

CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices.

The retail prices of the extensive range of commodities and services in common demand (commonly referred to as the "regimen") used in compiling the All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index (see list on pages 11-13 hereof) have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately 200 towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942 when collection was discontinued.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for earlier years extending back to 1901 were collected by this Bureau, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States as far back as 1864.

The methods by which prices used in the "C" Series Index are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows:—

- (i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the Index and each is required to furnish a return of prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from about ten retailers in each of the capital cities, and from about five retailers in each of the provincial towns.
- (ii) These returns are collected under authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905-1949* which requires that returns be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to competitors or to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply returns, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of the return.
- (iii) The actual collection of returns is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, etc.
- (iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to verify returns. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.

- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for identical goods and quality will be recorded at all times and for all places.
- (vi) The list of items in the regimen and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary suitable adjustment is made in computing the retail price index to ensure that it reflects changes in price with due precision and that it is not vitiated by the influence of other changes. (*See also* § 9, p. 32 hereof.)
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of four and five rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town covered by the Index, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations which may be equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from the Census of 1933 and other records. Although expressed in money terms, the average rentals as published are essentially indexes. As such they do not necessarily indicate the average amount of rental actually paid for all rented houses, and still less do they indicate the rental at which vacant or new houses can be rented (*see* footnote on p. 10).

§ 2. Retail Price Indexes.

I. General.—The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

A full explanation of the methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved is contained in the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9.

For convenience the group of selected items is called a "regimen", and the quantities consumed per annum of each item used in the Index are called "mass units" or "weights". These terms are used herein. In compiling the Index the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight" and

then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by denoting the aggregate of a selected or "base" period as 1000, and calculating all index-numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to that of the base period. (*See* par. 2, p. 13.)

2. **Essential Features.**—Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

- (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;
- (b) that the regimen be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;
- (c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

3. **The Regimen.**—The regimen must be a selected regimen because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. Even in normal times there is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the regimen of the index to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend the regimen by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The regimen of the index therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. In fact the regimen used for the "C" Series Index is simply a selected list of items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained.

The regimen and "weights" used in the "C" Series Index are published in full on pages 11 to 13.

4. **Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.**—Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a *constant* standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, they measure as nearly as may be the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index. The regimen is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households.

5. **Effects of War Conditions on Indexes.**—Under war-time conditions scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grade due to standardization created unusual difficulty in obtaining the data necessary

for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, this rendered it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This was the case more particularly in the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the regimen. Substitutions of similar kind were necessary at times under normal conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. Such substitutions are not injurious to the index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as they arise. No change in principle is involved. The index continues to measure, as accurately as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Just as in the pre-war period, those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralized by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new item as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

In normal times, popular usage of items in general consumption changes slowly and the weight of items and groups in the regimen is changed only at long intervals. In war-time, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors actually produce substantial changes in usage both long term and short term. The "weights" applicable to the items in the regimen, however, have not been changed and continue as in pre-war years. (See § 9 (2) hereof.)

During the war the "C" Series Index, as published, measured the aggregate variation in prices of the regimen of items adopted in peace times in peace-time proportion. This ensured comparability of the index on that specific basis. Its practical significance under war conditions was limited because a single index cannot take into account all changes that occur.

If it had been practicable, it would have been desirable to compile an additional index to measure variations over the war period, having regard to the fact that the relative consumptions of some items of the regimen had been altered by war conditions, and that the prices of some items not included in the regimen had moved differently from the variations recorded by the "C" Series Index. This would have provided an alternative method of comparison presenting another aspect of price movement in war-time.

§ 3. Various Retail Price Indexes.

Two main series of retail price index-numbers are compiled and shown in some detail in the following pages, viz. :—

- (i) the "B" Series Index relating only to food, groceries and housing, continuously available from 1907 ;
- (ii) the "C" Series Index relating to food, groceries, housing, clothing, household drapery and utensils, fuel and light, and other miscellaneous items of household expenditure, continuously available from 1914.

The "B" Series Index comprises only the food, groceries and housing sections of the "C" Series Index. Reference is made on pages 36 to 39 of this Report to the "A" Series Index and the "D" Series Index (which are no longer compiled), the "Court" Series Index and various other series of retail price index-numbers.

The "C" Series Index in total provides a reliable measure of aggregate variations in retail prices (as well as of group indexes for component sections) of a high percentage of goods and services used in wage-earner households. This index is compiled for:—

- (a) the capital city of each of the six States,
- (b) four other principal towns in each of the six States,
- (c) weighted average of five towns (including capital city) in each of the six States,
- (d) weighted average for the Six Capital Cities combined,
- (e) weighted average for the Thirty Towns (including capital cities),
- (f) separate indexes for Warwick, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Canberra.

The "C" Series Index forms the basis of the "Court" Series Index used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the "cost of living" adjustments of wages prescribed by awards made by the Court. (See §§ 10 and 11 of this Chapter.)

§ 4. Retail Price Levels ("C" Series Index) 1914-1949.

1. **Significant Dates.**—The aggregate indexes for November, 1914, 1921 and 1922, and the years 1923 to 1949, for the Thirty Towns are published in summary form on pages 21-23 hereof, while the following table furnishes the relevant index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base: 1923-27 = 1,000.)

1914, November	.. ..	687	(Beginning of War I.)
1918, November	.. ..	905	(End of War I.)
1920, November	.. ..	1,166	(Post-War peak)
1922, November	.. ..	975	(Post-War trough)
1929, Year	.. ..	1,033	(Pre-Depression peak)
1933, Year	.. ..	804	(Depression trough)
1939, September Quarter	.. ..	916	(Pre-War II.)
1943, March Quarter	.. ..	1,123	(Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter	.. ..	1,143	(War II. peak)
1945, September Quarter	.. ..	1,126	(End of War II.)
1949, December Quarter	.. ..	1,466	

The index reveals a rise of approximately 32 per cent. during the first world war, followed by a further rise of 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918, to November, 1920). From November, 1920 to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent., and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the

four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization), the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with March Quarter, 1943, the index-number at the close of the war was practically unchanged. At December Quarter, 1949, the level was nearly 26 per cent. above that of the 1920 peak period.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the first world war in 1914. Since June Quarter, 1946, however, as a result of modified policies in price control, extra production costs have been permitted to pass into prices and the retail price index for December Quarter, 1949, was 60 per cent. higher than that for September Quarter, 1939.

An account of price control measures and of price stabilization in Australia was published in *Official Year Book of the Commonwealth* No. 37, pages 458-463 and No. 38, page 414.

2. All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914-1949.—The movement in the various groups of the index, and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities as a whole:—

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index-Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined, 1914 to 1949.

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

Period	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses). (b)	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses) ("B" Series).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	All Items ("C" Series) Index.
1914 (c)	641	649	644	754	749	687
1915 (c)	842	659	777	792	786	782
1916 (c)	812	665	760	881	802	795
1917 (c)	836	685	782	992	882	847
1918 (c)	861	722	812	1,097	972	905
1919 (c)	1,026	768	934	1,238	1,036	1,022
1920 (c)	1,209	851	1,082	1,365	1,194	1,166
1921 (c)	950	877	924	1,246	1,010	1,015
1922 (c)	945	929	939	1,052	999	975
1923	1,009	950	988	1,045	999	1,003
1924	969	988	975	1,003	1,004	987
1925	998	1,008	1,002	991	992	997
1926	1,023	1,026	1,024	986	998	1,011
1927	1,000	1,030	1,011	975	1,008	1,002
1928	985	1,066	1,014	997	1,010	1,009

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10.

(b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

(c) November.

**All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index-Numbers (a)
for the Six Capital Cities combined, 1914 to 1949—continued.**

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

Period.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses) (b)	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5- roomed Houses) ("B" Series).	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	All Items ("C" Series) Index.
1929	1,044	1,073	1,054	996	1,007	1,333
1930	941	1,047	978	951	999	975
1931	826	901	852	853	973	873
1932	796	817	803	804	958	830
1933	751	804	768	787	950	804
1934	783	810	792	785	944	817
1935	806	839	818	783	946	832
1936	825	879	844	792	947	850
1937	851	912	872	811	960	873
1938	886	942	906	829	961	897
1939	927	965	939	841	962	920
1940	939	973	950	956	998	957
1941	947	976	956	1,118	1,060	1,008
1942	1,031	976	1,007	1,308	1,112	1,091
1943	1,037	975	1,011	1,440	1,166	1,131
1944	1,026	976	1,004	1,435	1,165	1,126
1945	1,034	975	1,009	1,425	1,161	1,126
1946	1,036	976	1,010	1,505	1,167	1,145
1947	1,100	977	1,050	1,566	1,199	1,188
1948	1,256	979	1,148	1,744	1,257	1,295
1949	1,394	982	1,230	1,997	1,338	1,415
Quarter—						
1939—March	935	959	942	832	960	919
June	925	963	938	836	961	917
September	920	967	936	836	961	910
December	927	969	941	858	967	926
1945—March	1,028	975	1,005	1,421	1,161	1,123
June	1,037	975	1,011	1,416	1,161	1,125
September	1,040	975	1,013	1,415	1,161	1,126
December	1,030	975	1,007	1,448	1,161	1,129
1946—March	1,036	976	1,010	1,456	1,164	1,134
June	1,042	976	1,014	1,494	1,167	1,143
September	1,029	976	1,006	1,521	1,167	1,146
December	1,037	976	1,011	1,550	1,170	1,156
1947—March	1,071	976	1,032	1,525	1,181	1,165
June	1,088	976	1,042	1,534	1,184	1,174
September	1,104	977	1,052	1,566	1,213	1,192
December	1,138	977	1,073	1,639	1,217	1,221
1948—March	1,190	978	1,105	1,661	1,237	1,248
June	1,229	979	1,129	1,720	1,248	1,278
September	1,274	979	1,156	1,778	1,271	1,311
December	1,330	980	1,190	1,818	1,277	1,341
1949—March	1,361	981	1,209	1,849	1,304	1,364
June	1,388	981	1,226	1,963	1,325	1,403
September	1,396	982	1,232	2,043	1,345	1,428
December	1,429	983	1,252	2,132	1,378	1,466

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10.

(b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

§ 5. Increases in Retail Prices since Outbreak of War in 1939.

i. Australia.—The following statement shows for the six State capitals and Canberra separately and for the six State capitals as a whole, the percentage increases which have taken place in retail prices of items included in the "C" Series Index from September Quarter, 1939, to December Quarter, 1949, inclusive. The proportionate increase in the total index for each capital city is shown in the line marked "Total." In the column headed "C" Series Index the total percentage rise is dissected to show what part of it was due to the rise in prices in each of the four main groups of items.

Thus, of the 59.3 per cent. increase for Sydney, 19.0 was due to food and groceries, 0.3 to house rent, 31.1 to clothing and 8.9 to miscellaneous items. The column headed "Group Index" shows the percentage increase in prices of items in each group considered as a group. Thus, for Sydney, prices in the food and groceries group increased by 52.8 per cent., house rents by 1.0 per cent., prices of clothing by 157.0 per cent. and prices of miscellaneous items by 47.9 per cent. These when weighted and combined in the proportion of the "C" Series Index showed a rise of 59.3 per cent. For the Six Capital Cities as a whole the increase over the period was 60.0 per cent.

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index.
Percentage Increases September Quarter, 1939, to December Quarter, 1949.
 (Per cent.)

Group.	Sydney.		Melbourne.		Brisbane.		Adelaide.	
	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.
Food and Groceries	19.0	52.8	20.3	55.7	21.3	59.9	20.4	57.4
Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses)	0.3	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.5	2.1	0.6	2.7
Clothing ..	31.1	157.0	31.0	157.2	31.4	148.4	30.5	145.4
Miscellaneous ..	8.9	47.9	8.5	43.4	7.7	37.8	8.0	38.2
Total ..	59.3	59.3	60.3	60.3	60.9	60.9	59.5	59.5

Group.	Perth.		Hobart.		Six State Capitals.(a)		Canberra.	
	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.
Food and Groceries	21.7	57.6	23.8	65.3	20.0	55.3	17.6	44.5
Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses)	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.5	0.4	1.7	0.2	0.7
Clothing ..	32.1	157.8	31.0	149.9	31.1	155.0	32.6	166.0
Miscellaneous ..	7.2	36.9	6.0	31.3	8.5	43.4	7.6	45.5
Total ..	61.4	61.4	61.2	61.2	60.0	60.0	58.0	58.0

(a) Weighted average.

The foregoing comparisons refer to two points of time (i.e., the months immediately preceding the war and the closing months of 1949), at each of which special temporary factors may have influenced relative price levels. For instance, prices of certain foods (e.g., meat) fluctuate with seasonal conditions. The percentage increases shown do not, therefore, necessarily indicate the degree of increase due solely to causes peculiar to the war and post-war period.

2. **International Comparisons.**—The following table shows the increase during this period in Australia and certain other countries. The increases during the first world war have also been included.

Retail Price Index-Numbers.

(FOOD, RENT, CLOTHING, MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.)

Date.	Australia.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.	United States of America.
(A): 1914-1919.						
1914 July	(a) 100	100	100	100	(b) 100(c)	100
1915 Year	114	125	97	108	103	102
1916 "	116	148	102	115	106	109
1917 "	123	180	130	125	114	128
1918 "	132	203	146	135	118	156
1919 "	149	208	155	145	126	175

(a) November.

(b) Food, Fuel, Light and Rent.

(c) Average for year 1914.

(B): 1939-1949.

1939—					(a)	
September Quarter	100	100	100	100	100	100
1940—Year(c)	105	119	105	104	104	100
1941— " (c)	110	104	111	108	109	105
1942— " (c)	119	129	116	111	118	116
1943— " (c)	124	128	117	114	126	123
				(b)		
1944— " (c)	123	129	118	116	130	125
1945— " (c)	123	131	119	118	133	127
1946— " (c)	125	131	123	118	135	138
1947— " (c)	130	162(d)	134	122	141	158
1948— " (c)	141	108	154	132	149	170
1949— "	154	111	160	134(e)	..	168
1949—						
March Quarter	149	109	158	133	..	169
June	153	110	159	133	155	169
September ..	156	111	161	135	154	168
December ..	160	112	161	135	154	167

(a) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure. (b) War-time Index linked to former series.
 (c) Quarterly indexes appear in preceding issues. (d) July-December new Series. Base: 1914
 June, 1947 = 100 (e) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index linked to former series.

At various stages during the first world war most of these countries introduced some measures of price control. But in the second world war they introduced price control measures at an early stage and these became more stringent as the war progressed, culminating in a policy of price stabilization.

Immediately after the outbreak of war in September, 1939, the Commonwealth Government took steps to control prices, and, by proclamation issued from day to day, pegged prices of various commodities at those ruling on 31st August, 1939. The National Security (Prices) Regulations proclaimed on 28th September, 1939, under the authority of the National Security Act, established the basic principles of war-time price control, provided for the appointment of a Commonwealth Prices Commissioner and conferred upon him extensive powers to control the price of goods declared for that purpose by the Minister for Trade and Customs. In *Official Year Book of the Commonwealth*, No. 37, pages 458-463, a brief summary of the development of this control is published, while in No. 38, page 414, reference is made to the transfer in September, 1948, of price control to the States.

§ 6. Construction of All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index.

I. **The Regimen.**—The regimen from which the "C" Series Index is compiled consists of a list of commodities and services which commonly enter into the consumption of the average household and in respect of which comparative prices can be ascertained with due precision from time to time and place to place. (See § 2 (3) and (4) hereof.) The regimen is divided into the following Groups and Sections:—

Group.	Section.
I. Food and Groceries	.. { A.—Groceries. B.—Dairy Produce. C.—Meat.
II. Housing	.. D.—House Rent. .. E.—Clothing—Man. .. F.—Clothing—Woman.
III. Clothing	.. G.—Clothing—Boy (10½ years) .. H.—Clothing—Girl (7 years). .. J.—Clothing—Boy (3½ years).
IV. Miscellaneous	.. K.—Household Drapery. .. L.—Household Utensils. .. M.—Fuel and Light. .. N.—Other Miscellaneous.

The "C" Series Index includes the whole of the foregoing Groups, but for many purposes indexes are required for individual Groups or Sections. For this reason the following indexes are regularly compiled at the intervals shown, and published in this Report and other publications issued by the Bureau:—

Group. (a)	Content.	Frequency.
I.	Food and Groceries	Monthly
II.	Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses) (b) ..	Quarterly
I. and II.	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses) ("B" Series)	Quarterly
III.	Clothing	Quarterly
IV.	Miscellaneous Household Requirements ..	Quarterly
I., II., III. and IV.	Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses), Clothing and Miscellaneous ("C" Series)	Quarterly

For convenience of reference several of the indexes mentioned above have been given the "series" designation shown against them. These indexes are dealt with in turn in the following pages.

(a) "Group" or "Sectional" index-numbers in the various tables throughout this Report cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing or Miscellaneous requirements, since each "Group" or "Section" (or combination thereof) has its own Base = 1,000, viz., the weighted average cost for the Six Capital Cities as a whole during the five-yearly period 1923-27 for that "Group" or "Section". (b) *Rents*—The rent index-numbers shown in the tables in this Report measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Similarly, "average rents" where shown are indexes of "price" changes in rentals expressed in terms of pence. They are not the average of rents actually paid by all tenants of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It would be inappropriate to include the average of rents actually paid in an index designed to measure price changes only. The average of rents actually paid is ascertained periodically by Census methods—(see also page 7 hereof). Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account.

