

## 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 (generally referred to as the "regimen") used in compiling the "C" Series Retail Price Index (see list on pages II-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 information as to prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more retailers in each of the capital cities, and from five or more retailers in each of the provincial towns. To cover all commodities in the regimen, collection is made from approximately 60 retailers in each capital city and 30 in each provincial town.
- (ii) Information is collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1949 which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of any 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 obtain requisite information. 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, page 32 below.) Because of rapidly changing conditions since 1948, prices have been ascertained for a large number of items not embraced in the index, and for an increasing number of types of "regimen" items. The purpose of this is to ensure that the index is kept representative and reliable within its definition.
- (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 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 and was checked with the results of the Census of 1947. 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 (b) on page 10*).

## § 2. Retail Price Indexes.

**1. 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 § 6 (2), page 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. (See middle of page 37.)

**5. Effects of Abnormal Conditions on Indexes.**—Under abnormal conditions since 1940, scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grades in common use have created unusual difficulty in obtaining the data necessary for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, this has rendered it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This has been 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 abnormal times, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors actually produce short term changes in usage. The weights applicable to the items in the regimen cannot, however, be changed frequently and at short intervals. (See § 9 (5), page 35.)

### § 3. Various Retail Price Indexes.

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

- (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 38 to 40 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 of the Six Capital Cities combined,
- (e) weighted average of the Thirty Towns (including capital cities),
- (f) separate indexes for Warwick, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Canberra.

The "C" Series Index formed 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 prior to its decision of 12th September, 1953. (See Appendix, page 213.)

#### § 4. Retail Price Levels ("C" Series Index) 1914 to 1953.

1. **Significant Dates.**—The aggregate indexes for November, 1914, 1921 and 1922, and the years 1923 to 1952, 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.

##### "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

##### WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 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.)
1948, September Quarter	..	..	1,311
1950, September Quarter	..	..	1,572
1952, September Quarter	..	..	2,238
1953, June Quarter	..	..	2,293

The index rose by approximately 32 per cent. during the first world war and by a further 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.

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. After June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., were progressively

modified and by the end of 1948 and early 1949 had been virtually eliminated. Price control was transferred from Commonwealth to State authorities in September, 1948. In the latter part of 1950 export prices (especially for wool) rose very substantially and have remained relatively very high. In December, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration raised the basic wage by approximately 14 per cent. Concurrently, public works expenditure and private investment rose to very high levels.

An account of price control measures and of price stabilization in Australia was published in *Official Year Book* No. 37, pages 458-463, No. 38, page 414 and No. 39, pages 398-9.

2. "C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1953. — 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 combined:—

"C" Series Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index-Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined, 1914 to 1953.

(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.	Total "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	1,013
1922 (c)	945	929	939	1,052	999	975
1923	1,009	950	988	1,045	999	1,003
1924	969	988	975	1,005	1,004	987
1925	998	1,008	1,002	991	992	997
1926	1,023	1,026	1,024	986	908	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
1929	1,044	1,073	1,054	996	1,007	1,033
1930	941	1,047	978	951	999	975
1931	816	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	1,160	1,131
1944	1,026	976	1,004	1,435	1,165	1,126
1945	1,032	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	1,506	1,190	1,188
1948	1,256	979	1,145	1,744	1,257	1,295
1949	1,394	982	1,220	1,907	1,338	1,415
1950	1,564	987	1,336	2,286	1,431	1,560
1951	2,041	1,009	1,634	2,749	1,679	1,882
1952	2,526	1,057	1,947	3,096	1,958	2,196

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

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

(c) November.

**"C" Series Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index-Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined, 1914 to 1953—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.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Index
Quarter— 1939—September ..	920	967	936	836	961	916
1943—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 ..	1,049	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	1,211
1948—March ..	1,190	978	1,105	1,661	1,231	1,248
June ..	1,229	979	1,129	1,720	1,248	1,278
September ..	1,271	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 ..	1,306	982	1,232	2,043	1,345	1,428
December ..	1,429	983	1,252	2,132	1,378	1,466
1950—March ..	1,473	984	1,279	2,156	1,402	1,491
June ..	1,520	986	1,308	2,261	1,413	1,534
September ..	1,582	987	1,346	2,316	1,432	1,572
December ..	1,689	989	1,412	2,410	1,492	1,643
1951—March ..	1,790	1,004	1,480	2,487	1,564	1,713
June ..	1,925	1,007	1,562	2,746	1,641	1,833
September ..	2,136	1,010	1,692	2,833	1,715	1,943
December ..	2,311	1,013	1,800	2,930	1,794	2,042
1952—March ..	2,494	1,023	1,860	2,992	1,828	2,098
June ..	2,567	1,011	1,966	3,099	1,919	2,206
September ..	2,592	1,070	1,992	3,115	2,018	2,238
December ..	2,542	1,094	1,971	3,177	2,035	2,243
1953—March ..	2,572	1,122	2,001	3,200	2,048	2,268
June ..	2,605	1,136	2,026	3,245	2,051	2,293

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

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

### §. 5. Increases in Retail Prices in Recent Years.

1. **Australia.**—The following statement shows, for the six capital cities combined, the percentage increases which have taken place between specified dates in respective groups included in the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

**"C" Series Retail Price Index : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities.**

**A.—Percentage Increases in Group Indexes, and in Index as a Whole.**

The following table shows, for the capital cities combined, the percentage increases in the "C" Series Retail Price Index as a whole, and in the prices of items in each group considered as a group, between the dates specified :—

Period.	Aggregate "C" Series Index.	Food and Groceries Group.	Rent Group.	Clothing Group.	Miscel- laneous Group.
	%	%	%	%	%
September Quarter, 1939 to September Quarter, 1945 .. .. .	22.9	13.0	0.8	69.3	20.8
September Quarter, 1945 to September Quarter, 1948 .. .. .	16.5	22.5	0.4	25.6	9.4
September Quarter, 1948 to September Quarter, 1950 .. .. .	19.9	24.1	0.8	30.2	12.7
September Quarter, 1950 to September Quarter, 1952 .. .. .	42.4	63.8	8.4	34.4	40.9
September Quarter, 1952 to June Quarter, 1953 .. .. .	2.5	0.5	6.1	4.2	1.6
September Quarter, 1939 to June Quarter, 1953 .. .. .	150.3	183.2	17.4	288.3	113.4

**B.—Contribution of Each Group to the Percentage Increase of the Total Index.**

The following table dissects the percentage increases in the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index in such a way as to show the component parts of such increases due to the rise in each of the four main groups of the index :—

Group.	September Quarter, 1939 to September Quarter, 1945.	September Quarter, 1945 to September Quarter, 1948.	September Quarter, 1948 to September Quarter, 1950	September Quarter, 1950 to September Quarter, 1952.	September Quarter, 1952 to June Quarter, 1953.	September Quarter, 1939 to June Quarter, 1953.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Food and Groceries ..	4.7	7.5	8.5	23.1	0.2	66.3
Rent .. .. .	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.7	4.2
Clothing .. .. .	13.9	7.1	9.0	11.2	1.3	57.8
Miscellaneous .. .. .	4.1	1.8	2.3	6.9	0.3	22.0
Total ("C" Series Index) .. .. .	22.9	16.5	19.9	42.4	2.5	150.3

This table shows that rises in prices of clothing caused the aggregate of the index to rise by 13.9 per cent. in the six years September Quarter, 1939, to September Quarter, 1945. Increased prices of food and groceries caused the aggregate "C" Series Index to rise by 4.7 per cent. For other groups, the corresponding contributory increases were :—in the miscellaneous group 4.1 per cent. and in the rent group 0.2 per cent., making a total increase of



22.9 per cent. in the aggregate "C" Series Index. Following the corresponding lines across the table it is evident that the rise in prices of food and groceries has become the major cause of the rise in the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index since September Quarter, 1950.

2. **International Comparisons.**—The following table shows the increase in recent years in Australia and certain other countries.

## 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.
1939— September Quarter	100	100	100	100	(a) 100	100
1940—Year (b) ..	105	119	105	104	104	100
1941— " (b) ..	110	104	111	103	109	105
1942— " (b) ..	119	129	116	111	118	116
1943— " (b) ..	124	128	117	114	126	125
1944— " (b) ..	123	129	118	116(e)	130	123
1945— " (b) ..	123	131	119	118	133	127
1946— " (b) ..	125	131	123	118	135	138
1947— " (b) ..	130	102(d)	134	122	141	158
1948— " (b) ..	141	108	154	132	149	170
1949— " (b) ..	154	111	160	134(e)	154	168
1950— " (b) ..	170	114	165	142	160	171
1951— " (b) ..	206	124	183	157	172	185
1952— " ..	240	136	186	170	187	189
1952—March Quarter	229	133	189	167	183	187
June ..	241	136	186	169	185	188
Sept. ..	244	137	186	171	188	190
Dec. ..	245	138	183	172	192	190
1953—March Quarter	248	139	183	174	190	180
June ..	250	141	183	176	193	190

(a) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure. (b) Quarterly indexes appear in preceding issues.  
 (c) War-time Index linked to former series. (d) New Series (Base: 17th June, 1947 = 100) commencing from September quarter, 1947.  
 (e) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index from March quarter, 1949, onwards. Index-numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (base 1926-30) with the new index.

During the second world war price control measures were generally introduced at an early stage and 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* 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 Governments of the States.

### § 6. Construction of the "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), page 3 above.) 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.
III. Clothing .. .. .	{ E.—Clothing—Man. F.—Clothing—Woman. 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 two 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) *Rent.* 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 2 above). 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—Six Capital Cities—Dec. Quarter, 1932 (a)
<b>SECTION A.—GROCERIES.</b>				
1	Bread, white flour (cash delivered) ..	2-lb. loaf ..	100	3.55
2	Flour, ordinary ..	2 lb. ..	25	0.64
3	Flour, self-raising ..	2-lb. pkt. ..	12	0.57
4	Tea ..	1-lb. pkt. ..	8	1.12
5	Sugar, white granulated, IA ..	1 lb. ..	100	2.62
6	..	..	..	..
7	Sego, seed tapioca ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.07
8	Jam, plum ..	1 1/2-lb. tin ..	8	0.66
9	Golden Syrup ..	2-lb. tin ..	1	0.05
10	Oats, flaked, loose ..	1 lb. ..	8	0.27
11	Raisins, seeded ..	1-lb. pkt. ..	5	0.47
12	Currants, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	2	0.13
13	Apricots, dried, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.18
14	Peaches, canned ..	30-oz. tin ..	3	0.32
15	Pears, canned ..	30-oz. tin ..	1	0.12
16	..	..	..	..
17	Potatoes, new and old ..	7 lb. ..	18	1.49
18	Onions, brown ..	1 lb. ..	14	0.21
19	Soap ..	1 lb. ..	16	0.74
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk ..	quart ..	4	0.11
<b>SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.</b>				
21	Butter, factory "choicest" ..	1 lb. ..	30	4.18
22	Cheese, ordinary, mild ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.38
23	Eggs, standard, new laid ..	1 doz. ..	6	1.02
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle ..	1 lb. ..	12	2.13
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened ..	1 tin ..	5	0.29
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or not bottled ..	quart ..	72	3.70
<b>SECTION C.—MEAT.</b>				
<b>Beef (fresh)—</b>				
27	Sirloin (Roast) (bone in) ..	1 lb. ..	18	1.87
28	Prime Rib (Roast) including bone ..	1 lb. ..	22	1.81
29	Steak—Rump ..	1 lb. ..	11	1.50
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing) ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.69
31	Sausages ..	1 lb. ..	7	0.39
<b>Beef (corned)—</b>				
32	Silverside ..	1 lb. ..	14	1.34
33	Brisket, rolled ..	1 lb. ..	15	1.12
<b>Mutton (fresh)—</b>				
34	Leg ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.26
35	Forequarter ..	1 lb. ..	15	0.64
36	Loin, without flap ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.25
37	Chops—Loin ..	1 lb. ..	30	1.04
38	Chops—Leg ..	1 lb. ..	10	0.66
<b>Pork (fresh)—</b>				
39	Leg ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.44
40	Loin, best end ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.44
41	Chops ..	1 lb. ..	3	0.44
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING.—SECTION D.—RENT.</b>				
42	House Accommodation(b) ..	week ..	52(c)	11.27

(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" or Mass Unit (per capita).	No.	Item.	"Weight" or 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, Cotton Tweed (Australian)	2.00	47	Cap, Skull, Cloth	1.50
3	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.25	48	Shirt, Sports	5.00
4	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)	1.00	49	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1.00
5	Shirt, Fashion	1.67	50	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1.00
6	Shirt, Working, Drill	4.00	51	Braces	1.00
7	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (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 and Cotton (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	Sox, All Wool .. a (4.65)	2.00	56		
12			57		
13	Braces	1.33			
14	Handkerchief, Cotton	6.00			
15	Pyjamas, Winceyette	1.50			
16	Pullover, All Wool	1.00			
17	Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf	0.50			
18	Boots, working, Box Hide	1.50			
19					
SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN.(b)			SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS).		
20	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.50	58	Tunic, Wool	1.00
21	Skirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.25	59	Dress, Cotton	3.00
22	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian)	0.75	60	Top Coat, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
23	Hat, Straw	1.50	61	Hat, Wool Felt (Australian)	1.00
24	Frock, ready-made, Cotton	1.50	62	Hat, Straw	5.00
25	Frock, ready-made, Rayon	1.50	63	Petticoat, Rayon	1.00
26	Brassiers	4.50	64	Singlet, Wool and Rayon	0.50
27	Undervest, Wool and Rayon	1.50	65	Singlet, Rayon	0.50
28	Undervest, Rayon	1.50	66	Pantette, Cotton, fleece-lined	2.00
29	Pantette, Rayon	4.50	67	Pantette, Rayon	2.00
30	Slip, Rayon	1.00	68	Sox, Ankle, Rayon and Lisle	4.00
31	Stockings, Silk, Nylon	6.00	69	Pyjamas, Winceyette	0.33
32	Stockings, Lisle	3.00	70	Pyjamas, Rayon	0.33
33	Gloves, Fabric	2.25	71	Pullover, All Wool	0.50
34	Gloves, Nappa	0.75	72	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	0.67
35	Nightdress, Rayon .. a (2.49)	1.50	73	Shoes (school), Box Yearling	1.50
36	Pyjamas, Winceyette	1.50	74		
37	Apron, Cotton	6.00			
38	Cardigan, All Wool	0.50			
39	Shoes (for best wear), Glass Kid	1.50			
40	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf	1.50			
41					
42					
43					
SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).			SECTION I.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS).		
44	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.00	76	Shirt, Ranger	3.00
45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	5.00	77	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00
			78	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
			79	Hat, Cloth	1.33
			80	Singlet, Wool and Cotton	1.00
			81	Singlet, Cotton (athletic)	1.00
			82	Sox, Ankle, Rayon and Lisle	4.00
			83	Pyjamas, Winceyette	2.00
			84	Pullover, All Wool	0.50
			85	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	1.00
			86	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling	2.00

(a) Mass unit actually applicable, and includes "weight" transferred from similar articles now deleted. (b) The mass units were raised by 50 per cent. throughout this Section to restore (as due) proportionate "weight" in the Clothing Group of the Index as from September Quarter, 1935.

