

CHAPTER VI.—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, 150 TOWNS.

1. **Introduction.**—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding Section, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, as to retail price index-numbers in 70 additional towns in Australia. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120, and it is intended to carry it out in that month each year, thus making information available annually for 150 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the succeeding yearly investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. **Detailed Results, 1920 to 1922.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1922, are set out in the tables on pages 47 to 49. (See end of last column on page 47). The aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries and rent of 4-rooms and food groceries, and rent of 5 rooms are shown for each year for each individual town. The index-number 1525 (see page 49) represents the weighted average expenditure in 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1415 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses on November 1922. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 998 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November 1922. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for all 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1525, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1570, while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1431.

A change has been made in the basis on which the index-numbers in this table are computed. Previously the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the same basis is taken as in the case of the tables referring to 30 towns and 6 capital cities given in the preceding Section, *i.e.*, the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing accommodation in the 6 capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1000.

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries and Housing Accommodation in 150 Towns for November 1920, 1921 and 1922 compared with the Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent for all houses in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 as base (=1000).

State and Town.	1920.			1921.			1922		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses
New South Wales—	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Sydney	1,291	1,772	1,853	1,015	1,506	1,589	1,034	1,553	1,041
Newcastle	1,330	1,707	1,868	1,029	1,408	1,574	1,008	1,410	1,574
Broken Hill	1,504	1,785	1,857	1,023	1,305	1,376	1,050	1,331	1,402
Goulburn	1,347	1,690	1,793	1,001	1,373	1,490	986	1,409	1,527
Bathurst	1,347	1,594	1,689	985	1,232	1,328	940	1,187	1,309
Adelong	1,310	1,484	1,533	1,035	1,196	1,235	1,046	1,230	1,283
Albury	1,293	1,722	1,815	1,003	1,431	1,521	986	1,519	1,594
Armidale	1,306	1,649	1,742	1,031	1,314	1,411	974	1,332	1,404
Bega	1,318	1,568	1,663	1,073	1,300	1,398	983	1,259	1,358
Bourke	1,375	1,533	1,585	1,066	1,211	1,277	1,055	1,232	1,285
Nowra	1,332	1,684	1,766	1,060	1,461	1,524	1,061	1,495	1,594
Casino	1,264	1,540	1,659	1,080	1,431	1,516	1,011	1,373	1,459