The articles and services included in the various regimens now used for the purposes of the indexes referred to are shown in the following table:—

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

No.	Item	Unit.	"Weight" or Mass Unit (per capita).	Cost of Items in Regimen as percentage of aggregate cost—Melbourne, Dec. Quarter, 1949. (a)
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.				
1	Bread, white flour (cash delivered) ..	2-lb. loaf ..	100	3.59
2	Flour, ordinary	2 lb. ..	25	0.64
3	Flour, self-raising	2-lb. pkt. . .	12	0.52
4	Tea	1-lb. pkt. . .	8	1.18
5	Sugar, white granulated, IA ..	1 lb. ..	100	2.17
6	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	..
7	Sago, seed tapioca	1 lb. ..	1	0.04
8	Jam, plum	1½-lb. tin ..	8	0.57
9	Golden Syrup	2-lb. tin ..	1	0.04
10	Oats, flaked, loose	1 lb. ..	8	0.20
11	Raisins, seeded	1-lb. pkt. . .	5	0.38
12	Currants, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	2	0.12
13	Apricots, dried, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.11
14	Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin ..	3	0.25
15	Pears, canned	30-oz. tin ..	1	0.09
16	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	..
17	Potatoes, new and old	7 lb. ..	18	1.75
18	Onions, brown	1 lb. ..	14	0.23
19	Soap	1 lb. ..	16	0.76
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk	quart ..	4	0.12
SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.				
21	Butter, factory "choicest"	1 lb. ..	30	3.38
22	Cheese, ordinary, mild	1 lb. ..	4	0.32
23	Eggs, standard, new laid	1 doz. ..	6	0.86
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle ..	1 lb. ..	12	2.04
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened	1 tin ..	5	0.30
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or not bottled	quart ..	72	3.14
SECTION C.—MEAT.				
Beef (fresh)—				
27	Sirloin (Roast) (bone in)	1 lb. ..	18	1.42
28	Prime Rib (Roast) including bone ..	1 lb. ..	22	1.44
29	Steak—Rump	1 lb. ..	11	1.28
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing)	1 lb. ..	20	1.10
31	Sausages	1 lb. ..	7	0.34
Beef (corned)—				
32	Silverside	1 lb. ..	14	1.04
33	Brisket, rolled	1 lb. ..	15	0.75
Mutton (fresh)—				
34	Leg	1 lb. ..	20	1.10
35	Forequarter	1 lb. ..	15	0.48
36	Loin, without flap	1 lb. ..	4	0.21
37	Chops—Loin	1 lb. ..	30	1.64
38	Chops—Leg	1 lb. ..	10	0.60
Pork (fresh)—				
39	Leg	1 lb. ..	3	0.39
40	Loin, best end	1 lb. ..	3	0.40
41	Chops	1 lb. ..	3	0.41
GROUP II.—HOUSING.—SECTION D.—RENT.				
42	House Accommodation(b)	week ..	52(c)	15.34

(a) Percentages for the various sections of the remaining Groups—III. Clothing and IV. Miscellaneous—of the "C" Series Index are shown on page 16. (b) Four and five-roomed houses. (c) Per household.

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

No.	Item.	"Weight" of Mass Unit (per capita).	No.	Item.	"Weight" of Mass Unit (per capita).
SECTION E.—CLOTHING—MAN.			SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS)—contd.		
1	Suit, ready-made, Worsted (Australian) ..	0.67	46	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.33
2	Trousers, working, Woolen Tweed (Australian) ..	2.00	47	Cap, Skull, Cloth ..	1.50
3	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.25	48	Shirt, Sports ..	3.00
4	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) ..	1.00	49	Singlet, Wool (short sleeves) ..	1.00
5	Shirt, Fashion, with two collars ..	1.67	50	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1.00
6	Shirt, Working, Drill ..	4.00	51	Braces ..	1.00
7	Singlet, Wool (short sleeves) ..	1.00	52	Stockings, Golf, All Wool ..	4.00
8	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1.00	53	Pyjamas, Winceyette ..	1.50
9	Underpants, Wool (full length) ..	1.00	54	Pullover, All Wool ..	0.50
10	Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" ..	1.00	55	Shoes, Box Yearling .. a (3.13)	1.00
11	Box, All Wool .. a (4.65)	2.00	56	.. ..	..
12	Braces ..	1.33	57	.. ..	..
13	Handkerchief, Cotton ..	6.00	SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS)		
14	Pyjamas, Winceyette ..	1.50	58	Tunic, Wool ..	1.00
15	Pullover, All Wool ..	1.00	59	Dress, Cotton ..	3.00
16	Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf ..	0.50	60	Top Coat, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.33
17	Boots, working, Box Hide ..	1.50	61	Hat, Wool Felt (Australian) ..	1.00
18	.. ..	..	62	Hat, Straw ..	2.00
19	.. ..	..	63	Petticoat, Art Silk ..	1.00
SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN (6)			64	Singlet, Silk and Wool ..	0.50
20	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.50	65	Singlet, Art Silk ..	0.50
21	Shirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	1.25	66	Bloomers, Cotton, fleece-lined ..	2.00
22	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) ..	0.75	67	Bloomers, Art Silk ..	2.00
23	Hat, Straw ..	1.50	68	Sox, Ankle, Cotton and Art Silk ..	4.00
24	Frock, ready-made, Cotton ..	1.50	69	Pyjamas, Winceyette ..	0.33
25	Frock, ready-made, Art Silk ..	1.50	70	Pyjamas, Art Silk ..	0.33
26	Brassiers, Cotton Brocade ..	4.50	71	Pullover, All Wool ..	0.50
27	Undervest, Wool and Art Silk ..	1.50	72	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather ..	0.67
28	Undervest, Art Silk ..	1.50	73	Shoes (school), Box Yearling ..	1.50
29	Bloomers, Art Silk ..	4.50	74	.. ..	..
30	Princess Slip, Art Silk ..	1.00	75	.. ..	..
31	Stockings, Silk ..	6.00	SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS)		
32	Stockings, Lisle ..	3.00	76	Shirt, Ranger ..	3.00
33	Gloves, Fabric ..	2.25	77	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	3.00
34	Gloves, Nappa ..	0.75	78	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.33
35	Nightdress, Art Silk .. a (2.49)	1.50	79	Hat, Cloth ..	1.35
36	Pyjamas, Winceyette ..	1.50	80	Singlet, Wool ..	1.00
37	Apron, Cotton ..	6.00	81	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1.00
38	Cardigan, All Wool ..	0.50	82	Box, Ankle, Cotton and Art Silk ..	4.00
39	Shoes (for best wear), Glace Kid ..	1.50	83	Pyjamas, Winceyette ..	2.00
40	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf ..	1.50	84	Pullover, All Wool ..	0.50
SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS)			85	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather ..	1.00
44	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	1.00	86	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling ..	1.00
45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian) ..	3.00			

(a) Mass unit actually applicable, and includes "weight" transferred from similar article now deleted.
 (b) The mass units were raised by 50 per cent. throughout this Section to restore its due proportionate "weight" in the Clothing Group of the Index as from September Quarter, 1936.

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Item.	"Weight" or Mass Unit (per household).	No.	Item.	"Weight" or Mass Unit (per household).
SECTION K.—HOUSEHOLD DRAPERY.			SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS—continued.		
1	Blankets, D.B. (pair)	0.07	26	Kulfe, Table (stainless)	0.10
2	Blankets, S.B. (pair)	0.14	27	Spoon, Tea	0.08
3	Quilt, D.B. Marcella	0.25	28	Spoon, Dessert	0.08
4	Sheets, D.B. (pair)	0.50	29	Fork, Table	0.10
5	Sheets, S.B. (pair)	1.00	30	Globe, Electric Light (gas-filled)	2.00
6	Pillow Slip, Cotton	5.00	31	Iron, Electric (full size)	0.10
7	Towel	5.00	SECTION M.—FUEL AND LIGHT.		
8	Table Cloth	0.20	32	Firewood (blocks) (cwt.) (b)	40
10	Tea Towel (yard)	4.00	33	Gas, cooking (units) (b)	1,518
SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.			34	Electric lighting (units)	130
11	Cup and Saucer (Stone China)	2.00	35	Electric power (units) (b)	130
12	Plate, Dinner (Stone China)	2.00	SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS.		
13	Jug, Quart (Earthenware)	1.00	No.	Item.	Amount per week (per household).
14	Teapot, Brownware (2-pint)	0.25	36	Union Dues	d. (c)
15	Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 6½-inch	1.00	37	Lodge Dues	24
16	Tumbler (8-oz.)	1.00	38	Medicine	(c)
17	Kettle, Enamel (4-pint) a (0.37)	0.20	39	Newspapers	(c)
18	Saucepan, Enamel (3-pint)	0.40	40	Recreation	24
19	Bucket, Galvanized (11-inch)	0.40	41	Smoking	(c)
20	Dipper, Galvanized (2-quart)	0.20	42	Fares	(c)
21	Broom, Millet	0.50	43	School requisites	4½
22	Broom, Hair, complete (12-inch)	0.33			
23	Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch)	1.50			
24	Mop, Polishing, complete	0.20			

(a) Mass unit actually applicable, and includes "weight" transferred from similar article now deleted.

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

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

2. The Mass Units (or "Weights") and Method of Tabulation.—
 (i) The "mass units" (or "weights") are multipliers representing the approximate average annual consumption per head or per household under normal conditions. The index-numbers are computed on a "total annual aggregative expenditure" basis, i.e., the total annual expenditure from time to time by a standard population in respect of the selected regimen of commodities and services commonly entering into household consumption, and of a constant standard quality. As a first step, therefore, it is necessary to multiply the price of each item by its "weight" per head or per household as the case may be. Thus, the "weight" of bread is 100 2-lb. loaves per head; of sugar 100 lb. per head; of towels 3 per household; and of housing 52 rent-weeks per household. The result of this initial calculation is designated the "P.MU" aggregate (i.e., Price x Mass Unit).

The sum of the above "P.M.U." results for each Section or Group is then multiplied by its appropriate population or household "weight" to produce the respective annual aggregate expenditures. Thus, Sections A to C (Food and Groceries) would be multiplied by the total population; Section D (Housing) by the total number of households; Sections E to J (Clothing) by the proportion of the total population applicable to each; and Sections K to N (Miscellaneous) by the total number of households.

The combination of the aggregates from the last paragraph gives the "total annual aggregate expenditure" for the whole regimen, from which the "C" Series index-number is derived by applying to 1,000 the ratio which the aggregate for any period bears to the aggregate for the base period of the index. In the process of tabulation all prices are converted to pence for these final aggregates.

For tabulating purposes some of these "mass units" are varied when necessary to make up a deficiency or cancel out an excess in the aggregate resulting from a *change in the standard* of any item upon which prices are collected, to ensure that such changes shall not be wrongly recorded by the index as *variations* in prices. The "mass units" published above, however, still continue to show the correct *relative* consumption "weights" actually applicable to the commodities and services in the regimen for the *constant standards* used in the index. See also § 2 (3) and § 6 (3) of this chapter.

(ii) The five sections into which the clothing group is divided are somewhat arbitrary, but they follow those adopted by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage (see p. 101). The sections for men and women are now regarded as being applicable to persons aged seventeen years and upwards. The section for a boy aged ten and a half years is taken as representative of both sexes from ten to sixteen years; the section for a girl aged seven as representative of both sexes from five to nine years; and the section for a boy aged three and a half years is taken as representative of children aged four years and under.

(iii) In estimating the annual average consumption per head of food and groceries for household purposes, small adjustments in the crude average consumption were 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 "weights" of individual food items were not adjusted to take account of war-time scarcities and rationing. Foods which are unavailable temporarily or intermittently are retained in the index at the latest recorded price.

(iv) Foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions, are not included in the regimen because comparable prices for a standard grade cannot be obtained from time to time or place to place and because of marked seasonal fluctuations in supplies and consumption. The inclusion of such items, therefore, would impair the accuracy of the index. In the original regimen certain omissions were made partly on account of the difficulty of securing comparable prices.

Some cuts of meat, for example, are excluded because they are not uniformly standardized. Mutton is included and not lamb because the latter, in many places, is available only seasonally. However, the appropriate total weight for meat is distributed amongst the cuts included in the regimen. Proprietary lines of breakfast foods are excluded because they are not universally available.

(v) In the case of Food and Groceries (Group I.) the "weights" adopted are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes of the various articles during the years 1927 to 1929. The "weights" allotted to items in Clothing (Group III.) and Household Drapery (Section K of Group IV.) are based largely on the results of the inquiries of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. After exhaustive inquiries the Commission published a "regimen" for an average working family of five persons, and set out the constituent items in its "Indicator List". This list, so far as it related to the articles in question, was followed substantially in the original compilation of the "C" Series Index and has been adjusted by subsequent investigations of the Bureau to accord with changes in popular usage. The mass units used for fuel and light are based, indirectly, on the findings of the Commission. Until September Quarter, 1936 fixed amounts were used for the miscellaneous items of Section N, but since the date mentioned, provision has been made to vary certain of these amounts periodically, in accordance with ascertained changes.

(vi) The "weights" allotted to the items were not adjusted to take account of war-time shortages or rationing, and the index therefore measured war-time price changes in relation to a normal (or pre-war) apportionment of household expenditure. (See § 2 (5) and § 9 (2) hereof.)

3. **Relative "Aggregate Expenditure" of Items and Groups.**—In the *base period* of the index (the years 1923 to 1927) the relative importance of each of the four main groups, expressed as a percentage of the weighted average "aggregate expenditure" in the Six Capital Cities (from which all relative index-numbers are derived) was—Food and groceries, 38.7 per cent.; house rent, 21.3 per cent.; clothing, 23.0 per cent.; and miscellaneous, 17.0 per cent., as shown in the third column of the following table. Although the "weights" of each item in the regimen are kept virtually constant, the relative "aggregate expenditure" of the various items and groups will, of course, vary from time to time as relative prices change and, in addition, the distribution of relative expenditure as between the groups and sections is varied from time to time for "relative weighting" purposes on the basis of the changing relativities of population and households as disclosed by successive Censuses. This, however, does not affect the level of the index at the point of change, but alters the degree of variation registered by the various groups or sections of the Index.

The percentage distribution for Melbourne in the *base period* was practically identical with that of the Six Capital Cities as a whole, and has continued to be representative of the relative movement of prices in the capital cities up to the present time. For this and other reasons, therefore, the percentage distribution of the Melbourne "aggregate expenditures" has been published in previous issues of this Report, and these figures for

December Quarter, 1949, are shown in the second column of the table for comparison with those of the *base period* of 1923-27 :—

Group.	Section.	Percentage of Aggregate Expenditure.	
		1923-27. (Base). Six Capital Cities.	Dec. Qtr., 1949. Melbourne.
I. Food and Groceries	A Groceries ..	17.44	} 35.49
	B Dairy Produce ..	10.28	
	C Meat ..	10.94	
II. Housing ..	D House Rent— (4 and 5-roomed houses)	21.26	15.34
	E Man ..	8.69	12.36
III. Clothing ..	F Woman ..	9.12	14.28
	G Boy, 10½ years ..	2.89	2.29
	H Girl, 7 years ..	1.36	1.79
	J Boy, 3½ years ..	0.98	0.87
	K Household Drapery	1.09	2.10
	L Household Utensils	0.49	0.70
IV. Miscellaneous	M Fuel and Light ..	4.92	4.74
	N Other Miscellaneous	10.54	10.04
		100.00	100.00

It should be noted, however, that percentage price variations are measured from the "aggregate expenditures" of the *base period* of the index, and the percentages shown in the foregoing table for the *base period* 1923-27, therefore, are the proportionate "weights" applicable to the various groups and sections in measuring such variations in the index as a whole calculated to *this base period*, and *not* the percentage "weights" of any other period, e.g., those shown for December Quarter, 1949—which would only become of significance in the measurement of variations if the latter quarter were adopted as a *new base* for the index.

4. Base Periods of the Indexes.—The base period originally adopted by the Bureau for its retail price indexes was the year 1911. When the collection of the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items was undertaken for the purposes of the "C" Series Index, the month of November, 1914, was adopted as the base period for this series. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians in 1929, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the five years 1923-27 should be adopted as the base period. Commencing with Labour Report No. 21 for 1930, therefore, the retail price indexes have been published on this base. The aggregate to which all index-numbers are related is the weighted aggregate cost of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base expressed as an index-number of 1,000.

Indexes on the earlier bases mentioned will be found in previous issues of the Labour Report, as follows :—

(i) 1911 *Base*.—Food and groceries; rent of all houses; and food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" Series Index)—Labour Reports Nos. 1 to 15.* Food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; and food, groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses ("B" Series Index)—Labour Reports Nos. 16 to 20.

(ii) 1914 *Base*.—Food and groceries; rent of all houses; clothing; miscellaneous; all items of household expenditure (subsequently retrospectively revised to include rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses only)—

* These index-numbers appear in the Appendix to each Labour Report Nos. 16 to 28 and also in the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* up to No. 153, June, 1938.

Labour Reports Nos. 12 to 16. Food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing; miscellaneous; all items of household expenditure ("C" Series Index)—Labour Reports Nos. 17 to 20.

The conversion of these indexes from one base to another may be readily effected by multiplying the index-number to be converted by the appropriate factor shown in the following table:—

Group.	1911 to 1914 (a).	1914 (a) to 1911.	1911 to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1911.	1914 (a) to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1914 (a).
Food and Groceries ..	0.87230	1.14639	0.55929	1.78800	0.64116	1.55970
Housing (4 and 5-roomed houses) ..	0.94279	1.06068	0.61161	1.63500	0.64872	1.54150
Food, Groceries and Rent ("B" Series)	0.89750	1.11420	0.57785	1.73060	0.64384	1.55320
Clothing .. ..	..	..	..	..	0.75412	1.32610
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	0.74891	1.33530
All Items ("C" Series)	..	..	..	..	0.68715	1.45530

(a) November.

The results obtained by the method above will, of course, be only approximate, but the error will not be greater than one point in the unit figure.

5. **Relative Population Weights for Towns.**—Weighted averages for any combination of towns or States may be calculated approximately by multiplying the index-numbers* of the towns or States to be 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:—

Relative 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.	206	Hobart	66
Newcastle	105	Bullarat ..	38	T'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	†Townsville	26	Mt. Gamb'r	5	Bunbury	5	Devonport	3
Sutherland	10	W'nambool	9	†Bundaberg	11	Peterbor'gh	5	Gerardton	5	Queenst'wn	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	†Total ..	392	Total ..	344	Total ..	240	Total ..	106

† Townsville and Bundaberg were substituted for Charters Towers (7) and Warwick (7) in the "five towns" tabulation in March Quarter, 1937.