## 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	Knife, Table (stainless) ..	0.10
2	Blankets, S.B. (pair) ..	0.14	27	Spoon, Tea ..	0.02
3	Quilt, D.B. ..	0.25	28	Spoon, Dessert ..	0.02
4	.. ..	..	29	Fork, Table ..	0.10
5	Sheets, D.B. (pair) ..	0.50	30	Globe, Electric Light (gas-filled)	1.00
6	Sheets, S.B. (pair) ..	1.00	31	Iron, Electric (full size) ..	0.10
7	Pillow Slip, Cotton ..	5.00			
8	Towel ..	3.00	SECTION M.—FUEL AND LIGHT.		
9	Table Cloth ..	0.10	32	Firewood (blocks) (cwt.) (b) ..	40
10	Tea Towel (yard) ..	4.00	33	Gas, cooking (units) (b) ..	1,518
			34	Electric lighting (units) ..	130
			35	Electric power (units) (b) ..	130
SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.			SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS.		
11	Cup and Saucer ..	2.00	36	Union Dues ..	(c)
12	Plate, Dinner (Stone China) ..	4.00	37	Lodge Dues ..	(c)
13	Jug, Quart (Earthenware) ..	1.00	38	Medicine ..	(c)
14	Tenpot ..	0.25	39	Newspapers ..	(c)
15	Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 6½-inch	1.00	40	Recreation ..	(c)
16	Tumbler (8-oz.) ..	1.00	41	Smoking ..	(c)
17	Kettle, Enamel (4-pint) a (0.37)	0.70	42	Pares ..	(c)
18	.. ..	..	43	School requisites ..	(c)
19	Saucepan, Enamel (3-pint) ..	0.40			
20	Bucket, Galvanized (11-inch) ..	0.20			
21	Dipper ..	0.20			
22	Broom, Millet ..	0.50			
23	Broom, Hair, complete (12-inch)	0.33			
24	Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch) ..	1.50			
25	Mop, Polishing, complete ..	0.70			

(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 basic amount per week is varied quarterly (where necessary) in accordance with changes shown by an index of variation.

## 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.MU" 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 page 102). 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.

(iv) Some 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 (5) of this chapter.)

**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 as shown in the third column of the following table. Although the "weight" of each item in the regimen is kept virtually constant, the relative "aggregate expenditure" of the various items and groups varies from time to time as relative prices change.

The percentage distribution for the Six Capital Cities as a whole for the December Quarter, 1952, is shown in the last column of the table for comparison with that of the base period.

Group.	Section.	Proportion of Aggregate Expenditure.	
		1923-27. (Base) Six Capital Cities.	Dec. Qtr., 1952. Six Capital Cities.
		%	%
I. Food and Groceries	A Groceries ..	17.44	13.32
	B Dairy Produce ..	10.28	11.70
	C Meat ..	10.94	15.79
II. Housing ..	D House Rent— (4 and 5-roomed houses) ..	21.26	11.27
	E Man ..	8.69	12.80
III. Clothing ..	F Woman ..	9.12	13.50
	G. H. J. Children ..	5.23	4.82
	K Household Drapery	1.09	2.05
IV. Miscellaneous ..	L Household Utensils	0.49	0.67
	M Fuel and Light ..	4.92	4.53
	N Other Miscellaneous	10.54	9.55
		100.00	100.00

**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 new 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 expenditure" of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base expressed as an index-number of 1,000.

Conferences of statisticians in 1949 and 1950 left consideration of the adoption of a new base period to be made in conjunction with the next general review of the index. In the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* the index is recomputed with the three years ended June, 1939, as base.

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. 155, 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
Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous ("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 ..	500	Adelaide ..	313	Perth, etc.	208	Hobart ..	60
Newcastle ..	105	Bairarat ..	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 ..	5
Bathurst ..	10	W'nambool ..	9	†Bundaberg ..	11	Peterbor'gh ..	3	Geraldton ..	5	Queenst'wn ..	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	†Total ..	392	Total ..	344	Total ..	240	Total ..	206

† 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.

These weights 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 as follows :—

(i) *Monthly.*—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date.

(ii) *Quarterly.*—A 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 of food and groceries, for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. Particulars of movements in certain average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.

(iii) *Annual.*—The *Labour Report* contains index-numbers over a number of past years, and the monthly and quarterly results for at least the last available year. The average prices for the last year of the items of food and groceries, and 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. **"C" Series Retail Price Index.**—On pages 6-7 above is published a table of weighted averages of 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 to 1952 and for the first two quarters of 1953.

In the pages immediately following are published :—

- (i) the "C" Series index-number for the last quarter of each of the years 1939 and 1948 to 1952 (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 1952, the September Quarter, 1939, and each quarter during the period March Quarter, 1947, to December Quarter, 1952, 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 1939 and 1942 to 1952 and the twelve quarters ended 31st December, 1952, 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 1945 to 1952 and the four quarters ended 31st December, 1952 (pages 25-27).

"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 Capital Cities (b)
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GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	940	942	859	888	926	941	927
" " 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
" " 1950 ..	1,713	1,724	1,551	1,606	1,707	1,665	1,689
" " 1951 ..	2,401	2,334	2,145	2,175	2,134	2,252	2,311
" " 1952 ..	2,657	2,547	2,321	2,334	2,439	2,593	2,542

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

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	1,040	960	855	891	882	930	969
" " 1948 ..	1,047	974	896	905	890	938	980
" " 1949 ..	1,049	977	873	914	897	941	983
" " 1950 ..	1,050	979	898	937	904	941	989
" " 1951 ..	1,056	980	947	960	1,073	1,057	1,013
" " 1952 ..	1,188	985	967	1,132	1,190	1,092	1,094

GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	977	947	855	887	907	935	941
" " 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
" " 1950 ..	1,451	1,429	1,293	1,341	1,390	1,379	1,412
" " 1951 ..	1,871	1,801	1,673	1,696	1,715	1,781	1,800
" " 1952 ..	2,078	1,932	1,788	1,860	1,946	2,002	1,971

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	854	862	865	869	840	867	858
" " 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
" " 1950 ..	2,447	2,389	2,355	2,390	2,408	2,401	2,410
" " 1951 ..	2,964	2,886	2,864	2,962	2,977	2,942	2,930
" " 1952 ..	3,214	3,162	3,088	3,171	3,172	3,142	3,177

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	983	960	1,027	957	945	967
" " 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
" " 1950 ..	1,527	1,482	1,418	1,555	1,374	1,383	1,492
" " 1951 ..	1,836	1,789	1,694	1,802	1,720	1,744	1,794
" " 1952 ..	2,024	2,076	1,897	2,100	2,023	2,003	2,035

GROUPS I. TO IV.—"C" SERIES INDEX.

Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	932	874	906	899	919	926
" " 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
" " 1950 ..	1,680	1,646	1,546	1,608	1,607	1,601	1,643
" " 1951 ..	2,100	2,033	1,934	1,990	1,989	2,024	2,042
" " 1952 ..	2,312	2,224	2,089	2,188	2,225	2,248	2,243

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Weighted average. (c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

## "C" Series Retail Price Index-Numbers (a) : Capital Cities.

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

Period.	Bydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Ferth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (Weighted Average).
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). (b)							
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	683
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851

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.—"C" SERIES INDEX. (c)							
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) See footnote (b) on page 10. (c) See pages 21-23 for corresponding figures for years 1921 to 1922.

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

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.					VICTORIA.					Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	
	Sydney.	Newcastle	Broken Hill	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.		Warran-bool.
Nov 1914 (a)	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	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	966	901	933	960	968
" 1925 ..	1,016	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	920	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 ..	1,026	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	909	926	917	939	951
" 1931 ..	922	888	882	922	867	918	846	808	833	912	860	843
" 1932 ..	867	810	834	877	820	863	813	776	808	794	838	811
" 1933 ..	832	819	806	843	801	830	789	760	789	772	812	787
" 1934 ..	842	831	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801
" 1935 ..	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	834	850	824
" 1936 ..	866	853	848	864	833	865	844	826	821	848	851	843
" 1937 ..	889	849	893	867	842	886	868	830	840	855	856	866
" 1938 ..	913	877	940	893	860	911	896	850	854	884	862	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	1,068	950	963	984	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 ..	1,112	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	1,180	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	1,426	1,403	1,437	1,415	1,365	1,365	1,397	1,398	1,411
" 1950 ..	1,593	1,543	1,692	1,578	1,552	1,591	1,565	1,509	1,520	1,549	1,558	1,561
" 1951 ..	1,933	1,901	1,997	1,921	1,882	1,931	1,880	1,857	1,826	1,871	1,886	1,877
" 1952 ..	2,265	2,209	2,344	2,232	2,219	2,262	2,170	2,147	2,139	2,154	2,205	2,168
1939 Sept. Qtr.	933	897	943	914	881	930	918	875	868	909	918	915
1917 Mar. Qtr.	1,192	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	1,132	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	1,233	1,324	1,243	1,229	1,267	1,249	1,199	1,206	1,233	1,240	1,246
" June ..	1,305	1,263	1,364	1,271	1,263	1,302	1,272	1,222	1,222	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	1,399	1,363	1,315	1,314	1,344	1,340	1,359
" June ..	1,425	1,393	1,504	1,421	1,398	1,424	1,402	1,355	1,354	1,385	1,387	1,399
" Sept. ..	1,452	1,413	1,534	1,434	1,411	1,451	1,422	1,369	1,366	1,401	1,404	1,417
" Dec. ..	1,486	1,449	1,593	1,467	1,448	1,485	1,472	1,420	1,424	1,457	1,451	1,468
1950 Mar. Qtr.	1,515	1,473	1,614	1,495	1,475	1,513	1,501	1,456	1,462	1,493	1,483	1,498
" June ..	1,564	1,519	1,646	1,555	1,522	1,562	1,542	1,480	1,495	1,523	1,531	1,538
" Sept. ..	1,613	1,552	1,717	1,597	1,570	1,610	1,569	1,513	1,529	1,559	1,571	1,566
" Dec. ..	1,680	1,628	1,790	1,664	1,641	1,678	1,646	1,588	1,592	1,619	1,648	1,642
1951 Mar. Qtr.	1,749	1,724	1,834	1,739	1,707	1,748	1,718	1,665	1,662	1,702	1,717	1,714
" June ..	1,875	1,853	1,939	1,858	1,825	1,874	1,839	1,825	1,771	1,845	1,823	1,837
" Sept. ..	2,007	1,957	2,031	1,991	1,954	2,003	1,930	1,918	1,884	1,924	1,957	1,928
" Dec. ..	2,100	2,071	2,182	2,096	2,040	2,099	2,033	2,019	1,987	2,014	2,048	2,030
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,167	2,115	2,246	2,148	2,094	2,164	2,059	2,045	2,025	2,050	2,083	2,058
" June ..	2,234	2,231	2,360	2,277	2,228	2,281	2,177	2,145	2,143	2,160	2,201	2,175
" Sept. ..	2,298	2,241	2,390	2,253	2,263	2,295	2,218	2,201	2,191	2,205	2,262	2,216
" Dec. ..	2,312	2,248	2,379	2,248	2,289	2,308	2,224	2,197	2,196	2,201	2,273	2,222