Cobar	1,391	1,489	1,522	1,133	1,232	1,265	1,043	1,141	1,174
Cooma	1,427	1,707	1,773	1,101	1,393	1,509	1,006	1,292	1,390
Coonamble	1,413	1,720	1,803	1,049	1,365	1,474	1,045	1,352	1,435
Cootamundra	1,412	1,805	1,916	1,053	1,472	1,562	921	1,337	1,440
Corrimal	1,356	1,600	1,652	1,052	1,328	1,387	1,013	1,309	1,381
Cowra	1,250	1,593	1,731	967	1,312	1,434	974	1,372	1,484
Deniliquin	1,300	1,626	1,697	997	1,298	1,367	1,008	1,309	1,378
Dubbo	1,364	1,751	1,876	1,045	1,426	1,557	1,018	1,445	1,542
Forbes	1,331	1,030	1,745	1,016	1,385	1,477	1,014	1,398	1,569
Glen Innes	1,225	1,549	1,637	958	1,285	1,384	957	1,266	1,400
Grafton	1,341	1,000	1,692	1,070	1,360	1,455	1,006	1,359	1,478
Greenfield	1,326	1,672	1,804	1,014	1,422	1,500	977	1,444	1,569
Quinedah	1,335	1,651	1,723	1,024	1,320	1,432	990	1,296	1,358
Hay	1,381	1,631	1,748	1,066	1,342	1,476	1,004	1,280	1,405
Inverell	1,365	1,704	1,768	1,044	1,395	1,463	1,001	1,363	1,407
Juncie	1,303	1,059	1,744	1,042	1,453	1,555	991	1,418	1,517
Katoomba	1,349	1,777	1,895	1,110	1,631	1,752	1,060	1,584	1,371
Kempsay	1,269	1,550	1,651	1,042	1,421	1,519	961	1,290	1,427
Lismore	1,290	1,034	1,738	1,110	1,453	1,574	1,047	1,402	1,563
Lithgow	1,315	1,055	1,729	1,035	1,416	1,498	1,018	1,355	1,472
Maitland	1,314	1,024	1,663	1,001	1,340	1,415	994	1,350	1,402
Moree	1,429	1,785	1,890	1,078	1,395	1,481	1,079	1,487	1,605
Moss Vale	1,360	1,778	1,887	1,026	1,470	1,509	999	1,394	1,559
Mudgee	1,311	1,651	1,719	1,031	1,411	1,483	995	1,414	1,504
Narrabri	1,324	1,076	1,758	1,036	1,370	1,442	992	1,292	1,395
Nowra	1,369	1,698	1,764	1,073	1,402	1,468	1,052	1,578	1,657
Orange	1,259	1,542	1,691	991	1,318	1,411	955	1,307	1,410
Parkes	1,318	1,070	1,778	1,019	1,420	1,503	1,000	1,434	1,559
Queanbeyan	1,382	1,052	1,709	1,044	1,343	1,395	1,014	1,376	1,458
Tamworth	1,277	1,003	1,700	952	1,383	1,498	921	1,339	1,497
Temora	1,369	1,731	1,797	1,062	1,424	1,523	1,006	1,467	1,532
Wagga Wagga	1,242	1,694	1,679	986	1,385	1,447	951	1,350	1,477
Wellington	1,268	1,558	1,661	1,032	1,310	1,412	944	1,226	1,313
Wollongong	1,339	1,678	1,734	1,051	1,387	1,449	1,018	1,399	1,466
Wyalong	1,364	1,625	1,725	1,110	1,389	1,472	983	1,329	1,446
Yass	1,476	1,797	1,867	1,093	1,411	1,483	1,009	1,385	1,449
Young	1,295	1,618	1,703	1,014	1,310	1,387	950	1,306	1,408
Weighted Average for State	1,308	1,740	1,828	1,020	1,463	1,568	1,024	1,493	1,580
Victoria—									
Melbourne	1,285	1,707	1,837	972	1,418	1,543	967	1,431	1,570
Ballarat	1,305	1,508	1,596	977	1,178	1,284	976	1,217	1,320
Bendigo	1,245	1,487	1,576	968	1,170	1,315	977	1,284	1,381
Geelong	1,238	1,552	1,652	991	1,390	1,492	959	1,322	1,430
Warrnambool	1,322	1,654	1,765	999	1,335	1,484	932	1,273	1,431
Ararat	1,355	1,640	1,761	1,084	1,327	1,426	1,002	1,303	1,395
Bairnsdale	1,322	1,607	1,723	1,048	1,377	1,504	1,009	1,371	1,494
Beechworth	1,335	1,532	1,589	979	1,196	1,262	998	1,223	1,276
Benalla	1,283	1,566	1,629	1,004	1,304	1,406	947	1,276	1,385
Bright	1,326	1,497	1,568	1,077	1,258	1,307	1,052	1,230	1,305
Camperdown	1,258	1,557	1,646	982	1,324	1,426	963	1,339	1,539
Castlemaine	1,333	1,547	1,658	1,001	1,241	1,360	997	1,280	1,375
Colac	1,332	1,676	1,743	1,028	1,489	1,604	973	1,500	1,582
Creswick	1,310	1,406	1,445	970	1,075	1,121	921	1,053	1,092

