

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 weighing. 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 for the year 1935. 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 (1935).
I.	"Metals and Coal"	15
II.	"Cotton, Wool", also jute, leather, &c. ..	14
III.	"Agricultural Produce"	26
IV.	"Dairy Produce"	9
V.	"Groceries"	18
VI.	"Meat"	10
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."

Community.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Community.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.				GROUP V.			
Iron—				Currants		lb	1,400
Pig	Mxd. Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins	Suitanas	lb.	1,400
Rod and Bar	Stafford	"	3½	Herrings	1-lb. fresh	doz. 1-lb. tins	50
Angles	"	"	3½	Salmon	1-lb. tail	"	50
Plate	"	"	3		Alaska	"	
Hoop	"	"	½	Sardines	Halves	doz. halves	100
Galvanized	26 gauge	"	5	Coffee	Plantation	lb.	200
Tinned Plates	I. C. Coke	box	60	Cocoa	McKenzie's	"	100
Fencing Wire	No 8	ton	6	Sugar	No 1A	ton	22
Zinc, sheet	"	"	1	Macaroni	"	lb.	200
Lead, sheet	"	"	½	Taploca	"	cwt.	7
" pipes	"	"	½	Rice	"	ton	2
Copper, sheet	"	lb	2,000	Salt	Australian	"	7
Quicksilver	"	"	12		fine	"	
Coal	Newcastle, on wharf	ton	600	Salt	Rock	"	1
				Mustard	Coleman's	doz. 1-lb. tins	6
GROUP II.				Starch	Coleman's	lb.	100
Branbags	"	doz.	110		White	"	
Cornsacks	"	"	250	Blue	Keen's	"	50
Woolpacks	"	each	200	Matches	Australian	gross	90
Leather—				Candles	Safety	lb.	1,600
Chrome Box	"	ft	1 200	Tobacco	Rangoon	"	1,300
Hide	"	"	"	Tea	"	"	3,000
Rough Tanned	"	lb.	600	Kerosene	"	gallon	1,700
—Splt	"	"	"				
Sole Leather—	"	"	600	GROUP VI.			
Factory	"	"	"	Beef	Average quality	100 lb.	390
Sides	"	"	"	Mutton	"	lb.	33,000
Cotton	Raw	"	24,000	Veal	"	"	2,000
Wool	Greasy	"	12,200	Lamb	"	"	5,600
Twine	Reaper and Binder	"	150	Pork	"	"	3,700
Tallow	Mutton Prime	ton	1½	GROUP VII.			
GROUP III.				Timber—	Flooring—		
Wheat	"	bushel	500		6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.	30
Flour	"	ton	48		6 x ¾	"	30
Bran	"	"	14		6 x ¾	"	30
Pollard	"	"	14		6 x ¾	"	30
Oats	Milling	bushel	1,200		Weather-boards	"	200
Oatmeal	Colonial	ton	1½		Oregon	1,000 ft. sup.	20
Barley	English	bushel	150		Shelving	"	10
	Cape	"	100	Cement	Portland	cask	30
Maize	"	"	1,000	White Lead	"	ton	½
Hay	Best Mngt.	ton	135	Slates	Welsh	1,000	½
Chaff	Prime	"	135		20 x 10		
Straw	Victorian	"	25	GROUP VIII.			
Peas	"	bushel	55	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Potatoes	"	ton	40	Carbonate of Soda	"	ton	½
Malt	Victorian	bushel	140	Sulphate	Refined	"	1-20
Onions	"	ton	3	Sulphur	"	"	½
				Caustic Soda	"	cwt.	½
				Alum	"	ton	½
				Cyanide of Potassium	Jump	lb	570
GROUP IV.							
Ham	"	lb.	800				
Bacon	"	"	3,200				
Cheese	"	"	1,500				
Butter	Best Fresh	"	9,500				
Lard	Bulk	"	200				
Eggs	Ordinary	doz	1,800				
Honey	"	lb.	600				
Beeswax	"	"	40				
Condensed Milk	Bacchus Marsh	doz. lb.	160				

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

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers 1861 to March, 1936, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

YEAR.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricultural Produce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,063	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	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	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	1,262	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,095	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	2,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,353	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,058
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,908
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,379	2,025	1,933	1,994
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	1,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,727	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	1,882
1927 ..	1,992	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	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,240	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,873	1,982	1,596
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,023	2,166	1,428
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
1935 ..	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,729	1,568	1,964	1,996	1,469
1934—									
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. ..	1,647	1,181	1,355	1,327	1,728	1,687	2,005	2,000	1,493
Oct. ..	1,639	1,170	1,404	1,335	1,717	1,601	1,994	1,986	1,493
Nov. ..	1,647	1,169	1,338	1,331	1,720	1,542	1,993	1,945	1,470
Dec. ..	1,647	1,181	1,330	1,322	1,725	1,445	1,991	1,950	1,450
1935—									
Jan. ..	1,638	1,191	1,315	1,318	1,728	1,475	1,988	1,950	1,459
Feb. ..	1,641	1,145	1,311	1,332	1,736	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	1,358	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 ..	1,565	1,237	1,354	1,335	1,727	1,457	1,966	1,998	1,466
July ..	1,561	1,261	1,376	1,337	1,720	1,504	1,967	2,009	1,479
Aug. ..	1,629	1,210	1,377	1,314	1,730	1,693	1,952	2,009	1,498
Sept. ..	1,629	1,218	1,388	1,290	1,726	1,638	1,964	2,009	1,495
Oct. ..	1,567	1,260	1,397	1,298	1,726	1,672	1,941	2,009	1,499
Nov. ..	1,569	1,295	1,354	1,307	1,732	1,517	1,930	2,009	1,479
Dec. ..	1,570	1,284	1,307	1,307	1,754	1,446	1,930	2,009	1,460
1936—									
Jan. ..	1,571	1,285	1,333	1,305	1,739	1,536	1,942	2,017	1,475
Feb. ..	1,564	1,292	1,328	1,312	1,736	1,468	1,922	2,010	1,466
Mar. ..	1,567	1,312	1,359	1,337	1,736	1,487	1,948	2,010	1,485

* 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 1935, and for each month from July, 1934, to March, 1936, 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. Agri- cultural Produce.	IV. Dairy Pro- duce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Year 1915 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,307	1,130	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,841	1,084	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,085	1,693
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,602	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,228	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	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,761	1,653
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,562	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,661	1,456	1,634	1,242	1,590	1,676	1,571
" 1929 ..	1,737	1,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,895	1,581
" 1930 ..	1,695	1,035	1,389	1,353	1,614	1,249	1,712	1,933	1,399
" 1931 ..	1,659	954	1,049	1,163	1,738	930	1,849	2,112	1,252
" 1932 ..	1,577	918	1,132	1,083	1,712	831	1,865	1,917	1,237
" 1933 ..	1,556	1,026	1,100	994	1,661	917	1,822	2,054	1,235
" 1934 ..	1,508	1,158	1,205	1,059	1,682	950	1,839	1,968	1,290
" 1935 ..	1,456	1,116	1,258	1,100	1,677	931	1,792	1,946	1,288
1934—									
July ..	1,484	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	1,319
September ..	1,496	1,084	1,269	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	1,305
November ..	1,496	1,074	1,253	1,107	1,667	951	1,819	1,897	1,288
December ..	1,496	1,084	1,244	1,099	1,672	891	1,817	1,962	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	1,111	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	1,166	866	1,798	1,949	1,278
June ..	1,421	1,135	1,267	1,110	1,674	898	1,795	1,949	1,283
July ..	1,418	1,158	1,288	1,103	1,667	928	1,795	1,959	1,266
August ..	1,480	1,111	1,289	1,092	1,677	1,044	1,782	1,959	1,314
September ..	1,480	1,118	1,299	1,072	1,672	1,010	1,793	1,959	1,311
October ..	1,420	1,157	1,308	1,079	1,673	1,031	1,772	1,959	1,314
November ..	1,425	1,189	1,268	1,087	1,678	936	1,762	1,959	1,297
December ..	1,426	1,179	1,223	1,087	1,700	892	1,762	1,959	1,280
1936—									
January ..	1,427	1,179	1,248	1,085	1,685	947	1,773	1,967	1,293
February ..	1,421	1,186	1,243	1,091	1,682	905	1,755	1,961	1,283
March ..	1,423	1,205	1,272	1,112	1,683	917	1,778	1,961	1,301

5. Seasonal Fluctuations.—To show seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1935. These are given in the following table, with the year 1911 as base, also with the average prices for the year 1935 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, 1935.

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)	1,451	1,456	1,491	1,479	1,469
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1935 as base (= 1,000)	988	991	1,015	1,007	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1911 as base (= 1,000)	1,403	1,412	1,431	1,435	1,420
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1935 as base (= 1,000)	988	994	1,008	1,011	1,000

The table furnishes little variation in the two sets of prices. In the third quarter the wholesale index rose more steeply but in the fourth fell slightly below the retail figure which had risen gradually throughout the year.

6. **Prices, 1934 and 1935.**—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 1934 and 1935. 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., pars. 14 and 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 throughout 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,"(a)

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

Commodity.	Unit of Quantity.	"New" Regimen Mass Units (per capita).	(b) "Old" Regimen Mass Units (per capita).	(c) 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	1.88	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	14 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	107	90.85	10.2
30. " ribs	"	22			
31. " steak, rump	"	11			
32. " steak, stewing	"	20			
33. " sausages	"	7			
34. " corned round	"	14			
35. " brisket with bone	"	15			
36. Mutton, leg	"	20			
37. " shoulder	"	15			
38. " loin	"	18			
39. " chops, loin	"	16	79	77.93	5.9
40. " chops, leg	"	10			
41. Pork, leg	"	2			
42. " loin	"	2			
43. " chops	"	2	9	8.69	1.2
44. " sausages	"	3			
GROUP IV.—HOUSING.					
45. House Accommodation	week	52	52	38.1	

(a) See Appendix X. for revised regimen adopted from September Quarter, 1936. (b) 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. (c) 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 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 is published on pages 18 to 24, but has never been used in connexion with the fixation or adjustment of wages by any Industrial Tribunal.