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

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

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

§ 7. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index-Numbers.

I. **General.**—The results of inquiries into price movements are available in the following publications:—

(i) *Monthly.*—A mimeographed statement is published each month giving index-numbers for Food and Groceries. The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date.

(ii) *Quarterly.*—A mimeographed statement is issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter giving the "C" Series index-numbers for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters in respect of each of the 30 cities and towns originally adopted and for certain other towns, e.g., Canberra, for which "C" Series index-numbers are now compiled. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains the average prices of the items comprising the Food and Groceries regimen, for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. Comparative average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.

(iii) *Annual.*—The Labour Report contains index-numbers over the past five years, and the monthly and quarterly results for the last available year. The average prices for the last year of the items of food and groceries, and average house rents, are also published in this Report. The *Official Year Book* also contains information similar to, but in less detail than that published herein.

2. **All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index.**—On pages 6-7 hereof is published a table of weighted averages for the six capital cities combined, of "C" Series index-numbers, together with index-numbers for the four main groups of items in the "C" Series Index for each year 1914-1949.

In the pages immediately following are published:—

- (i) the "C" Series index-number for the last quarter of each of the years 1939 and 1944 to 1949 (page 19) and for the month of November of each of the years 1914 to 1920 (page 20), for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items;
- (ii) the "C" Series index-numbers for November, 1914, 1921 and 1922, the years 1923 to 1949, the September Quarter, 1939, and each quarter during the period March Quarter, 1943, to December Quarter, 1949, for each of the 30 towns, with the weighted averages of the 5 towns in each State, 30 towns and the six capital cities (pages 21-23);
- (iii) the "C" Series index-numbers for the years 1938 to 1949 and the twelve quarters ended 31st December, 1949, for four additional towns not included in the weighted averages in (ii) above, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (page 24);
- (iv) "Group" index-numbers for each of the four groups of items in the "C" Series Index for places mentioned in (ii) above for November, 1914 and 1921, the years 1939 and 1942 to 1949 and the four quarters ended 31st December, 1949 (pages 25-27).

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index-Numbers(a) : Capital Cities.
(Base of each Group: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27=1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	940	942	859	888	926	941	927
" " 1944 ..	1,022	1,046	959	988	1,049	1,039	1,022
" " 1945 ..	1,029	1,055	963	1,001	1,051	1,062	1,030
" " 1946 ..	1,047	1,044	996	996	1,052	1,084	1,037
" " 1947 ..	1,138	1,160	1,092	1,112	1,132	1,180	1,138
" " 1948 ..	1,326	1,355	1,280	1,305	1,324	1,416	1,330
" " 1949 ..	1,421	1,451	1,367	1,398	1,488	1,514	1,429

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES).(c)							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	1,040	960	855	891	882	930	969
" " 1944 ..	1,043	973	863	892	886	933	975
" " 1945 ..	1,043	973	863	892	886	934	975
" " 1946 ..	1,043	973	863	895	886	936	976
" " 1947 ..	1,045	974	864	899	887	936	977
" " 1948 ..	1,047	974	866	905	890	938	980
" " 1949 ..	1,049	977	873	914	897	941	983

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	977	947	855	887	907	935	941
" " 1944 ..	1,027	1,015	919	948	983	995	1,002
" " 1945 ..	1,032	1,021	922	957	984	1,010	1,007
" " 1946 ..	1,043	1,014	942	955	985	1,024	1,011
" " 1947 ..	1,099	1,084	1,001	1,026	1,034	1,082	1,073
" " 1948 ..	1,214	1,203	1,116	1,146	1,152	1,226	1,190
" " 1949 ..	1,273	1,263	1,171	1,206	1,254	1,287	1,252

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	854	862	865	809	840	867	858
" " 1944 ..	1,441	1,464	1,430	1,416	1,412	1,424	1,442
" " 1945 ..	1,459	1,445	1,446	1,433	1,423	1,447	1,448
" " 1946 ..	1,555	1,551	1,552	1,529	1,548	1,558	1,550
" " 1947 ..	1,639	1,649	1,619	1,618	1,647	1,653	1,639
" " 1948 ..	1,831	1,801	1,817	1,809	1,835	1,807	1,818
" " 1949 ..	2,161	2,117	2,072	2,113	2,155	2,129	2,132

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	983	960	1,027	957	945	967
" " 1944 ..	1,169	1,158	1,134	1,213	1,139	1,099	1,163
" " 1945 ..	1,163	1,158	1,133	1,213	1,139	1,099	1,161
" " 1946 ..	1,175	1,165	1,141	1,222	1,147	1,110	1,170
" " 1947 ..	1,245	1,201	1,157	1,266	1,160	1,140	1,217
" " 1948 ..	1,279	1,273	1,249	1,350	1,242	1,191	1,277
" " 1949 ..	1,389	1,397	1,316	1,410	1,305	1,234	1,378

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) INDEX.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	932	874	906	899	919	926
" " 1944 ..	1,142	1,138	1,069	1,098	1,104	1,106	1,126
" " 1945 ..	1,147	1,137	1,074	1,106	1,107	1,120	1,129
" " 1946 ..	1,177	1,157	1,110	1,128	1,136	1,155	1,156
" " 1947 ..	1,242	1,227	1,163	1,198	1,189	1,216	1,221
" " 1948 ..	1,359	1,345	1,291	1,327	1,316	1,344	1,341
" " 1949 ..	1,486	1,472	1,393	1,440	1,459	1,459	1,466

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10.

(b) Weighted average.

(c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index-Numbers(a) : Capital Cities.
(Base of each Group : Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Nov. 1914 ..	638	616	614	683	746	687	641
" 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
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES).(c)							
Nov. 1914 ..	758	608	463	611	586	525	649
" 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
GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).							
Nov. 1914 ..	680	613	560	658	689	630	644
" 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
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.							
Nov. 1914 ..	755	780	657	756	698	825	754
" 1915 ..	805	797	690	821	760	833	792
" 1916 ..	903	870	779	919	849	940	881
" 1917 ..	1,009	976	899	1,049	980	1,041	992
" 1918 ..	1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
" 1919 ..	1,237	1,213	1,192	1,303	1,277	1,344	1,238
" 1920 ..	1,323	1,422	1,274	1,384	1,359	1,430	1,365
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.							
Nov. 1914 ..	766	728	728	770	780	699	749
" 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
GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) INDEX.							
Nov. 1914 ..	712	671	611	699	707	687	687
" 1915 ..	816	768	721	780	755	776	782
" 1916 ..	836	773	698	798	800	783	795
" 1917 ..	892	823	773	832	832	879	847
" 1918 ..	938	890	848	887	885	923	905
" 1919 ..	1,065	988	981	1,018	1,005	1,042	1,022
" 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Weighted average. See pages 21-23 for corresponding figures for years 1921 to 1949. (c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns.

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Deodigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
Nov. 1914 (a)	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	..	1,003
" 1922 ..	1,021	967	933	983	893	1,011	963	936	935	982	914	960
Year 1923 ..	1,023	992	958	1,024	924	1,018	1,004	924	937	966	956	996
" 1924 ..	1,002	967	930	1,039	917	997	976	896	901	933	960	968
" 1925 ..	1,010	986	972	1,029	935	1,012	984	914	913	950	942	977
" 1926 ..	1,033	1,010	988	1,050	978	1,030	998	931	933	984	946	992
" 1927 ..	1,029	1,015	1,000	1,062	952	1,027	990	922	940	985	945	985
" 1928 ..	1,042	1,014	997	1,074	964	1,038	992	949	936	973	941	987
" 1929 ..	1,073	1,028	1,018	1,108	979	1,067	1,017	957	969	980	960	1,011
" 1930 ..	1,076	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	999	926	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	834	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801
" 1935 ..	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	824	850	824
" 1936 ..	866	853	848	864	833	865	844	826	821	848	851	843
" 1937 ..	889	849	893	867	842	886	868	809	840	855	856	866
" 1938 ..	913	877	940	893	860	911	896	850	854	884	892	893
" 1939 ..	936	901	955	916	883	933	924	874	875	911	918	920
" 1940 ..	974	945	981	949	923	972	964	906	920	941	954	960
" 1941 ..	1,028	997	1,049	1,005	974	1,026	1,008	950	963	981	998	1,004
" 1942 ..	1,107	1,069	1,132	1,087	1,050	1,104	1,100	1,037	1,054	1,065	1,078	1,095
" 1943 ..	1,151	1,109	1,172	1,125	1,091	1,147	1,139	1,084	1,096	1,110	1,126	1,135
" 1944 ..	1,144	1,094	1,179	1,118	1,088	1,140	1,135	1,083	1,101	1,112	1,129	1,131
" 1945 ..	1,142	1,100	1,192	1,114	1,091	1,139	1,135	1,086	1,099	1,113	1,139	1,131
" 1946 ..	1,165	1,119	1,216	1,134	1,116	1,162	1,149	1,094	1,107	1,124	1,153	1,145
" 1947 ..	1,212	1,167	1,257	1,177	1,162	1,208	1,188	1,132	1,141	1,170	1,186	1,184
" 1948 ..	1,318	1,279	1,376	1,291	1,277	1,315	1,294	1,243	1,244	1,278	1,283	1,290
" 1949 ..	1,439	1,402	1,528	1,446	1,403	1,437	1,415	1,365	1,397	1,398	1,411	1,411
1939 Sept. Qtr.	933	897	943	914	881	930	918	875	868	909	918	915
1943 Mar. Qtr.	1,141	1,101	1,148	1,116	1,080	1,137	1,136	1,074	1,088	1,099	1,121	1,131
" June ..	1,165	1,126	1,185	1,140	1,107	1,162	1,153	1,099	1,104	1,125	1,141	1,140
" Sept. ..	1,154	1,112	1,179	1,126	1,096	1,151	1,139	1,087	1,097	1,117	1,128	1,136
" Dec. ..	1,143	1,098	1,175	1,116	1,082	1,139	1,128	1,075	1,094	1,100	1,115	1,125
1944 Mar. Qtr.	1,143	1,097	1,175	1,118	1,085	1,139	1,129	1,074	1,095	1,103	1,115	1,125
" June ..	1,143	1,089	1,174	1,110	1,086	1,139	1,133	1,082	1,101	1,112	1,122	1,129
" Sept. ..	1,146	1,093	1,184	1,117	1,090	1,142	1,146	1,087	1,104	1,118	1,138	1,136
" Dec. ..	1,142	1,095	1,184	1,116	1,089	1,138	1,138	1,087	1,102	1,116	1,140	1,134
1945 Mar. Qtr.	1,138	1,093	1,184	1,110	1,086	1,135	1,132	1,086	1,099	1,114	1,135	1,129
" June ..	1,141	1,099	1,193	1,111	1,089	1,138	1,134	1,086	1,098	1,112	1,135	1,131
" Sept. ..	1,142	1,103	1,194	1,112	1,090	1,139	1,135	1,085	1,099	1,114	1,139	1,132
" Dec. ..	1,147	1,106	1,198	1,121	1,099	1,145	1,137	1,085	1,099	1,114	1,145	1,133
1946 Mar. Qtr.	1,151	1,108	1,203	1,123	1,105	1,148	1,141	1,089	1,101	1,117	1,146	1,137
" June ..	1,165	1,117	1,218	1,133	1,116	1,161	1,150	1,094	1,105	1,126	1,154	1,146
" Sept. ..	1,167	1,119	1,218	1,134	1,120	1,163	1,149	1,095	1,107	1,121	1,152	1,145
" Dec. ..	1,177	1,131	1,223	1,145	1,122	1,174	1,157	1,096	1,114	1,132	1,159	1,153
1947 Mar. Qtr.	1,193	1,149	1,234	1,155	1,137	1,189	1,159	1,104	1,118	1,144	1,164	1,156
" June ..	1,194	1,150	1,237	1,160	1,147	1,191	1,175	1,123	1,130	1,161	1,175	1,171
" Sept. ..	1,218	1,169	1,258	1,183	1,169	1,214	1,189	1,113	1,139	1,170	1,185	1,185
" Dec. ..	1,242	1,199	1,298	1,211	1,196	1,239	1,227	1,170	1,177	1,203	1,219	1,223
1948 Mar. Qtr.	1,270	1,238	1,324	1,243	1,229	1,267	1,249	1,199	1,206	1,233	1,249	1,246
" June ..	1,305	1,263	1,356	1,271	1,263	1,302	1,272	1,222	1,226	1,256	1,266	1,268
" Sept. ..	1,337	1,296	1,396	1,309	1,298	1,334	1,309	1,256	1,256	1,296	1,297	1,305
" Dec. ..	1,359	1,324	1,419	1,341	1,318	1,357	1,345	1,294	1,290	1,325	1,329	1,341
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,391	1,352	1,461	1,380	1,358	1,389	1,363	1,315	1,314	1,344	1,349	1,359
" June ..	1,445	1,393	1,504	1,421	1,393	1,424	1,402	1,355	1,355	1,385	1,387	1,399
" Sept. ..	1,452	1,413	1,554	1,434	1,411	1,451	1,422	1,369	1,366	1,402	1,404	1,417
" Dec. ..	1,456	1,449	1,593	1,467	1,448	1,485	1,472	1,420	1,424	1,457	1,451	1,468

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20.

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index-Numbers : Thirty Towns—continued.
(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Altona, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
Nov. 1914 (a)	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1911	923	949	972	1,025b	994c	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992
" 1912	877	841	883	865b	891c	873	954	903	922	906	868	947
Year 1923	923	899	884	910b	910c	917	1,008	952	936	930	934	1,001
" 1924	915	890	872	903b	896c	909	1,015	929	943	914	969	1,007
" 1925	923	919	907	896b	903c	920	1,028	930	909	937	1,013	1,021
" 1926	950	945	947	925b	937c	949	1,026	935	988	956	1,016	1,020
" 1927	922	914	929	918b	940c	923	1,018	932	970	945	1,023	1,017
" 1928	917	906	903	925b	914c	915	1,027	927	960	948	1,017	1,019
" 1929	923	916	904	939b	931c	922	1,037	943	980	963	1,043	1,030
" 1930	859	885	868	883b	882c	863	952	885	927	918	980	948
" 1931	798	816	806	827b	815c	801	837	801	834	831	884	836
" 1932	764	788	779	794b	777c	768	802	772	791	816	848	801
" 1933	731	778	752	762b	757c	753	789	753	762	800	832	787
" 1934	762	785	759	759b	761c	764	806	758	778	800	834	804
" 1935	780	785	776	789b	769c	780	820	763	789	809	833	817
" 1936	804	802	802	810b	779c	803	839	765	813	818	843	835
" 1937	837	840	840	883	809	840	859	760	844	830	851	855
" 1938	852	843	853	902	831	854	888	786	868	849	868	882
" 1939	870	858	867	918	847	871	906	810	896	872	897	902
" 1940	908	898	905	950	879	909	936	833	910	894	924	931
" 1941	963	951	959	1,004	938	964	988	882	976	946	974	989
" 1942	1,033	1,033	1,032	1,075	1,015	1,035	1,075	962	1,057	1,024	1,053	1,063
" 1943	1,072	1,080	1,073	1,114	1,057	1,075	1,102	998	1,087	1,061	1,087	1,097
" 1944	1,071	1,085	1,074	1,117	1,057	1,075	1,098	995	1,081	1,064	1,087	1,097
" 1945	1,072	1,087	1,079	1,114	1,054	1,075	1,102	999	1,085	1,070	1,093	1,098
" 1946	1,093	1,107	1,096	1,136	1,074	1,097	1,120	1,020	1,106	1,093	1,108	1,116
" 1947	1,137	1,152	1,140	1,181	1,115	1,140	1,165	1,067	1,152	1,134	1,152	1,160
" 1948	1,241	1,246	1,241	1,282	1,221	1,244	1,277	1,166	1,260	1,235	1,253	1,272
" 1949	1,348	1,360	1,357	1,404	1,335	1,352	1,393	1,295	1,360	1,340	1,368	1,388
1939 Sept. Qtr.	866	853	861	912	843	867	903	812	897	866	896	899
1943 Mar. Qtr.	1,064	1,068	1,059	1,103	1,047	1,066	1,093	983	1,079	1,051	1,078	1,088
" June "	1,083	1,089	1,086	1,124	1,068	1,086	1,111	1,008	1,097	1,089	1,097	1,101
" Sept. "	1,074	1,078	1,074	1,114	1,058	1,076	1,100	1,004	1,091	1,067	1,090	1,106
" Dec. "	1,068	1,063	1,073	1,113	1,053	1,072	1,099	998	1,081	1,056	1,083	1,094
1944 Mar. Qtr.	1,072	1,087	1,075	1,116	1,056	1,075	1,098	996	1,081	1,057	1,083	1,093
" June "	1,072	1,085	1,076	1,119	1,060	1,076	1,096	992	1,077	1,057	1,082	1,091
" Sept. "	1,071	1,084	1,074	1,117	1,057	1,075	1,101	995	1,084	1,071	1,095	1,096
" Dec. "	1,069	1,084	1,071	1,116	1,056	1,073	1,098	996	1,080	1,070	1,089	1,093
1945 Mar. Qtr.	1,071	1,086	1,077	1,117	1,056	1,075	1,098	993	1,080	1,067	1,089	1,094
" June "	1,072	1,088	1,083	1,115	1,053	1,076	1,100	996	1,084	1,068	1,090	1,096
" Sept. "	1,069	1,085	1,077	1,109	1,049	1,073	1,103	993	1,086	1,073	1,096	1,099
" Dec. "	1,074	1,088	1,080	1,114	1,056	1,077	1,106	1,005	1,090	1,073	1,097	1,102
1946 Mar. Qtr.	1,081	1,095	1,086	1,123	1,061	1,084	1,110	1,009	1,092	1,079	1,098	1,106
" June "	1,090	1,101	1,092	1,129	1,070	1,093	1,121	1,017	1,110	1,095	1,109	1,116
" Sept. "	1,092	1,106	1,093	1,135	1,073	1,095	1,121	1,023	1,107	1,095	1,108	1,127
" Dec. "	1,110	1,125	1,111	1,156	1,090	1,114	1,128	1,031	1,115	1,103	1,118	1,124
1947 Mar. Qtr.	1,123	1,139	1,126	1,172	1,107	1,127	1,137	1,041	1,125	1,113	1,124	1,133
" June "	1,125	1,141	1,129	1,169	1,108	1,129	1,154	1,061	1,147	1,121	1,143	1,150
" Sept. "	1,136	1,153	1,142	1,181	1,111	1,140	1,169	1,072	1,156	1,137	1,159	1,165
" Dec. "	1,163	1,175	1,163	1,201	1,132	1,165	1,198	1,095	1,185	1,163	1,181	1,193
1948 Mar. Qtr.	1,193	1,199	1,191	1,230	1,165	1,195	1,226	1,124	1,215	1,197	1,213	1,222
" June "	1,227	1,232	1,225	1,263	1,203	1,229	1,262	1,150	1,244	1,223	1,238	1,257
" Sept. "	1,251	1,260	1,259	1,300	1,241	1,256	1,293	1,181	1,273	1,250	1,266	1,288
" Dec. "	1,291	1,292	1,290	1,335	1,276	1,294	1,327	1,207	1,308	1,271	1,295	1,321
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,295	1,304	1,307	1,356	1,287	1,300	1,347	1,241	1,322	1,291	1,317	1,342
" June "	1,338	1,349	1,349	1,397	1,327	1,343	1,377	1,290	1,356	1,331	1,352	1,372
" Sept. "	1,364	1,377	1,373	1,418	1,352	1,368	1,408	1,309	1,381	1,354	1,382	1,402
" Dec. "	1,393	1,408	1,399	1,444	1,374	1,397	1,440	1,340	1,416	1,382	1,419	1,435

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick.