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing Accommodation in 150 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1920.			1921.			1922.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses
Victoria—cont.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Davlesford	1,332	1,510	1,582	1,013	1,221	1,320	905	1,247	1,320
Dunolly	1,183	1,334	1,361	930	1,058	1,097	934	1,092	1,131
Echuca	1,340	1,506	1,670	1,020	1,200	1,305	973	1,235	1,327
Ennora	1,320	1,553	1,570	982	1,226	1,259	1,011	1,243	1,296
Hamilton	1,202	1,616	1,608	1,050	1,395	1,487	1,018	1,402	1,534
Horsham	1,354	1,663	1,732	1,053	1,458	1,623	987	1,417	1,536
Korumburra	1,277	1,576	1,633	1,013	1,338	1,302	939	1,273	1,376
Kyneton	1,208	1,546	1,631	1,012	1,271	1,381	951	1,273	1,331
Maldon	1,271	1,406	1,429	972	1,110	1,183	950	1,093	1,137
Maryborough	1,299	1,477	1,509	1,022	1,200	1,302	977	1,154	1,270
Mildura	1,343	1,940	2,074	1,155	1,711	1,856	1,102	1,757	1,829
Mhill	1,269	1,632	1,585	1,073	1,341	1,405	1,006	1,348	1,400
Omeo	1,413	1,671	1,637	1,131	1,276	1,330	1,024	1,182	1,228
Orbost	1,311	1,577	1,638	1,042	1,371	1,437	1,020	1,415	1,547
Portland	1,379	1,520	1,598	1,057	1,374	1,480	1,023	1,346	1,467
St. Arnaud	1,289	1,582	1,674	1,046	1,335	1,457	976	1,244	1,325
Sale	1,276	1,540	1,650	972	1,233	1,335	936	1,252	1,360
Shepparton	1,238	1,570	1,672	1,040	1,405	1,517	1,010	1,454	1,569
Stawell	1,379	1,626	1,725	1,067	1,307	1,425	1,070	1,574	1,739
Swan Hill	1,203	1,696	1,762	1,008	1,436	1,507	982	1,374	1,491
Walballa	1,307	1,433	1,472	1,106	1,172	1,212	1,036	1,165	1,200
Wandiligong	1,336	1,440	1,467	1,097	1,262	1,229	1,051	1,156	1,183
Wangarratta	1,386	1,700	1,778	1,031	1,351	1,445	1,014	1,350	1,431
Warracknabeal	1,249	1,533	1,611	998	1,298	1,367	973	1,335	1,400
Wonthaggi	1,333	1,702	1,788	996	1,390	1,435	1,000	1,430	1,527
Yackandandah	1,344	1,568	1,620	1,053	1,282	1,335	996	1,150	1,207
Weighted Average for State	1,287	1,600	1,778	980	1,376	1,493	971	1,389	1,517
Queensland—									
Brisbane	1,176	1,406	1,557	1,006	1,298	1,385	942	1,275	1,395
Toowoomba	1,123	1,373	1,458	942	1,190	1,285	927	1,183	1,262
Rockhampton	1,185	1,403	1,457	1,000	1,225	1,270	940	1,194	1,269
Charters Towers	1,255	1,495	1,560	1,034	1,300	1,353	998	1,243	1,312
Warwick	1,198	1,408	1,500	986	1,253	1,315	919	1,175	1,240
Bundaberg	1,211	1,422	1,507	963	1,170	1,265	940	1,192	1,278
Cairns	1,385	1,749	1,846	1,127	1,474	1,544	1,044	1,442	1,538
Charleville	1,287	1,600	1,817	1,138	1,565	1,697	1,072	1,466	1,624
Chillagoe	1,313	1,418	1,445	1,230	1,494	1,625	1,050	1,313	1,379
Cloncurry	1,458	1,805	1,950	1,169	1,572	1,690	1,115	1,488	1,585
Cooktown	1,430	1,559	1,583	1,224	1,325	1,360	1,126	1,233	1,270
Cunnamulla	1,272	1,548	1,601	1,102	1,312	1,301	1,047	1,363	1,441
Goondwindi	1,230	1,464	1,566	997	1,247	1,326	1,010	1,271	1,367
Gympie	1,201	1,405	1,491	1,036	1,247	1,313	998	1,251	1,336
Hamilton	1,184	1,579	1,716	1,008	1,403	1,475	975	1,370	1,442
Hughenden	1,323	1,777	1,879	1,172	1,665	1,797	1,092	1,580	1,750
Innsworth	1,183	1,433	1,519	1,048	1,361	1,458	951	1,241	1,326
Longreach	1,294	1,564	1,639	1,094	1,375	1,452	1,098	1,385	1,487
Mackay	1,327	1,639	1,718	1,106	1,453	1,567	992	1,327	1,436
Maryborough	1,175	1,399	1,466	1,006	1,245	1,304	962	1,231	1,303
Mc. Morgan	1,206	1,470	1,535	1,000	1,211	1,250	965	1,183	1,222
Roma	1,195	1,524	1,590	1,058	1,420	1,535	1,009	1,371	1,450
Townsville	1,310	1,732	1,840	1,138	1,529	1,663	1,079	1,493	1,632
Winton	1,435	1,863	1,961	1,168	1,607	1,738	1,090	1,551	1,715
Weighted Average for State	1,201	1,478	1,564	1,019	1,303	1,386	963	1,272	1,368
South Australia—									
Adelaide	1,291	1,671	1,795	991	1,381	1,527	987	1,418	1,548
Noonka, etc.	1,296	1,561	1,638	996	1,248	1,344	930	1,245	1,351
Port Pirie	1,305	1,648	1,723	1,020	1,346	1,418	978	1,297	1,391
Mt. Gambler	1,264	1,490	1,650	972	1,198	1,250	950	1,185	1,252
Peterborough	1,207	1,564	1,650	1,050	1,343	1,442	1,013	1,303	1,373
Gawler	1,237	1,497	1,574	1,003	1,266	1,329	955	1,294	1,389
Rapunda	1,248	1,406	1,459	985	1,157	1,249	947	1,184	1,260
Murray Bridge	1,276	1,675	1,776	988	1,361	1,457	947	1,348	1,416
Pt. Augusta	1,313	1,842	1,749	1,049	1,376	1,465	1,023	1,348	1,451
Pt. Lincoln	1,252	1,562	1,611	1,048	1,325	1,404	1,001	1,337	1,410
Pt. Victor (Victor Harbour)	1,245	1,551	1,632	991	1,340	1,451	975	1,502	1,633
Renmark	1,356	1,784	1,905	1,104	1,617	1,740	1,059	1,652	1,783
Weighted Average for State	1,289	1,652	1,767	995	1,364	1,498	986	1,392	1,515