(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 December 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 December 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 December Quarter of 1929, slightly modified by the difference in movement of the "A" series and the "C" series index for each town.

This series has been superseded almost entirely by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" series, and 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 = 1,000. 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 1935 and 1929 to 1935, the changes are substantially of the same order :—

	Increase per cent., 1911-1935.	Decrease per cent., 1929-1935
Food and Groceries only	44	23
Rent of All Houses	39	21
Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses	37	22
Food and Rent of All Houses (" A " Series)	42	22
Food and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses (" B " Series)	42	22
" All Items " of Household Expenditure (" C " Series)	38*	19

* 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 1935.—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.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	912	923	844	851	875
Melbourne	461	521	562	1,070	775	791	714	758	824
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,205	854	831	771	806	846
Adelaide	510	541	598	1,076	753	754	718	782	804
Perth	372	720	628	1,103	844	825	761	846	852
Hobart	501	566	604	1,087	828	853	789	810	812
Weighted Average (a)	499	564	599	1,093	838	845	774	809	846
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.									
Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	841	810	758	780	758
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,087	804	743	687	718	750
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	793	732	686	683	691
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	758	695	677	690	715
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	857	785	731	765	801
Hobart	564	587	695	1,091	768	695	641	665	701
Weighted Average (a)	563	591	654	1,072	815	764	715	739	758

(a) For all capital cities.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
GROUP III.—MEAT.									
Sydney	519	501	668	960	853	781	764	821	835
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	804	722	732	758	755
Brisbane	535	488	610	897	644	599	599	647	719
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,095	876	839	809	832	804
Perth	789	824	881	1,103	802	794	777	798	788
Hobart	668	636	780	1,244	842	809	817	861	849
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	817	753	746	784	792
GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	876	852	800	825	840
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	791	758	713	748	784
Brisbane	530	509	603	1,014	773	738	699	727	763
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	789	761	731	767	780
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	836	804	757	807	821
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	816	797	757	786	792
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	826	796	751	783	806
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney	593	701	760	989	1,026	894	864	869	891
Melbourne	455	509	628	820	867	816	801	808	850
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	680	641	681	691	720
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	755	691	694	700	736
Perth	458	524	589	739	881	810	795	794	792
Hobart	405	452	518	881	901	868	860	865	890
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	901	817	804	810	839
ALL GROUPS COMBINED —FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	929	867	822	840	858
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	818	778	742	769	808
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	743	704	690	713	747
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	777	736	716	742	764
Perth	594	672	679	982	852	805	768	802	810
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	846	822	792	814	827
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	852	803	768	792	818

(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, 1931 to 1936.**—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.)

Year	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goalburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1931 ..	876	868	1,001	843	857	978	791	815	825	781	810	793
1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	801	760
1933 ..	800	799	880	785	779	801	713	732	733	738	746	715
1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
1935 ..	848	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	818	786
1935 Mar. Qtr.	826	844	939	825	802	829	774	800	798	789	811	776
June ..	825	849	934	806	823	829	778	808	812	801	821	781
Sept. "	854	868	938	811	829	856	792	819	815	803	817	794
Dec. "	855	860	929	844	843	858	792	826	811	794	816	793
1936 Mar. Qtr.	845	865	930	833	837	848	782	808	798	773	812	783
1935.												
January ..	832	848	940	834	799	835	774	804	799	786	811	776
February ..	825	845	942	822	802	829	775	800	799	793	813	778
March ..	819	839	935	818	806	823	773	795	797	788	807	775
April ..	817	845	931	819	820	821	770	800	811	799	818	774
May ..	825	847	933	797	823	828	782	809	812	805	822	785
June ..	833	855	936	801	825	836	782	810	812	798	823	704
July ..	842	859	943	800	826	844	790	817	815	805	825	793
August ..	834	868	942	810	826	856	794	819	815	803	816	796
September ..	866	876	930	817	841	867	792	820	815	800	810	794
October ..	865	885	928	848	847	868	795	826	816	804	815	797
November ..	851	880	929	846	842	854	797	818	812	796	820	798
December ..	848	874	928	838	841	851	783	815	805	782	813	785
1936.												
January ..	846	867	927	837	839	849	784	806	804	771	812	785
February ..	849	872	933	832	836	852	784	811	801	775	817	785
March ..	841	856	930	831	836	844	777	807	790	772	806	778

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	815	823	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	741	803	796
1935 ..	891	839	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	843	838
1935 Mar. Qtr.	879	822	644	853	776	869	841	663	666	802	850	829
June ..	881	833	644	860	776	872	847	664	691	812	845	835
Sept. "	897	837	644	861	776	886	854	666	696	812	838	842
Dec. "	907	863	645	864	781	897	859	670	699	823	838	847
1936 Mar. Qtr.	918	862	648	882	812	907	880	663	715	838	837	867

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1931 ..	929	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	764	793	815	812
1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773
1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	742	696	698	731	761	738
1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766
1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	760	766	802	826	805
1935 Mar. Qtr.	844	836	834	835	793	843	798	751	751	794	825	795
June ..	845	843	831	825	806	844	802	757	769	805	830	800
Sept. "	869	857	834	829	810	867	814	764	773	806	825	811
Dec. "	873	874	828	851	821	872	816	767	771	804	824	812
1936 Mar. Qtr.	871	864	830	850	828	869	817	757	769	796	821	813

(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, 1923-1927, as Base (a) (= 1,000). ("B" Series)—continued.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charter Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Radnina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1931 ..	778	764	843	902	798	788	789	860	853	774	864	795
1932 ..	738	728	808	876	770	749	751	848	818	772	816	767
1933 ..	699	678	749	802	727	706	731	802	750	740	773	735
1934 ..	727	694	766	807	742	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
1935 ..	763	732	803	849	754	765	780	800	813	777	812	784
1935 Mar. Qtr.	745	715	781	827	728	747	770	854	808	767	809	775
June ..	744	726	785	828	734	747	779	854	816	766	807	783
Sept. ..	779	736	803	861	760	779	787	866	816	778	817	791
Dec. ..	783	756	842	878	795	787	782	865	810	797	814	786
1936 Mar. Qtr.	783	752	850	892	789	789	774	852	819	781	802	777
1935.												
January ..	741	711	776	821	728	743	772	852	808	769	806	776
February ..	747	715	782	827	727	749	768	856	807	768	810	773
March ..	748	720	786	834	730	750	771	855	808	763	811	775
April ..	741	722	789	828	733	745	777	860	811	768	812	781
May ..	740	724	786	829	734	744	780	853	820	766	803	783
June ..	751	717	781	828	743	752	781	848	817	764	805	785
July ..	758	718	777	849	735	748	789	867	820	771	813	792
August ..	783	731	799	862	746	782	784	862	811	772	816	787
September ..	796	759	833	872	782	798	789	868	816	790	821	793
October ..	792	763	845	872	799	795	790	869	817	801	821	793
November ..	780	751	839	896	794	785	784	868	811	802	816	789
December ..	776	755	842	885	793	782	773	858	802	786	807	777
1936.												
January ..	783	755	856	896	799	789	770	856	807	782	801	774
February ..	790	756	850	888	801	794	781	855	815	781	807	785
March ..	776	745	843	893	766	781	766	845	834	780	797	771

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

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	675
1933 ..	681	708	567	517	630	666	694	379	601	610	710	676
1934 ..	601	732	595	515	635	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
1935 ..	720	746	596	530	645	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
1935 Mar. Qtr.	709	758	596	522	643	699	727	392	621	624	664	711
June ..	721	746	594	522	648	708	734	388	626	624	661	717
Sept. ..	726	726	594	538	643	711	736	395	627	628	651	719
Dec. ..	722	754	599	538	645	710	746	397	626	627	665	728
1936 Mar. Qtr.	727	758	599	538	645	714	756	397	622	627	696	737

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1931 ..	743	716	765	805	745	745	777	703	790	707	811	774
1932 ..	704	699	728	758	710	708	739	681	749	714	774	734
1933 ..	690	684	684	700	684	689	716	651	695	693	743	713
1934 ..	713	705	705	793	694	712	742	680	725	701	746	739
1935 ..	747	737	730	736	716	745	764	694	746	723	759	761
1935 Mar. Qtr.	732	730	715	719	698	730	755	690	741	716	758	752
June ..	736	729	718	720	704	733	763	689	749	715	755	759
Sept. ..	760	732	722	746	719	755	769	699	749	724	761	765
Dec. ..	761	755	756	757	741	760	799	699	745	736	761	766
1936 Mar. Qtr.	763	754	761	766	738	762	766	691	749	726	764	763

(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-year period, 1923-1927, as Base (b) (= 1,000) ("B" Series)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average, 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
	Forth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam. (a)	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie. (b)	Devonport. (b)	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
FOOD AND GROCERIES.														
1931 ..	836	994	883	886	918	856	816	812	844	827	934	821	826	830
1932 ..	864	974	854	831	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798	796	801
1933 ..	757	936	807	793	760	777	757	736	764	766	873	756	751	754
1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	781	783	786
1935 ..	821	977	852	850	816	834	792	789	830	808	965	797	806	810
1935 Mar. Qtr.	814	973	838	851	839	827	794	789	822	801	907	798	794	798
June ..	828	976	860	856	853	840	793	792	830	807	906	798	797	801
Sept. ..	823	978	849	846	848	836	789	785	833	807	908	794	817	819
Dec. ..	817	982	851	846	843	831	792	790	833	818	898	798	817	820
1936 Mar. Qtr.	811	972	847	841	840	825	793	784	823	808	895	796	808	812
1935.														
January ..	813	971	834	850	824	826	795	789	826	812	909	799	797	800
February ..	811	977	837	849	837	825	794	794	824	798	907	799	794	798
March ..	818	972	842	853	855	831	793	783	817	794	904	795	792	795
April ..	822	971	847	849	853	835	795	791	828	805	903	799	791	795
May ..	831	977	852	855	857	843	795	794	831	808	906	800	798	802
June ..	830	980	871	853	849	842	788	790	831	808	909	796	802	805
July ..	822	981	857	848	853	835	791	787	834	809	909	796	810	812
August ..	822	978	860	846	844	835	789	787	836	807	911	795	818	820
September ..	823	976	860	843	846	836	787	783	834	805	903	792	823	826
October ..	829	987	869	852	853	842	789	787	830	814	897	795	824	827
November ..	813	981	850	845	840	827	797	793	837	824	900	802	817	820
December ..	809	977	834	839	836	823	790	790	828	816	895	796	809	813
1936.														
January ..	810	971	845	836	834	823	784	783	820	807	894	790	809	812
February ..	813	971	849	844	844	827	797	781	816	808	897	798	812	815
March ..	811	975	849	844	842	825	790	785	811	810	891	800	804	807

