighting, unit ..	2.50
Socks ..	2.00		
Stockings—Golf ..	2.00	OTHER MISCELLANEOUS.	
Hat ..	.67	Union Dues ..	‡
Cap ..	.67	Lodge Dues ..	‡
Braces ..	1.00	Medicine ..	‡
Singlet—		Newspapers ..	‡
Wool ..	.67	Recreation ..	‡
Wool and Cotton ..	.67	Smoking ..	‡
Cotton ..	.67	Fares ..	‡
		School Requisites ..	‡

* The total cost of each Group is multiplied by a Group "Weight," representing the proportion of the population covered by the Group.

† The "consumption" weight shown is the amount allowed for a week.

‡ A definite amount per week is allotted for each of these items.

The five divisions into which the group Clothing is divided are somewhat arbitrary, but were those adopted by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage 1920. The groups for men and women are regarded as being applicable to persons aged eighteen years of age and upwards. The group for a boy aged ten and a half years is taken as representative of both sexes from nine to seventeen years; the group for a girl aged seven as representative of the cost of boys and girls from four to eight years; and the group for the boy aged three and a half years is representative of the cost of children under four years.

3. Base.—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some time 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. As a base for comparing different places, the weighted average cost for the six capital cities was taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November, 1914, made equal to 1,000. The index-numbers were computed to this base up to and including the 4th Quarter, 1929. In accordance with the decision of a Conference of Statisticians that a post-war period should be adopted as base, an alteration was made as from 1st January, 1930, and the index-numbers in the following tables have been computed to a post-war base, viz., the weighted average cost in the six capital cities during the five-yearly period—1923–1927—the average annual aggregate expenditure in this period being made equal to 1,000. This new series may be converted to the 1914 base by multiplying the index-numbers in the various sections by the following multipliers, viz.:—Food—1.5601; Rent—1.5408; Food and Rent—1.5528; Clothing—1.3263; Miscellaneous—1.3351; and All Items—1.4556. To convert the 1914 base index-numbers to the 1923–27 base, on the other hand, multiply the former by the following factors, viz.:—Food—0.64116; Rent—0.64872; Food and Rent—0.64384; Clothing—0.75412; Miscellaneous—0.74891; All Items—0.68715.

4. Variations—Thirty Towns.—The investigations were 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. It was considered unnecessary to obtain information for previous years regarding prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals, while so far as the capitals were concerned, details were already available in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage. Information of this nature is at present collected quarterly for all the towns, and quarterly index-numbers are available.

5. Retail Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov. 1914 to 2nd Quarter 1935.—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; and (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing Clothing, and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.

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

Period.	N S W.—INDEX-NUMBERS						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warran-	Weighted Average, Victoria
Nov. 1914 (a)	638	.	.	.	.	616	923	928	919	942	948	934
" 1921 "	904	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	942	948	934
Year 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	988	913	952	958	909	932	916
" 1931 ..	876	868	1,011	843	857	879	791	813	825	781	810	793
" 1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	760	760
" 1933 ..	600	799	880	785	779	801	713	732	733	738	746	715
" 1934 ..	823	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
1934 1st Qtr.	814	820	892	802	803	816	726	758	757	747	761	730
" and "	821	836	917	817	811	824	739	782	786	766	791	752
" 3rd "	827	836	926	818	828	829	750	771	794	756	783	733
" 4th "	839	844	932	822	806	840	766	784	791	769	797	768
1935 1st Qtr.	826	844	939	825	802	829	774	800	798	789	811	776
" and "	825	849	934	806	823	829	778	808	812	801	821	781

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Brisbane.	Toombul	Rockhampton	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	614	.	.	.	.	950	683	945	968	923	997	943
" 1921 "	953	895	949	981	936	950	941	945	924	924	944	944
Year 1929 ..	951	929	1,011	1,023	971	961	1,055	1,137	1,111	1,034	1,166	1,061
" 1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	853	937	1,036	1,019	924	1,044	944
" 1931 ..	778	764	843	902	798	768	789	869	853	774	864	793
" 1932 ..	738	729	808	876	770	749	761	848	818	772	816	767
" 1933 ..	699	678	749	802	727	706	731	802	750	740	773	735
" 1934 ..	727	691	766	807	732	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
1934 1st Qtr.	719	690	755	804	735	724	759	832	772	743	793	762
" and "	731	700	778	814	745	735	766	855	808	755	810	788
" 3rd "	728	688	762	801	723	729	754	831	791	732	783	757
" 4th "	730	699	767	807	725	732	767	843	809	748	798	771
1935 1st ..	745	715	781	827	728	717	770	851	808	767	809	775
" 2nd "	744	720	785	828	731	747	779	854	816	766	807	783

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.
Nov. 1914 (a)	746	.	.	.	.	687	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,077
" 1921 "	1,005	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,037	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,077
Year 1929 ..	1,084	1,267	1,157	1,173	1,149	1,103	1,025	995	1,078	1,038	1,140	1,024
" 1930 ..	961	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,055	986	952	937	1,002	938	1,068	941
" 1931 ..	836	994	883	886	918	856	816	812	844	827	934	821
" 1932 ..	804	974	854	833	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798
" 1933 ..	737	936	807	797	760	777	757	736	764	766	873	756
" 1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	784
1934 1st Qtr.	784	947	832	825	771	803	746	729	743	753	874	746
" 2nd "	821	1,007	870	866	830	839	785	770	803	797	904	786
" 3rd "	809	1,003	852	848	831	825	798	774	805	804	909	784
" 4th "	810	989	841	843	831	825	814	788	824	824	909	810
1935 1st ..	814	973	838	851	839	827	794	789	822	801	907	798
" 2nd "	828	970	860	856	853	840	793	792	830	807	906	798

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

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). ("C" Series.)