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

"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.	Edina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
Nov. 1914 (a)	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	943	949	972	1,025 <sup>b</sup>	994 <sup>c</sup>	941	989	998	1,025	1,079	948	992
" 1922 ..	827	841	883	865 <sup>b</sup>	891 <sup>c</sup>	873	954	903	922	906	868	947
Year 1923 ..	923	899	884	910 <sup>b</sup>	910 <sup>c</sup>	917	1,008	952	936	930	934	1,001
" 1924 ..	915	890	872	903 <sup>b</sup>	896 <sup>c</sup>	909	1,015	929	943	914	959	1,007
" 1925 ..	923	919	907	896 <sup>b</sup>	903 <sup>c</sup>	920	1,028	930	969	937	1,013	1,021
" 1926 ..	950	945	947	925 <sup>b</sup>	951 <sup>c</sup>	949	1,026	935	988	956	1,016	1,020
" 1927 ..	921	914	929	918 <sup>b</sup>	946 <sup>c</sup>	923	1,018	932	970	945	1,023	1,012
" 1928 ..	917	906	903	925 <sup>b</sup>	914 <sup>c</sup>	915	1,027	927	960	948	1,017	1,019
" 1929 ..	923	916	904	939 <sup>b</sup>	931 <sup>c</sup>	922	1,037	943	980	965	1,043	1,030
" 1930 ..	859	885	868	883 <sup>b</sup>	882 <sup>c</sup>	863	952	885	927	918	980	948
" 1931 ..	798	816	806	827 <sup>b</sup>	815 <sup>c</sup>	801	837	801	834	831	884	836
" 1932 ..	764	788	779	794 <sup>b</sup>	777 <sup>c</sup>	768	802	772	791	816	848	801
" 1933 ..	751	778	752	762 <sup>b</sup>	757 <sup>c</sup>	753	789	747	762	800	832	787
" 1934 ..	762	785	759	759 <sup>b</sup>	761 <sup>c</sup>	764	806	738	778	800	852	804
" 1935 ..	780	785	776	789 <sup>b</sup>	769 <sup>c</sup>	780	820	763	789	809	833	817
" 1936 ..	804	802	802	810 <sup>b</sup>	779 <sup>c</sup>	803	839	765	813	818	843	835
" 1937 ..	837	840	840	883	809	840	859	799	844	830	851	855
" 1938 ..	853	843	853	902	831	854	888	786	868	849	868	883
" 1939 ..	870	858	867	918	847	871	906	810	896	872	897	902
" 1940 ..	908	898	905	950	879	909	936	833	919	894	924	931
" 1941 ..	963	951	959	1,004	938	964	988	882	976	946	974	985
" 1942 ..	1,033	1,033	1,032	1,075	1,015	1,035	1,075	962	1,057	1,024	1,053	1,069
" 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	1,093
" 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	1,132	1,140	1,181	1,115	1,140	1,163	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 ..	1,343	1,360	1,357	1,404	1,335	1,352	1,393	1,295	1,369	1,340	1,366	1,388
" 1950 ..	1,472	1,486	1,492	1,525	1,462	1,478	1,521	1,423	1,500	1,499	1,496	1,516
" 1951 ..	1,760	1,773	1,784	1,818	1,754	1,767	1,833	1,742	1,811	1,863	1,808	1,829
" 1952 ..	2,063	2,083	2,091	2,148	2,056	2,072	2,159	2,077	2,135	2,145	2,129	2,155
1939 Sept. Qtr.	866	853	861	912	843	867	903	814	897	866	896	899
1947 Mar. Qtr.	1,123	1,139	1,126	1,172	1,107	1,127	1,137	1,045	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	1,121	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	1,163
" 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	1,266	1,150	1,244	1,223	1,238	1,257
" Sept. ..	1,251	1,260	1,250	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	1,301	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	1,413	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
1950 Mar. Qtr.	1,474	1,429	1,428	1,469	1,401	1,419	1,456	1,359	1,433	1,405	1,435	1,451
" June ..	1,446	1,455	1,461	1,506	1,437	1,451	1,492	1,397	1,468	1,452	1,475	1,487
" Sept. ..	1,482	1,496	1,497	1,528	1,471	1,487	1,527	1,431	1,501	1,516	1,501	1,523
" Dec. ..	1,546	1,562	1,577	1,595	1,548	1,553	1,608	1,503	1,597	1,622	1,571	1,604
1951 Mar. Qtr.	1,612	1,623	1,631	1,651	1,607	1,616	1,657	1,556	1,634	1,674	1,621	1,653
" June ..	1,698	1,705	1,739	1,752	1,706	1,706	1,790	1,658	1,749	1,820	1,755	1,785
" Sept. ..	1,796	1,821	1,819	1,861	1,792	1,804	1,894	1,829	1,897	1,935	1,881	1,892
" Dec. ..	1,934	1,944	1,950	2,006	1,971	1,940	1,990	1,924	1,965	2,022	1,974	1,987
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,066	2,022	2,033	2,082	2,008	2,014	2,052	1,983	2,030	2,062	2,023	2,040
" June ..	2,064	2,093	2,090	2,142	2,052	2,072	2,170	2,091	2,151	2,158	2,152	2,166
" Sept. ..	2,094	2,107	2,112	2,175	2,078	2,101	2,225	2,120	2,201	2,187	2,186	2,220
" Dec. ..	2,089	2,110	2,128	2,194	2,086	2,100	2,188	2,104	2,158	2,174	2,155	2,183

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

"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.		
	Berth and Fremantle	Salgootee and Boulder.	Northam	Perth	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge. 5 Towns	Hobart.	Launceston.	Dunelm.	Devonport			Queenstown	Weighted Av'ge. 5 Towns.
Nov. 1914(a)	707	..	..	1,045	1,056	1,020	687	..	..	..	..	1,057	687	..
" 1921	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	1,003	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
" 1922	931	904	958	968	970	941	997	976	919	919	944	975	975	967
Year 1923	977	1,006	965	964	1,016	981	1,042	985	971	956	963	1,016	1,043	996
" 1924	982	1,009	969	983	1,012	986	1,051	985	968	950	951	1,022	987	980
" 1925	994	1,009	1,008	985	1,037	996	1,028	968	952	941	978	1,002	997	991
" 1926	992	1,002	998	978	1,012	994	1,035	973	957	948	956	1,007	1,011	1,006
" 1927	984	984	988	963	1,010	985	998	953	930	925	932	977	1,002	997
" 1928	1,012	995	1,003	963	1,029	1,009	980	957	941	904	931	966	1,009	1,003
" 1929	1,026	1,032	1,042	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	940	951	975	971
" 1931	885	937	878	877	951	801	875	865	837	831	881	869	873	870
" 1932	840	910	844	842	904	852	841	832	811	800	875	838	830	829
" 1933	811	937	814	824	831	825	827	817	775	773	867	820	804	803
" 1934	830	975	825	843	866	842	837	828	780	787	876	831	817	816
" 1935	834	1,011	829	805	886	848	840	834	792	801	873	841	832	831
" 1936	856	1,027	800	880	933	870	800	840	814	809	850	850	850	848
" 1937	860	1,030	806	897	970	881	875	856	844	833	856	868	873	874
" 1938	882	1,038	900	914	957	897	887	872	865	848	873	879	897	894
" 1939	901	1,066	945	936	965	915	908	888	879	851	903	898	920	917
" 1940	932	1,099	947	962	990	946	915	916	917	896	936	936	957	954
" 1941	943	1,065	1,017	1,018	1,055	1,008	1,001	974	971	951	987	989	1,000	1,006
" 1942	1,061	1,175	1,079	1,065	1,114	1,070	1,078	1,040	1,035	1,052	1,045	1,060	1,091	1,087
" 1943	1,104	1,102	1,111	1,102	1,136	1,112	1,117	1,088	1,088	1,058	1,096	1,101	1,131	1,127
" 1944	1,105	1,109	1,113	1,110	1,176	1,113	1,105	1,067	1,065	1,049	1,102	1,080	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	1,187	1,130	1,138	1,099	1,093	1,079	1,139	1,121	1,145	1,142
" 1947	1,161	1,266	1,171	1,173	1,221	1,170	1,178	1,147	1,132	1,119	1,170	1,161	1,188	1,185
" 1948	1,264	1,368	1,272	1,277	1,327	1,273	1,292	1,254	1,242	1,220	1,280	1,274	1,295	1,292
" 1949	1,410	1,502	1,430	1,424	1,475	1,418	1,410	1,380	1,367	1,351	1,406	1,404	1,413	1,413
" 1950	1,578	1,636	1,550	1,559	1,611	1,547	1,526	1,493	1,484	1,481	1,494	1,511	1,560	1,556
" 1951	1,860	1,940	1,870	1,870	1,936	1,868	1,861	1,857	1,810	1,793	1,868	1,852	1,883	1,880
" 1952	2,170	2,202	2,186	2,195	2,263	2,180	2,180	2,154	2,120	2,023	2,119	2,163	2,193	2,193
1919—														
Sept. Qtr.	904	1,060	949	939	966	918	905	886	878	860	907	896	916	914
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	1,162
June "	1,151	1,253	1,160	1,163	1,209	1,160	1,168	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	1,188
Dec. "	1,184	1,297	1,206	1,201	1,251	1,199	1,216	1,183	1,167	1,149	1,213	1,201	1,221	1,218
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	1,288	1,311	1,308
Dec. "	1,316	1,415	1,322	1,327	1,383	1,325	1,344	1,301	1,279	1,259	1,325	1,321	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	1,508	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	1,428	1,425
Dec. "	1,450	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
1950—														
Mar. Qtr.	1,479	1,571	1,494	1,499	1,546	1,487	1,455	1,424	1,417	1,413	1,431	1,441	1,491	1,488
June "	1,517	1,616	1,532	1,532	1,590	1,526	1,501	1,466	1,459	1,443	1,471	1,485	1,534	1,530
Sept. "	1,547	1,652	1,561	1,573	1,623	1,557	1,547	1,513	1,492	1,487	1,518	1,532	1,572	1,568
Dec. "	1,607	1,706	1,614	1,623	1,682	1,617	1,604	1,569	1,566	1,571	1,555	1,567	1,643	1,639
1951—														
Mar. Qtr.	1,712	1,782	1,712	1,719	1,809	1,720	1,676	1,663	1,640	1,630	1,619	1,668	1,713	1,710
June "	1,827	1,906	1,842	1,825	1,921	1,835	1,811	1,788	1,742	1,723	1,728	1,794	1,833	1,830
Sept. "	1,911	1,995	1,915	1,923	2,002	1,919	1,931	1,955	1,888	1,877	1,863	1,933	1,943	1,940
Dec. "	1,989	2,078	1,991	2,012	2,090	1,998	2,024	2,015	1,969	1,942	1,988	2,014	2,042	2,040
1952—														
Mar. Qtr.	2,080	2,164	2,070	2,106	2,169	2,083	2,080	2,059	2,025	1,992	2,040	2,066	2,098	2,096
June "	2,158	2,251	2,180	2,178	2,285	2,168	2,159	2,138	2,109	2,079	2,112	2,145	2,206	2,205
Sept. "	2,216	2,309	2,239	2,242	2,355	2,227	2,231	2,208	2,175	2,149	2,158	2,215	2,238	2,235
Dec. "	2,225	2,324	2,253	2,255	2,364	2,236	2,248	2,211	2,170	2,152	2,167	2,226	2,243	2,239

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

**Retail Price Index—Numbers : Group (a), "B" Series and "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.	1939	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	860	958	966	984	991	1,010	1,091	1,223	1,360	1,484	1,881	2,176
Port Augusta, S.A.	995	1,091	1,063	1,054	1,063	1,067	1,130	1,284	1,414	1,592	2,034	2,509
Whyalla, S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,173	1,320	1,439	1,617	2,080	2,527
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,057	1,142	1,133	1,108	1,109	1,114	1,168	1,324	1,472	1,634	2,153	2,748
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES)(b)</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	667	702	730	737	740	745	751	756	763	772	781	804
Port Augusta, S.A.	665	690	688	701	715	718	722	725	729	749	782	831
Whyalla, S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	770	771	773	773	852	930
Canberra, A.C.T.	983	985	986	986	987	988	988	989	990	993	1,003	1,004
<b>GROUPS I.—II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	783	856	872	886	891	904	956	1,039	1,124	1,203	1,448	1,758
Port Augusta, S.A.	864	932	914	914	925	929	968	1,063	1,144	1,260	1,541	1,849
Whyalla, S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,013	1,103	1,176	1,284	1,596	1,898
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,026	1,078	1,073	1,058	1,059	1,062	1,096	1,191	1,280	1,381	1,701	2,061
<b>GROUP III.—CLOTHING.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	834	1,292	1,427	1,417	1,419	1,484	1,561	1,732	1,951	2,202	2,662	3,017
Port Augusta, S.A.	851	1,283	1,408	1,415	1,419	1,501	1,595	1,788	2,007	2,268	2,727	3,101
Whyalla, S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,584	1,757	1,986	2,255	2,735	3,126
Canberra, A.C.T.	852	1,334	1,508	1,485	1,468	1,550	1,607	1,826	2,117	2,431	2,893	3,167
<b>GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	1,009	1,159	1,213	1,215	1,214	1,218	1,233	1,287	1,359	1,431	1,667	1,935
Port Augusta, S.A.	993	1,172	1,209	1,210	1,210	1,212	1,256	1,318	1,374	1,446	1,678	1,905
Whyalla, S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,223	1,284	1,338	1,397	1,628	1,912
Canberra, A.C.T.	868	1,016	1,082	1,078	1,077	1,080	1,122	1,192	1,251	1,340	1,551	1,779
<b>GROUPS I.—IV.—"C" SERIES INDEX.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	834	1,007	1,055	1,061	1,064	1,087	1,138	1,234	1,349	1,461	1,751	2,063
Port Augusta, S.A.	883	1,052	1,076	1,076	1,084	1,105	1,157	1,267	1,373	1,512	1,823	2,141
Whyalla, S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,175	1,277	1,379	1,515	1,848	2,166
Canberra, A.C.T.	956	1,121	1,168	1,153	1,149	1,170	1,210	1,327	1,456	1,600	1,931	2,247