All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index-Numbers : Thirty Towns—continued.

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

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.						Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northern.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge. 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge. 5 Towns.		
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	1,004	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
" 1922	931	964	958	966	970	941	957	970	8919	4798	944	975	975	967
Year 1923	977	1,006	965	962	1,016	981	1,042	985	971	950	968	1,016	1,003	986
" 1924	982	1,009	969	983	1,012	986	1,051	985	968	954	1,020	987	987	980
" 1925	994	1,009	1,008	985	1,027	996	1,028	968	952	941	976	1,002	997	991
" 1926	992	1,002	998	978	1,012	994	1,035	973	957	948	958	1,007	1,011	1,006
" 1927	984	984	988	963	1,040	985	998	953	936	925	932	977	1,002	997
" 1928	1,012	995	1,003	963	1,029	1,009	980	957	941	909	934	966	1,009	1,003
" 1929	1,026	1,032	1,022	978	1,051	1,026	1,000	967	966	948	972	986	1,033	1,026
" 1930	977	986	969	966	1,029	979	956	949	918	920	949	951	975	971
" 1931	885	937	878	877	951	891	875	865	837	831	881	860	873	870
" 1932	840	940	844	842	904	852	844	832	811	800	875	838	830	829
" 1933	811	927	814	824	851	825	825	817	775	773	867	820	804	803
" 1934	830	975	825	843	860	842	837	828	760	787	870	831	817	816
" 1935	834	1,011	829	865	886	848	849	834	792	801	873	841	832	831
" 1936	856	1,027	860	880	933	870	860	840	814	809	850	850	850	846
" 1937	869	1,030	890	897	970	884	875	856	854	833	857	861	873	871
" 1938	882	1,048	900	914	957	897	887	872	865	848	875	879	897	894
" 1939	902	1,066	915	936	965	915	908	888	879	861	903	898	920	917
" 1940	932	1,099	947	962	990	940	945	926	917	896	936	936	957	954
" 1941	993	1,105	1,017	1,018	1,055	1,008	1,001	974	971	951	987	989	1,008	1,006
" 1942	1,061	1,175	1,079	1,065	1,114	1,070	1,078	1,040	1,035	1,012	1,045	1,060	1,091	1,087
" 1943	1,104	1,192	1,111	1,102	1,165	1,112	1,117	1,078	1,088	1,078	1,096	1,101	1,131	1,127
" 1944	1,085	1,199	1,113	1,120	1,176	1,123	1,105	1,067	1,065	1,040	1,102	1,089	1,126	1,122
" 1945	1,107	1,202	1,113	1,115	1,170	1,116	1,107	1,072	1,063	1,045	1,110	1,092	1,126	1,123
" 1946	1,127	1,223	1,133	1,136	1,182	1,136	1,138	1,099	1,093	1,079	1,130	1,121	1,145	1,142
" 1947	1,161	1,265	1,171	1,173	1,221	1,170	1,178	1,147	1,132	1,119	1,170	1,164	1,188	1,185
" 1948	1,264	1,368	1,272	1,277	1,327	1,273	1,292	1,254	1,232	1,220	1,280	1,274	1,295	1,292
" 1949	1,410	1,502	1,420	1,424	1,475	1,418	1,419	1,389	1,367	1,351	1,400	1,404	1,415	1,413
1939— Sept. Qtr.	904	1,069	919	939	956	918	905	886	878	860	902	896	916	914
1943— Mar. Qtr.	1,092	1,178	1,098	1,091	1,138	1,099	1,108	1,069	1,073	1,048	1,086	1,091	1,123	1,119
June "	1,115	1,202	1,122	1,112	1,171	1,123	1,118	1,081	1,095	1,060	1,096	1,103	1,143	1,140
Sept. "	1,110	1,197	1,117	1,109	1,179	1,118	1,123	1,086	1,094	1,060	1,103	1,105	1,133	1,130
Dec. "	1,100	1,189	1,107	1,097	1,171	1,108	1,117	1,076	1,089	1,056	1,098	1,100	1,123	1,120
1944— Mar. Qtr.	1,102	1,193	1,109	1,104	1,174	1,110	1,105	1,067	1,076	1,040	1,095	1,089	1,124	1,120
June "	1,103	1,195	1,113	1,109	1,177	1,112	1,100	1,061	1,056	1,031	1,096	1,083	1,125	1,121
Sept. "	1,110	1,204	1,118	1,116	1,184	1,118	1,110	1,072	1,069	1,045	1,110	1,094	1,129	1,125
Dec. "	1,104	1,203	1,110	1,110	1,168	1,112	1,106	1,067	1,059	1,042	1,108	1,089	1,126	1,122
1945— Mar. Qtr.	1,104	1,197	1,111	1,111	1,167	1,113	1,103	1,064	1,053	1,037	1,104	1,085	1,123	1,120
June "	1,108	1,204	1,115	1,117	1,171	1,117	1,099	1,067	1,055	1,038	1,106	1,081	1,125	1,122
Sept. "	1,108	1,204	1,114	1,116	1,172	1,117	1,107	1,073	1,065	1,045	1,112	1,092	1,126	1,123
Dec. "	1,107	1,202	1,110	1,115	1,168	1,115	1,120	1,085	1,080	1,060	1,118	1,105	1,129	1,126
1946— Mar. Qtr.	1,116	1,215	1,121	1,126	1,177	1,125	1,120	1,085	1,078	1,063	1,119	1,105	1,134	1,131
June "	1,127	1,224	1,135	1,136	1,189	1,135	1,132	1,096	1,091	1,077	1,134	1,117	1,145	1,142
Sept. "	1,128	1,223	1,134	1,137	1,188	1,137	1,143	1,102	1,098	1,086	1,131	1,114	1,146	1,143
Dec. "	1,136	1,231	1,141	1,145	1,195	1,145	1,155	1,114	1,103	1,091	1,153	1,137	1,156	1,153
1947— Mar. Qtr.	1,136	1,239	1,145	1,149	1,196	1,145	1,152	1,119	1,106	1,094	1,153	1,137	1,165	1,161
June "	1,151	1,253	1,160	1,163	1,209	1,160	1,158	1,133	1,115	1,105	1,163	1,147	1,174	1,171
Sept. "	1,167	1,270	1,177	1,180	1,229	1,176	1,187	1,153	1,139	1,126	1,188	1,172	1,192	1,189
Dec. "	1,189	1,297	1,200	1,201	1,251	1,119	1,216	1,183	1,167	1,149	1,213	1,201	1,221	1,216
1948— Mar. Qtr.	1,221	1,331	1,227	1,232	1,280	1,230	1,240	1,208	1,188	1,172	1,237	1,225	1,248	1,245
June "	1,238	1,342	1,248	1,249	1,300	1,247	1,276	1,241	1,218	1,213	1,267	1,260	1,278	1,275
Sept. "	1,282	1,383	1,289	1,298	1,344	1,291	1,307	1,267	1,243	1,237	1,292	1,289	1,311	1,309
Dec. "	1,316	1,415	1,322	1,327	1,383	1,325	1,344	1,301	1,279	1,259	1,325	1,324	1,341	1,338
1949— Mar. Qtr.	1,338	1,441	1,347	1,355	1,411	1,348	1,379	1,346	1,323	1,306	1,361	1,363	1,364	1,362
June "	1,406	1,498	1,419	1,421	1,472	1,414	1,442	1,385	1,355	1,337	1,395	1,397	1,403	1,401
Sept. "	1,435	1,525	1,446	1,447	1,494	1,443	1,425	1,398	1,382	1,364	1,407	1,411	1,429	1,425
Dec. "	1,459	1,544	1,467	1,472	1,521	1,467	1,459	1,425	1,406	1,398	1,436	1,443	1,466	1,463

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (b) Midland Junction. (c) Zechan. (d) Benconesfield.

Retail Price Index-Numbers : Group (a), "B" Series and All Items ("C" Series)
Additional Towns not included in Weighted Average, Thirty Towns.

(Base of each "Group", &c. : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

ANNUAL.

Town.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
Warwick, Qld.	814	860	872	900	958	966	984	991	1,010	1,091	1,223	1,360
Port Augusta, S.A.	953	995	1,011	1,033	1,091	1,063	1,054	1,063	1,067	1,130	1,284	1,414
Whyalla, S.A. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,173	1,320	1,439
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,010	1,057	1,059	1,059	1,142	1,133	1,108	1,109	1,114	1,168	1,324	1,472
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES) (b)												
Warwick, Qld.	609	667	689	693	702	730	737	740	745	751	756	763
Port Augusta, S.A.	646	665	676	688	690	680	701	715	718	722	725	729
Whyalla, S.A. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	770	771	773
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,101	983	985	984	985	986	986	987	988	988	989	990
GROUPS I-II —FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).												
Warwick, Qld.	732	783	799	817	856	872	886	891	904	956	1,039	1,124
Port Augusta, S.A.	831	864	878	896	932	944	914	925	949	968	1,063	1,144
Whyalla, S.A. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,013	1,103	1,176
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,043	1,026	1,028	1,028	1,078	1,073	1,058	1,059	1,062	1,096	1,191	1,280
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.												
Warwick, Qld.	821	834	928	1,107	1,292	1,427	1,417	1,419	1,484	1,561	1,732	1,961
Port Augusta, S.A.	851	851	930	1,112	1,283	1,408	1,415	1,419	1,501	1,595	1,788	2,007
Whyalla, S.A. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,584	1,757	1,986
Canberra, A.C.T.	847	852	961	1,150	1,334	1,508	1,485	1,468	1,550	1,607	1,826	2,117
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.												
Warwick, Qld.	998	1,009	1,023	1,072	1,139	1,213	1,215	1,214	1,218	1,235	1,287	1,359
Port Augusta, S.A.	992	993	1,023	1,099	1,172	1,209	1,210	1,210	1,212	1,256	1,318	1,374
Whyalla, S.A. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,225	1,284	1,328
Canberra, A.C.T.	871	868	909	967	1,016	1,082	1,078	1,077	1,080	1,122	1,192	1,251
GROUPS I-IV.—ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) INDEX.												
Warwick, Qld.	800	834	867	926	1,007	1,055	1,061	1,064	1,087	1,138	1,234	1,349
Port Augusta, S.A.	863	883	915	980	1,052	1,076	1,076	1,084	1,105	1,157	1,267	1,373
Whyalla, S.A. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,175	1,277	1,379
Canberra, A.C.T.	966	956	988	1,040	1,121	1,168	1,153	1,149	1,170	1,210	1,327	1,456

QUARTERLY.

Town.	1947.				1948.				1949.			
	Mar. Q'tr.	June Q'tr.	Sept. Q'tr.	Dec. Q'tr.	Mar. Q'tr.	June Q'tr.	Sept. Q'tr.	Dec. Q'tr.	Mar. Q'tr.	June Q'tr.	Sept. Q'tr.	Dec. Q'tr.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
Warwick, Qld.	1,080	1,077	1,088	1,117	1,168	1,199	1,236	1,290	1,326	1,360	1,366	1,388
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,092	1,128	1,134	1,166	1,211	1,257	1,305	1,363	1,391	1,391	1,409	1,464
Whyalla, S.A.	1,136	1,174	1,181	1,202	1,255	1,296	1,337	1,392	1,405	1,413	1,433	1,503
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,154	1,153	1,163	1,203	1,261	1,290	1,333	1,410	1,449	1,456	1,472	1,511
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES) (b)												
Warwick, Qld.	750	750	750	754	754	754	758	758	763	763	763	763
Port Augusta, S.A.	720	720	722	724	724	724	726	726	726	726	726	738
Whyalla, S.A.	770	770	770	770	771	771	771	771	773	773	773	773
Canberra, A.C.T.	988	988	988	988	989	989	989	989	990	990	990	990
GROUPS I-II —FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).												
Warwick, Qld.	948	947	954	973	1,004	1,023	1,047	1,080	1,103	1,124	1,128	1,141
Port Augusta, S.A.	945	966	971	991	1,018	1,047	1,076	1,111	1,128	1,129	1,140	1,177
Whyalla, S.A.	990	1,014	1,018	1,031	1,063	1,088	1,113	1,147	1,155	1,160	1,173	1,215
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,087	1,086	1,092	1,117	1,153	1,170	1,196	1,243	1,266	1,271	1,280	1,304
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.												
Warwick, Qld.	1,513	1,524	1,572	1,634	1,648	1,712	1,757	1,811	1,798	1,940	2,032	2,073
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,542	1,572	1,587	1,678	1,711	1,779	1,816	1,845	1,852	1,960	2,072	2,145
Whyalla, S.A.	1,547	1,557	1,568	1,664	1,697	1,754	1,777	1,799	1,841	1,965	2,035	2,101
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,560	1,559	1,610	1,697	1,735	1,816	1,862	1,889	1,954	2,092	2,159	2,261
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.												
Warwick, Qld.	1,234	1,235	1,235	1,235	1,232	1,283	1,310	1,322	1,323	1,383	1,387	1,394
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,224	1,240	1,281	1,277	1,306	1,309	1,315	1,345	1,347	1,379	1,384	1,386
Whyalla, S.A.	1,189	1,218	1,246	1,246	1,281	1,279	1,284	1,290	1,297	1,329	1,343	1,343
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,088	1,090	1,148	1,160	1,166	1,194	1,203	1,206	1,232	1,254	1,253	1,260
GROUPS I-IV.—ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) INDEX.												
Warwick, Qld.	1,123	1,125	1,139	1,164	1,185	1,220	1,249	1,282	1,294	1,339	1,371	1,390
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,145	1,148	1,161	1,192	1,221	1,253	1,280	1,313	1,325	1,355	1,387	1,426
Whyalla, S.A.	1,147	1,168	1,179	1,207	1,240	1,267	1,286	1,313	1,329	1,365	1,391	1,430
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,188	1,188	1,213	1,249	1,280	1,313	1,341	1,375	1,408	1,445	1,466	1,503

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10.

(b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

Retail Price "Group" Index-Numbers(a) : Thirty Towns.