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Bellarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	758						608					
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	843	479	527	668	685	789
Year 1929 ..	1,163	1,082	701	1,240	880	1,142	1,094	704	817	944	849	1,060
" 1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	928	1,170	1,011	696	730	883	865	982
" 1931 ..	1,026	695	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	815	843	847
" 1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	804	799
" 1933 ..	864	779	630	812	781	850	801	636	641	721	795	785
" 1934 ..	869	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	658	711	803	796
1934 1st Qtr.	863	778	635	811	782	848	799	653	656	721	792	785
" 2nd "	866	781	612	824	779	855	801	654	662	742	804	790
" 3rd "	872	795	614	823	779	861	817	650	662	747	805	803
" 4th "	873	800	616	823	778	862	815	651	653	754	809	803
1935 1st Qtr.	879	822	644	853	776	860	841	663	666	802	850	820
" 2nd "	881	813	641	860	776	872	847	664	691	812	845	835
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS												
Period	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Watwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kaddinga, Munnoo, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	463	..	470	548	..	594	611	..	..	..	366	781
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	548	535	594	819	566	603	492	..	..
Year 1929 ..	841	719	633	745	678	806	986	443	695	561	816	945
" 1930 ..	775	727	683	720	668	730	916	398	715	586	810	884
" 1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	491	675	586	715	734
" 1932 ..	641	649	582	542	617	633	601	378	624	610	700	673
" 1933 ..	681	708	567	517	610	666	604	379	601	610	710	676
" 1934 ..	691	732	595	515	625	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
1934 1st Qtr.	697	727	586	516	599	681	699	383	596	608	652	680
" 2nd "	687	750	599	509	599	670	700	304	599	608	652	685
" 3rd "	686	725	599	509	651	678	698	383	601	630	652	681
" 4th "	694	725	594	525	651	685	703	388	596	644	655	688
1935 1st Qtr.	709	758	596	522	643	690	727	392	621	624	664	711
" 2nd "	721	746	594	522	648	734	734	388	626	624	661	717
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avg. W.A.	Hobart.	Lane Cove.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.
Nov. 1914 (a)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	294	..	495	..
" 1921 ..	754	378	616	649	729	709	870	676	..	150	495	729
Year 1929 ..	955	545	917	675	985	906	932	631	781	735	520	873
" 1930 ..	979	582	903	783	1,063	934	916	806	720	774	567	858
" 1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	728	712	726	598	840
" 1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	702	694	673	816
" 1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	813
" 1934 ..	791	901	781	773	925	805	865	769	657	682	706	814
1934 1st Qtr.	792	840	784	776	925	801	864	772	649	674	706	810
" and "	795	908	779	773	925	805	865	772	661	679	706	815
" 3rd "	797	908	780	774	924	807	860	763	658	687	699	814
" 4th "	792	940	779	777	924	805	872	769	658	686	712	815
1935 1st Qtr.	789	1,037	768	806	933	810	884	775	690	729	723	830
" and "	789	1,055	767	817	941	812	887	780	700	737	723	835

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

Total Household Expenditure.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX—"C" SERIES.

Six Capital Cities, 1915-1920.—Index-Numbers showing for the Six Capital Cities the Expenditure on Food and Groceries, Housing (4 and 5 Rooms), Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure ; Weighted Average Expenditure in the Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (=1,000).

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capital. (a)
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Nov. 1915 ..	844	835	860	858	819	858	842
" 1916 ..	833	791	748	835	854	807	812
" 1917 ..	877	798	825	805	828	949	836
" 1918 ..	877	843	882	862	816	918	861
" 1919 ..	1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
" 1920 ..	1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209
HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).							
Nov. 1915 ..	780	611	472	574	581	571	659
" 1916 ..	791	625	467	573	592	574	665
" 1917 ..	797	657	492	606	602	586	683
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.							
Nov. 1915 ..	825	756	722	758	734	756	777
" 1916 ..	818	732	648	742	761	724	760
" 1917 ..	848	748	707	734	748	820	782
" 1918 ..	861	792	756	789	746	810	812
" 1919 ..	1,000	893	904	904	867	936	934
" 1920 ..	1,138	1,074	945	1,068	973	1,155	1,082
CLOTHING.							
Nov. 1915 ..	805	797	690	821	760	833	792
" 1916 ..	903	870	779	919	849	940	881
" 1917 ..	1,009	976	899	1,049	980	1,041	992
" 1918 ..	1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
" 1919 ..	1,237	1,213	1,192	1,303	1,277	1,344	1,238
" 1920 ..	1,323	1,422	1,274	1,384	1,359	1,430	1,365
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Nov. 1915 ..	798	770	756	803	822	770	786
" 1916 ..	808	784	766	832	869	780	802
" 1917 ..	889	879	836	883	926	865	882
" 1918 ..	988	950	931	988	1,035	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.							
Nov. 1915 ..	816	768	721	780	755	776	782
" 1916 ..	836	773	698	798	800	783	795
" 1917 ..	892	823	773	832	832	879	847
" 1918 ..	938	890	848	887	885	923	905
" 1919 ..	1,065	988	981	1,018	1,005	1,042	1,022
" 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

(a) Weighted Average of each Section—1,000.

