

The index-numbers in the first line of each division of the table just given refer to 100 towns for November, 1913; to 150 towns for November, 1916 to 1922; and to 200 towns for November, 1923. The general closeness of the results is remarkable, and indicates that the index-numbers for the capital cities only for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years were substantially accurate. During the period November, 1913, to November, 1923, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 68.9 per cent.; house rents increased 43.3 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of approximately 59.2 per cent.

CHAPTER VII.—CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS.

1. **General.**—The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which met in 1919–1920, was appointed to inquire into and report upon the following matters :—

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

Reference was made to the findings of this Commission in Report No. 11, pp. 28 and 29. In answer to the third clause of the inquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (i.e., such a family as is described in Clause 1)." This suggestion was adopted by the Government, the Commonwealth Statistician was consulted as to methods, and the duty of carrying out the recommendation was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of the regimen adopted, which is described in the "Indicator List" published in the Report. It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations by this Bureau would have been somewhat limited if confined in the way suggested by the Commission, and it was decided, therefore, to apply to a more detailed inquiry the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing. As will be shown later, the index-numbers may be used to measure accurately from time to time the rise and fall in prices in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family as outlined by the Commission, as well as for the determination of variations in any standard fixed by previous investigations or which may be fixed in future.

The ordinary expenditure of a household has been grouped under four heads—(i) Food and Groceries ; (ii) Housing ; (iii) Clothing ; (iv) Other Requirements.

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and house rent the commodities, method, and weighting already in use, and the commodities and quantities conform very closely to those given in the "indicator lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the cost of clothing and miscellaneous. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and duration of articles, and this has been used in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to miscellaneous expenditure, inquiries were made regarding cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, and other items in the "indicator lists", and the aggregate expenditure thereon has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

The item "groceries (not food)" has been omitted from miscellaneous expenditure, though it was so described by the Commission, as the index-numbers already published by this Bureau cover the articles allowed for under this heading, such as soap, starch, blue, etc.

3. Base.—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some period as base. In the case of index-numbers for food, groceries, and housing, already published, the year 1911 was selected. For the new index-numbers, covering all items of household expenditure, November, 1914, was adopted owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. While the index-numbers for 1914 in the following tables relate to the month of November, they may be accepted as typical of conditions immediately preceding the war. For base the weighted average cost for the six capital cities has been taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November, 1914, made equal to 1,000.

4. Variations—Thirty Towns.—The investigations have been extended to the 30 towns for the months of November, 1921, and May, August and November, 1922, and quarterly for the year 1923. The task of securing information for previous years as to prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals was considered unnecessary. So far as the capitals are concerned details were already available in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage. Information of this nature is at present collected quarterly for all the towns, and quarterly index-numbers are available.