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam-bool.	Weighted Average, 3 Towns.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
Nov. 1914 (b)	638	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	964	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924
Year 1939 ..	936	965	1,106	991	940	942	942	939	930	946	955	942
1942 ..	1,040	1,074	1,244	1,095	1,033	1,047	1,042	1,017	1,038	1,002	1,018	1,039
1943 ..	1,042	1,066	1,234	1,090	1,027	1,048	1,055	1,049	1,042	1,013	1,035	1,053
1944 ..	1,025	1,015	1,252	1,079	1,024	1,032	1,049	1,037	1,042	1,006	1,037	1,047
1945 ..	1,035	1,048	1,278	1,073	1,036	1,041	1,057	1,045	1,046	1,006	1,060	1,055
1946 ..	1,039	1,049	1,277	1,070	1,048	1,044	1,052	1,051	1,050	1,012	1,079	1,051
1947 ..	1,110	1,123	1,337	1,126	1,114	1,116	1,110	1,104	1,090	1,095	1,115	1,109
1948 ..	1,258	1,277	1,494	1,290	1,271	1,264	1,274	1,269	1,245	1,265	1,267	1,272
1949 ..	1,388	1,401	1,696	1,445	1,414	1,395	1,418	1,413	1,397	1,411	1,395	1,417
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,350	1,374	1,624	1,426	1,394	1,358	1,394	1,390	1,367	1,382	1,376	1,392
June ..	1,384	1,395	1,666	1,441	1,399	1,391	1,414	1,411	1,392	1,404	1,394	1,413
Sept. ..	1,395	1,402	1,730	1,438	1,410	1,403	1,411	1,409	1,394	1,404	1,390	1,413
Dec. ..	1,421	1,431	1,764	1,475	1,451	1,429	1,451	1,443	1,434	1,453	1,420	1,450
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES)(c)												
Nov. 1914 (b)	758	..	..	..	..	668	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	479	527	668	685	789
Year 1939 ..	1,035	890	764	871	843	1,015	955	714	731	876	921	938
1942 ..	1,043	902	758	881	844	1,024	975	709	742	890	937	956
1943 ..	1,042	902	753	882	844	1,023	974	709	742	889	934	956
1944 ..	1,043	903	753	882	843	1,023	974	711	743	888	934	956
1945 ..	1,043	903	760	885	843	1,024	973	710	744	887	934	955
1946 ..	1,043	904	761	886	843	1,024	973	713	743	887	934	955
1947 ..	1,044	904	763	887	844	1,025	974	715	743	888	934	956
1948 ..	1,047	906	764	888	845	1,027	974	720	746	888	934	956
1949 ..	1,049	908	770	890	847	1,030	976	724	748	889	934	958
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,048	908	775	887	845	1,029	974	722	746	880	934	957
June ..	1,048	908	775	889	848	1,029	975	723	746	889	934	957
Sept. ..	1,049	908	775	891	848	1,030	977	723	746	889	934	959
Dec. ..	1,049	908	778	891	848	1,030	977	727	754	889	934	960
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.												
Nov. 1914 (b)	755	..	..	..	..	780	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	1,255	1,327	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,570	1,463	1,612	1,326
Year 1939 ..	843	843	850	861	840	842	832	851	841	846	842	833
1942 ..	1,302	1,293	1,289	1,320	1,308	1,302	1,332	1,336	1,317	1,320	1,320	1,317
1943 ..	1,450	1,447	1,438	1,463	1,471	1,450	1,455	1,473	1,466	1,450	1,462	1,456
1944 ..	1,440	1,440	1,439	1,458	1,459	1,438	1,446	1,471	1,490	1,477	1,472	1,456
1945 ..	1,423	1,430	1,455	1,448	1,455	1,427	1,431	1,470	1,478	1,480	1,480	1,456
1946 ..	1,516	1,510	1,548	1,538	1,545	1,517	1,502	1,497	1,510	1,519	1,515	1,503
1947 ..	1,573	1,573	1,588	1,607	1,610	1,574	1,563	1,566	1,582	1,572	1,588	1,564
1948 ..	1,766	1,778	1,792	1,805	1,822	1,768	1,723	1,744	1,742	1,735	1,738	1,723
1949 ..	2,022	2,063	2,079	2,092	2,106	2,027	1,975	1,996	1,991	1,981	1,981	1,977
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,891	1,903	1,930	1,933	1,954	1,893	1,817	1,841	1,847	1,815	1,822	1,819
June ..	1,980	2,039	2,035	2,076	2,086	1,988	1,941	1,972	1,969	1,954	1,946	1,943
Sept. ..	2,054	2,105	2,136	2,136	2,145	2,061	2,026	2,035	2,014	2,025	2,022	2,026
Dec. ..	2,161	2,203	2,225	2,221	2,238	2,166	2,117	2,136	2,130	2,130	2,135	2,119
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.												
Nov. 1914 (b)	766	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,013
Year 1939 ..	940	901	1,048	908	888	938	977	990	1,004	980	951	978
1942 ..	1,105	1,018	1,214	1,069	1,049	1,100	1,115	1,146	1,154	1,122	1,102	1,117
1943 ..	1,166	1,072	1,276	1,112	1,094	1,160	1,155	1,193	1,216	1,188	1,159	1,159
1944 ..	1,171	1,079	1,287	1,108	1,096	1,165	1,158	1,198	1,221	1,190	1,167	1,162
1945 ..	1,163	1,080	1,280	1,107	1,098	1,158	1,159	1,198	1,217	1,192	1,165	1,163
1946 ..	1,170	1,083	1,296	1,111	1,101	1,165	1,164	1,197	1,217	1,193	1,164	1,168
1947 ..	1,216	1,125	1,350	1,156	1,147	1,210	1,187	1,218	1,239	1,213	1,185	1,191
1948 ..	1,268	1,184	1,445	1,214	1,208	1,264	1,249	1,276	1,295	1,272	1,240	1,242
1949 ..	1,364	1,266	1,520	1,296	1,271	1,358	1,321	1,351	1,358	1,340	1,320	1,324
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,334	1,240	1,487	1,279	1,249	1,329	1,278	1,311	1,321	1,306	1,284	1,281
June ..	1,347	1,255	1,504	1,296	1,273	1,342	1,304	1,334	1,343	1,322	1,307	1,306
Sept. ..	1,385	1,272	1,529	1,302	1,275	1,377	1,305	1,335	1,345	1,322	1,313	1,308
Dec. ..	1,389	1,296	1,560	1,305	1,285	1,384	1,397	1,423	1,422	1,409	1,377	1,399

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

Retail Price "Group" Index-Numbers (a): Thirty Towns—continued.
(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average 4 Towns.	
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.													
Nov. 1914 (b)	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	955	895	949	981c	936d	950	941	945	958	923	997	943	
Year 1939 ..	864	823	904	961	912	872	897	973	996	937	981	904	
1942 ..	972	951	992	1,048	1,074	979	1,012	1,053	1,094.	988	1,056	1,016	
1943 ..	975	974	995	1,041	1,033	982	1,003	1,044	1,076	984	1,039	1,007	
1944 ..	965	1,003	1,002	1,049	1,027	977	993	1,030	1,061	996	1,033	997	
1945 ..	966	1,000	1,016	1,055	1,025	980	1,002	1,034	1,074	1,014	1,054	1,006	
1946 ..	981	1,018	1,016	1,071	1,039	993	1,006	1,049	1,079	1,027	1,056	1,011	
1947 ..	1,055	1,092	1,097	1,148	1,112	1,068	1,067	1,103	1,141	1,071	1,117	1,071	
1948 ..	1,208	1,228	1,244	1,295	1,255	1,219	1,230	1,234	1,294	1,220	1,269	1,233	
1949 ..	1,332	1,358	1,373	1,442	1,383	1,346	1,351	1,386	1,422	1,332	1,393	1,355	
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,304	1,334	1,352	1,427	1,366	1,320	1,333	1,364	1,399	1,314	1,368	1,337	
June ..	1,349	1,359	1,376	1,440	1,391	1,344	1,343	1,370	1,403	1,321	1,374	1,328	
Sept. ..	1,329	1,359	1,373	1,437	1,382	1,343	1,349	1,385	1,421	1,328	1,394	1,353	
Dec. ..	1,367	1,379	1,391	1,463	1,393	1,377	1,398	1,425	1,464	1,354	1,437	1,400	
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES).(c)													
Nov. 1914 (b)	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	629	547	470	528c	535d	594	810	566	603	492	566	781	
Year 1939 ..	854	847	753	851	849	849	888	388	710	686	753	662	
1942 ..	862	858	766	865	855	849	893	381	713	715	753	666	
1943 ..	862	859	768	861	868	850	893	381	713	715	753	666	
1944 ..	863	859	767	865	872	850	892	385	713	715	754	666	
1945 ..	863	861	768	865	874	851	892	386	713	715	753	666	
1946 ..	863	862	773	866	881	851	894	390	712	716	753	667	
1947 ..	864	864	780	866	882	853	897	398	711	718	753	670	
1948 ..	866	874	785	866	885	855	903	402	710	718	757	876	
1949 ..	869	883	796	867	889	859	912	407	710	722	762	885	
1949 Mar. Qtr.	866	879	790	866	886	856	910	407	710	719	762	882	
June ..	867	879	791	866	886	857	911	407	710	723	762	884	
Sept. ..	869	879	792	866	892	859	913	407	710	723	762	886	
Dec. ..	875	896	810	868	892	864	914	407	710	723	762	886	
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.													
Nov. 1914 (b)	657	..	..	..	..	..	756	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,588c	1,519d	1,235	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,097	1,180	1,238	
Year 1939 ..	840	838	856	855	852	843	863	852	854	852	844	862	
1942 ..	1,289	1,297	1,323	1,312	1,308	1,294	1,290	1,247	1,273	1,266	1,278	1,268	
1943 ..	1,420	1,445	1,460	1,435	1,429	1,425	1,429	1,388	1,409	1,424	1,413	1,408	
1944 ..	1,427	1,406	1,454	1,455	1,438	1,430	1,409	1,395	1,412	1,420	1,429	1,409	
1945 ..	1,431	1,408	1,431	1,437	1,424	1,431	1,413	1,405	1,410	1,416	1,419	1,413	
1946 ..	1,503	1,478	1,519	1,507	1,495	1,503	1,482	1,466	1,493	1,495	1,482	1,481	
1947 ..	1,564	1,543	1,568	1,571	1,541	1,563	1,554	1,557	1,579	1,581	1,569	1,556	
1948 ..	1,735	1,685	1,725	1,728	1,728	1,730	1,727	1,721	1,759	1,724	1,722	1,728	
1949 ..	1,948	1,932	1,954	1,957	1,968	1,949	1,991	1,976	1,989	1,954	1,986	1,990	
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,786	1,741	1,782	1,784	1,812	1,784	1,842	1,793	1,839	1,794	1,822	1,839	
June ..	1,923	1,897	1,930	1,937	1,945	1,923	1,958	1,973	1,956	1,929	1,942	1,958	
Sept. ..	2,010	2,001	2,019	2,017	2,018	2,011	2,032	2,033	2,041	2,013	2,040	2,050	
Dec. ..	2,072	2,069	2,086	2,091	2,096	2,076	2,113	2,103	2,118	2,081	2,138	2,113	
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.													
Nov. 1914 (b)	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009c	988d	958	1,033	1,065	1,065	1,032	1,000	1,036	
Year 1939 ..	955	983	969	996	992	962	1,022	989	999	1,017	994	1,019	
1942 ..	1,077	1,118	1,116	1,125	1,118	1,067	1,184	1,188	1,175	1,185	1,164	1,184	
1943 ..	1,129	1,167	1,163	1,180	1,159	1,138	1,211	1,229	1,207	1,229	1,224	1,211	
1944 ..	1,137	1,160	1,171	1,187	1,169	1,146	1,213	1,235	1,207	1,232	1,227	1,214	
1945 ..	1,133	1,166	1,169	1,178	1,167	1,142	1,213	1,237	1,209	1,233	1,226	1,214	
1946 ..	1,136	1,167	1,172	1,183	1,156	1,145	1,219	1,242	1,216	1,239	1,233	1,230	
1947 ..	1,154	1,188	1,188	1,199	1,176	1,163	1,251	1,277	1,242	1,267	1,245	1,252	
1948 ..	1,215	1,251	1,257	1,274	1,248	1,225	1,327	1,357	1,317	1,358	1,311	1,338	
1949 ..	1,290	1,307	1,317	1,373	1,326	1,302	1,394	1,440	1,383	1,424	1,370	1,396	
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,255	1,287	1,329	1,352	1,289	1,270	1,360	1,413	1,352	1,389	1,341	1,362	
June ..	1,280	1,292	1,334	1,367	1,297	1,291	1,401	1,453	1,388	1,429	1,376	1,403	
Sept. ..	1,310	1,322	1,361	1,385	1,356	1,321	1,404	1,457	1,390	1,439	1,380	1,400	
Dec. ..	1,316	1,326	1,362	1,389	1,361	1,326	1,410	1,462	1,402	1,438	1,381	1,411	

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (c) Charters Towers. (d) Warwick. (e) See footnote (b) on page 10.

Retail Price "Group" Index-Numbers(a): Thirty Towns—continued.
(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.			Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.													
Nov. 1914 (b)	746	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	641
Year 1921	1,005	1,120	1,054e	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,047	958	1,108d	996e	1,077	1,071	950
1939	935	1,032	972	907	947	951	923	914	941	933	1,013	925	927
1942	1,029	1,176	1,078	1,034	1,043	1,041	1,047	1,008	1,055	1,034	1,079	1,035	1,031
1943	1,059	1,179	1,071	1,039	1,080	1,068	1,062	1,017	1,098	1,057	1,137	1,052	1,037
1944	1,050	1,180	1,066	1,030	1,095	1,066	1,035	988	1,030	1,020	1,135	1,023	1,026
1945	1,060	1,191	1,069	1,045	1,084	1,070	1,043	999	1,024	1,026	1,133	1,032	1,034
1946	1,059	1,192	1,073	1,057	1,084	1,070	1,009	1,018	1,046	1,052	1,173	1,055	1,036
1947	1,104	1,239	1,125	1,109	1,133	1,115	1,132	1,097	1,108	1,112	1,233	1,121	1,108
1948	1,251	1,387	1,272	1,257	1,279	1,262	1,316	1,273	1,276	1,280	1,407	1,303	1,256
1949	1,437	1,572	1,455	1,443	1,471	1,448	1,495	1,459	1,469	1,473	1,560	1,484	1,394
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,358	1,500	1,381	1,370	1,394	1,370	1,485	1,449	1,436	1,442	1,555	1,472	1,361
June	1,436	1,579	1,456	1,445	1,474	1,447	1,493	1,465	1,456	1,456	1,562	1,477	1,389
Sept.	1,461	1,593	1,483	1,478	1,495	1,474	1,461	1,451	1,479	1,480	1,534	1,483	1,396
Dec.	1,458	1,614	1,501	1,488	1,512	1,499	1,514	1,469	1,505	1,514	1,590	1,503	1,429
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES)(f)													
Nov. 1914 (b)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..	649
Year 1921	734	578	616e	649	779	709	870	676	294d	150e	495	729	877
1939	881	1,318	886	1,005	1,064	919	925	851	856	703	806	867	805
1942	885	1,167	879	983	1,062	910	933	860	850	770	806	895	876
1943	885	1,038	898	970	1,058	902	931	859	850	770	805	864	875
1944	888	1,036	899	974	1,059	902	932	861	850	770	804	895	876
1945	886	1,037	899	975	1,061	902	933	862	851	770	804	896	875
1946	886	1,053	900	980	1,064	904	936	864	853	770	809	898	876
1947	887	1,080	900	981	1,064	907	930	866	853	770	814	899	877
1948	889	1,082	917	985	1,066	910	937	871	853	770	815	901	879
1949	895	1,095	926	1,005	1,080	917	940	873	853	773	817	904	882
1949 Mar. Qtr.	803	1,090	927	1,001	1,067	914	939	871	853	770	817	903	881
June	805	1,090	965	1,002	1,081	917	929	872	853	772	817	903	881
Sept.	806	1,099	965	1,007	1,084	918	939	873	853	772	817	903	882
Dec.	807	1,099	967	1,010	1,088	910	947	871	853	777	817	905	883
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.													
Nov. 1914 (b)	698	..	..	..	..	..	825	..	..	..	..	..	754
Year 1921	1,232	1,376	1,382c	1,454	1,320	1,277	1,427	1,070	1,525f	1,405e	1,504	1,313	1,246
1939	842	855	842	819	847	834	856	853	843	844	853	854	841
1942	1,283	1,269	1,269	1,247	1,261	1,280	1,308	1,284	1,271	1,283	1,290	1,298	1,307
1943	1,396	1,400	1,390	1,374	1,396	1,396	1,427	1,404	1,409	1,416	1,394	1,418	1,440
1944	1,401	1,429	1,408	1,403	1,419	1,404	1,428	1,406	1,423	1,407	1,423	1,420	1,435
1945	1,410	1,436	1,407	1,413	1,412	1,412	1,420	1,414	1,426	1,425	1,430	1,419	1,425
1946	1,497	1,516	1,478	1,482	1,489	1,497	1,510	1,497	1,513	1,533	1,521	1,508	1,505
1947	1,565	1,591	1,552	1,555	1,553	1,567	1,572	1,570	1,570	1,599	1,579	1,573	1,566
1948	1,756	1,769	1,706	1,733	1,745	1,755	1,748	1,779	1,720	1,753	1,732	1,738	1,744
1949	2,033	2,014	1,975	2,003	2,011	2,020	1,992	1,991	1,982	1,990	1,993	1,990	1,997
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,860	1,869	1,815	1,834	1,876	1,859	1,841	1,825	1,846	1,853	1,810	1,837	1,849
June	2,027	1,991	1,973	1,999	2,001	2,022	1,961	1,962	1,957	1,966	1,972	1,962	1,963
Sept.	2,000	2,072	2,027	2,052	2,047	2,086	2,037	2,035	2,033	2,035	2,061	2,037	2,043
Dec.	2,155	2,123	2,086	2,128	2,118	2,150	2,129	2,115	2,091	2,130	2,097	2,122	2,132
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.													
Nov. 1914 (b)	780	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..	749
Year 1921	1,029	1,030	1,016c	977	1,102	1,029	932	985	941d	960e	959	952	1,010
1939	954	974	948	912	1,034	956	938	947	874	882	881	934	982
1942	1,093	1,122	1,096	1,032	1,160	1,095	1,065	1,050	960	963	999	1,049	1,112
1943	1,130	1,179	1,140	1,084	1,205	1,140	1,105	1,101	1,005	1,011	1,044	1,093	1,180
1944	1,144	1,189	1,143	1,100	1,216	1,147	1,100	1,097	997	1,002	1,032	1,080	1,169
1945	1,138	1,176	1,136	1,094	1,208	1,141	1,100	1,096	997	996	1,053	1,089	1,161
1946	1,143	1,173	1,153	1,098	1,212	1,146	1,104	1,103	1,004	999	1,058	1,094	1,167
1947	1,158	1,181	1,170	1,113	1,220	1,160	1,130	1,126	1,029	1,022	1,080	1,118	1,197
1948	1,202	1,239	1,224	1,166	1,274	1,206	1,175	1,171	1,067	1,060	1,105	1,163	1,256
1949	1,288	1,300	1,302	1,252	1,368	1,290	1,219	1,218	1,108	1,099	1,145	1,206	1,338
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,267	1,286	1,280	1,229	1,350	1,269	1,202	1,201	1,098	1,087	1,131	1,190	1,304
June	1,278	1,296	1,290	1,230	1,360	1,280	1,213	1,212	1,101	1,090	1,140	1,201	1,325
Sept.	1,303	1,310	1,318	1,268	1,379	1,305	1,225	1,222	1,113	1,108	1,153	1,212	1,345
Dec.	1,305	1,309	1,320	1,270	1,382	1,307	1,234	1,237	1,119	1,110	1,154	1,222	1,378

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1940, see page 20. (c) Midland Junction. (d) Zeehan. (e) Beaconsfield. (f) See footnote (b) on page 10.