**QUARTERLY.**

Town.	1950				1951.				1952.			
	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	1,422	1,444	1,491	1,577	1,642	1,772	1,943	2,165	2,311	2,385	2,412	2,394
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,506	1,535	1,602	1,724	1,790	1,904	2,151	2,294	2,367	2,590	2,632	2,458
Whyalla, S.A.	1,543	1,558	1,611	1,757	1,863	1,957	2,173	2,325	2,379	2,573	2,637	2,517
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,339	1,352	1,634	1,781	1,878	1,967	2,290	2,483	2,579	2,828	2,826	2,757
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES) (b)</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	763	763	781	781	781	781	781	804	804	804	804	804
Port Augusta, S.A.	739	739	756	762	763	770	795	800	826	831	832	833
Whyalla, S.A.	773	773	773	773	773	773	930	930	930	930	930	930
Canberra, A.C.T.	990	990	991	2,002	1,002	1,003	1,003	1,003	1,003	1,004	1,004	1,005
<b>GROUPS I.—II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	1,162	1,175	1,211	1,263	1,303	1,382	1,486	1,621	1,718	1,763	1,780	1,769
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,204	1,221	1,268	1,345	1,385	1,457	1,617	1,705	1,761	1,892	1,924	1,819
Whyalla, S.A.	1,239	1,249	1,280	1,369	1,434	1,491	1,683	1,776	1,809	1,926	1,966	1,892
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,322	1,336	1,392	1,473	1,532	1,587	1,783	1,901	1,959	2,110	2,109	2,067
<b>GROUP III.—CLOTHING.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	2,093	2,175	2,219	2,312	2,400	2,640	2,751	2,858	2,913	3,014	3,044	3,066
Port Augusta, S.A.	2,153	2,244	2,287	2,386	2,449	2,677	2,827	2,955	2,968	3,089	3,150	3,198
Whyalla, S.A.	2,109	2,243	2,281	2,388	2,467	2,721	2,825	2,927	2,969	3,137	3,171	3,220
Canberra, A.C.T.	2,310	2,410	2,466	2,538	2,637	2,917	2,974	3,045	3,082	3,147	3,183	3,257
<b>GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	1,392	1,394	1,441	1,495	1,580	1,603	1,703	1,780	1,811	1,910	2,003	2,016
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,386	1,421	1,449	1,526	1,547	1,656	1,729	1,780	1,843	1,972	2,025	2,019
Whyalla, S.A.	1,342	1,377	1,395	1,472	1,494	1,604	1,677	1,730	1,796	1,921	1,970	1,962
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,300	1,327	1,338	1,395	1,422	1,538	1,583	1,662	1,663	1,799	1,829	1,826
<b>GROUPS I.—IV.—"C" SERIES INDEX.</b>												
Warwick, Qld.	1,406	1,432	1,474	1,533	1,591	1,696	1,800	1,918	1,994	2,061	2,094	2,102
Port Augusta, S.A.	1,443	1,479	1,522	1,604	1,645	1,758	1,899	1,989	2,037	2,165	2,207	2,154
Whyalla, S.A.	1,446	1,488	1,518	1,600	1,668	1,778	1,928	2,016	2,057	2,186	2,226	2,194
Canberra, A.C.T.	1,331	1,567	1,614	1,689	1,751	1,866	2,003	2,103	2,146	2,275	2,288	2,279

(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.	Baharat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
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	944
1945	1,035	1,048	1,278	1,073	1,036	1,041	1,057	1,045	1,046	1,006	1,060	1,035
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
1950	1,572	1,570	1,899	1,634	1,616	1,579	1,605	1,595	1,595	1,597	1,607	1,604
1951	2,099	2,168	2,320	2,106	2,117	2,109	2,088	2,149	2,040	2,116	2,120	2,090
1952	2,654	2,678	2,907	2,727	2,730	2,662	2,509	2,561	2,517	2,516	2,612	2,512
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,526	2,558	2,763	2,599	2,524	2,534	2,366	2,447	2,351	2,383	2,449	2,370
June	2,727	2,747	2,906	2,804	2,803	2,735	2,530	2,575	2,530	2,551	2,615	2,541
Sept.	2,705	2,727	2,988	2,762	2,802	2,714	2,584	2,641	2,607	2,684	2,693	2,587
Dec.	2,657	2,678	2,910	2,684	2,789	2,665	2,547	2,581	2,571	2,542	2,690	2,550

Period.	GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (c)											
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Baharat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (c)</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	758	..	..	..	..	608	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921	1,000	885	559	881	306	966	845	479	527	668	685	789
Year 1939	1,035	890	764	871	843	1,015	955	714	731	876	921	938
1945	1,043	903	760	885	813	1,024	973	710	744	887	934	935
1946	1,043	904	761	886	843	1,024	973	713	743	887	934	935
1947	1,044	904	763	887	844	1,025	974	715	743	888	934	936
1948	1,047	906	764	888	845	1,027	974	720	746	888	934	936
1949	1,040	908	770	890	847	1,030	976	721	748	889	934	938
1950	1,050	908	782	892	848	1,031	979	720	764	890	945	961
1951	1,053	908	784	892	854	1,034	980	736	777	890	945	963
1952	1,118	931	795	900	898	1,092	984	741	791	892	961	967
1952 Mar. Qtr.	1,059	908	788	892	861	1,039	983	737	780	892	950	966
June	1,089	908	795	896	863	1,066	984	739	793	892	961	967
Sept.	1,137	932	795	900	911	1,111	984	744	793	892	961	968
Dec.	1,188	974	803	910	956	1,159	985	744	799	893	962	968

Period.	GROUP III.—CLOTHING.											
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Baharat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
<b>GROUP III.—CLOTHING.</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	755	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921	1,227	1,227	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,570	1,463	1,612	1,426
Year 1939	843	823	850	861	840	842	832	851	841	816	842	833
1945	1,425	1,430	1,455	1,448	1,455	1,427	1,431	1,470	1,478	1,480	1,480	1,436
1946	1,516	1,510	1,548	1,538	1,543	1,517	1,502	1,497	1,510	1,519	1,515	1,503
1947	1,573	1,571	1,588	1,607	1,610	1,574	1,563	1,566	1,584	1,574	1,588	1,564
1948	1,756	1,778	1,792	1,805	1,822	1,768	1,723	1,744	1,742	1,735	1,738	1,745
1949	1,922	2,064	2,079	2,092	2,106	2,027	1,975	1,996	1,991	1,981	1,981	1,977
1950	2,329	2,347	2,384	2,381	2,379	2,333	2,259	2,269	2,259	2,279	2,280	2,200
1951	2,806	2,827	2,863	2,816	2,857	2,809	2,697	2,712	2,753	2,701	2,700	2,700
1952	3,116	3,144	3,174	3,123	3,152	3,120	3,083	3,128	3,174	3,098	3,087	3,088
1952 Mar. Qtr.	3,025	3,021	3,088	3,038	3,041	3,027	2,957	2,996	3,012	2,981	2,923	2,960
June	3,098	3,137	3,183	3,193	3,193	3,132	3,145	3,145	3,133	3,104	3,111	3,114
Sept.	3,125	3,175	3,204	3,141	3,189	3,151	3,109	3,109	3,140	3,143	3,149	3,115
Dec.	3,214	3,243	3,267	3,211	3,276	3,218	3,162	3,204	3,170	3,162	3,153	3,163

Period.	GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.											
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Baharat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
<b>GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	766	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,015
Year 1939	940	901	1,048	908	888	938	977	990	1,004	980	951	978
1945	1,163	1,080	1,280	1,107	1,098	1,158	1,139	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	1,136	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	1,293	1,272	1,240	1,242
1949	1,364	1,266	1,420	1,290	1,271	1,358	1,321	1,351	1,353	1,340	1,320	1,312
1950	1,470	1,361	1,640	1,402	1,359	1,404	1,426	1,449	1,470	1,442	1,417	1,426
1951	1,714	1,503	1,897	1,650	1,590	1,702	1,668	1,677	1,695	1,675	1,672	1,669
1952	1,980	1,829	2,244	1,918	1,812	1,969	1,949	1,978	1,972	1,950	1,964	1,951
1952 Mar. Qtr.	1,877	1,728	2,104	1,827	1,720	1,860	1,786	1,810	1,814	1,785	1,810	1,788
June	1,997	1,850	2,121	1,923	1,821	1,989	1,900	1,922	1,930	1,898	1,909	1,902
Sept.	2,020	1,870	2,301	1,946	1,851	2,012	2,033	2,065	2,044	2,039	2,040	2,035
Dec.	2,024	1,868	2,309	1,974	1,857	2,016	2,026	2,116	2,098	2,076	2,097	2,078

(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.	Rock-hampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Edina, Mornings and Wilbaroc.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	614	895	949	981c	916d	950	683	911	915	966	923	943
Year 1921	845	825	904	961	912	872	897	914	968	937	907	943
Year 1939	864	803	904	961	912	872	897	914	968	937	907	943
1945	966	1,009	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	1,007
1947	1,055	1,092	1,097	1,148	1,112	1,068	1,067	1,103	1,141	1,070	1,117	1,071
1948	1,208	1,228	1,244	1,295	1,255	1,219	1,230	1,234	1,294	1,201	1,269	1,233
1949	1,332	1,348	1,373	1,442	1,393	1,346	1,351	1,386	1,432	1,332	1,393	1,355
1950	1,462	1,480	1,523	1,566	1,515	1,476	1,494	1,531	1,585	1,557	1,524	1,500
1951	1,823	1,839	1,913	1,941	1,881	1,842	1,931	1,948	2,035	2,108	1,974	1,936
1952	2,128	2,352	2,395	2,485	2,390	2,340	2,380	2,414	2,592	2,445	2,441	2,387
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,290	2,332	2,373	2,429	2,377	2,311	2,267	2,283	2,370	2,364	2,293	2,273
June	2,311	2,451	2,472	2,531	2,472	2,403	2,357	2,410	2,564	2,496	2,496	2,446
Sept.	2,367	2,401	2,409	2,531	2,398	2,381	2,480	2,513	2,611	2,505	2,543	2,487
Dec.	2,321	2,361	2,383	2,506	2,382	2,342	2,332	2,432	2,461	2,414	2,433	2,342
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES) (c)</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	467	..	470	529c	..	535d	611	611	603	492	566	781
Year 1921	629	547	470	529c	..	535d	611	611	603	492	566	781
Year 1939	834	847	723	866	610	810	888	388	710	686	753	866
1945	853	861	768	865	674	851	892	386	710	713	753	866
1946	863	862	773	865	681	851	894	390	712	716	753	866
1947	864	864	780	866	682	853	897	398	711	718	753	866
1948	866	874	780	866	685	855	903	402	710	718	752	866
1949	869	853	796	867	689	859	916	416	710	722	762	885
1950	883	904	819	868	704	874	920	407	712	731	764	900
1951	934	943	819	887	727	919	949	529	732	756	779	944
1952	958	947	883	953	743	945	1,055	607	782	803	786	1,025
1952 Mar. Qtr.	951	944	858	927	743	936	968	607	753	779	779	945
June	982	946	867	948	743	938	1,017	607	760	779	779	989
Sept.	968	946	890	948	743	940	1,101	607	796	822	779	1,067
Dec.	967	953	916	994	743	958	1,132	607	817	831	806	1,097
<b>GROUP III.—CLOTHING.</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	657	..	452	1,568c	..	1,519d	756	756	1,435	1,480	1,567	1,180
Year 1921	1,125	1,408	..	1,568c	..	1,519d	756	756	1,435	1,480	1,567	1,180
Year 1939	840	838	856	853	852	843	863	852	854	854	844	862
1945	1,431	1,405	1,454	1,437	1,424	1,431	1,413	1,403	1,410	1,410	1,429	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	1,482
1947	1,594	1,543	1,568	1,571	1,541	1,563	1,551	1,557	1,579	1,581	1,569	1,556
1948	1,733	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	1,938	1,949	1,901	1,976	1,989	1,954	1,986	1,990
1950	2,226	2,223	2,238	2,246	2,232	2,229	2,256	2,250	2,250	2,231	2,290	2,256
1951	2,690	2,653	2,696	2,703	2,733	2,660	2,736	2,688	2,716	2,714	2,724	2,733
1952	3,016	2,992	3,047	3,027	3,062	3,018	3,108	3,106	3,102	3,133	3,123	3,108
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,923	2,896	2,961	2,938	2,964	2,926	3,015	2,999	2,995	3,027	3,004	3,014
June	3,002	2,965	3,027	3,028	3,027	3,004	3,115	3,113	3,116	3,132	3,132	3,115
Sept.	3,049	3,040	3,070	3,048	3,102	3,050	3,131	3,126	3,133	3,148	3,166	3,131
Dec.	3,088	3,086	3,128	3,097	3,152	3,093	3,171	3,167	3,162	3,224	3,183	3,172
<b>GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>												
Nov. 1914 (b)	728	..	1,002	1,009c	988d	958	770	1,023	1,065	1,065	1,032	1,000
Year 1921	944	953	1,002	1,009c	988d	958	770	1,023	1,065	1,065	1,032	1,000
Year 1939	955	983	969	996	992	962	1,022	969	999	1,017	994	1,010
1945	1,133	1,166	1,169	1,178	1,167	1,142	1,213	1,209	1,209	1,233	1,226	1,214
1946	1,130	1,167	1,172	1,183	1,150	1,145	1,219	1,224	1,210	1,230	1,233	1,220
1947	1,154	1,158	1,188	1,199	1,176	1,163	1,251	1,247	1,242	1,267	1,245	1,252
1948	1,245	1,251	1,257	1,274	1,248	1,225	1,327	1,355	1,317	1,358	1,311	1,328
1949	1,290	1,307	1,347	1,373	1,326	1,302	1,394	1,446	1,383	1,424	1,370	1,396
1950	1,363	1,378	1,403	1,453	1,411	1,375	1,470	1,509	1,458	1,506	1,444	1,472
1951	1,603	1,633	1,661	1,730	1,661	1,620	1,710	1,769	1,689	1,797	1,720	1,713
1952	1,841	1,885	1,916	1,989	1,898	1,861	2,025	2,077	2,009	2,111	2,066	2,028
1952 Mar. Qtr.	1,726	1,772	1,782	1,874	1,779	1,744	1,886	1,951	1,899	1,976	1,932	1,889
June	1,846	1,869	1,917	1,992	1,892	1,872	2,010	2,071	1,982	2,113	2,076	2,013
Sept.	1,883	1,946	1,965	2,028	1,953	1,905	2,103	2,142	2,095	2,175	2,131	2,105
Dec.	1,897	1,954	2,001	2,063	1,966	1,922	2,100	2,142	2,098	2,180	2,123	2,103