5. Variations—Nov., 1914, to Nov., 1923.—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries ; (ii) Housing ; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined ; (iv) Clothing ; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements ; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities) Index-Numbers—30 Towns ; Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Coulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Dandigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914	993						960							
" 1915	1,316						1,301							
" 1916	1,299						1,233							
" 1917	1,367						1,244							
" 1918	1,368						1,315							
" 1919	1,674						1,521							
" 1920	1,911						1,903							
" 1921	1,503	1,524	1,515	1,482	1,459	1,504	1,439	1,447	1,434	1,467	1,479	1,441		
May 1922	1,471	1,474	1,587	1,493	1,419	1,475	1,459	1,466	1,457	1,465	1,412	1,459		
Aug. "	1,539	1,524	1,574	1,480	1,452	1,537	1,478	1,477	1,476	1,461	1,427	1,477		
Nov. "	1,581	1,493	1,564	1,461	1,393	1,536	1,432	1,453	1,446	1,421	1,380	1,433		
1923 1st Qtr	1,490	1,505	1,615	1,513	1,438	1,494	1,428	1,429	1,343	1,416	1,379	1,428		
" 2nd "	1,593	1,577	1,724	1,607	1,521	1,594	1,59	1,551	1,574	1,525	1,522	1,588		
" 3rd "	1,665	1,670	1,819	1,709	1,634	1,670	1,701	1,674	1,664	1,622	1,625	1,695		
" 4th "	1,603	1,660	1,816	1,643	1,570	1,613	1,566	1,602	1,584	1,569	1,579	1,569		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moolata, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mc Gamber.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S. A.		
Nov. 1914	957						1,066							
" 1915	1,341						1,339							
" 1916	1,166						1,302							
" 1917	1,257						1,256							
" 1918	1,376						1,344							
" 1919	1,667						1,579							
" 1920	1,742						1,911							
" 1921	1,490	1,395	1,480	1,511	1,460	1,482	1,468	1,474	1,510	1,440	1,554	1,471		
May 1922	1,394	1,311	1,391	1,467	1,367	1,391	1,581	1,519	1,566	1,442	1,570	1,572		
Aug. "	1,410	1,368	1,468	1,486	1,396	1,411	1,524	1,530	1,521	1,436	1,533	1,521		
Nov. "	1,396	1,373	1,400	1,470	1,461	1,399	1,462	1,466	1,448	1,406	1,500	1,460		
1923 1st Qtr	1,409	1,367	1,441	1,510	1,388	1,412	1,486	1,490	1,473	1,421	1,532	1,485		
" 2nd "	1,463	1,431	1,484	1,569	1,440	1,465	1,611	1,568	1,571	1,529	1,601	1,606		
" 3rd "	1,560	1,515	1,542	1,622	1,495	1,500	1,651	1,571	1,627	1,599	1,573	1,645		
" 4th "	1,535	1,545	1,596	1,668	1,530	1,645	1,612	1,562	1,641	1,570	1,579	1,610		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av. ge. W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av. ge. Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914	1,164						1,072							
" 1915	1,277						1,339							
" 1916	1,342						1,259							
" 1917	1,291						1,480							
" 1918	1,272						1,432							
" 1919	1,539						1,624							
" 1920	1,736						2,017							
" 1921	1,567	1,746		1,636	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,495		1,680	1,577	1,482	1,487	
May 1922	1,603	1,763		1,654	1,640	1,642	1,600	1,516		1,621	1,577	1,484	1,487	
Aug. "	1,582	1,792		1,635	1,639	1,631	1,556	1,489		1,608	1,558	1,509	1,510	
Nov. "	1,478	1,709		1,549	1,577	1,582	1,500	1,491		1,618	1,511	1,474	1,475	
1923 1st Qtr	1,516	1,741	1,621	1,526	1,635	1,544	1,548	1,489	1,489	1,510	1,594	1,520	1,466	1,469
" 2nd "	1,675	1,900	1,747	1,670	1,706	1,700	1,622	1,549	1,624	1,607	1,605	1,603	1,589	1,588
" 3rd "	1,627	1,875	1,766	1,646	1,691	1,657	1,668	1,654	1,716	1,685	1,759	1,670	1,668	1,658
" 4th "	1,566	1,815	1,711	1,578	1,668	1,592	1,661	1,666	1,730	1,671	1,793	1,607	1,584	1,592

* Base.

Housing—Index Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,146	1,317	658	1,388	894	1,386	956	961	952	1,108	1,055	1,434
" 1915	1,094	1,215	690	1,400	821	1,420	974	968	964	1,200	1,175	1,441
" 1916	1,084	1,215	677	1,386	900	1,430	1,040	978	961	1,204	1,185	1,448
" 1917	1,103	1,214	678	1,386	900	1,432	1,109	973	961	1,204	1,185	1,448
" 1918	1,137	1,214	678	1,386	900	1,432	1,109	973	961	1,204	1,185	1,448
" 1919	1,186	1,214	678	1,386	900	1,432	1,109	973	961	1,204	1,185	1,448
" 1920	1,315	1,214	656	1,246	841	1,233	1,310	826	866	1,001	1,055	1,301
" 1921	1,344	1,159	658	1,246	855	1,237	1,304	866	888	1,004	1,088	1,345
May 1922	1,283	1,179	658	1,266	855	1,266	1,287	898	898	1,094	1,235	1,385
Aug. 1922	1,301	1,189	658	1,266	855	1,266	1,448	898	898	1,094	1,235	1,385
Nov. "	1,307	1,209	658	1,265	855	1,265	1,472	887	953	1,170	1,096	1,350
1923 1st Qtr.	1,429	1,317	658	1,388	894	1,386	1,472	887	953	1,170	1,096	1,350
" 2nd "	1,466	1,315	690	1,400	821	1,420	1,508	968	964	1,200	1,175	1,441
" 3rd "	1,467	1,315	677	1,386	900	1,430	1,514	978	961	1,204	1,185	1,448
" 4th "	1,489	1,214	678	1,386	900	1,432	1,530	973	961	1,204	1,185	1,448