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840	901	878
1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	702	694	673	816	817	800
1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	813	804	788
1934 ..	791	901	781	775	925	805	865	769	657	682	706	811	810	798
1935 ..	792	1,050	767	810	940	813	890	778	698	735	730	836	839	828
1935 Mar. Qtr.	789	1,037	768	806	933	810	884	775	690	729	723	830	829	818
June ..	789	1,055	767	817	941	812	887	780	700	737	723	835	834	823
Sept. ..	793	1,050	768	807	941	814	894	778	700	738	730	838	844	832
Dec. ..	796	1,056	766	810	943	817	896	780	700	738	745	840	850	839
1936 Mar. Qtr.	815	1,077	761	836	966	837	902	784	713	740	747	845	864	852

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1931 ..	852	874	872	846	960	857	846	800	797	791	815	828	852	847
1932 ..	805	892	836	804	902	817	822	772	784	777	823	804	803	800
1933 ..	768	890	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	809	774	768	765
1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	783	785	783	843	811	818	816
1935 Mar. Qtr.	805	996	813	835	872	821	826	784	776	776	842	809	807	805
June ..	814	1,004	827	842	884	830	826	788	784	782	841	811	810	809
Sept. ..	812	1,004	827	832	881	828	826	783	787	783	845	810	826	824
Dec. ..	810	1,008	821	833	879	836	829	786	786	790	843	813	828	827
1936 Mar. Qtr.	813	1,009	817	839	885	829	830	784	784	784	843	813	828	826

(a) The towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zechan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.) were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.) (b) See note at top of table on page 18.

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

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the 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	Ballarat ..	387	"Woomba	26	Kadina, etc.	11	Kalg'lie, etc.	17	Launceston	33
Broken Hill	27	Bendigo ..	29	Rockham'n	29	Pt. Pirie	12	Northam	5	Burnie ..	4
Goulburn	15	Geelong	39	Chrs. Twrs.	7	Mt. Gamb'r	5	Bunbury	5	Devenport	5
Bathurst	10	W'nambool	9	Warwick	7	Peterbor'gh	3	Geraldton	5	Queenst'wn	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	Total ..	369	Total ..	344	Total ..	240	Total ..	106

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

The new weights given above 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 = 20s. The figures measure the variations in the cost of—(a) food and groceries; (b) house rent; and (c) food, groceries, and house rent combined, from year to year in each city separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several cities in each year (in the horizontal lines). Thus, by referring to the section of the table relating to food, groceries and house rent combined, it will be seen that 12s. 1d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 10s. in Brisbane, or 10s. 10d. in Hobart, while 16s. 4d. in Melbourne for the December quarter of 1935 was equivalent to 8s. 10d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 13s. 5d. in Perth in 1917.

* 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.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1936, 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.	Mel'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1907 ..	10 6	10 4	10 7	10 8	13 5	11 4	10 8
1911 ..	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1921 ..	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1927 ..	20 8	19 5	18 10	20 7	20 1	20 0	20 0
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
1935 ..	16 10	15 8	15 3	15 7	16 5	15 10	16 1
1935 Mar. Qtr.	16 6	15 6	14 11	15 5	16 3	15 11	15 11
" June "	16 6	15 7	14 11	15 7	16 7	15 10	15 11
" Sept. "	17 1	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 6	15 9	16 4
" Dec. "	17 1	15 10	15 8	15 8	16 4	15 10	16 4
1936 Mar. "	16 11	15 8	15 8	15 5	16 3	15 10	16 2

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

1907 ..	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911 ..	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1921 ..	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1927 ..	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7
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 1	17 2	16 1
1934 ..	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1935 ..	17 10	17 0	14 5	14 9	15 10	17 10	16 9
1935 Mar. Qtr.	17 7	16 10	14 2	14 7	15 9	17 8	16 7
" June "	17 7	16 11	14 5	14 8	15 9	17 9	16 8
" Sept. "	17 11	17 1	14 6	14 9	15 10	17 11	16 11
" Dec. "	18 2	17 2	14 5	14 11	15 11	17 11	17 0
1936 Mar. "	18 4	17 7	14 7	15 1	16 4	18 1	17 3

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
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
1935 ..	17 2	16 2	14 11	15 3	16 2	16 7	16 4
1935 Mar. Qtr.	16 11	16 0	14 8	15 1	16 1	16 6	16 2
" June "	16 11	16 1	14 9	15 3	16 3	16 6	16 2
" Sept. "	17 5	16 3	15 2	15 5	16 3	16 6	16 6
" Dec. "	17 6	16 4	15 3	15 5	16 2	16 7	16 7
1936 Mar. "	17 5	16 4	15 3	15 4	16 3	16 8	16 7

II. **Price Details, 1935.**—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 1935 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.
	£ 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 3 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-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau covering 4 and 5-roomed 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 March 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.	Mass Unit* (per capita).	Item.	Mass Unit* (per capita)
CLOTHING—MEN.		CLOTHING—WOMEN—continued.	
Suit—		Skirt—	
To measure .. .. .	.22	Wool-de-chine .. .. .	.50
Ready-made (tweed) .. .. .	.22	Tweed .. .. .	.33
Ready-made (worsted) .. .. .	.22	Blouse—	
Hat—Felt (Australian)	1.00	Silk	1.38
Socks—		Cotton	2.78
Wool	1.00	Brasserie	4.00
Cashmere (plain)	2.50	Undervest—	
Fancy	2.50	Wool .. .. .	.50
Tie	2.00	Silk .. .. .	.50
Collar—Semi-soft, white	6.00	Cotton	1.00
Handkerchief—		Bloomers—	
Cotton	4.00	Winceyette .. .. .	.33
Linen	4.00	Art Silk .. .. .	.33
Braces .. .. .	.133	Cotton .. .. .	.33
Shirt—		Nightdress—	
Working	4.00	Winceyette .. .. .	.33
Best	1.67	Art Silk .. .. .	.33
Singlet—		Cotton .. .. .	.33
Wool .. .. .	.67	Pyjamas—	
Wool and Cotton .. .. .	.67	Winceyette .. .. .	.33
Cotton .. .. .	.67	Art Silk .. .. .	.33
Underpants—		Cotton .. .. .	.33
Wool .. .. .	.67	Princess Slip—Silk .. .. .	.67
Wool and Cotton .. .. .	.67	Corsets	1.50
Cotton .. .. .	.67	Dressing Gown	
Pyjamas—		Wool .. .. .	.11
Winceyette .. .. .	.67	Silk .. .. .	.11
Cotton .. .. .	.67	Cotton .. .. .	.11
Trousers—		Apron—Cotton	4.00
Working (Cotton Tweed)	2.00	Stockings—	
Overcoat—		Silk	1.50
Tweed .. .. .	.13	Art Silk	1.50
Waterproof .. .. .	.13	Cashmere	1.50
Umbrella .. .. .	.33	Lisle	1.50
Pullover .. .. .	.33	Gloves—	
Boots—		Wool .. .. .	.50
Best (box call) .. .. .	.50	Silk .. .. .	.50
Working	1.33	Fabric .. .. .	.50
Repairs (sole and heel)	3.00	Skin .. .. .	.50
CLOTHING—WOMEN.		Top Coat—	
Hat	1.50	Tweed .. .. .	.13
Costume—Winter .. .. .	.33	Velour .. .. .	.13
Frock .. .. .	.17	Golf—Wool .. .. .	.33
Cotton (Summer) .. .. .	.17	Umbrella	1.33
Silk .. .. .	.17	Shoes—	
		Best (leather)	1.00
		Second (leather)	3.00
		Repairs (Sole and Heel) .. .. .	.200

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

† The revised regimen recommended by the 1936 Conference of Statisticians and adopted from September Quarter, 1935, will be found in Appendix X.

The Regimen for Clothing and Miscellaneous Items—continued.