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 70. (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.	Dunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.		
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>														
Nov. 1914 (b)	746	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	..	841	..
" 1921 ..	1,005	1,120	1,054c	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,708d	906e	1,077	1,011	950	954
Year 1930 ..	938	1,002	972	967	947	951	923	914	941	933	1,018	925	927	931
" 1943 ..	1,060	1,191	1,066	1,045	1,081	1,070	1,043	999	1,024	1,026	1,153	1,032	1,034	1,037
" 1946 ..	1,059	1,192	1,073	1,057	1,084	1,070	1,060	1,018	1,048	1,052	1,173	1,055	1,038	1,040
" 1947 ..	1,104	1,239	1,125	1,109	1,133	1,113	1,132	1,092	1,108	1,112	1,233	1,121	1,100	1,104
" 1948 ..	1,231	1,372	1,272	1,257	1,279	1,262	1,310	1,273	1,276	1,280	1,407	1,303	1,256	1,260
" 1949 ..	1,437	1,587	1,455	1,443	1,471	1,445	1,495	1,459	1,460	1,473	1,560	1,484	1,394	1,399
" 1950 ..	1,597	1,728	1,613	1,610	1,636	1,608	1,574	1,534	1,582	1,612	1,613	1,565	1,566	1,570
" 1951 ..	1,963	2,105	1,993	1,991	2,033	1,976	1,992	2,026	1,999	2,025	2,064	2,007	2,041	2,046
" 1952 ..	2,359	2,556	2,429	2,445	2,473	2,376	2,487	2,465	2,498	2,485	2,551	2,482	2,526	2,531
1952 Mar. Qtr	2,242	2,419	2,308	2,299	2,347	2,260	2,344	2,328	2,380	2,365	2,461	2,345	2,464	2,410
" June ..	2,308	2,512	2,374	2,356	2,400	2,327	2,445	2,431	2,452	2,437	2,536	2,444	2,507	2,570
" Sept. ..	2,448	2,645	2,511	2,500	2,569	2,467	2,561	2,563	2,595	2,573	2,660	2,566	2,592	2,596
" Dec. ..	2,430	2,647	2,521	2,505	2,566	2,460	2,593	2,539	2,564	2,565	2,606	2,474	2,542	2,547

<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (f)</b>														
Nov. 1914 (b)	586	..	..	..	..	709	..	..	..	..	..	..	649	..
" 1921 ..	754	578	616g	619	779	709	825	676	894d	150f	495	729	877	828
Year 1930 ..	881	1,318	886	1,005	1,064	919	925	851	836	763	866	887	965	947
" 1943 ..	886	1,037	899	975	1,061	902	993	867	851	759	804	896	875	858
" 1946 ..	887	1,080	900	980	1,064	904	996	864	853	770	809	899	876	857
" 1947 ..	889	1,082	917	985	1,066	910	936	866	853	770	814	899	877	858
" 1948 ..	895	1,095	926	1,005	1,080	917	910	874	853	771	817	901	879	860
" 1949 ..	901	1,120	967	1,028	1,094	976	941	876	853	778	818	906	887	868
" 1950 ..	1,065	1,180	1,132	1,201	1,300	1,083	1,018	1,031	885	873	851	1,025	1,009	992
" 1951 ..	1,185	1,212	1,285	1,311	1,436	1,126	1,079	1,047	997	896	856	1,019	1,057	1,037
" 1952 ..	1,176	1,203	1,202	1,299	1,355	1,184	1,067	1,032	995	889	851	1,037	1,023	1,005
1952 Mar. Qtr	1,185	1,210	1,305	1,313	1,457	1,168	1,075	1,056	995	891	851	1,044	1,041	1,025
" June ..	1,189	1,213	1,317	1,314	1,468	1,202	1,080	1,048	995	901	851	1,050	1,070	1,049
" Sept. ..	1,190	1,221	1,317	1,318	1,468	1,203	1,092	1,062	991	870	856	1,066	1,094	1,072

<b>GROUP III.—CLOTHING.</b>														
Nov. 1914 (b)	698	..	..	..	..	825	..	..	..	..	..	..	754	..
" 1921 ..	1,232	1,376	1,382g	1,454	1,920	1,277	1,427	1,070	1,525d	1,405e	1,594	1,313	1,246	1,290
Year 1930 ..	832	855	847	849	847	834	856	853	843	844	853	854	841	841
" 1943 ..	1,410	1,436	1,407	1,413	1,414	1,412	1,420	1,414	1,420	1,425	1,430	1,449	1,405	1,427
" 1946 ..	1,497	1,510	1,478	1,484	1,489	1,497	1,510	1,497	1,513	1,533	1,521	1,508	1,425	1,506
" 1947 ..	1,564	1,591	1,552	1,555	1,553	1,567	1,572	1,570	1,579	1,599	1,579	1,573	1,566	1,567
" 1948 ..	1,750	1,769	1,766	1,733	1,745	1,755	1,748	1,710	1,720	1,753	1,732	1,738	1,744	1,745
" 1949 ..	2,033	2,014	2,075	2,003	2,011	2,020	2,092	1,984	1,982	1,966	1,993	1,990	1,987	1,999
" 1950 ..	2,289	2,285	2,239	2,265	2,276	2,287	2,286	2,273	2,273	2,299	2,282	2,282	2,286	2,287
" 1951 ..	2,750	2,756	2,681	2,688	2,749	2,753	2,752	2,717	2,727	2,732	2,735	2,739	2,749	2,740
" 1952 ..	3,123	3,127	3,077	3,097	3,141	3,126	3,089	3,093	3,080	3,098	3,148	3,093	3,096	3,097
1952 Mar. Qtr	3,027	3,047	2,938	2,975	3,005	3,025	2,995	2,995	2,942	2,938	3,030	2,992	2,992	2,993
" June ..	3,152	3,204	3,110	3,113	3,169	3,155	3,090	3,098	3,113	3,122	3,156	3,097	3,099	3,099
" Sept. ..	3,144	3,214	3,117	3,137	3,187	3,147	3,130	3,120	3,127	3,153	3,206	3,133	3,115	3,118
" Dec. ..	3,172	3,213	3,141	3,163	3,202	3,177	3,142	3,152	3,130	3,177	3,261	3,149	3,117	3,178

<b>GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>														
Nov. 1914 (b)	780	..	..	..	..	899	..	..	..	..	..	..	749	..
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,010c	977	1,102	1,029	932	985	941d	960e	959	951	1,010	1,009
Year 1930 ..	954	971	948	912	1,034	956	938	947	874	882	881	934	982	962
" 1943 ..	1,138	1,176	1,136	1,094	1,208	1,141	1,100	1,096	997	996	1,053	1,089	1,161	1,160
" 1946 ..	1,143	1,173	1,153	1,098	1,212	1,146	1,104	1,103	1,064	999	1,058	1,091	1,167	1,168
" 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	1,189	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	1,257	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	1,336
" 1950 ..	1,357	1,361	1,372	1,318	1,453	1,358	1,293	1,291	1,171	1,166	1,201	1,278	1,435	1,432
" 1951 ..	1,624	1,642	1,565	1,536	1,713	1,624	1,600	1,575	1,420	1,413	1,440	1,572	1,679	1,675
" 1952 ..	1,945	1,964	1,820	1,817	2,057	1,944	1,920	1,862	1,690	1,677	1,681	1,874	1,954	1,954
1952 Mar. Qtr	1,813	1,865	1,766	1,749	1,800	1,814	1,786	1,750	1,573	1,562	1,575	1,749	1,828	1,825
" June ..	1,946	1,959	1,836	1,848	2,080	1,945	1,894	1,853	1,684	1,668	1,667	1,855	1,949	1,945
" Sept. ..	1,997	2,001	1,862	1,882	2,113	1,995	1,998	1,921	1,749	1,735	1,730	1,944	2,018	2,013
" Dec. ..	2,023	2,031	1,894	1,910	2,143	2,021	2,003	1,925	1,755	1,731	1,753	1,949	2,035	2,031

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) For Index-numbers for Capital Cities, November, 1914 to 1920, see page 20. (c) Midland Junction. (d) Zeelan. (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.	1948.	1949.	1950	1951.	1952.
<b>SECTION A.—GROCERIES.</b>										
Sydney ..	510	574	627	1,113	994	1,167	1,298	1,411	1,806	2,168
Melbourne ..	461	521	563	1,070	957	1,153	1,290	1,416	1,739	2,031
Brisbane ..	547	614	607	1,103	944	1,165	1,305	1,387	1,722	1,988
Adelaide ..	570	541	598	1,076	939	1,144	1,263	1,374	1,724	1,944
Perth ..	372	720	628	1,103	966	1,183	1,268	1,380	1,650	2,023
Hobart ..	501	566	604	1,087	947	1,143	1,272	1,390	1,749	2,094
SIX CAPITALS (b)	499	564	599	1,093	969	1,161	1,292	1,404	1,757	2,073
<b>SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>										
Sydney ..	551	574	656	1,080	841	1,165	1,306	1,439	1,723	2,393
Melbourne ..	571	567	633	1,087	885	1,189	1,330	1,441	1,715	2,227
Brisbane ..	495	581	588	983	793	1,115	1,233	1,312	1,530	2,107
Adelaide ..	748	651	703	1,018	800	1,136	1,258	1,353	1,641	2,110
Perth ..	309	733	713	1,152	870	1,166	1,292	1,436	1,705	2,169
Hobart ..	564	587	695	1,091	844	1,181	1,319	1,410	1,658	2,202
SIX CAPITALS (b)	563	591	654	1,072	853	1,165	1,301	1,418	1,688	2,263
<b>SECTION C.—MEAT.</b>										
Sydney ..	519	501	668	960	935	1,456	1,571	1,899	2,836	3,520
Melbourne ..	557	483	663	1,030	968	1,502	1,649	2,000	2,866	3,387
Brisbane ..	333	488	610	897	822	1,343	1,453	1,695	2,231	2,968
Adelaide ..	355	541	751	1,095	929	1,423	1,543	1,776	2,503	3,194
Perth ..	789	824	881	1,103	958	1,411	1,765	2,025	2,608	2,961
Hobart ..	668	638	780	1,244	961	1,662	1,945	1,962	2,624	3,257
SIX CAPITALS (b)	558	522	691	1,010	936	1,458	1,603	1,909	2,744	3,349
<b>SECTIONS A, B AND C COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>										
Sydney ..	523	553	646	1,062	936	1,258	1,388	1,572	2,099	2,654
Melbourne ..	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,274	1,418	1,605	2,088	2,509
Brisbane ..	530	569	603	1,014	864	1,208	1,332	1,462	1,823	2,328
Adelaide ..	532	570	679	1,066	897	1,230	1,351	1,494	1,931	2,380
Perth ..	670	753	728	1,166	938	1,251	1,437	1,597	1,993	2,359
Hobart ..	565	593	678	1,133	923	1,316	1,495	1,574	1,992	2,487
SIX CAPITALS (b)	533	559	640	1,064	927	1,256	1,394	1,566	2,041	2,526
<b>SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (c)</b>										
Sydney ..	593	701	760	989	1,035	1,047	1,049	1,030	1,053	1,118
Melbourne ..	453	569	628	820	955	974	976	979	980	984
Brisbane ..	283	373	466	630	834	866	869	883	934	958
Adelaide ..	510	706	655	809	888	903	912	929	949	1,033
Perth ..	458	524	589	739	881	893	895	901	1,065	1,185
Hobart ..	405	452	518	881	925	937	940	941	1,048	1,079
SIX CAPITALS (b)	497	612	662	862	965	979	982	987	1,009	1,057
<b>ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING—"B" SERIES.</b>										
Sydney ..	548	606	687	1,036	972	1,173	1,252	1,365	1,686	2,049
Melbourne ..	495	539	616	977	945	1,154	1,243	1,357	1,652	1,909
Brisbane ..	442	500	554	877	858	1,072	1,149	1,233	1,472	1,789
Adelaide ..	524	618	671	975	891	1,100	1,177	1,270	1,544	1,858
Perth ..	594	672	679	982	914	1,107	1,222	1,322	1,608	1,856
Hobart ..	503	542	617	1,044	922	1,165	1,275	1,324	1,620	1,932
SIX CAPITALS (b)	520	578	648	991	939	1,145	1,230	1,336	1,634	1,947

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Weighted average. (c) See footnote (b) on page 10.