Total Household Expenditure.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX—"C" SERIES.

Relative Expenditure on Food and Groceries, Housing (4 and 5 Rooms), Clothing, and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure in 32 Towns. Basis of Table—Weighted Average Expenditure in Six Capital Cities, during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 = 1000.

Town.	1933.					1934.					Total Household Expenditure.
	Food and Groceries	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing	Miscellaneous	Total Household Expenditure	Food and Groceries	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing	Miscellaneous		
New South Wales—											
Sydney ..	309	184	171	168	832	319	185	172	166	842	
Newcastle ..	309	165	189	156	819	322	168	157	157	834	
Broken Hill ..	340	134	164	168	806	354	137	160	168	819	
Goulburn ..	303	173	218	149	843	315	174	215	148	852	
Bathurst ..	301	166	184	150	802	310	166	184	147	807	
Weighted Average ..	310	180	173	167	830	320	182	174	165	841	
Victoria—											
Melbourne ..	276	170	187	156	789	289	172	185	155	801	
Ballarat ..	283	155	193	149	766	299	139	194	149	781	
Bendigo ..	283	136	216	154	789	303	140	214	154	811	
Gedlong ..	285	153	183	151	772	294	157	181	150	782	
Warrnambool ..	288	169	214	141	812	303	170	212	141	826	
Weighted Average ..	276	167	188	156	787	290	169	187	155	801	
Queensland—											
Brisbane ..	270	145	182	154	731	281	147	181	153	762	
Toowoomba ..	262	151	210	155	778	268	156	207	154	785	
Rockhampton ..	290	121	201	150	752	296	126	188	149	759	
Charters Towers ..	310	110	176	166	762	312	109	173	165	759	
Warwick ..	280	130	194	153	757	283	133	193	152	761	
Weighted Average ..	273	141	185	154	735	282	145	184	153	764	
South Australia—											
Adelaide ..	283	148	191	167	789	296	149	195	166	806	
Kadina, &c. ..	310	80	196	161	747	325	82	201	160	758	
Port Pirie ..	290	128	183	161	762	307	127	183	161	778	
Mount Gambier ..	286	130	221	163	800	288	132	218	162	800	
Peterborough ..	299	151	219	163	838	308	139	222	163	832	
Weighted Average ..	284	144	192	167	787	298	145	195	166	804	
Western Australia—											
Perth, &c. ..	292	169	189	161	812	312	169	188	161	830	
Calgoony, &c. ..	362	124	238	165	937	381	192	238	164	975	
Northam ..	312	167	182	153	814	328	166	177	154	825	
Bunbury ..	307	164	201	152	824	327	165	199	152	843	
Geraldton ..	294	200	192	165	851	316	197	189	164	866	
Weighted Average ..	300	170	194	161	825	318	171	192	161	843	
Tasmania—											
Hobart ..	293	183	203	146	823	304	184	203	146	837	
Launceston ..	285	164	221	147	817	296	164	221	147	828	
Burnie ..	295	144	195	141	773	307	139	193	141	780	
Devonport ..	296	144	192	142	773	307	145	195	140	787	
Queenstown ..	337	149	244	137	867	348	150	241	137	876	
Weighted Average ..	293	173	209	146	820	303	173	209	146	831	
Weighted Average for 30 Towns ..	291	167	184	161	803	304	169	183	160	816	
Weighted Average 8 Capital Cities ..	290	171	181	162	804	303	172	181	161	817	
Townsville (Q.) (a) ..	312	170	207	161	850	318	171	202	160	851	
Port Augusta (S.A.) (a) ..	317	129	206	162	814	331	128	202	161	822	

(a) Not included in above Weighted Averages.

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

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

2. Results—1932 to 1934.—The base of the following table is the cost of food and housing (All Houses) in the six capitals in 1911, and is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the element of rent in the base itself differs from that contained in this table, but the Index-numbers are comparable throughout.