Item.	Mass Unit* (per capita).	Item.	Mass Unit* (per capita).
CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).		CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS)—continued.	
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.B. pair .. .. .	.07
Cap	1.00	S.B. pair .. .. .	.14
Braces	1.00	Quilt—	
Tie	2.00	D.B.—Marcella .. .. .	.07
Singlet—		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).		MISCELLANEOUS—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.	
Singlet—		Cup and Saucer (Stone China)	1.00
Wool .. .. .	.33	Plate, Dinner (Stone China)	1.00
Wool and Cotton .. .. .	.33	Jug, Quart (Stone China)	1.00
Cotton .. .. .	.33	Teapot (Brownware) .. .. .	.25
Bloomers—		Toilet Set .. .. .	.05
Wool .. .. .	.50	Basin, Pudding (enamel)	1.00
Cotton	2.00	Dinner Set (Stone China) .. .. .	.05
Petticoat—		Tea Set (Stone China) .. .. .	.05
Winter .. .. .	.50	Tumbler	1.00
Summer .. .. .	.50	Kettle—	
Dress—		Enamelled (5-pint) .. .. .	.20
Wool	1.00	Aluminum (5-pint) .. .. .	.20
Silk	1.00	Saucepan, Aluminum (3-pint) .. .. .	.20
Cotton	2.00	bucket, Galvanized .. .. .	.20
Jumper .. .. .	.50	Colander, Tin .. .. .	.20
Hat	2.00	Dipper, Tin .. .. .	.20
Cap	1.00	Broom—	
Pyjamas—		Millet .. .. .	.13
Winceyette .. .. .	.33	Soft .. .. .	.13
Cotton .. .. .	.33	Brush—	
Socks	2.00	Bannister	1.00
Stockings	2.00	Scrubbing	1.00
Top Coat—		Black lead	1.00
Wool .. .. .	.17	Knife—	
Waterproof .. .. .	.17	Table, stainless .. .. .	.05
Boots—		Dessert, stainless .. .. .	.05
Best (leather) .. .. .	.67	Spoon—	
School (leather)	1.33	Tea, whitmetal .. .. .	.05
Repairs (Sole and Heel)	2.00	Dessert, whitmetal .. .. .	.05
		Table, whitmetal .. .. .	.05
		Fork—	
		Dessert, whitmetal .. .. .	.05
		Table, whitmetal .. .. .	.05
CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS).		MISCELLANEOUS—FUEL AND LIGHT.†	
Overcoat .. .. .	.33	Fuel—Wood, cwt.	1.50
Suit—		Light—Electric Lighting, unit	2.50
Light .. .. .	.50		
Heavy .. .. .	.50		
Pants	1.00		
Pullover—Wool .. .. .	.50		
Blouse Coat	1.00		
Shirt	2.00		
Socks	2.00		
Stockings—Golf	2.00		
Hat .. .. .	.67		
Cap .. .. .	.67		
Braces	1.00		
Singlet—			
Wool .. .. .	.67		
Wool and Cotton .. .. .	.67		
Cotton .. .. .	.67		

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

† The "mass unit" 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 December Quarter, 1929. In accordance with the decision of a Conference of Statisticians that a post-war period should be adopted as base, an alteration was made as from 1st January, 1930, 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:—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:—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 March Quarter 1936.**—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.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	538	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	964	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924		
Year 1930 ..	984	974	1,782	977	964	988	913	952	958	909	932	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	778	801	760		
" 1933 ..	800	799	860	785	779	801	713	732	733	738	746	715		
" 1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751		
" 1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	774	809	797	816	786		
1935 Mar. Qtr.	826	844	939	825	802	829	774	800	768	789	811	776		
" June ..	825	849	934	806	823	829	778	808	812	801	821	781		
" Sept. ..	854	868	938	811	829	856	792	819	815	803	817	794		
" Dec. ..	855	880	929	844	813	858	792	820	811	794	816	793		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	845	865	930	833	837	848	782	808	798	773	812	783		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland	Adelaide	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo	Port Pirie	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	981	936	950	941	945	968	923	997	943		
Year 1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	855	917	1,036	1,019	924	1,044	914		
" 1931 ..	778	764	813	902	798	788	789	869	853	774	864	795		
" 1932 ..	738	729	808	876	798	749	761	848	818	772	816	767		
" 1933 ..	699	678	749	802	770	706	731	822	750	746	773	735		
" 1934 ..	727	694	766	807	727	730	767	840	795	745	796	720		
" 1935 ..	763	732	803	849	751	795	780	860	813	777	812	784		
1935 Mar. Qtr.	745	715	781	827	728	747	770	854	808	767	809	775		
" June ..	744	720	785	828	734	747	779	854	816	766	807	783		
" Sept. ..	779	736	803	861	760	779	787	856	816	778	817	791		
" Dec. ..	783	758	842	878	795	787	782	865	810	797	814	786		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	784	752	850	892	789	788	772	852	819	781	802	777		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam	Dunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	746	687	641
" 1921 ..	1,005	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,011	950	954
Year 1930 ..	961	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,055	986	952	937	1,002	938	1,068	953	841	946
" 1931 ..	836	994	883	886	918	856	816	812	844	827	934	821	826	830
" 1932 ..	804	974	854	831	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798	796	801
" 1933 ..	757	936	807	793	760	777	757	736	764	766	873	756	751	754
" 1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	784	783	786
" 1935 ..	821	977	852	859	846	834	792	789	830	808	905	797	806	810
1935 Mar. Qtr.	814	973	838	851	839	827	794	789	822	801	907	798	794	798
" June ..	828	994	860	856	853	840	793	792	830	807	906	798	797	801
" Sept. ..	823	978	859	846	848	836	789	785	835	807	908	794	797	819
" Dec. ..	817	982	851	846	843	831	792	790	833	818	898	798	817	820
1936 Mar. Qtr.	811	972	847	841	840	825	793	784	823	808	895	796	803	812

(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.	Bollarat.	Trarigon.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	758	..	..	..	..	..	608	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	479	527	668	685	789
Year 1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	696	750	883	865	982
" 1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	815	823	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	793	785
" 1934 ..	869	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	658	741	805	796
" 1935 ..	891	839	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	843	838
1935 Mar. Qtr.	879	822	644	853	776	869	841	693	666	802	850	829
" June ..	831	833	644	860	776	872	847	664	691	812	845	835
" Sept. ..	897	837	644	861	776	886	854	666	696	812	838	842
" Dec. ..	907	863	645	864	781	897	859	670	699	823	838	847
1936 Mar. Qtr.	918	862	648	882	812	907	880	663	715	838	837	867

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	528	535	594	819	566	603	492	566	781
Year 1930 ..	775	727	685	720	658	759	916	398	715	586	810	882
" 1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	402	672	456	715	734
" 1932 ..	641	649	582	542	613	632	691	378	624	610	700	675
" 1933 ..	681	708	567	542	610	686	694	379	601	610	710	676
" 1934 ..	691	731	595	515	625	681	700	388	598	623	683	684
" 1935 ..	720	746	596	530	645	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
1935 Mar. Qtr.	709	758	596	522	643	699	727	392	621	624	664	711
" June ..	721	746	594	522	648	708	734	388	626	624	661	717
" Sept. ..	726	726	594	538	643	711	735	396	627	628	661	719
" Dec. ..	722	754	599	538	645	710	746	397	626	627	665	728
1936 Mar. Qtr.	727	758	599	538	645	714	756	397	623	627	696	737

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..	649	..
" 1921 ..	754	378	616	649	779	709	870	676	294	150	495	729	877	823
Year 1930 ..	979	582	903	783	1,063	934	914	806	726	774	567	858	1,047	1,013
" 1931 ..	881	657	851	772	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840	901	878
" 1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	702	694	673	816	817	800
" 1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	814	804	788
" 1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	799	657	682	705	814	810	798
" 1935 ..	792	1,050	767	810	940	813	890	778	698	736	730	830	839	826
1935 Mar. Qtr.	789	1,037	768	806	933	810	884	775	690	729	723	830	829	818
" June ..	789	1,053	767	817	941	812	887	780	700	737	723	835	834	823
" Sept. ..	793	1,050	768	807	941	814	894	778	700	738	730	838	844	832
" Dec. ..	796	1,056	766	810	943	817	896	780	700	738	745	840	850	839
1936 Mar. Qtr.	815	1,077	761	836	966	837	902	784	713	740	747	845	864	852

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

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ;
Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927, as
base (= 1,000). ("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.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	977	944	825	916	815	965	895	769	780	844	855	866		
Year 1930 ..	1,059	998	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	948	861	884	900	909	940		
" 1931 ..	929	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	764	795	815	812		
" 1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	765	802	773		
" 1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	743	696	698	731	761	738		
" 1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766		
" 1935 ..	858	833	832	835	806	857	808	760	766	802	826	805		
1935 Mar. Qtr.	844	836	834	835	793	843	798	751	751	794	825	795		
" June "	845	843	831	825	806	844	802	757	709	805	830	800		
" Sept. "	869	857	834	829	810	867	814	764	773	806	825	811		
" Dec. "	873	874	828	851	821	872	826	767	771	804	824	812		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	871	864	830	850	823	869	817	757	769	796	821	813		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warrick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Keading, Mount, and Wainloo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	560	..	..	..	..	..	658	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820	794	824	898	811	839	770	844	885		
Year 1930 ..	810	804	832	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	961	922		
" 1931 ..	743	716	765	805	745	745	777	793	790	707	811	774		
" 1932 ..	704	699	728	758	716	708	736	681	749	714	774	734		
" 1933 ..	690	684	684	700	684	689	716	651	695	693	745	713		
" 1934 ..	713	705	705	703	694	712	742	680	725	701	746	739		
" 1935 ..	747	737	730	736	716	745	764	694	746	723	759	791		
1935 Mar. Qtr.	732	730	715	719	698	730	755	690	741	716	758	752		
" June "	736	729	718	720	704	733	763	689	749	715	755	759		
" Sept. "	760	732	729	746	719	755	760	699	749	724	761	755		
" Dec. "	761	755	756	757	741	766	769	699	745	736	761	756		
1936 Mar. Qtr.	763	754	761	766	738	762	766	691	749	726	764	763		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	689	630
" 1921 ..	916	928	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	696	871	911	844	807
Year 1930 ..	968	941	992	968	1,058	967	939	891	904	880	890	919	978	970
" 1931 ..	852	874	872	846	960	857	846	800	797	791	815	828	852	847
" 1932 ..	805	892	836	804	903	817	822	772	784	777	822	804	803	800
" 1933 ..	768	890	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	809	774	768	765
" 1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
" 1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	783	783	843	811	818	816
1935 Mar. Qtr.	805	996	813	835	872	821	826	784	776	776	842	809	807	805
" June "	814	1,004	827	842	884	810	826	788	784	782	841	811	810	809
" Sept. "	812	1,004	827	837	881	828	826	783	787	783	845	810	826	824
" Dec. "	810	1,008	821	833	879	826	829	786	786	790	843	813	828	827
1936 Mar. Qtr.	813	1,009	817	839	885	829	832	784	784	784	843	813	828	826