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing Accommodation in 150 Towns, etc.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1920.			1921.			1922.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses
Western Australia—	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Perth & Fremantle	1,172	1,527	1,623	1,058	1,440	1,580	998	1,389	1,577
Kalgoorlie & Boulder	1,341	1,694	1,772	1,179	1,535	1,611	1,154	1,493	1,557
Midland Junction & Guildford	1,221	1,481	1,563	1,110	1,403	1,512	1,034	1,368	1,449
Bunbury	1,320	1,509	1,556	1,105	1,422	1,485	1,046	1,397	1,497
Geraldton	1,222	1,604	1,690	1,089	1,465	1,576	1,065	1,462	1,543
Albany	1,290	1,603	1,678	1,153	1,461	1,547	1,099	1,395	1,467
Broom	1,488			1,402			1,308	1,906	2,098
Carnarvon	1,387	1,821	1,854	1,297	1,659	1,745	1,237	1,730	1,779
Cu	1,423	1,633	1,719	1,341	1,513	1,604	1,312	1,507	1,602
Katanning	1,164	1,549	1,595	1,019	1,397	1,476	1,009	1,368	1,549
Leonora	1,469	1,732	1,793	1,267	1,399	1,465	1,269	1,427	1,467
Meuzies	1,649	1,781	1,807	1,343	1,474	1,498	1,314	1,446	1,472
Northam	1,205	1,537	1,659	1,104	1,420	1,558	1,081	1,432	1,542
Ravensthorpe	1,359	1,457	1,523	1,268	1,367	1,432	1,158	1,257	1,323
Weighted Average for State	1,220	1,565	1,654	1,095	1,458	1,546	1,045	1,416	1,506
Tasmania—									
Hobart	1,362	1,827	1,923	1,081	1,520	1,631	1,013	1,416	1,592
Launceston	1,339	1,658	1,793	1,009	1,331	1,475	1,007	1,374	1,536
Zeehan	1,419	1,603	1,669	1,167	1,325	1,358	1,116	1,281	1,327
Beaconsfield	1,238	1,299	1,328	1,040	1,110	1,113	995	1,069	1,091
Queenstown	1,274	1,537	1,616	1,134	1,397	1,479	1,092	1,366	1,433
Burnie	1,290	1,652	1,738	1,017	1,379	1,484	1,028	1,454	1,586
Campbelltown	1,314	1,336	1,378	1,066	1,206	1,277	979	1,129	1,183
Devonport	1,291	1,650	1,715	1,074	1,434	1,518	1,010	1,421	1,490
Franklin	1,328	1,564	1,643	1,088	1,335	1,398	1,024	1,257	1,327
Ottlands	1,250	1,408	1,441	1,075	1,223	1,269	990	1,151	1,178
Scottsdale	1,255	1,483	1,540	993	1,261	1,327	1,051	1,315	1,380
Weighted Average for State	1,338	1,704	1,802	1,063	1,416	1,525	1,020	1,375	1,519
Weighted Average for Australia	1,282	1,662	1,763	1,011	1,405	1,507	998	1,415	1,525

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in columns B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus for November 1922 the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 967. Subtracting this from 1431 (column B) gives a difference of 464, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1570 (column C) gives a difference of 603, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns included.