TABULAR STATEMENTS OF RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

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

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goldburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average of 5 Towns.	Melbourne.	Balaclava.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average of 9 Towns.

GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Nov. 1914	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836	836
Year 1914	901	977	972	950	935	964	943	928	919	911	948	974
" 1915	916	1,003	1,106	1,071	1,053	1,040	1,042	1,039	1,030	1,046	1,055	1,054
" 1916	1,035	1,048	1,278	1,079	1,036	1,041	1,057	1,045	1,050	1,012	1,079	1,051
" 1917	1,039	1,049	1,277	1,070	1,048	1,044	1,052	1,051	1,050	1,012	1,079	1,051
" 1918	1,118	1,123	1,337	1,126	1,114	1,116	1,110	1,104	1,090	1,095	1,115	1,109
" 1919	1,188	1,277	1,694	1,271	1,264	1,274	1,269	1,245	1,205	1,205	1,267	1,272
" 1920	1,388	1,461	1,890	1,445	1,414	1,393	1,418	1,413	1,367	1,411	1,505	1,417
" 1921	1,572	1,570	1,899	1,634	1,616	1,579	1,605	1,595	1,593	1,597	1,602	1,604
" 1922	1,699	1,698	1,830	1,596	1,582	1,617	1,602	1,588	1,540	1,610	1,620	1,600
" 1923	1,654	1,678	1,907	1,727	1,730	1,662	1,699	1,649	1,640	1,710	1,710	1,690
1922 Mar. Qtr.	1,436	1,558	1,769	1,599	1,524	1,534	1,566	1,447	1,351	1,383	1,449	1,370
" June "	1,477	1,598	1,798	1,604	1,483	1,477	1,530	1,375	1,339	1,354	1,415	1,341
" Sept. "	1,463	1,573	1,768	1,582	1,463	1,474	1,534	1,361	1,307	1,324	1,369	1,357
" Dec. "	1,457	1,678	1,910	1,604	1,479	1,463	1,547	1,351	1,271	1,284	1,293	1,350
1922 Jan. Qtr.	1,470	1,474	1,764	1,458	1,488	1,477	1,538	1,249	1,223	1,233	1,240	1,333
" February "	1,430	1,534	1,786	1,469	1,456	1,456	1,527	1,254	1,200	1,218	1,247	1,371
" March "	1,429	1,549	1,786	1,468	1,461	1,458	1,503	1,258	1,211	1,219	1,249	1,405
" April "	1,424	1,579	1,860	1,468	1,461	1,454	1,512	1,260	1,217	1,239	1,264	1,333
" May "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" June "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" July "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" August "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" September "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" October "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" November "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348
" December "	1,424	1,575	1,867	1,469	1,464	1,453	1,541	1,267	1,243	1,254	1,269	1,348

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

Nov. 1914	748	885	559	881	896	966	608	479	527	658	685	769
" 1915	1,000	890	704	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
Year 1915	1,033	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1916	1,043	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1917	1,043	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1918	1,043	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1919	1,043	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1920	1,043	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1921	1,043	903	764	881	813	1,015	843	479	527	658	685	769
" 1922	1,118	931	795	900	898	1,094	984	741	791	882	901	967
1922 Mar. Qtr.	1,050	908	768	802	861	1,039	984	737	780	802	859	966
" June "	1,080	908	795	866	863	1,000	984	739	793	824	901	967
" Sept. "	1,137	932	803	900	816	1,111	981	744	793	832	901	968
" Dec. "	1,188	974	803	910	850	1,159	995	744	799	895	902	968

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

Nov. 1914	680	944	823	926	815	965	613	769	760	844	855	876
" 1915	972	924	970	942	900	969	945	849	851	947	940	938
Year 1915	1,038	989	1,073	997	958	1,032	1,022	912	926	997	1,008	1,013
" 1916	1,082	990	1,073	996	966	1,034	1,019	917	928	961	1,020	1,021
" 1917	1,082	990	1,073	996	966	1,034	1,019	917	928	961	1,020	1,021
" 1918	1,082	990	1,073	996	966	1,034	1,019	917	928	961	1,020	1,021
" 1919	1,173	1,129	1,266	1,130	1,102	1,154	1,052	1,048	1,048	1,110	1,134	1,146
" 1920	1,252	1,205	1,333	1,225	1,190	1,249	1,141	1,140	1,140	1,212	1,212	1,235
" 1921	1,485	1,309	1,459	1,341	1,313	1,382	1,357	1,254	1,267	1,316	1,342	1,350
" 1922	1,695	1,672	1,745	1,662	1,619	1,685	1,632	1,593	1,633	1,657	1,657	1,686
1922 Mar. Qtr.	1,049	1,090	1,077	1,008	1,009	1,044	1,009	1,046	1,038	1,077	1,062	1,064
" June "	1,048	1,099	1,087	1,027	1,020	1,048	1,027	1,046	1,038	1,066	1,066	1,087
" Sept. "	1,082	1,024	1,113	1,090	1,040	1,078	1,027	1,053	1,052	1,096	1,064	1,082
" Dec. "	1,078	1,007	1,082	1,086	1,058	1,094	1,032	1,059	1,074	1,083	1,083	1,090

(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.	Thundaberg.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Adelaide.	Radnor, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
Nov. 1914 ..	614	..	..	581b	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	936c	950	941	945	968	923	997	943	943
Year 1939 ..	864	823	904	961	912	872	897	973	996	937	981	904
" 1945 ..	966	1,009	1,016	1,055	1,025	980	1,002	1,034	1,074	1,014	1,034	1,006
" 1946 ..	981	1,018	1,016	1,077	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	1,240	1,269	1,233
" 1949 ..	1,332	1,358	1,373	1,412	1,383	1,340	1,351	1,386	1,422	1,332	1,393	1,355
" 1950 ..	1,462	1,480	1,523	1,560	1,515	1,476	1,494	1,531	1,585	1,537	1,524	1,500
" 1951 ..	1,823	1,859	1,913	1,941	1,881	1,842	1,931	1,948	2,035	2,108	1,974	1,939
" 1952 ..	2,328	2,382	2,395	2,485	2,390	2,349	2,386	2,414	2,502	2,445	2,441	2,387
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,290	2,332	2,373	2,429	2,377	2,311	2,267	2,283	2,370	2,361	2,293	2,273
" June ..	2,334	2,434	2,416	2,472	2,403	2,357	2,439	2,452	2,564	2,496	2,496	2,446
" Sept. ..	2,367	2,401	2,400	2,533	2,398	2,384	2,480	2,513	2,611	2,505	2,543	2,487
" Dec. ..	2,321	2,361	2,383	2,506	2,382	2,342	2,334	2,406	2,461	2,414	2,433	2,342
<b>1952.</b>												
January ..	2,259	2,283	2,330	2,397	2,331	2,278	2,268	2,264	2,361	2,362	2,284	2,272
February ..	2,281	2,314	2,372	2,430	2,372	2,303	2,249	2,268	2,353	2,360	2,286	2,256
March ..	2,331	2,390	2,497	2,460	2,427	2,353	2,285	2,317	2,397	2,370	2,309	2,291
April ..	2,359	2,442	2,428	2,459	2,442	2,378	2,421	2,439	2,532	2,482	2,469	2,427
May ..	2,317	2,448	2,409	2,466	2,381	2,344	2,133	2,448	2,556	2,495	2,493	2,440
June ..	2,325	2,412	2,411	2,491	2,386	2,350	2,463	2,469	2,605	2,510	2,525	2,470
July ..	2,368	2,421	2,426	2,544	2,407	2,389	2,527	2,543	2,680	2,576	2,594	2,534
August ..	2,372	2,399	2,405	2,537	2,396	2,388	2,465	2,505	2,579	2,482	2,519	2,471
September ..	2,361	2,382	2,395	2,511	2,390	2,376	2,449	2,491	2,575	2,458	2,515	2,455
October ..	2,342	2,372	2,395	2,509	2,392	2,360	2,312	2,388	2,450	2,431	2,430	2,322
November ..	2,292	2,314	2,373	2,509	2,365	2,318	2,316	2,384	2,436	2,391	2,401	2,324
December ..	2,329	2,366	2,381	2,499	2,390	2,349	2,373	2,445	2,498	2,421	2,467	2,381
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES). (d)</b>												
Nov. 1914 ..	463	..	..	528b	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	861	535c	594	810	566	603	492	566	731
Year 1939 ..	854	817	753	861	640	840	888	388	710	686	753	86a
" 1945 ..	863	861	768	865	674	851	892	386	713	715	735	866
" 1946 ..	863	862	773	866	681	851	894	390	712	716	735	867
" 1947 ..	864	861	780	866	682	853	897	398	711	718	735	870
" 1948 ..	866	874	785	866	685	855	903	402	710	718	737	876
" 1949 ..	869	883	796	867	689	859	912	407	710	722	762	885
" 1950 ..	883	904	823	868	704	874	929	407	712	731	764	900
" 1951 ..	934	945	849	887	727	919	949	529	731	756	779	914
" 1952 ..	958	947	883	953	743	945	1,055	607	782	803	786	1,025
1952 Mar. Qtr.	951	944	858	927	713	936	968	607	753	779	779	945
" June ..	952	946	867	943	743	938	1,017	607	760	779	779	989
" Sept. ..	963	946	890	948	743	949	1,101	607	796	822	779	1,067
" Dec. ..	967	953	916	994	743	958	1,132	607	817	831	806	1,097
<b>GROUPS I.-II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.</b>												
Nov. 1914 ..	500	..	..	..	..	..	653	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820b	704c	824	898	811	839	770	844	885
Year 1939 ..	858	830	843	920	804	858	891	743	882	838	800	885
" 1945 ..	924	949	917	979	886	928	957	779	931	893	935	949
" 1946 ..	932	953	919	989	807	936	960	790	933	903	936	952
" 1947 ..	978	1,001	971	1,036	942	982	998	825	971	931	973	990
" 1948 ..	1,072	1,087	1,063	1,125	1,030	1,074	1,100	907	1,063	1,022	1,067	1,091
" 1949 ..	1,149	1,170	1,143	1,214	1,110	1,153	1,177	1,001	1,141	1,091	1,144	1,168
" 1950 ..	1,233	1,252	1,247	1,286	1,195	1,238	1,270	1,089	1,241	1,232	1,224	1,262
" 1951 ..	1,472	1,498	1,493	1,525	1,427	1,478	1,544	1,390	1,523	1,576	1,504	1,538
" 1952 ..	1,780	1,817	1,800	1,882	1,742	1,796	1,851	1,704	1,825	1,799	1,790	1,850
1952 Mar. Qtr.	1,763	1,786	1,776	1,838	1,734	1,760	1,755	1,624	1,731	1,740	1,697	1,750
" June ..	1,789	1,848	1,806	1,870	1,750	1,799	1,879	1,727	1,855	1,820	1,820	1,872
" Sept. ..	1,814	1,828	1,811	1,908	1,717	1,810	1,897	1,764	1,897	1,843	1,849	1,927
" Dec. ..	1,788	1,806	1,805	1,910	1,737	1,797	1,866	1,699	1,814	1,791	1,793	1,851