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

Wooling—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1922-1927 as base (= 1,000). ("O" 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.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov. 1914 (a)	755	1,235	1,337	1,209	1,374	1,261	780	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,463	1,612	1,346							
" 1921 ..	1,012	1,012	801	1,106	957	937	964	1,023	1,027	949	1,080	970								
Year 1930 ..	931	903	727	801	829	840	848	906	841	841	990	855								
" 1931 ..	835	803	727	722	798	777	819	811	831	804	835	845								
" 1932 ..	709	800	841	983	903	798	811	839	936	794	928	817								
" 1933 ..	743	820	711	948	796	751	811	850	929	794	928	807								
" 1934 ..	740	811	696	935	797	753	802	820	794	794	912	802								
" 1935 ..	746	810	680	922	790	751	794	816	884	843	912	802								
1935 Mar. Qtr.	730	805	667	920	769	736	801	832	894	831	913	807								
" June ..	744	812	675	917	789	750	791	844	895	833	910	798								
" Sept. ..	754	809	687	917	798	760	793	839	892	847	912	801								
" Dec. ..	754	815	690	932	805	759	791	887	853	862	911	800								
1936 Mar. Qtr.	756	830	692	930	819	763	789	835	820	862	908	796								

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.								
Nov. 1914 (a)	657	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,568	1,319	1,233	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,697	1,180	1,238							
" 1921 ..	910	1,032	934	826	1,066	923	756	896	876	823	1,174	1,037								
Year 1930 ..	847	990	849	774	935	858	960	1,094	876	861	1,034	1,015								
" 1931 ..	813	921	835	759	850	822	834	849	861	792	969	838								
" 1932 ..	791	912	832	764	844	804	830	817	796	961	951	833								
" 1933 ..	786	897	915	750	840	796	846	828	794	944	964	871								
" 1934 ..	772	818	824	761	791	779	833	810	803	937	927	851								
1935 Mar. Qtr.	770	851	805	747	843	779	844	806	779	921	954	843								
" June ..	777	857	827	759	787	787	852	811	792	937	937	831								
" Sept. ..	774	793	824	765	785	779	854	812	811	944	918	851								
" Dec. ..	769	770	838	774	748	772	863	811	828	947	897	862								
1936 Mar. Qtr.	774	764	839	779	747	778	867	805	831	947	891	864								

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.			
Nov. 1914 (a)	698	1,232	1,376	1,382	1,454	1,350	1,277	1,427	1,670	1,523	1,403	1,504	1,513	1,261	1,280
" 1921 ..	1,002	1,117	938	989	972	1,012	1,044	1,138	1,020	1,072	1,206	1,076	951	958	
Year 1930 ..	911	1,079	825	944	909	928	910	1,013	937	924	1,068	972	853	861	
" 1931 ..	843	1,045	825	903	801	868	886	954	867	840	1,067	917	804	813	
" 1932 ..	819	1,033	791	874	834	843	843	952	847	831	1,051	905	787	797	
" 1933 ..	817	1,035	767	864	821	834	805	956	836	844	1,048	900	785	784	
" 1934 ..	845	1,016	725	921	839	853	893	938	813	827	987	910	783	790	
1935 Mar. Qtr.	823	1,044	768	890	833	840	802	938	812	851	1,007	906	777	786	
" June ..	827	1,055	773	903	832	844	808	936	808	804	1,014	907	781	789	
" Sept. ..	820	1,047	776	918	821	858	808	931	815	816	973	910	785	793	
" Dec. ..	828	1,027	781	931	860	848	909	951	817	835	954	917	788	794	
1936 Mar. Qtr.	831	1,080	785	931	864	852	916	945	808	834	953	919	788	795	

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

Miscellaneous.—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.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	
Nov. 1914 (a)	756	..	..	..	..	1,011	738	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,022	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,013	
Year 1930 ..	1,010	935	1,024	909	924	1,029	973	923	935	938	853	967	
" 1931 ..	1,013	908	1,025	902	910	1,029	939	915	925	898	845	964	
" 1932 ..	988	901	982	881	898	982	925	882	910	886	837	921	
" 1933 ..	975	913	985	871	879	979	916	874	904	885	827	912	
" 1934 ..	975	921	938	867	864	959	914	877	908	880	825	917	
" 1935 ..	976	927	954	858	857	970	922	880	922	873	821	918	
1935 Mar. Qtr.	976	930	909	876	872	971	924	895	918	892	847	922	
" June ..	977	934	905	872	867	972	921	873	922	890	838	917	
" Sept. ..	976	935	905	864	868	970	920	881	926	868	813	915	
" Dec. ..	975	922	944	861	861	968	924	870	922	865	806	910	
1936 Mar. Qtr.	977	907	949	855	859	969	919	880	920	856	864	916	
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moolta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	
Nov. 1914 (a)	728	..	..	..	..	956	770	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	944	933	1,002	1,009	988	956	1,033	1,065	1,065	1,032	1,000	1,036	
Year 1930 ..	931	943	906	972	912	931	1,019	991	952	970	970	1,015	
" 1931 ..	923	935	882	974	895	928	997	969	962	962	964	992	
" 1932 ..	907	917	884	909	897	905	985	948	933	956	957	983	
" 1933 ..	900	909	876	972	907	900	981	944	937	937	956	982	
" 1934 ..	900	907	877	967	921	900	976	937	944	940	957	972	
" 1935 ..	904	909	899	1,015	939	905	973	941	921	937	958	969	
1935 Mar. Qtr.	922	911	882	989	944	919	934	940	940	942	967	975	
" June ..	912	914	870	1,007	924	912	937	929	929	936	957	978	
" Sept. ..	890	908	875	1,023	935	899	973	914	914	926	958	970	
" Dec. ..	886	904	870	1,039	943	891	968	901	932	932	970	964	
1936 Mar. Qtr.	886	903	878	1,038	944	891	961	948	901	944	971	958	
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	780	699	932	719	1,009
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	930	985	941	960	959	972	1,010
Year 1930 ..	979	970	929	930	1,002	976	902	899	830	855	808	891	990
" 1931 ..	966	967	905	890	970	976	932	893	845	848	805	874	983
" 1932 ..	954	967	899	895	970	953	878	893	829	829	804	860	980
" 1933 ..	945	963	895	894	960	945	800	864	825	827	803	830	980
" 1934 ..	942	961	902	892	962	942	837	864	825	804	804	833	984
" 1935 ..	942	975	925	909	972	931	855	864	793	824	824	855	989
1935 Mar. Qtr.	941	970	921	905	977	943	857	789	834	823	823	857	980
" June ..	932	973	923	903	974	935	872	865	819	823	824	859	981
" Sept. ..	922	976	926	903	970	927	854	790	820	824	826	854	982
" Dec. ..	913	979	928	907	967	919	847	799	832	826	826	848	983
1936 Mar. Qtr.	912	979	928	907	967	918	845	809	832	826	826	848	981

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, Years 1915 to 1920, see page 56.

Total Household Expenditure.—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.	Deeigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,016	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003
Year 1930 ..	1,026	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	909	916	917	939	951
" 1931 ..	922	888	882	922	867	918	846	808	833	822	860	843
" 1932 ..	867	840	834	877	820	863	813	776	808	794	838	811
" 1933 ..	832	819	806	843	801	830	789	760	789	772	812	787
" 1934 ..	842	831	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801
" 1935 ..	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	824	850	824
1935 Mar. Qtr.	840	845	822	861	801	840	820	795	813	819	849	819
" June ..	844	852	818	854	813	844	820	797	824	822	850	820
" Sept. ..	861	857	821	855	817	860	827	806	826	826	849	827
" Dec. ..	863	869	816	871	824	862	828	812	816	826	851	828
1936 Mar. Qtr.	863	863	819	871	833	862	828	800	808	823	843	826

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,025	994	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992
Year 1930 ..	859	885	868	883	882	863	952	885	927	918	980	948
" 1931 ..	798	816	806	827	845	801	837	801	834	811	884	836
" 1932 ..	764	788	779	794	777	768	802	772	791	816	848	801
" 1933 ..	751	778	752	762	757	753	789	747	762	800	832	787
" 1934 ..	762	785	759	759	761	764	806	758	778	800	832	804
" 1935 ..	780	785	776	789	769	780	820	763	789	809	833	817
1935 Mar. Qtr.	773	789	764	771	768	774	814	758	784	802	830	811
" June ..	776	790	770	778	760	776	819	759	789	804	833	816
" Sept. ..	787	776	776	798	771	785	823	767	791	811	833	820
" Dec. ..	784	784	795	809	777	785	825	767	791	818	828	822
1936 Mar. Qtr.	787	782	799	816	775	788	823	761	794	811	829	820

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.								
	Perth	Kalgoorlie	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	707	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	687	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
Year 1930 ..	977	986	969	966	1,029	979	956	949	918	920	949	951	975	971
" 1931 ..	885	937	878	877	951	891	873	865	837	831	871	866	873	870
" 1932 ..	840	940	844	842	904	852	844	832	811	800	855	838	830	829
" 1933 ..	811	937	814	824	851	825	825	817	775	773	867	820	804	808
" 1934 ..	830	975	825	843	866	842	837	828	780	787	876	831	817	816
" 1935 ..	834	1,011	829	865	886	848	849	834	792	801	873	841	832	831
1935 Mar. Qtr.	833	1,003	821	859	879	846	846	834	786	803	877	840	824	824
" June ..	837	1,011	831	870	887	851	850	834	790	795	878	842	827	827
" Sept. ..	833	1,009	832	864	887	847	850	830	794	798	871	840	837	836
" Dec. ..	831	1,019	830	868	889	847	850	837	796	807	866	843	838	838
1936 Mar. Qtr.	834	1,021	828	872	894	850	854	835	794	804	865	844	838	838

(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 of each Section (=1,000).

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (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	685
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851
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	1,363
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 ..	1,005	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 = 1,000.