Period.	QUEENSLAND—INDEX NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	780	774	788	677	965	1,070	867	803	847	837	1,246	1,113
" 1915	774	780	788	677	965	1,000	830	804	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 1916	780	774	788	677	965	1,071	842	796	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 1917	774	780	788	677	965	1,071	874	806	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 1918	835	831	788	677	965	1,073	874	806	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 1919	931	931	788	677	965	1,073	930	806	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 1920	977	932	754	680	856	923	1,012	784	800	800	1,136	1,113
" 1921	977	932	754	680	856	923	1,012	784	800	800	1,136	1,113
May 1922	1,085	898	780	677	856	1,004	1,173	770	844	844	1,163	1,133
Nov. 1922	1,102	897	804	680	865	1,000	1,228	757	846	844	1,162	1,132
Nov. "	1,109	915	812	680	862	1,017	1,240	757	846	844	1,170	1,130
1923 1st Qtr.	1,124	1,056	788	682	965	1,070	1,286	803	847	837	1,246	1,113
" 2nd "	1,124	1,052	788	682	965	1,000	1,312	804	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 3rd "	1,124	1,052	788	682	965	1,071	1,314	806	848	856	1,201	1,103
" 4th "	1,125	1,053	804	705	952	1,073	1,314	789	863	906	1,263	1,263

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914	808	759	782	788	788	833	833	833	833	833	833	1,000*	1,317	1,317
" 1915	782	782	782	788	788	833	833	833	833	833	833	870	1,336	1,336
" 1916	782	782	782	788	788	833	833	833	833	833	833	877	1,336	1,336
" 1917	780	780	780	788	788	861	861	861	861	861	861	1,000	1,336	1,336
" 1918	801	780	780	788	788	876	876	876	876	876	876	1,054	1,336	1,336
" 1919	935	780	780	788	788	1,094	1,094	1,094	1,094	1,094	1,094	1,132	1,336	1,336
" 1920	919	919	919	788	788	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,243	1,336	1,336
" 1921	919	919	919	788	788	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,243	1,336	1,336
May 1922	968	783	783	788	788	1,059	1,059	1,059	1,059	1,059	1,059	1,287	1,336	1,336
Nov. 1922	985	784	784	788	788	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,332	1,336	1,336
Nov. "	986	734	734	788	788	1,309	1,309	1,309	1,309	1,309	1,309	1,342	1,336	1,336
Nov. "	993	727	727	788	788	1,310	1,310	1,310	1,310	1,310	1,310	1,356	1,336	1,336
1923 1st Qtr.	1,000	726	741	807	890	1,370	1,295	1,170	1,220	581	1,204	1,369	1,317	1,317
" 2nd "	1,017	724	755	809	891	1,455	1,258	1,170	1,258	581	1,347	1,365	1,336	1,336
" 3rd "	1,011	736	755	809	891	1,467	1,257	1,170	1,257	581	1,352	1,365	1,336	1,336
" 4th "	1,014	736	755	811	891	1,257	1,257	1,170	1,261	581	1,369	1,365	1,336	1,336

* Base.

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ; Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Leedigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,056	..	..	..	..	..	970	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915 ..	1,220	..	..	..	..	..	1,169	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916 ..	1,217	..	..	..	..	..	1,135	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917 ..	1,200	..	..	..	..	..	1,153	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918 ..	1,275	..	..	..	..	..	1,232	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919 ..	1,477	..	..	..	..	..	1,390	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,671	..	..	..	..	..	1,663	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,439	1,377	1,170	1,383	1,210	1,419	1,421	1,196	1,205	1,303	1,303	1,355
May 1922 ..	1,435	1,335	1,213	1,395	1,192	1,416	1,450	1,224	1,228	1,314	1,232	1,412
Aug. " ..	1,480	1,380	1,205	1,394	1,212	1,456	1,466	1,251	1,241	1,313	1,293	1,427
Nov. " ..	1,477	1,375	1,193	1,390	1,176	1,452	1,448	1,220	1,248	1,320	1,266	1,411
1923 1st Qtr.	1,465	1,380	1,220	1,451	1,218	1,451	1,448	1,240	1,245	1,326	1,282	1,426
" 2nd "	1,542	1,431	1,307	1,548	1,268	1,524	1,553	1,316	1,328	1,394	1,382	1,533
" 3rd "	1,583	1,480	1,359	1,579	1,338	1,569	1,628	1,391	1,381	1,452	1,448	1,500
" 4th "	1,540	1,480	1,357	1,539	1,300	1,536	1,552	1,348	1,383	1,420	1,423	1,530