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10. (b) Charters 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.						Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 20 Towns, Australia.
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, 5 Towns.				
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>																
Nov. 1914 ..	746	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	641		
1921 ..	1,003	1,120	1,054b	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,708c	996d	1,077	1,011	925	950	954	
Year 1939 ..	938	1,004	973	967	947	951	923	914	941	933	1,018	945	927	931	931	
1943 ..	1,056	1,191	1,066	1,045	1,084	1,076	1,043	994	1,024	1,026	1,153	1,037	1,034	1,037	1,040	
1946 ..	1,059	1,192	1,073	1,057	1,084	1,076	1,043	994	1,024	1,026	1,153	1,037	1,034	1,037	1,040	
1947 ..	1,104	1,239	1,125	1,109	1,133	1,115	1,132	1,092	1,018	1,012	1,233	1,121	1,109	1,104	1,104	
1948 ..	1,251	1,387	1,272	1,257	1,279	1,262	1,316	1,273	1,276	1,286	1,407	1,303	1,256	1,260	1,260	
1949 ..	1,437	1,572	1,455	1,443	1,471	1,448	1,495	1,459	1,469	1,473	1,590	1,484	1,394	1,399	1,399	
1950 ..	1,597	1,728	1,613	1,610	1,636	1,608	1,574	1,534	1,582	1,612	1,613	1,563	1,566	1,570	1,570	
1951 ..	1,963	2,205	1,995	1,991	2,033	1,976	1,992	2,026	1,999	2,025	2,064	2,007	2,041	2,046	2,046	
1952 ..	2,359	2,550	2,442	2,445	2,473	2,379	2,487	2,465	2,498	2,483	2,551	2,482	2,526	2,531	2,531	
1952 Mar. Qtr.	2,242	2,470	2,308	2,299	2,347	2,260	2,344	2,328	2,380	2,365	2,461	2,345	2,404	2,410	2,410	
June ..	2,308	2,512	2,374	2,356	2,400	2,327	2,445	2,431	2,452	2,437	2,536	2,444	2,567	2,570	2,570	
Sept. ..	2,448	2,645	2,511	2,500	2,560	2,467	2,564	2,563	2,595	2,573	2,606	2,566	2,592	2,596	2,596	
Dec. ..	2,439	2,647	2,521	2,505	2,566	2,460	2,593	2,539	2,564	2,565	2,606	2,574	2,542	2,547	2,547	
1952.																
January ..	2,226	2,397	2,285	2,281	2,329	2,243	2,305	2,295	2,349	2,327	2,413	2,308	2,365	2,370	2,370	
February ..	2,234	2,411	2,302	2,290	2,341	2,252	2,358	2,336	2,401	2,380	2,483	2,358	2,403	2,408	2,408	
March ..	2,266	2,448	2,337	2,315	2,372	2,284	2,370	2,353	2,389	2,388	2,486	2,370	2,444	2,451	2,451	
April ..	2,283	2,470	2,350	2,335	2,386	2,302	2,402	2,404	2,429	2,407	2,520	2,408	2,565	2,568	2,568	
May ..	2,306	2,503	2,375	2,355	2,400	2,325	2,456	2,439	2,456	2,436	2,544	2,453	2,565	2,569	2,569	
June ..	2,334	2,552	2,387	2,378	2,431	2,354	2,478	2,449	2,470	2,467	2,545	2,470	2,570	2,574	2,574	
July ..	2,439	2,638	2,405	2,488	2,538	2,457	2,542	2,551	2,588	2,517	2,592	2,548	2,616	2,620	2,620	
August ..	2,451	2,646	2,513	2,504	2,580	2,470	2,566	2,567	2,599	2,575	2,680	2,568	2,585	2,589	2,589	
September ..	2,451	2,651	2,523	2,508	2,588	2,474	2,585	2,573	2,597	2,596	2,620	2,583	2,574	2,578	2,578	
October ..	2,434	2,625	2,514	2,480	2,556	2,453	2,586	2,547	2,549	2,554	2,591	2,571	2,548	2,554	2,554	
November ..	2,429	2,642	2,512	2,502	2,587	2,450	2,591	2,515	2,538	2,546	2,590	2,565	2,524	2,529	2,529	
December ..	2,454	2,674	2,537	2,524	2,585	2,476	2,600	2,556	2,605	2,594	2,636	2,587	2,553	2,557	2,557	
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 3-ROOMED HOUSES). (a)</b>																
Nov. 1914 ..	586	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	649		
1921 ..	754	578	616	649	779	709	870	676	294e	1506f	495	729	877	823		
Year 1939 ..	881	1,318	886	1,005	1,064	919	945	851	826	763	806	887	965	947		
1943 ..	886	1,037	899	975	1,061	902	913	862	851	770	804	896	975	956		
1946 ..	886	1,055	900	980	1,064	904	916	864	853	770	809	898	976	957		
1947 ..	887	1,080	900	981	1,064	907	936	866	813	770	814	899	977	958		
1948 ..	889	1,082	917	985	1,066	910	937	871	813	770	815	901	979	960		
1949 ..	895	1,095	957	1,005	1,080	917	940	873	851	773	817	904	982	964		
1950 ..	901	1,126	967	1,028	1,094	926	941	876	855	778	818	906	987	968		
1951 ..	1,065	1,180	1,182	1,201	1,309	1,083	1,048	1,031	987	873	851	1,045	1,009	992		
1952 ..	1,185	1,212	1,285	1,317	1,436	1,197	1,079	1,047	997	866	856	1,019	1,057	1,037		
1952 Mar. Qtr.	1,176	1,203	1,202	1,209	1,355	1,185	1,067	1,032	995	889	851	1,037	1,023	1,005		
June ..	1,185	1,210	1,305	1,313	1,457	1,198	1,075	1,036	995	894	851	1,044	1,041	1,022		
Sept. ..	1,189	1,213	1,317	1,314	1,465	1,202	1,080	1,048	995	901	851	1,050	1,070	1,049		
Dec. ..	1,190	1,221	1,317	1,318	1,468	1,203	1,092	1,072	1,002	901	870	1,066	1,094	1,072		
<b>GROUPS I.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.</b>																
Nov. 1914 ..	689	..	..	..	..	630	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	644		
1921 ..	916	918	898b	907	942	918	971	858	1199c	666d	871	911	924	907		
Year 1939 ..	914	1,178	936	979	990	936	922	887	898	665	933	908	939	935		
1943 ..	990	1,148	1,001	1,015	1,072	1,002	998	943	954	934	1,014	977	1,009	1,003		
1946 ..	989	1,136	1,003	1,024	1,073	1,013	1,014	956	969	939	1,028	992	1,010	1,005		
1947 ..	1,017	1,171	1,034	1,056	1,103	1,031	1,053	1,001	1,006	976	1,067	1,032	1,050	1,045		
1948 ..	1,107	1,266	1,131	1,148	1,193	1,122	1,165	1,113	1,108	1,078	1,173	1,143	1,145	1,140		
1949 ..	1,223	1,382	1,257	1,269	1,343	1,237	1,275	1,227	1,225	1,197	1,267	1,254	1,230	1,226		
1950 ..	1,322	1,480	1,358	1,380	1,421	1,338	1,324	1,274	1,295	1,283	1,290	1,304	1,336	1,332		
1951 ..	1,608	1,739	1,673	1,679	1,746	1,633	1,620	1,634	1,600	1,571	1,586	1,620	1,634	1,630		
1952 ..	1,896	2,020	1,977	1,979	2,063	1,917	1,932	1,907	1,907	1,860	1,831	1,918	1,947	1,943		
1952 Mar. Qtr.	1,821	1,939	1,872	1,901	1,965	1,815	1,841	1,817	1,834	1,784	1,827	1,830	1,860	1,857		
June ..	1,865	1,998	1,951	1,941	2,032	1,881	1,906	1,881	1,878	1,829	1,873	1,892	1,966	1,961		
Sept. ..	1,951	2,081	2,040	2,032	2,132	1,968	1,979	1,967	1,965	1,915	1,912	1,969	1,987	1,981		
Dec. ..	1,946	2,085	2,046	2,036	2,132	1,964	2,002	1,961	1,949	1,910	1,923	1,980	1,971	1,966		

(a) See footnote (a) on page 10 (b) Midland Junction. (c) Zeehan. (d) Beaconsfield (e) 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 and Review of the Index.

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 para. 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 para. 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 para. 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 para. 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., paras. 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 para. 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 paras. 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 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

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

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 para. 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 Index 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 as compiled either pre-war or post-war. 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 Index since 1945.**—The "C" Series Retail Price Index was reviewed at conferences of the Commonwealth and State Statisticians in 1949 and 1950. The resolutions of the 1949 Conference were reprinted on page 157 of Labour Report No. 38. Those of the 1950 Conference were reprinted on page 161 of Labour Report No. 39.\* The Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians held in Canberra in November, 1951 considered the subject of Retail Price Indexes more widely and paragraphs 57 to 79 of the Report of that Conference on this subject were reproduced as Section V. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 40.

In connexion with these conferences and subsequent to them, the components and construction of the "C" Series Index have been the subject of close examination by the Commonwealth Statistician with the assistance of State Statisticians. No post-war normal pattern of consumer expenditure has yet emerged. On the contrary, some marked short-term variations in the pattern continued into 1952. Consequently the weights in the Index have not been revised nor has the list of items in it been extended. Since

\* Resolution (g) of the 1950 Conference concerning the price of milk has not yet been applied, and is the subject of further enquiry during which movement in the price of this item is taken into account on a basis consistent with that applying since 1936.

1948, however, prices have been regularly collected for about 100 additional items not included in the Index, and more recently prices have been collected for more than one type of the main items in the clothing group of the Index. Concurrently estimates of consumption of individual items of food have been made annually (and in some cases quarterly) and annual and quarterly data as to aggregate retail sales, by groups of items, have been recorded.

Checks and test indexes made on the basis of these data indicate that the aggregate "C" Series Retail Price Index has remained reasonably reliable within its definition. The group indexes may require qualification in some instances in respect of short-term comparisons. Preliminary action has been taken towards compilation of a more broadly-based retail price index along the lines discussed at the Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians.

7. **Other Published Material Concerning the Index.**—During the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1949-50 (see page 78 of this Report for particulars) the Acting Commonwealth Statistician prepared for the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration a memorandum on the "C" Series Retail Price Index. This memorandum and annexures; submissions during the case by one of the advocates concerning the index together with comment thereon by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician; and extracts from the judgments referring to the index are reproduced as Section V. of the Appendix to this Report.

### § 10. Retail Price Indexes and Basic Wage Variations.

[NOTE.—The ensuing sections 10 and 11 relate to the position prior to 12th September, 1953. On that date the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced its decision to delete from its awards clauses providing for automatic adjustment of basic wages. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)]

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 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 "needs" portion only was adjustable from July, 1937 to December, 1950.

† On 12th September, 1953, the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof)

The considerations upon which the basic wage is fixed are set out in successive judgments of the Court and briefly summarized in Chapter III, (§ 4) of this Report. On this matter, reference should be made to the Basic Wage Judgments of the Court, particularly those of 1934, 1937, 1941 and 1950\*, 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 wage 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 changes in cost of living due to changes in prices, but also changes in 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 para. 4, page 3 of this chapter, the "C" Series Index is a retail price index of specific meaning. As there indicated the regimen or list of items, on which the index is based, is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. While this statement remains broadly true, it relates (in the circumstances of 1951 and 1952) more specifically to what may be termed the basic wage portion of wage-earner expenditures. The index has hitherto been used by industrial tribunals to provide automatic adjustments§ in the basic wage itself and, until December, 1950, in a basic wage which did not vary very much in real terms of purchasing power in relation to "C" Series units. In 1950 and especially in 1951 various factors produced both a steep rise in prices and an increasingly wide dispersion of price movements as affecting consumer expenditures on items within and without the index. Although the rise in some prices became less accentuated in 1952, disparate price movements continued. There arose concurrently a tendency to assume, without inquiry, that the index (constructed primarily to measure the incidence of price changes on expenditures from incomes at or about basic wage level) is equally applicable to such diverse matters as measuring the changing incidence of price variations on secondary or marginal portions of wages, on total wages or on total incomes in groups considerably higher than the basic wage, and even on money settlements in some business transactions. While such assumptions may be reasonably reliable during

\* 33 C.A.R., p. 144; 37 C.A.R., p. 583; 44 C.A.R., p. 41; 68 C.A.R., p. 698.

† 50 C.A.R., p. 101.

‡ On 12th September, 1953 the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments (See Appendix, page 213 hereof)

periods in which all prices tend to move together, they should not be made at any time without due inquiry and particularly not in periods when price movements are very marked and are subject to wide dispersion.

The following is a brief statement of the indexes considered or 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 employee, 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 1923-27 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, 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 below. 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,

\* For details of the "Harvester" Judgment see page 73.

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* (vii) below).

(iv) "*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 had for its base the "A" Series Index for each town for December Quarter, 1929, which was 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 was 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.

(v) *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 11. 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 of South Latitude. 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.

(vi) *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 was compiled for the month of November for each year from 1913 to 1942, when tabulation was discontinued. It was originally confined to 100 towns, but was increased to 150 in 1915, and 200 in 1923. A reference to these index-numbers will be found on page 32.

(vii) *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. There have been three Series of the "Court" Index and the base of each Series has been related to the "C" Series Index (Base 1923-27 = 1,000). For each Series this relationship has been so determined that the weekly amount in shillings of basic wage ("needs" basic wage in the case of the First and Second Series) as subsequently adjusted for changes in price level, shall equal the "Court" Series index-number according to which it is adjusted. (A "Court" Series index-number ending in .5 or more is regarded as the next higher number for this purpose).

Particulars of the three "Court" Index Series are as follows:—

- (a) The "Court" Index (First Series) (Base 1923-27 = 81.0). This index operated from 1st July, 1937, and a description of its construction is given on page 36 of Labour Report No. 34.
- (b) The "Court" Index (Second Series) (Base 1923-27 = 87.0). This index operated from 1st December, 1946, and a description of its construction is given on page 38 of Labour Report No. 38. For a table of index-numbers under this Series for 1950 see Section IV. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 40.
- (c) The "Court" Index (Third Series) (Base 1923-27 = 103.0). On 23rd November, 1950, the Court announced that the new basic wage (i.e., the "needs" portion plus a standardized "prosperity" loading plus an additional 20s.), to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, would be adjustable, as from February, 1951, in accordance with the "Court" Index (Third Series).\* This "Court" Series is constructed (see page 79) by multiplying the "C" Series index-number (on 1923-27 base) by the factor 0.103. The result to the first decimal place (as it stands) is the corresponding "Court" (Third Series) index-number, which, as explained above, expresses in shillings the amount of 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 in the automatic adjustment scale. "Court" (Third Series) index-numbers are shown in Section IV. of the Appendix, and a "Ready Reckoner" for the weekly basic wage equivalents of "Court" (Third Series) and "C" Series index-numbers is shown at the end of the following section (see next page).