3. **Comparisons with Quarterly Results.**—In order to ascertain the degree of accuracy with which the investigations as to variations in the purchasing-power of money made prior to 1912 for the capital cities only, and those made since the beginning of 1912 for the thirty towns, reflect the conditions obtaining throughout the States and Australia, comparisons between the three sets of results have been made annually, those for 1922 being given in the following table.

The first line in each section shows the index-numbers derived from the special inquiry covering 150 towns; the second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1922, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received; and the last line gives the results obtained from the

November returns for the capital cities only. The capital cities are, of course, included in each of the other two investigations, and the five towns in each State are included in the investigation for "all towns":—

Retail Price Index-Numbers, 1922. Comparisons in States.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'gh't Aver- age.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns*	1,027	974	966	989	1,018	1,023	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,035	971	948	990	1,039	1,024	1,000
Capital Cities only ..	1,039	972	947	992	1,003	1,018	1,000
RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.							
All Towns*	1,071	1,035	767	1,004	874	945	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,081	1,035	737	976	855	938	1,000
Capital Cities only ..	1,049	1,041	764	970	844	1,001	1,000
FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.							
All Towns*	1,042	995	897	994	988	996	1,500
Five Towns in each State	1,051	994	874	985	974	994	1,000
Capital Cities only ..	1,043	997	880	984	944	1,011	1,000

* For list of towns included, see Table on pages 47 to 49.

The index-numbers for November, 1916 to 1922, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above with 1913 as basis (=1000), are shown in the following table:—

Variations in Retail Price Index-Numbers, 1916 to 1922.

Particulars.	1913.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922
FOOD AND GROCERIES.								
All Towns*	1,000	1,353	1,395	1,435	1,706	2,002	1,578	1,558
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,354	1,390	1,430	1,701	2,007	1,577	1,564
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,358	1,397	1,440	1,715	2,021	1,588	1,580
RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.								
All Towns*	1,000	959	981	1,031	1,103	1,228	1,268	1,347
Five Towns in each State	1,000	966	987	1,039	1,110	1,235	1,271	1,347
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	961	980	1,033	1,099	1,225	1,261	1,336
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.								
All Towns*	1,000	1,204	1,238	1,282	1,477	1,709	1,461	1,478
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,203	1,234	1,278	1,471	1,706	1,458	1,480
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,196	1,227	1,274	1,464	1,697	1,455	1,480

NOTE.—The figures in the vertical columns do not, of course, show relative purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers. They show merely the increase or decrease in cost in November of each year compared with November, 1913, for "All Towns," "Five Towns in each State" and "Capital Cities only" respectively.

* See footnote to preceding table.

The index-numbers in the first line of each section of the above table refer to 100 towns for November, 1913, and to 150 towns for November, 1916 to 1922. The general closeness of the results shown in these two tables is remarkable, and indicates that the index-numbers published for the capital cities only for the years prior to 1912, and for the thirty towns for 1912 and subsequent years, reflect with a substantial degree of accuracy the variations in the retail price index-numbers. During the period November 1913, to November 1922, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 55.8 per cent.; house rents increased 34.7 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of approximately 47.8 per cent.

CHAPTER VII.—INCLUSION OF CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.

1. **Introduction.**—The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage was appointed to inquire into and report upon the following matters :—

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

Reference was made to the findings of the Commission in Report No. 11, pp. 28 and 29. In answer to the third clause of the enquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (*i.e.*, such a family as is described in Clause 1)." This suggestion was adopted by the Government, and the Commonwealth Statistician was consulted as to the methods to be followed in this connexion. The duty of carrying out the recommendation was entrusted to this Bureau. As the result of investigations and inquiry as to methods adopted in other countries, the methods hereafter described have been adopted for the purpose of measuring variations in the cost of the commodities and services which comprise the total expenditure on living.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of the regimen which its members adopted, and which is described in the Indicator Lists published