3. "B" Series Retail Price Index: Food, Groceries and Rent.—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled for the year 1925, and retrospectively for several earlier years. It was designed to replace the "A" Series Index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index compiled in 1912. The first of the following tables covers only the six capital cities and gives index-numbers for the two Groups of the regimen involved split up into their various Sections, while the second table gives the "B" Series Index dissected into its two Groups for each of the 30 towns, the weighted averages of the 5 towns in each State, the six capital cities and the 30 towns. The "B" Series Index (split up into its two Groups) for four additional towns not included in the weighted averages appears on page 24.

Retail Price Index-Numbers(a): Capital Cities—"B" Series.

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

Town.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.										
Sydney ..	510	574	627	1,115	994	965	969	1,026	1,167	1,298
Melbourne ..	461	521	562	1,070	957	926	929	991	1,153	1,296
Brisbane ..	547	614	607	1,105	944	933	935	994	1,165	1,305
Adelaide ..	510	541	598	1,076	939	941	941	995	1,144	1,263
Perth ..	572	720	628	1,103	966	964	966	1,032	1,183	1,268
Hobart ..	501	566	604	1,087	947	930	934	991	1,143	1,272
SIX CAPITALS (b)	499	564	599	1,093	969	946	950	1,008	1,161	1,292
SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.										
Sydney ..	551	574	656	1,080	851	958	956	977	1,165	1,306
Melbourne ..	571	567	635	1,087	885	966	965	998	1,199	1,330
Brisbane ..	495	581	588	983	793	932	930	955	1,115	1,233
Adelaide ..	548	651	705	1,018	800	895	893	928	1,130	1,258
Perth ..	709	733	735	1,152	870	983	981	1,000	1,166	1,292
Hobart ..	564	587	695	1,091	844	966	963	989	1,181	1,319
SIX CAPITALS (b)	563	591	654	1,072	853	954	952	978	1,165	1,301
SECTION C.—MEAT.										
Sydney ..	519	501	668	960	935	1,190	1,202	1,343	1,456	1,571
Melbourne ..	557	485	663	1,030	968	1,307	1,288	1,365	1,502	1,649
Brisbane ..	535	488	610	807	822	1,032	1,079	1,223	1,343	1,453
Adelaide ..	553	541	784	1,095	929	1,178	1,188	1,288	1,423	1,543
Perth ..	780	824	881	1,103	918	1,251	1,248	1,290	1,411	1,785
Hobart ..	668	618	780	1,244	961	1,257	1,338	1,446	1,662	1,945
SIX CAPITALS (b)	558	522	691	1,010	936	1,217	1,223	1,332	1,458	1,603
SECTIONS A, B AND C COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.										
Sydney ..	523	553	646	1,062	936	1,035	1,039	1,110	1,258	1,388
Melbourne ..	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,057	1,052	1,110	1,274	1,418
Brisbane ..	530	569	603	1,014	864	966	981	1,055	1,208	1,332
Adelaide ..	532	570	679	1,066	897	1,002	1,006	1,067	1,230	1,351
Perth ..	670	753	728	1,166	938	1,060	1,059	1,104	1,251	1,437
Hobart ..	565	592	678	1,133	923	1,043	1,069	1,132	1,316	1,495
SIX CAPITALS (b)	533	559	640	1,064	927	1,034	1,036	1,100	1,256	1,394
SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (c)										
Sydney ..	593	701	760	989	1,035	1,043	1,043	1,044	1,047	1,049
Melbourne ..	455	569	628	820	955	973	973	974	974	976
Brisbane ..	285	373	466	630	854	863	863	864	866	866
Adelaide ..	510	706	653	809	888	892	894	897	903	912
Perth ..	458	524	589	739	881	886	886	887	889	895
Hobart ..	405	452	518	681	925	933	936	936	937	940
SIX CAPITALS (b)	497	612	662	862	965	975	976	977	979	982
ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.										
Sydney ..	548	606	687	1,036	972	1,036	1,038	1,082	1,173	1,252
Melbourne ..	495	539	616	977	945	1,022	1,019	1,054	1,154	1,243
Brisbane ..	442	500	554	877	858	924	932	978	1,072	1,149
Adelaide ..	524	618	671	975	891	957	960	998	1,100	1,177
Perth ..	504	672	679	982	914	990	989	1,017	1,107	1,222
Hobart ..	508	542	621	1,044	922	998	1,014	1,053	1,165	1,275
SIX CAPITALS (b)	520	578	648	992	930	1,009	1,010	1,050	1,145	1,230

See footnote (a) on page 10.

(b) Weighted average.

(c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

"B" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers : Thirty Towns.

(Base of each Group (a) : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1933-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goldburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam- bool.	Weighted Average, 3 Towns.

GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Nov. 1914 ..	638	677	672	650	635	616	610	628	619	641	646	674
Year 1919 ..	936	965	1,006	901	820	941	943	950	930	946	945	944
" 1921 ..	956	1,000	1,134	1,010	945	969	943	937	958	948	946	942
" 1943 ..	1,046	1,074	1,244	1,063	1,033	1,048	1,047	1,038	1,038	1,002	1,018	1,039
" 1944 ..	1,042	1,066	1,244	1,079	1,057	1,048	1,049	1,045	1,041	1,003	1,032	1,053
" 1945 ..	1,053	1,048	1,278	1,079	1,056	1,041	1,037	1,045	1,046	1,000	1,000	1,055
" 1946 ..	1,039	1,049	1,277	1,076	1,046	1,044	1,035	1,051	1,050	1,012	1,029	1,031
" 1947 ..	1,010	1,023	1,337	1,070	1,046	1,044	1,010	1,004	1,006	1,003	1,015	1,009
" 1948 ..	1,038	1,027	1,494	1,090	1,071	1,064	1,074	1,069	1,045	1,005	1,027	1,072
" 1949 ..	1,338	1,401	1,666	1,445	1,414	1,395	1,418	1,413	1,397	1,431	1,395	1,417
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,350	1,374	1,624	1,426	1,394	1,356	1,394	1,390	1,367	1,432	1,376	1,392
" June ..	1,384	1,395	1,666	1,448	1,399	1,391	1,414	1,411	1,392	1,404	1,394	1,413
" Sept. ..	1,395	1,402	1,730	1,438	1,410	1,403	1,411	1,409	1,394	1,400	1,390	1,413
" Dec. ..	1,421	1,431	1,704	1,475	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,443	1,434	1,453	1,450	1,450
1919.												
January ..	1,347	1,370	1,601	1,419	1,388	1,354	1,383	1,377	1,353	1,369	1,367	1,381
February ..	1,346	1,373	1,605	1,421	1,394	1,356	1,399	1,386	1,373	1,385	1,376	1,397
March ..	1,354	1,386	1,607	1,437	1,400	1,363	1,406	1,397	1,374	1,393	1,382	1,399
April ..	1,381	1,392	1,671	1,441	1,395	1,368	1,412	1,405	1,379	1,400	1,392	1,410
May ..	1,382	1,393	1,662	1,436	1,389	1,369	1,415	1,413	1,399	1,404	1,395	1,414
June ..	1,390	1,406	1,664	1,447	1,405	1,397	1,416	1,414	1,396	1,409	1,395	1,415
July ..	1,389	1,406	1,710	1,440	1,405	1,397	1,408	1,409	1,392	1,401	1,394	1,407
August ..	1,394	1,409	1,732	1,437	1,409	1,401	1,414	1,407	1,393	1,402	1,390	1,413
September ..	1,402	1,406	1,747	1,436	1,417	1,409	1,419	1,411	1,397	1,410	1,395	1,418
October ..	1,390	1,409	1,750	1,440	1,427	1,398	1,423	1,411	1,407	1,419	1,397	1,423
November ..	1,416	1,428	1,764	1,479	1,451	1,424	1,448	1,445	1,424	1,443	1,416	1,446
December ..	1,457	1,465	1,779	1,505	1,476	1,445	1,479	1,462	1,474	1,496	1,447	1,480

GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (b)

Nov. 1914 ..	718	885	889	881	596	665	668	845	479	527	668	681
Year 1919 ..	1,033	890	773	870	815	1,015	915	715	876	876	876	876
" 1921 ..	1,043	901	758	883	844	1,024	925	706	738	802	820	826
" 1943 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
" 1944 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
" 1945 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
" 1946 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
" 1947 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
" 1948 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
" 1949 ..	1,043	1,043	1,244	982	882	1,024	974	709	742	800	817	836
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,048	898	776	898	847	1,029	976	724	748	809	934	958
" June ..	1,048	898	776	898	847	1,029	976	724	748	809	934	958
" Sept. ..	1,049	898	776	898	847	1,029	976	724	748	809	934	958
" Dec. ..	1,049	898	776	898	847	1,029	976	724	748	809	934	958

GROUPS I.—II.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

Nov. 1914 ..	680	944	825	976	815	965	613	769	780	814	855	676
Year 1919 ..	972	934	970	942	900	960	945	840	851	917	910	938
" 1921 ..	993	940	991	957	910	988	953	817	868	912	911	946
" 1943 ..	1,030	1,005	1,052	1,000	957	1,031	954	820	868	916	911	1,005
" 1944 ..	1,030	1,005	1,052	1,000	957	1,031	954	820	868	916	911	1,005
" 1945 ..	1,030	1,005	1,052	1,000	957	1,031	954	820	868	916	911	1,005
" 1946 ..	1,030	1,005	1,052	1,000	957	1,031	954	820	868	916	911	1,005
" 1947 ..	1,030	1,005	1,052	1,000	957	1,031	954	820	868	916	911	1,005
" 1948 ..	1,030	1,005	1,052	1,000	957	1,031	954	820	868	916	911	1,005
" 1949 ..	1,473	1,169	1,406	1,438	1,102	1,469	1,054	962	1,048	1,116	1,134	1,446
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,452	1,195	1,353	1,425	1,100	1,449	1,043	944	1,040	1,102	1,122	1,335
" June ..	1,420	1,186	1,289	1,412	1,177	1,226	1,027	946	1,021	1,089	1,100	1,219
" Sept. ..	1,420	1,186	1,289	1,412	1,177	1,226	1,027	946	1,021	1,089	1,100	1,219
" Dec. ..	1,423	1,188	1,292	1,415	1,180	1,230	1,030	946	1,021	1,089	1,100	1,219
	1,424	1,189	1,293	1,416	1,181	1,231	1,031	947	1,022	1,090	1,101	1,220
	1,425	1,190	1,294	1,417	1,182	1,232	1,032	948	1,023	1,091	1,102	1,221

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10.

(b) See footnote (b) on page 10.

"B" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns—continued.

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

Period	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Dundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
Nov. 1914 ..	614	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	895	895	949	981b	936c	850	941	945	968	923	997	943
Year 1939 ..	804	823	904	961	912	872	897	973	996	937	981	904
1941 ..	911	862	931	981	958	915	905	967	1,005	912	977	912
1942 ..	972	951	992	1,048	1,024	979	1,012	1,053	1,094	988	1,056	1,016
1943 ..	975	974	995	1,041	1,033	982	1,003	1,044	1,076	984	1,039	1,007
1944 ..	965	1,003	1,002	1,049	1,027	977	993	1,030	1,061	996	1,033	997
1945 ..	966	1,009	1,016	1,053	1,025	980	1,002	1,034	1,074	1,014	1,054	1,006
1946 ..	981	1,018	1,016	1,071	1,039	993	1,006	1,049	1,079	1,027	1,036	1,011
1947 ..	1,055	1,092	1,097	1,148	1,112	1,068	1,067	1,103	1,141	1,071	1,117	1,071
1948 ..	1,208	1,228	1,244	1,295	1,255	1,210	1,230	1,234	1,294	1,220	1,269	1,233
1949 ..	1,332	1,358	1,373	1,442	1,383	1,346	1,351	1,386	1,422	1,332	1,393	1,355
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,304	1,334	1,352	1,427	1,366	1,320	1,333	1,304	1,309	1,314	1,368	1,337
June ..	1,329	1,359	1,376	1,440	1,391	1,344	1,323	1,370	1,403	1,321	1,374	1,328
Sept. ..	1,329	1,359	1,373	1,437	1,382	1,343	1,319	1,385	1,421	1,328	1,394	1,353
Dec. ..	1,367	1,379	1,391	1,463	1,393	1,377	1,398	1,425	1,464	1,364	1,437	1,400
1949.												
January ..	1,293	1,317	1,330	1,419	1,346	1,307	1,328	1,357	1,394	1,309	1,355	1,331
February ..	1,308	1,340	1,360	1,429	1,372	1,324	1,329	1,363	1,396	1,310	1,362	1,333
March ..	1,311	1,344	1,365	1,434	1,379	1,328	1,343	1,373	1,408	1,324	1,387	1,346
April ..	1,331	1,359	1,376	1,440	1,390	1,345	1,323	1,368	1,406	1,322	1,374	1,347
May ..	1,330	1,359	1,379	1,440	1,392	1,345	1,322	1,370	1,402	1,321	1,373	1,327
June ..	1,327	1,359	1,374	1,439	1,391	1,342	1,326	1,373	1,401	1,321	1,371	1,330
July ..	1,326	1,358	1,372	1,434	1,387	1,340	1,326	1,373	1,405	1,320	1,374	1,330
August ..	1,330	1,360	1,375	1,437	1,382	1,344	1,334	1,386	1,425	1,323	1,397	1,358
September ..	1,331	1,358	1,371	1,441	1,378	1,345	1,366	1,390	1,433	1,339	1,411	1,370
October ..	1,343	1,357	1,370	1,440	1,371	1,353	1,367	1,400	1,437	1,341	1,415	1,370
November ..	1,364	1,369	1,382	1,454	1,377	1,372	1,393	1,422	1,458	1,359	1,424	1,396
December ..	1,394	1,411	1,421	1,495	1,432	1,405	1,433	1,452	1,496	1,392	1,472	1,435
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (d)												
Nov. 1914 ..	463	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	629	547	470	528b	535c	594	819	566	603	492	566	781
Year 1939 ..	854	847	753	861	640	840	883	388	710	686	753	862
1941 ..	860	854	763	863	647	846	893	385	714	712	767	867
1942 ..	862	858	766	865	635	849	893	381	713	715	755	866
1943 ..	862	859	768	865	668	850	893	383	713	715	755	866
1944 ..	863	859	767	865	672	850	892	385	713	715	754	866
1945 ..	863	861	768	865	674	851	892	386	713	715	755	866
1946 ..	863	862	773	866	681	851	894	390	712	716	755	867
1947 ..	864	864	780	866	682	853	897	398	711	718	755	870
1948 ..	866	874	785	866	685	855	903	402	710	718	757	876
1949 ..	869	883	795	867	689	859	912	407	710	722	762	885
1949 Mar. Qtr.	866	879	790	866	686	856	910	407	710	719	762	882
June ..	867	879	791	866	686	857	911	407	710	723	762	884
Sept. ..	869	876	792	866	692	859	913	407	710	723	762	886
Dec. ..	872	896	810	868	692	864	914	407	710	723	762	886
GROUP I.-II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
Nov. 1914 ..	560	..	..	..	..	658	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921 ..	840	771	779	820b	794c	824	898	811	839	770	844	885
Year 1939 ..	858	830	849	923	804	858	891	743	882	838	890	885
1941 ..	889	857	863	933	835	886	899	738	889	834	893	892
1942 ..	927	913	901	974	878	926	963	789	943	879	936	933
1943 ..	929	927	904	970	888	928	953	784	932	877	926	950
1944 ..	923	943	908	975	886	926	951	776	923	884	922	944
1945 ..	924	949	917	979	886	928	957	779	931	895	935	949
1946 ..	932	955	919	989	897	936	960	790	933	903	936	952
1947 ..	978	1,002	971	1,036	942	982	998	825	971	931	973	990
1948 ..	1,072	1,087	1,063	1,123	1,030	1,074	1,100	907	1,063	1,022	1,067	1,091
1949 ..	1,149	1,170	1,145	1,214	1,110	1,153	1,177	1,001	1,141	1,091	1,144	1,108
1949 Mar. Qtr.	1,130	1,153	1,129	1,203	1,098	1,136	1,165	988	1,127	1,079	1,128	1,156
June ..	1,146	1,169	1,145	1,213	1,113	1,151	1,160	991	1,130	1,085	1,132	1,152
Sept. ..	1,147	1,169	1,143	1,211	1,110	1,151	1,176	1,000	1,140	1,089	1,144	1,167
Dec. ..	1,171	1,188	1,161	1,228	1,117	1,173	1,206	1,024	1,167	1,111	1,170	1,197

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Chartres Towers. (c) Warwick. (d) See footnote (b) on page 10.

"B" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns—continued.

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

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.					
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, 3 Towns.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.

GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.													
Nov. 1914 ..	716	1,010	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,033	687	938	1,108c	999	1,077	1,011	641
1919 Mar. Qtr.	1,381	1,500	1,375	1,374	1,370	1,370	1,436	1,449	1,436	1,442	1,535	1,476	1,366
June ..	1,430	1,570	1,445	1,474	1,447	1,448	1,449	1,463	1,458	1,466	1,561	1,477	1,368
Sept. ..	1,466	1,593	1,468	1,465	1,474	1,474	1,479	1,479	1,479	1,486	1,534	1,475	1,393
Dec. ..	1,484	1,614	1,501	1,488	1,489	1,489	1,479	1,479	1,485	1,514	1,590	1,503	1,434
1919 Jan. Qtr.	1,432	1,470	1,360	1,316	1,344	1,344	1,489	1,489	1,431	1,432	1,554	1,476	1,353
February ..	1,367	1,598	1,328	1,279	1,356	1,356	1,401	1,430	1,441	1,450	1,533	1,477	1,303
March ..	1,375	1,522	1,398	1,353	1,418	1,418	1,461	1,472	1,443	1,444	1,548	1,474	1,307
April ..	1,366	1,513	1,376	1,346	1,408	1,408	1,468	1,473	1,443	1,453	1,537	1,475	1,383
May ..	1,449	1,596	1,474	1,463	1,464	1,464	1,469	1,469	1,449	1,457	1,564	1,483	1,369
June ..	1,470	1,598	1,477	1,465	1,470	1,470	1,473	1,473	1,459	1,459	1,564	1,482	1,393
July ..	1,459	1,593	1,460	1,446	1,470	1,470	1,466	1,466	1,447	1,470	1,524	1,462	1,389
August ..	1,439	1,562	1,484	1,467	1,469	1,469	1,465	1,465	1,445	1,460	1,520	1,461	1,396
September ..	1,478	1,597	1,483	1,471	1,468	1,468	1,463	1,463	1,445	1,460	1,556	1,487	1,403
October ..	1,474	1,597	1,480	1,472	1,469	1,469	1,464	1,464	1,448	1,462	1,566	1,488	1,402
November ..	1,467	1,584	1,469	1,460	1,466	1,466	1,461	1,461	1,448	1,462	1,570	1,499	1,426
December ..	1,474	1,624	1,497	1,483	1,486	1,486	1,483	1,483	1,460	1,480	1,627	1,523	1,460

GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES)(c)

Nov. 1914 ..	586	616	649	779	769	769	876	676	794c	1,500d	495	739	649
1919 Mar. Qtr.	734	878	866	1,001	1,004	1,004	919	923	831	856	866	887	877
June ..	893	1,318	894	1,007	1,008	1,008	921	933	859	845	769	812	895
Sept. ..	896	1,099	905	1,007	1,004	1,004	918	930	873	853	772	817	903
Dec. ..	897	1,099	907	1,010	1,008	1,008	919	941	874	853	777	817	905
1919 Nov. Qtr.	689	808	698	907	912	912	818	820	768	810e	660f	671	644
Year 1939 ..	914	1,178	936	970	990	990	930	932	857	858	933	908	939
1941 ..	914	1,211	936	996	1,024	1,024	963	973	893	898	947	936	932
1942 ..	871	1,160	1,003	1,011	1,018	1,018	968	948	923	928	970	948	1,001
1943 ..	855	1,162	1,003	1,010	1,050	1,050	1,000	999	933	942	1,003	968	1,011
1944 ..	856	1,121	993	1,010	1,070	1,070	1,000	992	938	940	1,004	970	1,004
1945 ..	890	1,128	1,003	1,015	1,062	1,062	998	943	954	944	1,014	972	1,009
1946 ..	887	1,136	1,003	1,024	1,073	1,073	1,003	1,044	950	932	1,028	992	1,003
1947 ..	1,017	1,171	1,033	1,056	1,103	1,103	1,003	1,053	1,000	932	1,067	1,032	1,050
1948 ..	1,107	1,266	1,131	1,158	1,193	1,193	1,113	1,108	1,078	1,173	1,143	1,145	1,140
1949 ..	1,222	1,382	1,237	1,269	1,315	1,315	1,227	1,225	1,225	1,197	1,207	1,254	1,230
1949 Mar. Qtr.	893	1,090	927	1,001	1,007	1,007	914	939	871	853	770	817	903
June ..	895	1,090	965	1,002	1,031	1,031	917	930	872	853	772	817	903
Sept. ..	896	1,099	905	1,007	1,004	1,004	918	930	873	853	772	817	903
Dec. ..	897	1,099	907	1,010	1,008	1,008	919	941	874	853	777	817	905

GROUPS I.-II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

Nov. 1914 ..	616	916	928	968	967	967	630	644	644	644	644	644	644
1919 Mar. Qtr.	1,173	1,327	1,201	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,273	1,273	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,266
June ..	1,274	1,385	1,261	1,293	1,293	1,293	1,277	1,280	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,266
Sept. ..	1,307	1,429	1,285	1,331	1,331	1,331	1,285	1,285	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,266	1,266
Dec. ..	1,254	1,416	1,230	1,269	1,269	1,269	1,234	1,234	1,234	1,234	1,234	1,234	1,234

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10 (b) Midland Junction. (c) Zealand. (d) Beaconsfield. (e) See footnote (b) on page 10. (f) See footnote (b) on page 10. (g) See footnote (b) on page 10.

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

To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding pages, 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 of each of the years 1923 to 1942 related, therefore, to 200 towns. After 1942, collection of returns of these prices was discontinued. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (pp. 26-33), and details respecting succeeding investigations were incorporated in the Labour Bulletins and Reports issued subsequently by this Bureau.

§ 9. Changes in the Regimen.

I. General.—Since the original compilation of retail price indexes by the Bureau in 1912, the regimens of the several Groups and Sections have undergone some modifications, with the object of improving the indexes as measures of the variations in retail prices in individual towns, as between the many towns covered, and in the weighted average of all towns or the various combinations thereof. These modifications are briefly as follows:—

(i) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen for food and groceries, originally introduced in 1912, was based upon the relative consumption of the years 1906 to 1910, and the first revision was made in September Quarter, 1932 and was based on the relative consumption of the years 1927 to 1929. The regimen in use up to that date will be found on page 13 of Labour Report No. 23. A second revision took place in September Quarter, 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936. The main features of this revision are referred to in par. 2 below.

(ii) *Housing.*—The housing constituent of the regimen has also been revised. Originally the rentals of all houses from "3 rooms and under" to "8 rooms and over" were tabulated, and they were continuously used in the "A" Series Index (food and rent of all houses) from 1912 to 30th June, 1938, when this series was discontinued. They were also used in the "C" Series Index up to and including the year 1924. From the following year rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses only were used in the "C" Series Index, and in the same year they were combined with food and groceries to form the "B" Series Index.

Following on the resolutions of the 1936 Conference of Statisticians (see par. 2 below), the rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses in each of the six capital cities and "second" important town in each of the States (excepting Western Australia) have been determined on a somewhat different basis (for convenience designated the "Census" basis) from that previously used. For the six capital cities, this base was introduced into the indexes at the December Quarter, 1936, and for the "second" towns at the March Quarter, 1937. The basis adopted was that of the average rents, as disclosed by the 1933 Census, of 4 and 5-roomed houses occupied by fully-employed wage and salary earners in all industrial groups with the exception of "Fishing and Trapping," "Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying" and

"Forestry," brought up to the above-mentioned quarters by applying the percentage variations in rent since the 1933 Census shown for corresponding houses at both periods in the rent rolls of the house-agents. At the same time, these rent rolls were carefully revised, after personal inspection of all houses included, to ensure a satisfactory "sample" of houses upon which to measure rent variations in future. Thus, the rent levels having been established for the towns in question, the rent rolls ceased to be used for the determination of the average rent from quarter to quarter, and were used only for the purpose of measuring the percentage variations from quarter to quarter by means of corresponding houses in the rolls for the current and the preceding quarter—the percentage variations being applied progressively to the basic averages from the 1933 Census, as explained above. The new standard, so far as the towns in question are concerned, affected the indexes only in respect of the relative levels of rents in the different towns, and in respect of their absolute height.

The "Census" basis not being generally applicable to the circumstances of small provincial towns, on account of the great diversity of average "quality" of houses, the levels, as previously determined from a sample of houses selected by the house agents in accordance with definite standards originally laid down, were continued in the indexes until such time as the rent rolls were completely revised on the basis mentioned above. The revision was completed by June Quarter, 1939, but in the meantime as each town was completed the rent level then reached on the old basis was established as the base to which the percentage variations disclosed by the rent rolls were progressively applied thereafter.

(iii) *Clothing and Miscellaneous*.—The regimen for clothing and miscellaneous household requirements was originally introduced in 1921, and the first revision was made in March Quarter, 1935. Details of the original regimen were not published, but the revised regimen of 1935 appeared in Labour Report No. 26. A second revision took place in September Quarter, 1936, as part of the general revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936. The main features of this revision are referred to in par. 2 below. Some minor alterations have since been made in the regimen.

2. **Revision of 1936**.—The revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936, was of a comprehensive nature. The Resolutions of the Conference are reprinted in Appendix XI. of Labour Report No. 27. This Conference not only recommended extensive revisions of the regimen from which the indexes are compiled, but also considered methods of collection and compilation. As a result of its deliberations, and subsequent discussions by correspondence, many improvements and refinements were introduced.

The changes in the regimen made by this Conference comprised chiefly the elimination or replacement of articles no longer in demand, or which experience had shown to be unsuitable media for the measurement of price variations; the alteration of units of quantity in certain cases to conform with those in most general use; the adjustment of the mass unit allotted to certain articles to bring them into accord with present-day consumption habits; and the re-adjustment of the population and household weights applicable to the several groups and sections of the regimen in accordance with the results of the 1933 Census. Definite grades or qualities were also established for each article in the regimen, to ensure that quotations should be given, as far as possible, for the same article at all times and in

all places, and expert field officers were appointed to collect, personally, prices to the standard qualities laid down. Improved methods of collecting and weighting average house rentals were also adopted (see par. 1 (ii) above).

3. Method of Effecting Changes.—Changes of the nature mentioned are commonly made in price indexes without seriously impairing their continuity. In accordance with established principles of procedure in changing the regimen (see Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I, Part II., pars. 14 and 18), the general level of the index is taken as determined by the old regimen for the quarter in which the change is made, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price level after that date. The linking up of the index-numbers on the old and the new basis is effected by the usual method of equating the respective weighted aggregate costs of the old and the new regimens in the six capital cities.

There are two methods of effecting this, as follows:—Up to June Quarter, 1942, all such changes were made by equating the new aggregate of the section embodying the changes to the former aggregate. This course was adopted when items were added to or omitted from the regimen, and when a change was made in the standard of any item. From September Quarter, 1942, however, all changes of standard were effected by an appropriate adjustment of the “mass unit” or “weight” so as to preserve the percentage weight which the item carried in the aggregate from time to time, and wherever possible the “weight” of any item dropped from the regimen was transferred to an article of a similar nature which would serve as a more appropriate medium for the measurement of the variations of the article dropped than the remaining items of the section—the “mass units” of which under the former procedure in effect were proportionately increased to carry the aggregate of the item dropped, or reduced to admit a new item added. (See also par. 3 on pages 15 and 16.)

4. Continuity of Indexes.—While the above involves no break of continuity in the index-numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, upon the basis of which all such changes are effected, slight alterations of the relative positions of individual towns are inevitable on account of the alteration of former standards. The effect, however, is more noticeable in the group index-numbers than in those covering a combination of groups, wherein the losses and gains tend to balance out. Thus, in comparing group index-numbers for individual towns in respect of periods including the dates of change referred to in pars. 1 to 3 above, the following considerations should be kept in mind:—

- (a) *Food and Groceries.*—These index-numbers are substantially comparable throughout the period up to June Quarter, 1936. From and including September Quarter, 1936 the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other, but are not strictly so with those for previous quarters.
- (b) *Housing.*—No change was ever made in the method of calculating the rentals of “All Houses”, and consequently these index-numbers were comparable throughout the whole period of their existence.* In regard to rentals of houses of 4 and 5 rooms, however, the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other up to June Quarter, 1936. In September

* The tabulation of the “A” Series Index, for which these rents were used, was discontinued after the issue for June Quarter, 1938.

Quarter, 1936, a change was made in the methods of averaging and weighting the data from house-agents, which gave rise to slight disparities not due to rental fluctuations, and rendered the rent figures for individual towns not strictly comparable with those of former periods. The change, however, thereafter made the index-numbers for any one town more comparable with those of other towns. In December Quarter, 1936, the rent tabulations in the two principal towns of each State were placed on an entirely new basis, which rendered them incomparable individually with average rents of previous periods. This change was also introduced with the object of making the index-numbers for the principal towns more comparable *inter se* in any given quarter (*see* par. I (ii) above).

- (c) *Clothing and Miscellaneous*.—The index-numbers for individual towns up to and including 1934 are comparable with those for previous periods. Those for 1935, and the March and June quarters of 1936, are comparable for those periods, but not with the index-numbers of former or subsequent periods. From and including September Quarter, 1936 the index-numbers for individual towns are substantially comparable with each other, both from quarter to quarter and from town to town, but for individual towns they are not strictly continuous with those of previous periods.

5. The Regimen under War Conditions.—Between the comprehensive revision of 1936 and the outbreak of war in 1939 changes in conditions did not require any appreciable revision of the regimen or mass units of items therein. The adjustments made in 1936 had brought the basis of the index “up-to-date” in the sense that it conformed reasonably closely to normal pre-war usage. Although the effects of the war produced some variations from normal consumption in 1940 and 1941, it was not until 1942 (as explained in § 2 (5) of this Chapter) that fundamental changes began to occur. As there explained, the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 produced temporary changes of a far-reaching character which, if permanent and stable, must have necessitated fundamental re-adjustments in the regimen and mass units of the index. But the resultant changes in the index would have been so extensive as virtually to create a new index which would not have been continuously comparable with the “C” Series Index either as compiled pre-war or as it may be compiled in post-war years. Consideration of the matter led to the conclusions—

- (i) that it was desirable to continue the “C” Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of comparison of price movements on a clearly defined basis;
- (ii) that it was impossible to reconstruct the “C” Series Index to take account of recurrent temporary departures from normal consumption.

6. The Regimen since 1945.—The “C” Series Index was discussed at the Conference of Commonwealth and State Statisticians, 1949, when it was decided that further consideration should be given before any revision was made. The resolutions of this Conference, under the general headings of “Post-war Review”, “Review of Items of Regimen” and “Field Staff”, are reprinted as Section V. of the Appendix to this Report.

§ 10. Retail Price Indexes and Wage Variations.

Two distinct procedures are adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing and varying basic or living wages as follows :—

- (i) the Court periodically *fixes* the amount of wage in the light of evidence submitted by parties appearing before it. Such evidence usually covers a wide range of facts as to economic conditions ;
- (ii) having determined the amount of basic wage the Court further determines whether or not it shall be subject to automatic adjustment for changes in price level and, if so, by what method such *variation* shall be made. This again is decided in the light of evidence and of representations by the parties concerned.

The "C" Series Index is used by the Court to derive the "Court" series of retail price index-numbers upon which the basic or "needs" portion of the wages prescribed in awards is *varied* automatically for changes in price levels quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. These are commonly referred to as "cost of living" adjustments although in fact they relate only to that part of the *change in cost of living* which is due to variations in prices. The Court itself determines from time to time at public sittings the amount of the basic wage, having regard to evidence submitted in relation to other aspects of "cost of living" and other relevant considerations. In fixing the amount of the basic wage the Court does not have regard to either the regimen used in compiling the retail price index or the cost of such regimen. The regimen of the index would not be suited to such a purpose.

The considerations upon which the basic wage is fixed are set out in successive judgments of the Court and briefly summarized in Chapter III. (§ 3) of this Report. On this matter, reference should be made to the Basic Wage Judgments of the Court, particularly those of 1934, 1937 and 1941,* and to the general statement of principles set out in the judgment on the "Munition Workers' Case" of 1943.† Certain State industrial tribunals use the index-numbers directly for automatic or quasi-automatic adjustment of the rates of wages determined by them as tribunals, while some State tribunals have regard to the index-numbers and other factors in considering what "cost of living" variations they should make in rates of wages.

The use of indexes by industrial authorities for purposes of adjusting rates of wages for changes in price level is a practice of long standing, dating in the case of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, for example, back to the year 1913. The tribunals form their own judgment as to the relevance of the indexes to their purposes, and periodically hear the representatives of employers and employees on the issues involved, including questions as to whether the index is satisfactory for the purposes to which it is applied by the tribunal. In such proceedings the Statistician or his officers are called at times as witnesses on questions of fact and technical matters relating to the indexes.

The automatic adjustments in wages prescribed in awards of the Court on the basis of retail price index-numbers are sometimes referred to as "cost of living" adjustments and the index is popularly referred to as a "cost of living index". This at times creates misconceptions as to the nature of the retail price index since the term "cost of living" connotes not only change in cost of living due to changes in prices, but also changes in

* 33 C.A.B., p. 144 ; 37 C.A.B., p. 583 ; 44 C.A.B., p. 41.

† 50 C.A.B., p. 102.

cost of living due to changes in standard of living. Beyond that, use of the term "cost of living" index sometimes creates the erroneous impression that the retail price index purports to embrace all that should be included in a desirable standard of living. As pointed out in the opening sections of this chapter, the "C" Series Index is a retail price index of specific meaning.

The following is a brief statement of the indexes used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from time to time:—

(i) "*A*" Series Index.—The "*A*" Series Index covers food and groceries and the rent of all houses, with the year 1911 as the base (1,000). This Index was first compiled in 1912, and is available yearly for the six capital cities from 1901 to 1911, and quarterly for 30 important towns of Australia from 1912 to June Quarter, 1938, after which it was discontinued.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration adopted this Index 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 employec, regarded as a human being, living in a civilized community." For this purpose the base index-number (1,000) of the series was selected by the Court as equivalent to a basic wage of 48s. per week. This Index had very little application after May, 1933, because of the adoption by the Court successively of the "*D*" Series Index at that date, the "*C*" Series Index in May, 1934, and the "Court" Series Index in July, 1937.

(ii) "*B*" Series Index.—The "*B*" Series Index covers 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), and is actually the food and rent constituent of the "*C*" Series Index described in (iii) below. This index was first compiled in 1925, and is available for the six capital cities for the years 1907 and 1911, and for the month of November of the years 1914 to 1920, and quarterly thereafter for the 30 important towns of Australia. It was designed to replace the "*A*" Series Index but was never used in connexion with the adjustment of wages by Industrial Tribunals. This series appears on pages 28 to 31 of this Report.

(iii) "*C*" Series Index.—The "*C*" Series Index covers food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing (man, wife and three children); household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items, with the prices ruling in the years 1923–1927 as the base (1,000). The regimen is published in full on pages 11 to 13 of this Report.

This Index was constructed as the result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and the regimen adopted was substantially that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission with periodical adjustments as explained in this chapter. It was first compiled in 1921 and is available for the month of November for the six capital cities for the years 1914 to 1921, quarterly for these cities from June Quarter, 1922, and quarterly for the 30 important towns from March Quarter, 1925 to date.