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

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns for November, 1932, 1933, and 1934, 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.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- roomed Houses.
	A	B		A	B		A	B	
New South Wales—									
Albury	..	871	1,290	1,340	786	1,263	1,340	836	1,280
Armidale	..	854	1,212	1,295	768	1,122	1,209	817	1,169
Bathurst	..	870	1,227	1,339	850	1,277	1,282	846	1,175
Bega	..	826	1,174	1,234	816	1,180	1,233	852	1,217
Berry	..	890	1,241	1,311	832	1,183	1,247	866	1,217
Blackheath	..	893	1,200	1,282	857	1,173	1,252	906	1,222
Bourke	..	869	1,238	1,340	843	1,209	1,238	896	1,265
Bowral	..	878	1,230	1,338	879	1,208	1,339	892	1,221
Broken Hill	..	872	1,217	1,333	846	1,202	1,298	876	1,229
Casino	..	938	1,257	1,385	920	1,253	1,362	973	1,313
Cessnock	..	831	1,240	1,358	817	1,235	1,344	832	1,240
Cobar	..	817	1,120	1,202	799	1,063	1,102	834	1,103
Cooma	..	944	1,160	1,229	1,060	1,228	1,297	1,028	1,217
Coonamble	..	957	1,230	1,401	900	1,203	1,335	881	1,204
		895	1,175	1,269	888	1,123	1,248	927	1,254

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

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses.
A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
New South Wales—contd.									
Cootamundra	846	1,280	1,369	770	1,175	1,291	831	1,246	1,366
Corinal	863	1,262	1,324	808	1,200	1,269	867	1,253	1,324
Cowra	851	1,191	1,306	784	1,110	1,278	851	1,173	1,408
Cronulla	896	1,327	1,422	831	1,247	1,340	877	1,286	1,418
Deniliquin	846	1,181	1,278	867	1,198	1,324	910	1,256	1,401
Dubbo	752	1,258	1,380	722	1,118	1,256	812	1,311	1,372
Forbes	851	1,309	1,393	829	1,272	1,413	866	1,289	1,494
Gunnedah	838	1,134	1,200	824	1,120	1,186	891	1,220	1,253
Glen Innes	814	1,176	1,274	798	1,160	1,245	807	1,162	1,268
Goulburn	856	1,297	1,344	871	1,242	1,294	865	1,306	1,349
Grafton	806	1,224	1,378	790	1,118	1,363	823	1,281	1,440
Grenfell	848	1,234	1,316	813	1,208	1,340	849	1,293	1,414
Griffith	896	1,692	1,883	901	1,663	1,826	956	1,697	1,884
Guilgandra	836	1,134	1,223	285	1,040	1,116	823	1,100	1,152
Gunnedah	799	1,159	1,263	771	1,140	1,267	810	1,177	1,243
Hog	938	1,420	1,416	912	1,260	1,436	945	1,293	1,460
Inverell	871	1,309	1,410	811	1,236	1,301	851	1,306	1,382
Junes	832	1,316	1,441	814	1,265	1,393	861	1,374	1,499
Katoomba	873	1,429	1,512	834	1,350	1,448	877	1,421	1,573
Kempsey	829	1,182	1,306	821	1,136	1,333	853	1,238	1,357
Kiama	892	1,182	1,353	862	1,152	1,329	935	1,225	1,421
Kurri Kurri	811	1,102	1,177	792	1,046	1,143	861	1,107	1,192
Lester	909	1,496	1,593	854	1,413	1,512	893	1,489	1,620
Liamore	831	1,247	1,393	814	1,249	1,421	823	1,300	1,455
Lithgow	838	1,186	1,223	812	1,156	1,163	899	1,216	1,224
Maitland	808	1,141	1,240	770	1,058	1,247	830	1,128	1,195
Moree	941	1,467	1,521	886	1,408	1,505	925	1,476	1,579
Moss Vale	844	1,287	1,323	824	1,173	1,260	856	1,246	1,330
Mudgee	803	1,197	1,329	720	1,122	1,240	814	1,273	1,389
Narrabri	866	1,238	1,324	811	1,206	1,245	885	1,321	1,364
Narrandera	916	1,376	1,486	844	1,304	1,409	803	1,406	1,499
Newcastle	852	1,230	1,348	845	1,223	1,335	864	1,284	1,397
Nowra	917	1,246	1,391	875	1,267	1,338	885	1,329	1,420
Orange	792	1,192	1,297	790	1,200	1,354	814	1,219	1,361
Parkes	855	1,239	1,323	824	1,182	1,275	847	1,220	1,350
Penneth	820	1,119	1,251	782	1,065	1,186	829	1,132	1,209
Port Kembla	850	1,267	1,340	839	1,256	1,313	901	1,276	1,374
Portland	850	1,114	1,179	846	1,110	1,173	885	1,148	1,214
Queanbeyan	883	1,155	1,242	833	1,117	1,196	895	1,205	1,275
Quirindi	883	1,137	1,283	878	1,108	1,314	900	1,242	1,351
Richmond	844	1,239	1,305	802	1,166	1,262	884	1,298	1,344
Scenes	846	1,274	1,350	868	1,235	1,312	852	1,293	1,389
Singleton	871	1,166	1,302	795	1,131	1,221	821	1,174	1,224
Sydney	863	1,307	1,385	826	1,260	1,346	886	1,316	1,413
Tamworth	809	1,169	1,258	780	1,142	1,227	846	1,188	1,303
Taree	841	1,283	1,393	787	1,230	1,331	827	1,296	1,431
Temora	850	1,343	1,444	803	1,297	1,397	845	1,328	1,416
Tenterfield	823	1,166	1,251	775	1,120	1,211	813	1,177	1,237
Tumut	846	1,307	1,439	834	1,311	1,402	853	1,324	1,432
Ulladulla	894	1,255	1,421	815	1,210	1,342	872	1,267	1,398
Wagga Wagga	825	1,215	1,403	793	1,247	1,423	839	1,342	1,500
Walcha	867	1,198	1,295	841	1,170	1,279	880	1,238	1,294
Wellington	815	1,114	1,223	794	1,104	1,202	875	1,237	1,283
Weston	811	1,103	1,153	804	1,093	1,148	834	1,126	1,179
Windsor	855	1,282	1,381	822	1,250	1,348	830	1,274	1,356