Town.	1934.					1935.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
New South Wales—										
Sydney	319	185	172	166	842	325	189	171	167	852
Newcastle	322	168	187	157	834	333	178	187	158	856
Broken Hill	354	137	160	168	819	361	137	137	164	819
Goulburn	315	174	215	148	852	317	183	212	148	866
Bathurst	310	166	184	147	807	319	165	182	148	814
Weighted Average ..	320	182	174	165	841	326	187	173	166	852
Victoria—										
Melbourne	289	172	185	155	801	303	181	183	157	824
Bairat	299	139	194	149	781	314	142	197	150	803
Bendigo	303	140	214	154	811	313	146	204	157	820
Geelong	294	157	181	150	782	308	173	194	149	824
Warrnambool	303	170	212	141	826	316	179	210	145	850
Weighted Average ..	290	169	187	155	801	304	178	185	157	824
Queensland—										
Brisbane	281	147	181	153	762	295	153	178	154	780
Toowoomba	268	150	207	154	785	283	159	188	155	785
Rockhampton	296	126	188	149	759	310	127	190	149	776
Charters Towers	312	109	173	105	759	328	113	175	173	789
Warwick	283	133	193	152	761	292	137	182	158	769
Weighted Average ..	282	145	184	153	764	296	150	180	154	780
South Australia—										
Adelaide	296	149	195	166	806	302	155	196	166	820
Kadina, &c.	325	82	191	160	758	332	84	187	160	763
Port Pirie	307	127	183	161	778	314	133	185	157	789
Mount Gambier	288	132	218	162	800	300	133	216	160	809
Peterborough	308	139	222	163	832	314	141	213	165	833
Weighted Average ..	298	145	195	166	804	303	153	196	165	817
Western Australia—										
Perth, &c.	312	169	188	161	830	317	169	190	158	834
Kalgoorlie, &c.	381	102	238	164	973	378	223	244	166	1,011
Northam	328	166	177	154	823	330	163	178	158	829
Bunbury	327	165	199	152	843	328	172	210	155	865
Geraldton	316	197	189	164	866	327	200	193	166	886
Weighted Average ..	318	171	192	161	842	322	173	194	159	848
Tasmania—										
Hobart	304	184	203	146	837	306	189	208	146	840
Launceston	296	164	221	147	828	305	166	216	147	834
Burns	307	139	193	141	780	321	148	188	135	792
Devonport	307	145	195	140	787	313	156	190	142	801
Queenstown	348	150	241	137	876	350	155	227	141	873
Weighted Average ..	303	173	209	146	831	308	178	210	145	841
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	304	169	183	160	816	313	176	182	160	831
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities	303	172	181	161	817	312	178	181	161	832
Townsville (Q.) (a) ..	318	171	202	160	851	335	167	195	155	852
Port Augusta (S.A.) (a) ..	331	128	202	161	822	340	131	189	162	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—1933 to 1935.**—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, 1933, 1934, and 1935, 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.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Albury	788	1,263	1,340	836	1,280	1,364	846	1,311	1,408
Armidale	768	1,122	1,209	817	1,169	1,247	865	1,220	1,273
Ballina	850	1,177	1,282	846	1,175	1,280	855	1,223	1,315
Bathurst	876	1,180	1,233	852	1,217	1,270	887	1,229	1,310
Bega	832	1,183	1,247	866	1,217	1,281	866	1,258	1,320
Berry	857	1,173	1,252	906	1,222	1,301	920	1,315	1,407
Blackheath	843	1,209	1,258	896	1,265	1,295	929	1,310	1,335
Bourke	879	1,208	1,339	892	1,221	1,352	920	1,249	1,328
Bowral	846	1,202	1,298	876	1,229	1,337	893	1,258	1,392
Broken Hill	920	1,253	1,362	973	1,313	1,418	978	1,311	1,418
Casino	817	1,225	1,344	832	1,240	1,359	900	1,352	1,471
Cessnock	799	1,063	1,102	834	1,103	1,146	890	1,171	1,258
Cobar	1,060	1,228	1,297	1,028	1,217	1,278	1,066	1,307	1,329
Cooma	900	1,203	1,335	881	1,204	1,342	943	1,292	1,436
Coonamble	888	1,173	1,248	927	1,254	1,328	966	1,313	1,401

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cootamundra ..	770	1,175	1,291	831	1,246	1,366	868	1,301	1,419
Corralma ..	808	1,200	1,269	861	1,253	1,321	878	1,270	1,339
Cowra ..	784	1,210	1,278	851	1,313	1,408	889	1,344	1,448
Cronulla ..	831	1,247	1,340	877	1,286	1,418	905	1,350	1,456
Deniliquin ..	867	1,198	1,324	910	1,256	1,401	930	1,282	1,433
Dubbo ..	722	1,218	1,256	812	1,311	1,372	887	1,392	1,468
Forbes ..	829	1,272	1,413	866	1,289	1,494	930	1,375	1,576
Gilgandra ..	824	1,120	1,186	891	1,220	1,253	919	1,325	1,397
Glen Innes ..	798	1,160	1,245	807	1,162	1,288	850	1,230	1,366
Goulburn ..	811	1,241	1,294	868	1,306	1,345	891	1,351	1,377
Grafton ..	790	1,218	1,363	823	1,281	1,440	867	1,392	1,553
Greenfield ..	813	1,208	1,340	849	1,293	1,411	874	1,350	1,471
Griffith ..	901	1,663	1,826	956	1,697	1,884	961	1,715	1,816
Gulgong ..	785	1,040	1,116	823	1,100	1,152	865	1,191	1,266
Gunnedah ..	771	1,140	1,267	816	1,177	1,343	873	1,234	1,410
Hay ..	912	1,260	1,436	945	1,293	1,460	951	1,334	1,524
Inverell ..	811	1,236	1,301	851	1,306	1,382	893	1,383	1,501
Juneee ..	814	1,265	1,393	861	1,371	1,499	872	1,382	1,510
Katoomba ..	854	1,350	1,448	877	1,421	1,525	913	1,462	1,566
Kempsey ..	821	1,236	1,333	853	1,238	1,357	845	1,253	1,342
Klarna ..	862	1,152	1,329	935	1,225	1,421	935	1,231	1,461
Kurri Kurri ..	792	1,046	1,143	861	1,107	1,192	851	1,114	1,180
Loeton ..	854	1,413	1,512	893	1,489	1,620	933	1,591	1,722
Lismore ..	814	1,249	1,421	823	1,300	1,455	878	1,411	1,531
Lithgow ..	812	1,156	1,162	899	1,216	1,224	904	1,178	1,218
Maitland ..	770	1,058	1,247	830	1,128	1,193	877	1,191	1,257
Morice ..	880	1,406	1,505	925	1,476	1,579	933	1,504	1,621
Moss Vale ..	824	1,173	1,260	856	1,246	1,330	889	1,325	1,418
Mudgee ..	720	1,122	1,210	814	1,273	1,339	863	1,356	1,396
Narrabri ..	811	1,206	1,245	885	1,321	1,364	924	1,368	1,409
Narrandera ..	844	1,304	1,409	893	1,406	1,499	909	1,446	1,541
Newcastle ..	845	1,223	1,335	894	1,284	1,397	927	1,356	1,467
Nowra ..	875	1,267	1,338	885	1,319	1,420	949	1,431	1,545
Orange ..	790	1,200	1,354	814	1,219	1,361	861	1,283	1,403
Parkes ..	820	1,182	1,275	847	1,220	1,350	888	1,227	1,373
Penrith ..	782	1,065	1,186	829	1,132	1,209	849	1,204	1,277
Port Kembla ..	839	1,256	1,313	901	1,276	1,374	912	1,356	1,414
Portland ..	846	1,110	1,175	885	1,148	1,214	908	1,171	1,237
Queanbeyan ..	838	1,117	1,196	895	1,205	1,275	931	1,269	1,387
Quirindi ..	878	1,208	1,314	900	1,242	1,351	910	1,253	1,358
Richmond ..	802	1,196	1,262	884	1,298	1,344	870	1,298	1,363
Scone ..	795	1,235	1,312	852	1,293	1,389	881	1,302	1,414
Singleton ..	808	1,131	1,221	821	1,174	1,224	870	1,275	1,294
Sydney ..	826	1,260	1,346	880	1,316	1,413	896	1,340	1,444
Tamworth ..	780	1,142	1,227	826	1,188	1,303	849	1,206	1,390
Taree ..	787	1,230	1,331	827	1,296	1,432	893	1,397	1,507
Temora ..	703	1,297	1,397	845	1,328	1,416	846	1,394	1,486
Tenterfield ..	875	1,120	1,211	813	1,177	1,237	875	1,287	1,334
Tumut ..	834	1,311	1,402	853	1,324	1,422	876	1,348	1,457
Ulmara ..	815	1,210	1,342	872	1,267	1,398	897	1,292	1,423
Wagga Wagga ..	793	1,247	1,423	839	1,342	1,500	880	1,404	1,557
Walcha ..	841	1,170	1,279	880	1,238	1,294	976	1,344	1,423
Wollington ..	794	1,104	1,202	875	1,237	1,283	861	1,225	1,297
Weston ..	804	1,095	1,148	834	1,126	1,179	861	1,153	1,205
Windsor ..	822	1,250	1,348	830	1,274	1,356	895	1,372	1,421