### § 11. Scales Used for Automatic Wage Adjustment.\*

The following table shows the automatic scales for quarterly, half-yearly or yearly adjustment adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in accordance with its announcement of 23rd November, 1950.\* As indicated in the preceding section, this automatic adjustment scale is applied to an amount of basic wage fixed by the Court 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). The amount of wage shown constitutes the basic wage payable.

\* On 12th September, 1953 the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)



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

(As adopted by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, 23rd Nov., 1950 and operative as from Feb., 1951 until 12th Sept., 1953.) (See Appendix page 213.)

† Basis—

(a) "C" Series Index.—Index-number 1,000 (Base 1923-27) = 103s. per week (1s. = 9.708738), or £269 per annum (£1 = 3.717472).‡

(b) "Court" Index (Third Series).—"C" Series index-number 1,000 (Base 1923-27) = "Court" Index (Third Series) index-number 103.0. (One "C" Series "point" = 0.103.)

Index-number Divisions.		Wage per Week.	Index-number Divisions.		Wage per Week.
"C" Series Index.	"Court" Index (Third Series).		"C" Series Index.	"Court" Index (Third Series).	
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1714-1723	176.5-177.4	8 17 0	2064-2072	212.5-213.4	10 13 0
1724-1733	177.5-178.4	8 18 0	2073-2082	213.5-214.4	10 14 0
1734-1742	178.6-179.4	8 19 0	2083-2092	214.5-215.4	10 15 0
1743-1752	179.5-180.4	9 0 0	2093-2101	215.5-216.4	10 16 0
1753-1762	180.5-181.4	9 1 0	2102-2111	216.5-217.4	10 17 0
1763-1771	181.5-182.4	9 2 0	2112-2121	217.5-218.4	10 18 0
1772-1781	182.5-183.4	9 3 0	2122-2131	218.5-219.4	10 19 0
1782-1791	183.5-184.4	9 4 0	2132-2140	219.5-220.4	11 0 0
1792-1800	184.5-185.4	9 5 0	2141-2150	220.5-221.4	11 1 0
1801-1810	185.5-186.4	9 6 0	2151-2160	221.5-222.4	11 2 0
1811-1820	186.5-187.4	9 7 0	2161-2169	222.5-223.4	11 3 0
1821-1830	187.5-188.4	9 8 0	2170-2179	223.5-224.4	11 4 0
1831-1839	188.5-189.4	9 9 0	2180-2189	224.5-225.4	11 5 0
1840-1849	189.5-190.4	9 10 0	2190-2199	225.5-226.4	11 6 0
1850-1859	190.5-191.4	9 11 0	2200-2208	226.6-227.4	11 7 0
1860-1868	191.5-192.4	9 12 0	2209-2218	227.5-228.4	11 8 0
1869-1878	192.5-193.4	9 13 0	2219-2228	228.5-229.4	11 9 0
1879-1888	193.5-194.4	9 14 0	2229-2237	229.5-230.4	11 10 0
1889-1898	194.5-195.4	9 15 0	2238-2247	230.5-231.4	11 11 0
1899-1907	195.5-196.4	9 16 0	2248-2257	231.5-232.4	11 12 0
1908-1917	196.5-197.4	9 17 0	2258-2266	232.5-233.3	11 13 0
1918-1927	197.5-198.4	9 18 0	2267-2276	233.5-234.4	11 14 0
1928-1936	198.5-199.4	9 19 0	2277-2286	234.5-235.4	11 15 0
1937-1946	199.5-200.4	10 0 0	2287-2296	235.5-236.4	11 16 0
1947-1956	200.5-201.4	10 1 0	2297-2305	236.5-237.4	11 17 0
1957-1966	201.5-202.4	10 2 0	2306-2315	237.5-238.4	11 18 0
1967-1975	202.6-203.4	10 3 0	2316-2325	238.5-239.4	11 19 0
1976-1985	203.5-204.4	10 4 0	2326-2334	239.5-240.4	12 0 0
1986-1995	204.5-205.4	10 5 0	2335-2344	240.5-241.4	12 1 0
1996-2004	205.5-206.4	10 6 0	2345-2354	241.5-242.4	12 2 0
2005-2014	206.5-207.4	10 7 0	2355-2364	242.5-243.4	12 3 0
2015-2024	207.5-208.4	10 8 0	2365-2373	243.5-244.4	12 4 0
2025-2033	208.5-209.3	10 9 0	2374-2383	244.5-245.4	12 5 0
2034-2043	209.5-210.4	10 10 0	2384-2393	245.5-246.4	12 6 0
2044-2053	210.5-211.4	10 11 0	2394-2402	246.5-247.4	12 7 0
2054-2063	211.5-212.4	10 12 0	2403-2412	247.5-248.4	12 8 0

\* For "Court" (First Series) Equivalents (Base = 81.0) see Labour Report No. 34, page 38. For "Court" (Second Series) Equivalents (Base = 87.0) see Labour Report, No. 38, page 40.

† Formulae for Construction of Tables—

(a) "C" Series.—Let N = number of shillings in wage per week. Then  $9.708738 \times (N - .5) + 1$  gives the first, and  $9.708738 \times (N + .5)$  gives the second of the pair of numbers in the index-number division for N shillings. Decimal fractions in result are to be disregarded.

(b) "Court" Series.—Each "C" Series Index point = 0.103, and each of the first of the pair of index-number divisions for the "C" Series Index in the 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 (Third 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.,  $52\frac{1}{2}$  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. As from February, 1951, the whole basic wage is adjustable for wages varied according to the "Court" Index (Third Series).\* Under the First and Second Series only the "needs" portion was varied.

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

The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices for various countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices for the year 1948 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

#### Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries (a)

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

(Base: 1948 = 100.)

Town or Number of Localities.	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL.	CANADA.	CHILE.	DENMARK.	EGYPT.	FINLAND.	INDIA.	IRELAND.
	30	62	Sao Paulo.	*64	Santiago.	200	Cairo.	32	Bombay.	120
1939 .. ..	71	27	24	65	24	61	36	13	35	56
1940 .. ..	74	30	26	68	27	76	(b) 40	13	37	65
1941 .. ..	78	..	28	72	31	89	49	13	41	71
1942 .. ..	84	..	32	75	39	92	66	21	52	79
1943 .. ..	87	..	37	76	45	93	86	24	76	89
1944 .. ..	87	..	50	77	50	94	99	26	75	93
1945 .. ..	87	..	62	77	55	95	104	36	78	93
1946 .. ..	88	(c) 83	71	80	63	95	102	57	85	92
1947 .. ..	92	87	92	87	85	98	99	74	92	(b) 98
1948 .. ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1949 .. ..	109	97	98	104	119	101	99	108	101	101
1950 .. ..	120	96	104	(b) 107	137	707	104	123	103	102
1951 .. ..	146	105	113	118	167	119	114	148	109	110
1952 .. ..	170	106	133	121	204	123	113	(b) 154	111	119
1952—										
March Qtr	162	108	123	122	186	122	117	154	106	115
June ..	171	105	132	120	201	122	115	154	113	116
Sept. ..	173	105	137	120	215	124	113	151	111	123
Dec. ..	173	106	140	120	216	124	106	155	114	124

(a) The index-numbers in the above table are based mainly on the prices of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items. (b) New index spliced to former index. (c) Based on fewer than twelve months.

\* On 12th September, 1953 the Court decided to discontinue such adjustments. (See Appendix, page 213 hereof.)

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

(Base: 1948 = 100.)

	NETHER- LANDS. (e)	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PERU.	SOUTHERN RHODESIA.	SWEDEN.	SWITZER- LAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	YUGOSLAV.
Town or Number of Localities.	6	21	53	Lima.	5	60	34	9	200	34	Monte- video.
1939 .. ..	47	75	64	29	70	67	62	68	(a) 103	58	58
1940 .. ..	53	79	74	32	71	75	67	70	(a) 119	58	61
1941 .. ..	61	82	87	34	(c) 71	85	78	73	(a) 129	61	61
1942 .. ..	66	84	92	35	78	92	87	75	(a) 130	68	62
1943 .. ..	68	86	95	42	82	92	91	84	(a) 129	72	65
1944 .. ..	(d) 70	88	95	48	86	93	93	87	(a) 130	72	68
1945 .. ..	(d) 80	89	98	54	88	93	93	89	(a) 132	75	27
1946 .. ..	(d) 88	90	100	59	91	93	93	91	(a) 132	81	85
1947 .. ..	91	93	101	76	93	96	97	95	(b) 94	93	98
1948 .. ..	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1949 .. ..	(e) 100	(e) 102	100	115	106	102	99	104	103	99	105
1950 .. ..	109	107	(c) 105	129	115	103	(e) 98	108	106	100	101
1951 .. ..	122	119	122	142	122	119	102	116	116	108	115
1952 .. ..	122	129	133	152	133	129	105	126	126	110	131
1952—											
March Qtr. ..	120	126	130	147	129	127	105	123	123	109	127
June .. ..	121	128	131	150	132	131	105	124	126	110	129
Sept. .. ..	122	129	135	153	134	131	105	125	127	111	133
Dec. .. ..	122	130	136	156	134	131	105	129	128	111	136

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

(a) Base, 1937 = 100. (b) New index as from 17th June, 1947; cannot be linked to former series. Annual index-number for 1947 based on fewer than twelve months. (c) New index spliced to former index. (d) Based on fewer than twelve months. (e) Base, 1949 = 100.

## INDEX-NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

	AUSTRALIA.	BRAZIL.	CANADA.	CHILE.	DENMARK.	EGYPT.	FINLAND.	FRANCE. (c)	INDIA.	IRELAND.
Town or Number of Localities.	30	Sao Paulo.	64	San- tiago.	200	Cairo.	32	Paris.	Bom- bay.	120
1939 .. ..	74	24	51	23	61	34	11	7	33	55
1940 .. ..	75	25	54	27	74	(a) 37	13	8	36	62
1941 .. ..	75	28	59	31	91	47	16	9	40	68
1942 .. ..	82	31	65	41	94	64	19	10	52	76
1943 .. ..	83	36	67	48	93	88	21	13	72	84
1944 .. ..	82	47	67	52	93	104	21	17	76	89
1945 .. ..	82	58	68	55	94	108	33	23	78	90
1946 .. ..	83	74	72	64	94	103	52	39	91	89
1947 .. ..	88	88	82	86	98	99	76	63	90	(a) 97
1948 .. ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	92	99	100
1949 .. ..	111	96	104	115	101	102	103	(b) 100	105	100
1950 .. ..	125	103	(a) 106	134	118	111	118	111	109	100
1951 .. ..	162	108	121	169	131	120	126	128	115	107
1952 .. ..	201	131	121	216	138	117	(a) 135	141	118	118
1952—										
March Qtr. ..	191	120	125	193	135	123	134	144	108	111
June .. ..	204	127	121	214	137	121	133	139	121	113
Sept. .. ..	206	135	120	232	140	118	136	139	119	124
Dec. .. ..	202	142	119	227	139	107	137	141	124	126

(a) New index spliced to former index.

(b) New index; base, 1949 = 100.

(c) Base, 1949 = 100.

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

(Base: 1948 = 100.)

## INDEX-NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD--continued.

	MEXICO.	NETHER- LANDS. (f)	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PERU.	SOUTHERN RHODESIA.	SWITZER- LAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.	URUGUAY.
Town or Number of Localities.	Mexi- co City.	6	21	53	Lima,	5	34	9	200	34	Monte- video.
1939 .. .. .	31	41	76	67	25	62	58	63	(a) 101	45	52
1940 .. .. .	31	48	78	81	28	63	64	65	(a) 118	46	54
1941 .. .. .	31	48	80	96	32	(b) 68	76	70	(a) 121	50	54
1942 .. .. .	36	63	82	100	35	71	87	77	(a) 116	59	56
1943 .. .. .	46	64	82	102	39	74	92	84	(a) 119	60	60
1944 .. .. .	59	(c) 66	83	102	45	76	94	88	(a) 121	65	62
1945 .. .. .	64	(c) 67	83	103	50	78	94	90	(a) 122	66	74
1946 .. .. .	83	(c) 78	83	104	54	81	91	92	(a) 122	76	83
1947 .. .. .	95	85	89	103	74	88	97	97	(d) 94	92	102
1948 .. .. .	100	92	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1949 .. .. .	104	b 100	b 103	99	116	106	99	103	105	96	100
1950 .. .. .	108	111	113	b 108	134	121	b 100	109	113	97	91
1951 .. .. .	124	121	130	127	150	132	103	116	126	108	106
1952 .. .. .	144	123	143	144	162	149	105	137	(e) 105	110	129
1952--											
March Qtr.	149	124	138	138	158	146	104	132	100	109	121
June .. .. .	145	124	142	141	159	152	105	135	106	110	126
Sept .. .. .	146	122	145	149	163	151	106	137	107	112	131
Dec .. .. .	146	122	147	148	166	149	106	142	108	110	136

(a) Base, 1937 = 100. (b) New index spliced to former index. (c) Based on fewer than twelve months. (d) New index as from 17th June, 1947 = 100; cannot be linked to former series. Annual index-number for 1947 based on fewer than twelve months. (e) Base, 15th January, 1952 = 100; cannot be linked to former series. (f) Base, 1949 = 100.