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

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.
	A	B		C	A		C	A	
New South Wales—contd.									
Wollongong ..	799	1,241	1,326	795	1,254	1,311	850	1,307	1,419
Wyalong ..	849	1,156	1,217	843	1,166	1,205	858	1,187	1,253
Yass ..	826	1,187	1,261	798	1,143	1,242	856	1,230	1,292
Young ..	853	1,313	1,376	816	1,224	1,319	898	1,310	1,367
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	861	1,286	1,370	827	1,244	1,334	878	1,303	1,401
Victoria—									
Ararat ..	813	1,142	1,302	819	1,138	1,266	872	1,202	1,333
Bacchus Marsh ..	773	1,108	1,260	775	1,119	1,254	830	1,175	1,247
Bairnsdale ..	860	1,135	1,289	822	1,124	1,247	891	1,161	1,339
Ballarat ..	769	1,064	1,213	771	1,074	1,227	818	1,129	1,264
Bethelworth ..	867	1,163	1,249	826	1,122	1,275	856	1,152	1,191
Benalla ..	836	1,189	1,290	799	1,125	1,298	874	1,200	1,384
Bendigo ..	786	1,097	1,206	765	1,072	1,200	836	1,154	1,274
Camperdown ..	806	1,217	1,319	806	1,197	1,333	857	1,236	1,382
Casterton ..	847	1,209	1,288	834	1,166	1,261	879	1,261	1,340
Castlemaine ..	802	1,073	1,157	787	1,082	1,178	816	1,104	1,198
Celac ..	803	1,237	1,367	801	1,216	1,317	856	1,274	1,371
Creswick ..	817	958	985	782	914	966	831	989	1,041
Daylesford ..	811	1,021	1,119	806	1,016	1,094	831	1,041	1,118
Duncolly ..	812	973	1,013	780	950	1,006	836	1,047	1,083
Echuca ..	779	1,070	1,199	785	1,085	1,210	826	1,125	1,283
Euroa ..	828	1,161	1,237	810	1,113	1,170	846	1,142	1,251
Gedling ..	783	1,140	1,307	771	1,124	1,298	798	1,172	1,322
Hamilton ..	840	1,235	1,376	803	1,189	1,318	847	1,215	1,304
Healesville ..	799	1,069	1,241	804	1,070	1,146	861	1,124	1,210
Horsham ..	849	1,176	1,308	807	1,155	1,207	843	1,231	1,301
Kerang ..	807	1,201	1,267	793	1,187	1,253	862	1,250	1,298
Koroit ..	851	1,114	1,180	808	1,071	1,130	828	1,114	1,167
Korumburra ..	778	1,099	1,243	776	1,089	1,252	823	1,112	1,274
Kyneton ..	780	1,069	1,194	743	1,035	1,146	797	1,068	1,227
Lilydale ..	833	1,183	1,280	826	1,158	1,240	858	1,180	1,252
Maffra ..	812	1,285	1,259	802	1,272	1,252	826	1,150	1,247
Maidon ..	833	945	998	832	944	1,017	871	1,003	1,068
Maryborough ..	775	1,006	1,101	770	1,025	1,095	826	1,067	1,206
Melbourne ..	754	1,160	1,282	750	1,163	1,287	798	1,207	1,340
Mildura ..	879	1,398	1,520	887	1,419	1,533	917	1,483	1,650
Morwell ..	802	1,237	1,296	839	1,260	1,352	865	1,237	1,379
Nhill ..	866	1,166	1,307	840	1,243	1,256	868	1,214	1,326
Orbost ..	874	1,229	1,331	877	1,219	1,333	857	1,179	1,305
Portland ..	833	1,169	1,241	831	1,160	1,226	847	1,156	1,209
Port Fairy ..	849	1,108	1,224	801	1,091	1,196	824	1,127	1,252
St. Arnaud ..	869	1,222	1,290	847	1,264	1,278	897	1,223	1,348
Sale ..	802	1,121	1,256	826	1,169	1,233	826	1,217	1,302
Seymour ..	873	1,202	1,301	824	1,253	1,258	893	1,216	1,324
Shepparton ..	792	1,186	1,313	777	1,156	1,300	847	1,238	1,390
Stawell ..	865	1,142	1,244	844	1,103	1,228	907	1,157	1,270
Swan Hill ..	812	1,338	1,536	782	1,292	1,473	877	1,387	1,568
Terang ..	876	1,200	1,338	840	1,163	1,284	863	1,213	1,368
Traralgon ..	780	1,153	1,277	773	1,111	1,256	828	1,187	1,348
Wangaratta ..	814	1,268	1,380	824	1,267	1,378	828	1,293	1,401
Warracknabeal ..	827	1,130	1,251	790	1,109	1,199	830	1,157	1,258
Warragul ..	760	1,286	1,454	751	1,285	1,451	831	1,232	1,397
Warrnambool ..	812	1,207	1,369	779	1,173	1,341	799	1,334	1,501
Wonthaggi ..	773	1,155	1,227	776	1,105	1,212	836	1,165	1,262
Weighted Average for State (45 Towns) ..	765	1,156	1,279	767	1,155	1,280	805	1,203	1,334