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—<i>contd.</i>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wollongong	795	1,254	1,311	850	1,307	1,419	873	1,354	1,480
Wyalong	843	1,166	1,205	858	1,187	1,253	907	1,236	1,302
Yass	798	1,143	1,244	856	1,250	1,292	895	1,323	1,390
Young	816	1,224	1,319	898	1,310	1,367	906	1,317	1,378
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	827	1,244	1,334	878	1,303	1,401	898	1,334	1,437
Victoria—									
Ararat	819	1,138	1,266	872	1,202	1,333	901	1,247	1,361
Bacchus Marsh	775	1,119	1,254	830	1,175	1,247	863	1,206	1,265
Bairnsdale	822	1,124	1,247	891	1,161	1,339	908	1,237	1,309
Bellarat	771	1,074	1,227	818	1,129	1,264	861	1,173	1,316
Beechworth	826	1,122	1,175	856	1,152	1,191	872	1,168	1,234
Benalla	799	1,125	1,298	874	1,200	1,384	895	1,232	1,431
Bendigo	765	1,072	1,200	836	1,154	1,274	855	1,203	1,313
Camperdown	806	1,197	1,333	857	1,236	1,382	894	1,258	1,418
Casterton	834	1,196	1,261	879	1,261	1,340	890	1,272	1,351
Castlemaine	787	1,082	1,178	816	1,104	1,198	872	1,208	1,289
Colac	801	1,216	1,317	856	1,274	1,371	861	1,296	1,407
Creswick	782	914	956	831	986	1,041	882	1,040	1,093
Dunaysford	806	1,016	1,094	831	1,041	1,118	856	1,067	1,144
Dunolly	780	960	1,006	836	1,047	1,083	880	1,087	1,117
Echuca	785	1,085	1,210	826	1,135	1,283	868	1,184	1,316
Etrona	810	1,113	1,170	846	1,142	1,251	890	1,219	1,324
Geelong	771	1,114	1,298	798	1,218	1,332	838	1,237	1,420
Hamilton	803	1,189	1,318	847	1,218	1,304	900	1,272	1,368
Healesville	804	1,070	1,146	861	1,124	1,210	875	1,151	1,236
Horsham	807	1,155	1,267	843	1,231	1,301	919	1,380	1,446
Kerang	793	1,187	1,253	862	1,250	1,498	915	1,303	1,543
Korrol	808	1,071	1,130	838	1,114	1,167	879	1,135	1,201
Korumburra	776	1,089	1,252	823	1,242	1,274	824	1,258	1,318
Kyneton	743	1,035	1,146	797	1,088	1,227	827	1,131	1,248
Lilydale	826	1,158	1,240	858	1,180	1,252	890	1,219	1,284
Madra	801	1,172	1,252	826	1,150	1,247	869	1,198	1,296
Maldon	832	914	1,017	871	1,003	1,068	893	1,054	1,114
Maryborough	770	1,025	1,095	826	1,087	1,206	855	1,122	1,230
Melbourne	759	1,103	1,287	798	1,207	1,340	839	1,268	1,398
Mildura	887	1,419	1,555	917	1,483	1,650	950	1,550	1,714
Morwell	839	1,260	1,352	865	1,287	1,379	887	1,308	1,400
Nhill	840	1,143	1,256	898	1,214	1,348	962	1,291	1,405
Orbost	877	1,219	1,333	857	1,149	1,305	916	1,245	1,376
Portland	831	1,160	1,220	847	1,136	1,209	908	1,213	1,286
Port Fairy	801	1,091	1,196	824	1,127	1,252	863	1,163	1,258
St. Arnaud	847	1,164	1,278	897	1,223	1,348	921	1,290	1,398
Sale	826	1,169	1,253	826	1,217	1,302	871	1,273	1,379
Seymour	824	1,153	1,258	893	1,216	1,324	926	1,249	1,357
Shepparton	777	1,156	1,300	847	1,238	1,390	863	1,313	1,432
Stawell	844	1,103	1,228	907	1,157	1,270	959	1,252	1,348
Swan Hill	782	1,292	1,473	877	1,387	1,568	920	1,446	1,644
Terang	840	1,163	1,284	803	1,218	1,348	921	1,290	1,428
Traralgon	773	1,111	1,256	828	1,187	1,348	859	1,216	1,366
Wangaratta	824	1,267	1,378	828	1,293	1,401	871	1,356	1,432
Warracknabeal	790	1,109	1,199	830	1,157	1,258	871	1,200	1,283
Warragul	751	1,285	1,451	799	1,344	1,501	826	1,350	1,502
Warrnambool	779	1,173	1,341	831	1,232	1,397	864	1,274	1,430
Wonthaggi	776	1,105	1,212	836	1,165	1,262	847	1,117	1,219
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	767	1,155	1,280	805	1,203	1,334	846	1,261	1,391

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. 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.
Queensland—									
Ayr	846	1,293	1,416	862	1,314	1,446	869	1,321	1,474
Barcaldine	874	1,249	1,308	928	1,303	1,327	988	1,352	1,400
Bowen	860	1,215	1,287	935	1,284	1,363	932	1,287	1,370
Brisbane	733	1,071	1,161	795	1,112	1,196	822	1,175	1,275
Bundaberg	761	1,039	1,085	793	1,052	1,118	845	1,122	1,188
Cairns	857	1,370	1,548	881	1,424	1,598	934	1,487	1,605
Charleville	894	1,324	1,438	928	1,339	1,511	1,000	1,438	1,614
Charters Towers	820	1,070	1,136	845	1,086	1,170	923	1,180	1,255
Chillrae	960	1,157	1,210	961	1,159	1,211	948	1,145	1,198
Cloncurry	955	1,340	1,429	979	1,348	1,461	1,085	1,479	1,568
Cooktown	934	1,079	1,131	968	1,113	1,166	1,015	1,159	1,212
Cunnamulla	906	1,301	1,433	941	1,336	1,468	977	1,371	1,503
Dalby	783	1,141	1,253	800	1,169	1,261	850	1,251	1,348
Gayndah	803	1,073	1,132	834	1,110	1,215	896	1,192	1,317
Gladstone	783	1,112	1,204	812	1,155	1,260	871	1,227	1,336
Goondiwindi	836	1,130	1,318	864	1,290	1,399	936	1,384	1,469
Gympie	776	1,107	1,220	814	1,139	1,268	903	1,223	1,350
Hughenden	933	1,361	1,446	938	1,346	1,431	968	1,375	1,461
Innisfail	898	1,450	1,582	955	1,491	1,624	993	1,532	1,670
Ipswich	767	990	1,109	785	1,002	1,120	826	1,041	1,177
Longreach	914	1,226	1,356	970	1,314	1,452	1,030	1,378	1,527
Mackay	813	1,208	1,339	850	1,267	1,416	918	1,379	1,554
Maryborough	754	1,083	1,192	761	1,090	1,200	836	1,165	1,275
Mount Morgan	833	1,017	1,026	875	1,059	1,072	900	1,085	1,098
Nambour	761	1,065	1,158	808	1,098	1,177	878	1,177	1,261
Rockhampton	772	1,074	1,119	805	1,113	1,165	883	1,198	1,245
Roma	848	1,085	1,212	866	1,116	1,208	924	1,226	1,292
Stanthorpe	807	1,162	1,228	816	1,172	1,237	845	1,201	1,247
Toowoomba	709	1,103	1,128	737	1,111	1,169	791	1,166	1,253
Townsville	827	1,228	1,315	860	1,257	1,364	934	1,333	1,430
Warwick	759	1,052	1,131	759	1,057	1,171	834	1,134	1,246
Winton	953	1,216	1,368	968	1,244	1,395	981	1,270	1,402
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns)	763	1,096	1,182	787	1,127	1,214	849	1,201	1,300
South Australia—									
Adelaide	772	1,107	1,249	815	1,159	1,290	826	1,193	1,313
Freeling	770	1,033	1,099	809	1,072	1,138	847	1,110	1,176
Gawler	771	1,017	1,096	818	1,073	1,182	813	1,095	1,181
Kadina, etc.	840	1,022	1,094	894	1,076	1,159	914	1,097	1,184
Kapunda	756	958	1,052	803	981	1,079	833	1,046	1,116
Kooringa	812	1,141	1,207	832	1,128	1,241	914	1,221	1,348
Millicent	797	1,071	1,174	849	1,162	1,244	847	1,187	1,264
Mount Gambier	765	1,022	1,158	791	1,065	1,204	845	1,142	1,252
Murray Bridge	747	988	1,122	771	1,004	1,123	803	1,035	1,137
Peterborough	811	1,180	1,250	848	1,212	1,289	860	1,225	1,302
Port Augusta	868	1,159	1,283	910	1,202	1,326	939	1,234	1,359
Port Pirie	777	1,084	1,196	856	1,162	1,275	854	1,166	1,279
Quorn	819	1,115	1,194	844	1,160	1,229	893	1,222	1,375
Renmark	885	1,280	1,345	956	1,334	1,396	969	1,373	1,447
Victor Harbour	801	1,169	1,222	833	1,162	1,281	859	1,260	1,346
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns)	777	1,100	1,234	820	1,154	1,280	833	1,188	1,305
Western Australia—									
Albany	834	1,132	1,224	917	1,238	1,354	930	1,259	1,391
Beverley	893	1,268	1,382	920	1,336	1,413	937	1,354	1,431
Bridgetown	925	1,226	1,319	967	1,278	1,395	980	1,335	1,440
Broome	1,217	1,678	1,875	1,217	1,677	1,875	1,203	1,663	1,861
Bunbury	822	1,239	1,307	889	1,294	1,399	890	1,309	1,424