The Index was not used in connexion with the variation of wages until its partial adoption by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in May, 1933, when the Court introduced the "*D*" Series Index explained on the following page. In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted as from 1st May, 1934, the "*C*" Series Index as the sole basis for the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment, for which purpose the Court equated a "needs" basic wage of 81s. per week to the base index-number (1923–27 = 1,000) of the series. In its

judgment of 23rd June, 1937, the Court adopted this index as the basis of the "Court" Index (First Series) for the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the Court's new basic wage (*see* (iv) below).

(iv) *The "Court" Index.*—The "Court" Index was created by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, and operated from 1st July, 1937. Its purpose was to provide a set of index-numbers which would be published by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible for the fixation and adjustment of wage-rates. Its introduction has the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the manner most convenient for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards. It is based on the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" Series Index, and from 1st December, 1946, is obtained as follows:—The Court in its "Interim" basic wage judgment of 13th December, 1946, decided to equate to the base index-number of the "C" Series Index (1923-27 = 1,000) the "Court" Index (Second Series) index-number 87.0, and as this was the weekly rate in shillings allotted in 1946 by the Court to this base index-number as its "needs" basic wage (*see* (vi), p. 79), each "C" Series index-point is thus equal to .0875. By the simple process of multiplying any "C" Series index-number by this factor, therefore, the result to the first decimal place (*as it stands*) is the corresponding "Court" (Second Series) index-number, which also expresses in shillings the amount of the "needs" basic wage as fixed by the Court for that index-number—with the proviso that any decimal point of .5 or more shall be regarded as the next higher number of shillings. To this wage is then added the relevant "constant" and other loadings granted by the Court to make up the total basic wage for the awards concerned. In the normal course the Court hears and decides issues raised as to the suitability of the index-numbers for the purposes to which it applies them. The "Court" Index (Second Series) entirely supersedes the "C" Series Index for all wage adjustments decreed by the Court. A set of index-numbers under this series is reproduced in Appendix IV. of this Report, while a "Ready Reckoner" for the weekly "needs" basic wage equivalents of "C" Series and "Court" (Second Series) index-numbers is shown at the end of the following section (*see* page 40). For "Court" Index (Third Series) *see* Section IV. of Appendix.

A full account is given on page 36 of Labour Report No. 34 of the "Court" Index (First Series) on the base 1923-27 = 81.0, which operated from 1st July, 1937. For the purposes of obtaining continuous "price" indexes, however, these may be converted to Second Series (Base = 87.0) by multiplying them by the factor 1.0741, and the Second Series may be converted to First Series by multiplying them by the factor 0.931.

(v) *"D" Series Index.*—The "D" Series Index is a combination of the "A" and "C" Series Indexes, and was introduced by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. reduction in real wages determined by the Court in January, 1931. It came into operation from 1st May, 1933.

The Index has for its base the "A" Series Index for each town for December Quarter, 1929, which is varied according to the ratio of change indicated by the "C" Series index-number for the whole of 1929 and the corresponding "C" Series index-number of the town for the quarter for

which the adjustment is to be made. It will thus be seen that, whereas the "D" Series Index for each town from December Quarter, 1929 fluctuated in the same way as the "C" Series Index for the same town, the relationship of different towns was that of the "A" Series Index for December Quarter, 1929, slightly modified by the difference in movement between the "A" Series and the "C" Series Indexes for each town since that quarter.

This Index was superseded as from 1st May, 1934, by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" Series Index. The index-numbers of this series were published in Appendix VIII. of Labour Reports Nos. 24 to 27.

(vi) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen of food and groceries is a component part of each of the series of retail price index-numbers mentioned above. Details of the regimen will be found on page II. This index was first compiled in 1912 and is available yearly for the six capital cities from 1901 to 1911 and monthly for the 30 important towns of Australia from 1912 to date. An index computed from the prices of food and groceries only was for a time used for the adjustment of old-age and invalid pensions, and also for the adjustment of the wages of members of the North Australian Workers' Union above the 20th parallel. Both these adjustments were later effected by means of the "C" Series Index, but the provisions for the adjustment of pensions were repealed as from 6th April, 1944.

(vii) *The "200 Towns" Series.*—This series was tabulated for the month of November each year in respect of 200 of the more important towns of the Commonwealth. Up to November, 1936, it covered the cost of food and groceries combined with the rent of 4 and of 5-roomed houses respectively, but thereafter the tabulation was limited to food and groceries only. This table has been used mostly in discussions of suitable relative rates for country towns, but the index-numbers have not been directly employed by industrial tribunals in this connexion. The base of this table is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in 1923-27 = 1,000. This series has been compiled for the month of November since 1913. It was originally confined to 100 towns, but was increased to 150 in 1915, and 200 in 1923. The tabulation of this index was discontinued after November, 1942. A reference to these index-numbers will be found on page 32.

§ 11. Scales Used for Automatic Wage Adjustment.

The following table shows the automatic scales of quarterly, half-yearly or yearly adjustment adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946, for the "needs" portion of its basic wage. The amount of wage shown constitutes the basic wage payable (exclusive of certain "loadings") and designated by the Court the "needs" basic wage. Of the various "loadings" legally regarded as part of a total basic wage* the only one having general application is that popularly referred to as the "prosperity" loading awarded by the Court in 1937. This is a "constant" (non-adjustable) loading, but at different rates according to locality and industry, and is fully described in Chapter III. (§ 3) of this Report. The method followed by the Court was to fix an amount of basic wage after hearing evidence and argument by representatives of employers and employees covering a wide range of relevant factors (primarily relating to "capacity of industry" to pay and general economic conditions), and then to determine an automatic adjustment scale.

* See second paragraph, p. 75. Varied December, 1950. See Sections iv. and x. of Appendix.

Automatic Scales for Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly Adjustment of "Needs" Basic Wage.*

(As adopted by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, 13th December, 1946 and operative from 1st December, 1946.)

† Basic—

(a) "C" Series Index.—Index-number 1,000 (Base 1923-27) = 87s. per week (1s. = 11.494253), or £227 per annum (£1 = 4.405287).‡

(b) "Court" Index (Second Series).—"C" Series index-number 1,000 (Base 1923-27) = "Court" Index (Second Series) index-number 87.0. (One "C" Series "point" = .087.)

Index-number Divisions		Wage Per week ("Needs").	Index-number Divisions.		Wage Per week ("Needs").
"C" Series Index.	"Court" Index (Second Series).		"C" Series Index.	"Court" Index (Second Series).	
834-844 ..	72.5-73.4	3 13 0	1156-1166 ..	100.5-101.4	5 1 0
845-856 ..	73.5-74.4	3 14 0	1167-1178 ..	101.5-102.4	5 2 0
857-867 ..	74.5-75.4	3 15 0	1179-1189 ..	102.5-103.4	5 3 0
868-879 ..	75.5-76.4	3 16 0	1190-1201 ..	103.5-104.4	5 4 0
880-890 ..	76.5-77.4	3 17 0	1202-1212 ..	104.5-105.4	5 5 0
891-902 ..	77.5-78.4	3 18 0	1213-1224 ..	105.5-106.4	5 6 0
903-913 ..	78.5-79.4	3 19 0	1225-1235 ..	106.5-107.4	5 7 0
914-925 ..	79.5-80.4	4 0 0	1236-1247 ..	107.5-108.4	5 8 0
926-936 ..	80.5-81.4	4 1 0	1248-1258 ..	108.5-109.4	5 9 0
937-948 ..	81.5-82.4	4 2 0	1259-1270 ..	109.5-110.4	5 10 0
949-959 ..	82.5-83.4	4 3 0	1271-1281 ..	110.5-111.4	5 11 0
960-971 ..	83.5-84.4	4 4 0	1282-1293 ..	111.5-112.4	5 12 0
972-982 ..	84.5-85.4	4 5 0	1294-1304 ..	112.5-113.4	5 13 0
983-994 ..	85.5-86.4	4 6 0	1305-1316 ..	113.5-114.4	5 14 0
995-1005 ..	86.5-87.4	4 7 0	1317-1327 ..	114.5-115.4	5 15 0
1006-1017 ..	87.5-88.4	4 8 0	1328-1339 ..	115.5-116.4	5 16 0
1018-1028 ..	88.5-89.4	4 9 0	1340-1350 ..	116.5-117.4	5 17 0
1029-1040 ..	89.5-90.4	4 10 0	1351-1362 ..	117.5-118.4	5 18 0
1041-1051 ..	90.5-91.4	4 11 0	1363-1373 ..	118.5-119.4	5 19 0
1052-1063 ..	91.5-92.4	4 12 0	1374-1385 ..	119.5-120.4	6 0 0
1064-1074 ..	92.5-93.4	4 13 0	1386-1396 ..	120.5-121.4	6 1 0
1075-1086 ..	93.5-94.4	4 14 0	1397-1408 ..	121.5-122.4	6 2 0
1087-1097 ..	94.5-95.4	4 15 0	1409-1419 ..	122.5-123.4	6 3 0
1098-1109 ..	95.5-96.4	4 16 0	1420-1431 ..	123.5-124.4	6 4 0
1110-1120 ..	96.5-97.4	4 17 0	1432-1442 ..	124.5-125.4	6 5 0
1121-1132 ..	97.5-98.4	4 18 0	1443-1454 ..	125.5-126.4	6 6 0
1133-1143 ..	98.5-99.4	4 19 0	1455-1465 ..	126.5-127.4	6 7 0
1144-1155 ..	99.5-100.4	5 0 0	1466-1477 ..	127.5-128.4	6 8 0

* For "Court" (First Series) Equivalents (Base = 81.0) see Labour Report No. 34, p. 38. For "Court" (Third Series) Equivalents (Base = 103.0) see Section iv of Appendix.

† Formulae for Construction of Tables—

(a) "C" Series.—Let N = number of shillings in wage per week. Then $11.494253 \times (N - .5) + 1$ gives the first, and $11.494253 \times (N + .5)$ gives the second of the pair of numbers in the index-number division for N shillings. Decimal fractions in result to be disregarded.

(b) "Court" Series.—Each "C" Series Index point = .087, and each of the first of the pair of index-number divisions for the "C" Series Index in above table when multiplied by this factor gives to the first decimal place (as it stands) the first of the pair of index-number divisions for the "Court" Index (Second Series)—from which the second of the pair becomes obvious. (NOTE.—All "Court" Series index-numbers must be derived through their corresponding "C" Series index-numbers.)

‡ For general purposes, the Annual Rate (in £'s) is obtainable by multiplying the Weekly Rate (in Shillings) by 2.608333 (i.e., 52½ (weeks) divided by 20 (shillings),—a decimal point of .5 or more being taken to the next higher £.

Both the amount of wage and the adjustment scale operate only until the Court otherwise determines, and representatives of employers and employees have the right to approach the Court for variation of the wage or for variation of the adjustment scale. Only the "needs" portion of the total basic wage was adjustable from 1937 to December, 1950.

§ 12. International Comparisons: Retail Price Index-Numbers.

The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices for (i) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (ii) foodstuffs only. For the countries included, the average prices for the year 1937 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken chiefly from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are obviously not comparable horizontally from the point of view of absolute relative "costs" as between the various countries included.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries.

(Base: 1937 = 100.)

(i) COST OF LIVING.*

	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL.(c)	CANADA.	CHILE	DENMARK.	EGYPT.(b)	FINLAND.	INDIA.	IRELAND.
Town or Number of Localities.	30	62	Sao Paulo.	69	Santiago.	Whole.	Cairo.	36	Bombay.	120
1937	100	100	..	100	100	100	..	100	100	100
1938	103	104	..	101	104	102	..	103	100	102
1939	105	104	100	100	106	104	..	105	100	105
1940	110	117	105	104	119	130	113	125	106	121
1941	115	..	117	110	137	150	138	148	117	133
1942	125	..	130	116	173	156	184	174	148	147
1943	129	..	150	117	201	158	242	197	218	166
1944	129	..	191	117	224	160	279	209	224	174
1945	129	..	232	118	244	162	293	292	222	173
1946	131	3246	276	122	283	161	287	467	244	171
1947	136	340	328	134	378	166	279	606	263	181d
1948	148	390	361	153	446	170	281	815	286	186
1949	162	378	359	159	529	171	278	830	290	187
1949—										
March Qtr. ..	156	384	355	148	487	172	280	812	294	186
June	161	377	363	158	523	172	277	807	287	186
Sept.	164	376	357	160	539	170	274	842	288	188
Dec.	168	373	361	160	568	170	280	856	291	188

* The index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items.

(a) Base: 1939 = 100. (b) Base: June-August, 1939 = 100. (c) October-December. (d) New interim index linked to the old.

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

(Base: 1937 = 100.)

(I) COST OF LIVING*—continued.

Town or Number of Localities.	NETHERLANDS. 6	NEW ZEALAND. 4-25	NORWAY. 31	PERU. Lima.	SOUTHERN RHODESIA. ^(c) 6	SWEDEN. 60	SWITZERLAND. 34	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. 9	UNITED KINGDOM. 24-509	UNITED STATES. 32-51	URUGUAY. Montevideo.
1937	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1938	101	103	103	101	101	102	100	104	101	98	99
1939	102	107	105	100	100	105	101	104	103	97	105
1940	117	112	122	107	101	118	110	107	119	98	110
1941	134	116	143	116	105	134	127	112	129	102	109
1942	143	120	152	131	111	144	141	122	130	113	112
1943	149	123 ^(b)	155	142	117	146	149	129	129	120	116
1944	153 ^(b)	125	157	163	122	145	152	133	130	122	121
1945	176 ^(b)	127	160	182	125	145	152	137	132	123	139
1946	192 ^(b)	128	164	199	128	145	152	139	132	136	153
1947	199	132	165	258	132	159	159	145	102 ^(d)	155	177
1948	206	142	164	338	141	157	164	153	108	167	180
1949	210	145 ^(b)	164	387	150	160	162	159	111	165	189
1949—											
March Qtr ..	216	143	163	358	145	160	163	157	109	165	193
June	221	141	164	378	140	160	162	159	110	165	192
Sept.	217	145	166	399	149	161	162	159	111	164	189
Dec.	221	146	164	414	155	160	162	159	112	164	181

* The index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items.

(a) Index-numbers for years 1937-40 include only food, fuel, light and rent. (b) War-time index linked to former series. (c) Average of less than twelve months. (d) July-December. New series. Base: 17th June, 1947 = 100. (e) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index linked to former series.

(II) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

Town or Number of Localities.	AUSTRALIA. 30	BRAZIL. ^(a) Sao Paulo.	CANADA. ^(a) 69	CHILE. San-tiago.	DENMARK. Whole.	EGYPT. ^(b) Cairo.	FINLAND. 36	FRANCE. Paris.	INDIA. Bombay.	IRELAND. 120
1937	100	..	100	100	100	..	100	100	100	100
1938	104	..	101	105	104	..	101	116	99	104
1939	109	100	97	103	106	..	105	125	100	104
1940	110	107	102	120	129	112	128	149	110	117
1941	111	121	112	137	157	141	151	172	123	129
1942	121	134	123	179	162	194	177	201	158	143
1943	122	153	127	212	161	263	197	259	221	159
1944	120	201	127	227	162	312	200	319	231	163
1945	121	245	129	242	163	325	312	436	238	169
1946	122	312	136	281	163	310	491	746	278	169
1947	129	373	155	377	170	298	719	1,207	302	(c)183
1948	148	425	189	439	173	299	956	1,923	305	188
1949	164	499	197	504	175	303	979	2,099	321	188
1949—										
March Qtr. ..	160	404	194	476	174	303	960	2,136	316	187
June	163	417	194	491	173	301	927	1,998	313	187
Sept.	164	495	202	507	173	298	1,000	2,038	324	190
Dec.	168	412	197	543	175	311	1,027	2,225	330	188

(a) Base: 1939 = 100.
to the old.

(b) Base: June-August, 1939 = 100.

(c) New interim index linked

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

(Base: 1937 = 100.)

(ii) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS—continued.

	MEXICO.	NETHER- LANDS.	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PERU.	SOUTHERN RHODESIA.	SWITZER- LAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES.	URUGUAY.
Town or Number of Localities.	Mexico City.	6	25	31	Lima.	6	34	9	24-509	32-51	Monte- video.
1937	100	100	100	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100
1938	115	103	104	104	98	..	100	105	101	93	96
1939	113	104	110	106	92	..	102	104	101	90	102
1940	112	122	113	127	101	..	113	107	118	92	107
1941	115	147	115	152	115	110	135	115	121	100	107
1942	131	160	718	158	129	116	155	127	116	118	111
1943	168	162	319	160	143	321	163	138	119	131	118
1944	217	167 ^b	151	161	163	724	166	144	121	129	122
1945	234	171 ^b	120	168	182	127	166	147	122	132	146
1946	303	197 ^b	121	163	196	132	162	151	122	152	163
1947	348	215	128	162	271	144	171	159	101 ^d	184	202
1948	367	233	145	158	364	163	177	161	108	200	197
1949	383	254	149 ^c	156	423	173	176	169	114	192	197
1949—											
March Qtr. ..	373	250	145	154	387	169	177	165	108	192	205
June	379	260	146	156	409	174	176	172	113	193	205
Sept.	390	252	151	159	439	166	176	169	116	193	197
Dec.	390	256	152	155	455	183	176	169	119	190	182

(a) Base: August, 1939 = 100. (b) Average of less than twelve months. (c) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index linked to former series. (d) July-December. New series. Base: 17th June, 1947 = 100.

CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

I. General.—The data on which this chapter is based relate almost entirely to wholesale prices in Melbourne.

The index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912, and has been continued on the same lines since that year. The items included in the (old) 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 prices of these particular materials rather than the changes in prices generally. As Australia does not, to any extent, manufacture from imported raw materials commodities for export, the local consumption appears to give the most appropriate weighting. Any lack of uniformity in the variations of the index-numbers for these wholesale prices and for retail prices would indicate broadly changes in the relation of manufacturing and distributing charges to the cost of basic materials.