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

State and Town.	1932. November.			1933. November.			1934. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.		Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses.
Western Australia—contd.									
Carnarvon	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cervar	1,062	1,511	1,605	1,023	1,477	1,587	1,062	1,491	1,621
Collie	845	1,169	1,283	762	1,108	1,236	908	1,247	1,329
Geraldton	838	1,347	1,480	804	1,288	1,421	880	1,361	1,497
Greenbushes	958	1,123	1,156	906	1,073	1,112	973	1,122	1,190
Kalgoolie and Boulder	997	1,473	1,524	973	1,466	1,544	1,047	1,570	1,659
Hatanning	846	1,200	1,324	810	1,132	1,256	889	1,193	1,305
Leonora and Gwalia	1,079	1,343	1,393	1,083	1,346	1,412	1,142	1,405	1,464
Meekatharra	1,102	1,562	1,760	1,080	1,541	1,736	1,103	1,583	1,739
Narrogin	862	1,326	1,401	845	1,249	1,370	919	1,367	1,521
Northam	852	1,731	1,379	833	1,237	1,346	890	1,295	1,399
Berth and Fremantle	800	1,202	1,296	779	1,124	1,223	856	1,254	1,344
Wagin	914	1,169	1,243	857	1,112	1,186	860	1,145	1,222
York	817	1,146	1,235	807	1,125	1,176	844	1,180	1,233
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns)	832	1,233	1,350	810	1,209	1,308	878	1,281	1,374
Tasmania—									
Beaconsfield	795	914	953	784	902	942	843	988	1,054
Burnie	843	1,222	1,299	787	1,135	1,230	864	1,222	1,318
Campbelltown	835	1,091	1,131	820	1,029	1,087	858	1,100	1,154
Deloraine	820	1,143	1,222	796	1,119	1,183	830	1,159	1,185
Devonport	833	1,291	1,307	803	1,222	1,274	879	1,296	1,354
Franklin	900	1,137	1,229	860	1,097	1,156	936	1,173	1,232
Hobart	809	1,251	1,379	797	1,237	1,370	846	1,300	1,435
Launceston	789	1,181	1,290	760	1,163	1,271	827	1,209	1,343
New Norfolk	836	1,171	1,224	625	1,141	1,167	866	1,182	1,234
Queenstown	942	1,304	1,393	916	1,311	1,357	961	1,356	1,415
Scottsdale	808	1,071	1,163	767	1,030	1,123	811	1,047	1,159
Ulverstone	866	1,142	1,248	811	1,052	1,126	838	1,126	1,220
Zeehan	994	1,192	1,223	987	1,185	2,217	2,017	1,214	1,247
Weighted Average for State (19 Towns)	817	1,220	1,330	796	1,200	1,310	855	1,261	1,379
Territories(a)—									
Canberra	899	1,459	1,573	902	1,465	1,574	964	1,530	1,638
Weighted Averages—									
Australia (200 Towns)	811	1,200	1,304	794	1,182	1,288	840	1,236	1,345
Thirty Towns	805	1,190	1,304	780	1,185	1,292	837	1,239	1,349
Six Capitals	800	1,202	1,307	786	1,188	1,295	834	1,241	1,352

(a) Not included in Weighted Averages.

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 (November, 1913 = 1,000) are given in the next table which shows that since 1913 food prices have increased slightly more in the capitals than in the larger groups of towns, while the increase in rents has been generally greater outside the capitals.

The index-numbers for November 1921 to 1934, computed from the three sets of data mentioned, with 1913 as base (= 1,000), are shown in the following table:—

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—November—Australia.

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
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FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns (200) ..	1,000	1,578	1,770	1,455	1,349	1,267	1,241	1,312
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,769	1,454	1,343	1,264	1,240	1,314
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,588	1,781	1,463	1,351	1,270	1,248	1,324

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (200) ..	1,000	1,268	1,635	1,541	1,314	1,258	1,261	1,291
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,622	1,516	1,288	1,233	1,289	1,279
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,261	1,562	1,453	1,229	1,169	1,176	1,182

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (200) ..	1,000	1,461	1,719	1,488	1,336	1,264	1,249	1,304
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,712	1,478	1,322	1,252	1,240	1,298
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,455	1,692	1,459	1,301	1,229	1,219	1,269