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

State and Town.	1933. November.			1934. November.			1935. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
Western Australia—cont'd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Caruarvon	1,023	1,477	1,587	1,062	1,491	1,621	1,037	1,500	1,646
Collie	762	1,108	1,236	908	1,247	1,329	900	1,285	1,361
Geraldton	804	1,288	1,421	880	1,367	1,497	885	1,368	1,526
Greenbushes	908	1,073	1,112	973	1,121	1,190	996	1,128	1,174
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	975	1,466	1,544	1,047	1,570	1,659	1,033	1,579	1,702
Katanning	810	1,132	1,256	889	1,193	1,305	873	1,202	1,314
Leonora and Gwalia	1,083	1,346	1,412	1,142	1,405	1,464	1,152	1,481	1,546
Meekeatharra	1,080	1,541	1,738	1,103	1,585	1,739	1,146	1,606	1,760
Narrogin	845	1,249	1,379	919	1,307	1,521	909	1,403	1,448
Northam	833	1,237	1,346	890	1,295	1,359	895	1,301	1,401
Perth and Fremantle	779	1,274	1,273	856	1,254	1,344	857	1,259	1,353
Wagin	857	1,112	1,180	860	1,145	1,222	901	1,191	1,267
York	807	1,123	1,176	844	1,180	1,233	905	1,240	1,293
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns)	810	1,209	1,308	878	1,281	1,374	879	1,289	1,387
Tasmania—									
Beaconsfield	784	902	942	843	988	1,054	861	1,058	1,124
Burnie	787	1,155	1,239	864	1,222	1,318	881	1,252	1,339
Campbelltown	820	1,029	1,087	858	1,100	1,154	905	1,156	1,274
Deloraine	796	1,119	1,188	830	1,159	1,185	820	1,158	1,184
Devonport	803	1,212	1,274	879	1,290	1,354	868	1,291	1,355
Franklin	860	1,097	1,156	936	1,173	1,233	943	1,180	1,259
Hobart	797	1,237	1,370	856	1,300	1,435	839	1,288	1,419
Launceston	760	1,163	1,271	827	1,219	1,343	835	1,236	1,343
New Norfolk	825	1,141	1,167	866	1,182	1,234	874	1,242	1,295
Queenstown	916	1,311	1,357	961	1,356	1,415	948	1,347	1,415
Scottsdale	767	1,030	1,123	811	1,047	1,159	822	1,070	1,193
Ulverstone	811	1,052	1,126	853	1,126	1,220	856	1,163	1,231
Zeehan	987	1,185	1,217	1,017	1,214	1,247	993	1,190	1,223
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns)	796	1,200	1,310	855	1,261	1,379	848	1,262	1,373
Territories (a)—									
Canberra	902	1,465	1,574	964	1,530	1,638	980	1,574	1,656
Weighted Averages—									
Australia (200 Towns)	794	1,182	1,288	840	1,236	1,345	858	1,279	1,390
Thirty Towns	790	1,185	1,292	837	1,239	1,349	863	1,278	1,391
Six Capitals	786	1,188	1,295	834	1,241	1,352	860	1,280	1,393

(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 30 towns, and for the 200 towns. The first two are based on monthly prices of food and quarterly rents, and the third on prices and rents in the month of November. The three series, reduced to a common base (November, 1913 = 1,000) are given for the years 1921 to 1935 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.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—November—Australia.

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.								
All Towns (200)	1,000	1,578	1,455	1,349	1,267	1,241	1,312	1,356
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,454	1,343	1,264	1,240	1,314	1,355
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,588	1,463	1,351	1,270	1,248	1,324	1,365

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (200)	1,000	1,268	1,541	1,314	1,258	1,261	1,291	1,333
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,516	1,288	1,233	1,239	1,279	1,304
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,261	1,453	1,229	1,169	1,176	1,182	1,232

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (200)	1,000	1,461	1,488	1,336	1,264	1,249	1,304	1,348
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,478	1,322	1,252	1,240	1,298	1,336
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,455	1,459	1,301	1,229	1,219	1,269	1,311

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 1931, came into operation on the 9th October, and the Western Australian Reduction of Rents Act 1931, was assented to on the 18th August. The Acts, which are on practically similar lines, prescribed a general reduction in rents of 22½ 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 1931 was assented to on the 24th December, and provides for reduction of rents payable under long leases by 22½ 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.

1. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices in the years 1929 to 1936 for Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1929 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 1929 as Base=100.)

PERIOD.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRL.	BELGIUM.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	" Statist "	" Economist "	Official.	Official.	Official.	National Tariff Commission.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929 ..	88	84	84	90	87	82	110	86	91	90	92	88	91
1930 ..	77	73	70	68	74	68	121	76	71	84	86	80	81
1931 ..	75	71	68	66	63	65	108	78	58	72	92	68	70
1932 ..	75	70	68	83	59	62	99	83	48	61	91	64	68
1933 ..	77	72	71	85	56	63	93	90	45	75	92	66	72
1934 ..	77	70	74	84	63	68	92	90	..	82	92	54	74
1935 ..	78	74	74	84	63	68	92	90	..	82	92	54	74
1935 VI.	77	73	74	85	65	65	88	91	44	81	92	53	74
VII.	77	74	74	86	65	65	87	91	43	82	92	51	74
VIII.	77	74	73	86	65	63	88	93	43	83	92	53	75
IX.	79	75	76	85	66	63	87	94	44	79	93	53	75
X.	80	75	77	84	68	66	90	96	45	83	94	55	75
XI.	80	76	77	84	68	65	99	96	..	81	93	56	75
XII.	80	76	77	84	68	66	99	96	..	81	93	57	75
1936 I.	80	76	77	83	68	65	100	96	..	79	93	57	76
II.	80	..	77	83	68	..	101	96	..	..	92	66	76

PERIOD.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
	Consiglio Prov. dell' Economia di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929 ..	85	82	90	92	89	100	87	90	91	89	91	97	89
1930 ..	71	70	77	78	78	101	79	78	77	79	75	91	86
1931 ..	65	73	65	82	68	..	78	68	68	78	70	87	79
1932 ..	59	82	63	82	61	..	76	65	69	78	70	83	80
1933 ..	57	81	63	83	58	..	81	64	79	82	75	90	88
1934 ..	..	84	62	85	55	..	83	64	84	82	75	94	81
1935 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1935 VI.	66	82	61	85	55	96	83	63	84	81	75	93	..
VII.	66	82	61	85	55	96	83	64	83	82	75	94	81
VIII.	68	83	61	86	56	..	82	65	85	83	75	94	..
IX.	70	86	62	86	56	..	82	65	85	83	76	96	..
X.	72	88	64	87	57	..	84	66	85	83	77	97	83
XI.	..	88	63	87	57	..	84	66	85	82	76	96	..
XII.	..	87	63	88	55	..	84	65	85	81	76	95	..
1936 I.	..	87	63	88	54	..	84	65	85	82	76	94	..
II.	..	..	62	89	..	..	..	65	..	81	..	..	86

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 1929 to 1935, and quarterly for 1935 and 1936. For the countries included, the prices for the year 1929, are taken as base (=100). The figures, which have been taken chiefly from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, and the *Year Book of Labour Statistics*, published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are not strictly comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries, with Prices in 1929, as Base (=100).

(i) COST OF LIVING.*

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna.	59	100	21	Paris.	72	Millan.	Tokio.	Amster. dan.
1929	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930	96	100	104	95	92	105	96	97	86	96
1931	90	96	93	89	85	102	88	89	75	90
1932	88	97	84	89	84	95	78	86	75	84
1933	85	95	83	93	82	94	77	82	80	83
1934	86	95	79	96	80	93	79	79	82	83
1935	87	94	80	99	81	87	80	..	84	81
1935—										
March Qtr. ..	86	94	77	98	80	89	80	78	83	81
June	86	94	77	99	80	88	80	78	82	81
Sept.	88	95	81	99	82	84	81	..	84	81
Dec.	90	95	85	100	83	86	80	..	85	81
1936—										
March Qtr. ..	89	95	..	100	81	87	81	..	87	..

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
No. of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	Madrid.	49	34	51-173	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1929	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930	97	93	103	97	98	96	96	92	99	98	98
1931	92	85	107	94	93	87	85	74	90	90	94
1932	90	77	103	92	86	79	81	73	82	84	90
1933	89	70	100	91	81	76	78	69	79	79	89
1934	89	66	102	91	80	79	80	65	79	81	87
1935	91	63	99	92	80	81	81	63	80	83	88
1935—											
March Qtr. ..	90	62	102	91	79	81	80	66	80	82	88
June	90	62	99	92	79	81	81	68	79	81	89
Sept.	91	65	98	92	80	81	81	69	80	83	88
Dec.	92	63	98	93	81	81	82	70	81	85	88
1936—											
March Qtr. ..	92	59	..	93	81	82	82	63	80	84	88

* 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.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries with Prices in 1929, Base (=100)—continued.

(H) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.†

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Viedna.	39	100	21	Paris.	72	Milan.	Tokio.	Amsterdam.
1927	104	98	95	103	99	92	98	98	104	100
1928	102	98	95	102	102	92	98	98	100	103
1929	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930	94	97	96	92	86	104	94	94	85	93
1931	85	89	81	81	77	105	84	82	74	84
1932	82	90	69	79	80	94	74	78	79	74
1933	78	85	69	82	80	92	73	73	79	71
1934	79	83	55	89	78	91	76	76	51	76
1935	81	83	67	94	81	83	77	..	84	73
1935—										
April	77	80	51	..	70	..	76	72	81	..
May	78	80	62	..	78	84	77	72	82	..
June	82	84	65	95	79	..	73	73	80	72
July	82	84	66	..	81	..	79	72	81	..
August	81	83	67	..	83	80	79	72	85	..
September	83	83	71	94	83	..	78	..	87	72
October	85	84	73	..	84	..	77	..	86	..
November	85	84	75	..	84	82	77	..	86	..
December	85	84	73	94	83	..	76	..	87	73
1936—										
January	84	84	74	..	81	..	79	..	89	..
February	84	83	74	..	81	85	79	..	91	..
March	82	81	..	95	81	..	78	..	92	..

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

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
No. of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	Madrid.	49	34	51	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1927	110	105	104	101	101	102	96	103	97	97	103
1928	106	103	97	103	101	98	95	99	98	99	102
1929	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930	96	86	103	93	97	91	90	92	98	96	96
1931	88	76	107	86	90	75	79	70	77	83	91
1932	85	67	103	83	80	63	77	70	64	77	83
1933	83	60	100	81	75	64	72	64	63	72	86
1934	84	54	102	81	74	71	75	66	69	76	90
1935	87	51	99	85	73	76	77	63	70	82	88
1935—											
April	85	49	104	83	71	78	76	62	68	81	90
May	86	50	99	85	71	78	77	63	69	82	90
June	87	51	94	86	72	78	77	64	69	82	90
July	89	54	97	87	74	76	78	64	71	82	89
August	89	53	97	87	74	76	78	64	70	82	88
September	89	54	99	87	74	76	79	64	72	83	87
October	90	54	98	87	75	77	79	66	72	86	87
November	90	54	99	88	76	77	78	66	73	86	87
December	90	50	98	88	76	79	78	66	73	84	88
1936—											
January	90	49	98	89	76	78	78	64	72	83	88
February	91	48	97	89	76	77	78	64	73	82	88
March	91	48	..	89	76	76	77	63	70	82	88