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

4. Rent Reduction Acts.—In New South Wales, the *Reduction of Rents Act No. 45 of 1931*, came into operation on the 9th October, and the Western Australian *Reduction of Rents Act No. 21 of 1931*, was assented to on the 18th August. The Acts, which are on practically similar lines, prescribed a general reduction in rents of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., unless the lessor obtains an order permitting him to charge and receive rent under the lease at a higher rate. The order in New South Wales must be obtained from a Court of Petty Sessions, and in Western Australia from a Commissioner appointed by the Governor for the purposes of Part VI. of the *Financial Emergency Act 1931*. A special circumstance to be considered by the tribunal is the amount by which the rent of the premises, the subject of the lease, may have been reduced since the 30th June, 1930. Any such amount is taken into account in calculating the total proposed reduction, but the lessor may not charge a higher rent than was charged at the commencement of the Act. The measures do not apply to premises which were not leased on 30th June, 1930, unless a lease was entered into earlier than three months before the commencement of the Act. The New South Wales Act expired on 31st December, 1932, but amending Acts in Western Australia have extended the operation of this legislation to the 31st December, 1935.

In Victoria, the *Landlord and Tenant (Rent Reduction) Act No. 3990 of 1931*, was assented to on the 24th December, and provides for reduction of rents payable under long leases by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Orders for reduction may be made by lower Courts, where the rent under the lease does not exceed £208 per annum.

§ 5. International Comparison of Price Index-Numbers.

I. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices in the years 1913 to 1935 for Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913 being taken as base (= 100). The figures have been taken chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations, and represent merely the fluctuations in prices in each country separately, and cannot therefore, be compared horizontally for relative costs in the various countries.

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

PERIOD.	UNITED KINGDOM.					AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL (SANTOS).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIA.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist"	Official.	National Tariff Commission.											
Average.																
1913 ..	100	100	100	100	100										100	100
1928 ..	140	142	135	130	122	145	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	132	140	
1929 ..	137	134	127	130	124	141	105	150	148	116	98	127	137			
1930 ..	130	123	107	117	108	117	115	130	134	103	90	112	125			
1931 ..	104	98	89	109	96	96	127	114	105	97	84	102	115			
1932 ..	102	95	86	112	77	91	112	117	86	84	86	97	97			
1933 ..	101	94	87	108	72	87	104	125	71	70	59	81	98			
1934 ..	104	96	90	110	68	89	97	132	67	87	90	76	98			
1934.VIII.	106	98	92	110	68	89	100	134	67	92	90	75	100			
IX.	105	97	90	108	68	89	97	135	67	103	90	74	100			
X.	104	95	90	108	67	80	96	135	67	99	90	73	101			
XI.	104	95	89	109	67	88	98	136	67	96	90	72	101			
XII.	104	97	90	109	67	88	99	135	67	98	90	70	101			
1935.I.	105	98	92	110	68	94	99	135	66	100	90	71	101			
II.	104	98	91	109	67	90	100	135	..	100	90	70	101			
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PERIOD.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHER-LANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	Official.		
	Consiglio Prov. della Economia di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.			Official.	
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1928 ..	491	171	149	157	100	163	148	145	159	165	151	147	120			
1929 ..	461	166	142	149	96	168	140	142	157	166	149	147	116			
1930 ..	413	137	117	137	86	167	122	127	124	147	155	149	103			
1931 ..	542	116	97	122	75	169	111	110	105	131	113	113	100			
1932 ..	310	122	79	122	66	167	109	96	93	130	104	120	93			
1933 ..	283	136	74	122	59	159	107	91	93	130	105	129	92			
1934 ..	276	134	78	124	56	..	114	90	107	135	112	132	102			
1934.VIII.	275	134	78	127	56	159	114	90	110	138	113	133	..			
IX.	275	135	77	126	55	..	114	89	111	137	113	132	..			
X.	276	137	77	127	55	..	114	90	110	137	112	132	99			
XI.	277	137	77	126	54	..	115	89	110	135	111	132	..			
XII.	279	137	77	125	54	..	115	89	110	134	111	132	..			
1935.I.	280	137	78	125	53	..	115	88	113	134	112	133	96			
II.	282	139	77	125	52	..	115	88	114	133	113	134	..			

a June, 1914. b April, 1914. c 1926. d July, 1914. e End of year.
1925. f New series. g Base, 1920. h Until end of 1925, "Lorenz."

Official since year

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 years 1914 to 1934, and quarterly for 1934 and 1935. For the majority of the countries included, the prices for July, 1914, are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are not comparable horizontally.

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

(i) COST OF LIVING.*

Period.	UNITED KINGD. M.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHER- LANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna.	59	100	23	Paris.	72	Milan.	Tokio.	Amster- dam.
			b							
1914 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	..
1921 ..	225	200	232	1,172	309	341	..	..	..	..
1927 ..	168	106	203	177	1,207	514	148	588	189	93
1928 ..	166	108	208	175	1,233	519	152	530	184	96
1929 ..	164	111	220	173	1,225	556	154	545	187	95
1930 ..	158	111	220	165	1,129	581	147	530	155	91
1931 ..	147	106	204	155	1,039	569	136	485	136	86
1932 ..	143	108	184	155	1,025	526	121	468	137	80
1933 ..	143	103	182	161	1,001	540	119	449	146	79
1934 ..	141	105	174	167	983	516	121	430	149	79
1st Quarter, 1934	140	105	178	164	974	526	120	452	148	80
2nd ..	139	105	169	166	920	522	120	430	149	79
3rd ..	134	104	174	169	980	511	122	417	148	79
4th ..	144	105	177	169	1,007	504	122	421	150	79
1st ..	141	104	169	171	985	494	122	423	150	77
and ..	141	104	170	172	979	490	123	427	149	77
No. of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	Madrid.	49	34	53-173	30	Bombay.	60	25
1914 ..	100	4	100	100	100	..	100	100	4	4
1921 ..	277	..	289	247	200	103	147	173	167	103
1927 ..	186	100	289	171	160	102	145	154	151	100
1928 ..	173	100	176	172	161	100	146	147	151	101
1929 ..	166	101	181	170	161	100	149	149	153	100
1930 ..	161	94	187	165	158	96	141	137	152	98
1931 ..	153	86	196	159	150	88	127	110	137	91
1932 ..	149	78	187	157	138	78	121	109	123	84
1933 ..	147	71	180	133	131	75	117	102	119	80
1934 ..	148	67	184	155	129	79	119	97	121	81
1st Quarter, 1934	145	69	186	153	131	78	118	94	121	80
2nd ..	147	67	184	155	129	79	119	95	120	81
3rd ..	149	66	182	155	129	80	119	99	121	81
4th ..	149	64	186	155	129	81	119	99	121	81
1st ..	149	63	185	155	127	82	120	98	121	83
and ..	150	63	..	156	127	83	120	101	121	83

* 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 and Japan, exclusive of housing; Switzerland and British India, exclusive of miscellaneous items; Netherlands and Spain, exclusive of clothing and rent. For footnotes, see next page.

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

(II) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.^t

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM. 68-509	AUSTRIA. Vienna	BELGIUM. 59.	DENMARK. 100	FINLAND. 27	FRANCE. Paris.	GERMANY. 71	ITALY. Milan.	JAPAN. Tokio.	SWITZER- LAND. 16
No. of Towns and Localities.										
1914 ..	100	100	b	1	..	100	100	100	100	..
1921 ..	230	..	100	..	2,254	537	..	100	226	93
1927 ..	160	120	268	127	2,113	537	152	100	202	95
1928 ..	157	119	207	125	2,130	530	152	100	195	..
1929 ..	154	122	218	123	1,124	611	155	102	203	92
1930 ..	145	118	209	110	971	614	143	96	173	86
1931 ..	130	108	176	100	869	611	128	84	130	77
1932 ..	125	110	150	97	897	536	112	80	138	68
1933 ..	120	104	150	101	894	491	110	74	167	69
1934 ..	122	101	142	110	877	535	119	71	165	70
1934—										
August ..	126	100	144	..	888	529	122	69	163	..
September ..	125	101	140	111	886	..	120	69	163	70
October ..	128	101	148	..	899	..	120	70	165	..
November ..	126	102	150	..	944	518	120	71	165	..
December ..	125	100	144	111	922	..	120	70	167	69
1935—										
January ..	125	99	142	..	910	..	120	71	169	..
February ..	122	99	137	..	899	500	120	71	169	..
March ..	122	98	..	115	888	..	120	73	167	67

^t Extracted from International Labour Review.

Period.	NORWAY. 31	POLEND. Warsaw.	SPAIN. Madrid.	SWEDEN. 49	SWEDE- SH LAND. 34	UNITED STATES. 51	AUSTRALIA. 30	BRITISH INDIA. Bom- bay.	CANADA. 60	NEW ZEALAND. 83	UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST AREAS. 9
No. of Towns and Localities.											
1914 ..	100	4	5	100	100	d	100	100	8	8	100
1921 ..	293	..	100	239	213	..	164	169	..	173	145
1927 ..	173	102	189	152	158	157	155	151	98	98	116
1928 ..	168	100	176	134	157	154	153	144	99	100	117
1929 ..	136	97	187	150	136	157	162	146	101	101	113
1930 ..	132	84	187	140	152	147	146	134	99	97	110
1931 ..	139	74	196	129	141	121	128	102	27	34	105
1932 ..	134	63	187	125 ^a	126	102	124	102	64	28	96
1933 ..	131	58	180	121	117	100	117	94	64	23	99
1934 ..	133	56	..	124	116	111	122	88	69	77	103
1934—											
August ..	137	56	..	124	114	113	122	91	69	77	103
September ..	135	55	..	125	114	116	123	91	69	77	102
October ..	135	55	..	124	114	116	125	92	70	77	103
November ..	135	53	..	125	116	114	123	91	69	78	102
December ..	135	52	..	124	114	114	123	88	69	79	102
1935—											
January ..	133	52	..	127	113	117	123	91	69	80	102
February ..	135	50	..	127	113	122	123	89	69	82	102
March ..	135	50	..	127	113	122	123	88	..	82	102

^a Base 1917. ^b Base 1921. ^c Base 1923. ^d Base 1923. ^e Base 1935-44. ^f Base 1928. ^g Base 1935-36. ^h Base 1926. ⁱ Includes heating and lighting. ^j Base 1926. ^k New series. ^l Base 1931.