Period.	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Whyalla.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	886	..	..	..	..	..	986	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915 ..	1,112	..	..	..	..	..	1,137	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916 ..	1,006	..	..	..	..	..	1,117	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917 ..	1,080	..	..	..	..	..	1,102	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918 ..	1,158	..	..	..	..	..	1,185	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919 ..	1,371	..	..	..	..	..	1,350	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,434	..	..	..	..	..	1,599	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,384	1,209	1,187	1,191	1,217	1,257	1,349	1,196	1,224	1,133	1,268	1,327
May 1922 ..	1,270	1,142	1,145	1,145	1,161	1,230	1,434	1,217	1,275	1,137	1,278	1,403
Aug. " ..	1,285	1,175	1,164	1,163	1,182	1,249	1,405	1,221	1,249	1,133	1,255	1,376
Nov. " ..	1,280	1,139	1,163	1,154	1,160	1,245	1,376	1,180	1,205	1,115	1,218	1,347
1923 1st Qtr.	1,294	1,242	1,177	1,180	1,213	1,274	1,405	1,218	1,221	1,124	1,252	1,389
" 2nd "	1,326	1,273	1,203	1,215	1,243	1,306	1,490	1,260	1,279	1,188	1,301	1,467
" 3rd "	1,343	1,328	1,245	1,247	1,276	1,333	1,515	1,258	1,313	1,230	1,304	1,491
" 4th "	1,370	1,347	1,277	1,279	1,297	1,355	1,492	1,251	1,328	1,213	1,308	1,470

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av. ge. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av. ge. Tas.	Weighted Average & Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,020	..	..	..	..	..	976	..	..	..	..	..	1,000*	..
" 1915 ..	1,063	..	..	..	..	..	1,137	..	..	..	..	..	1,175	..
" 1916 ..	1,110	..	..	..	..	..	1,093	..	..	..	..	..	1,150	..
" 1917 ..	1,089	..	..	..	..	..	1,231	..	..	..	..	..	1,181	..
" 1918 ..	1,082	..	..	..	..	..	1,208	..	..	..	..	..	1,227	..
" 1919 ..	1,253	..	..	..	..	..	1,410	..	..	..	..	..	1,409	..
" 1920 ..	1,406	..	..	..	..	..	1,720	..	..	..	..	..	1,627	..
" 1921 ..	1,325	1,350	..	1,237	1,343	1,327	1,476	1,319	..	..	1,229	1,377	1,404	1,374
May 1922 ..	1,354	1,356	..	1,282	1,322	1,363	1,482	1,350	..	..	1,193	1,300	1,423	1,389
Aug. " ..	1,342	1,365	..	1,281	1,310	1,344	1,474	1,371	..	..	1,186	1,338	1,442	1,408
Nov. " ..	1,282	1,313	..	1,241	1,271	1,286	1,427	1,391	..	..	1,192	1,368	1,426	1,392
1923 1st Qtr.	1,311	1,322	1,267	1,236	1,310	1,311	1,476	1,395	1,365	1,393	1,178	1,435	1,427	1,408
" 2nd "	1,410	1,426	1,347	1,323	1,383	1,408	1,555	1,432	1,441	1,459	1,220	1,500	1,514	1,491
" 3rd "	1,378	1,416	1,359	1,303	1,368	1,380	1,537	1,494	1,496	1,514	1,276	1,543	1,556	1,553
" 4th "	1,310	1,380	1,326	1,269	1,365	1,343	1,539	1,495	1,508	1,506	1,207	1,545	1,515	1,486

* Base.

Clothing.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914.
 Base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov 1914 ..	1,002	..	..	..	..	..	1,035	..	..	..	..	..
1915 ..	1,067	..	..	..	..	..	1,056	..	..	..	..	..
1916 ..	1,197	..	..	..	..	..	1,154	..	..	..	..	..
1917 ..	1,337	..	..	..	..	..	1,294	..	..	..	..	..
1918 ..	1,402	..	..	..	..	..	1,433	..	..	..	..	..
1919 ..	1,641	..	..	..	..	..	1,609	..	..	..	..	..
1920 ..	1,754	..	..	..	..	..	1,885	..	..	..	..	..
May 1921 ..	1,665	1,700	1,663	1,592	1,672	1,676	1,635	2,190	2,082	1,040	2,108	1,785
Aug. 1922 ..	1,501	1,540	1,444	1,708	1,510	1,505	1,474	1,962	1,705	1,851	1,827	1,942
Nov. " ..	1,440	1,476	1,440	1,635	1,424	1,446	1,422	1,872	1,721	1,754	1,006	1,490
1923 1st Qtr.	1,394	1,415	1,413	1,577	1,458	1,401	1,454	1,812	1,593	1,759	1,507	1,479
2nd " ..	1,396	1,468	1,323	1,544	1,418	1,397	1,439	1,690	1,521	1,514	1,631	1,470
3rd " ..	1,318	1,377	1,313	1,524	1,435	1,327	1,438	1,624	1,478	1,463	1,634	1,437
4th " ..	1,300	1,387	1,309	1,571	1,461	1,343	1,450	1,461	1,481	1,469	1,641	1,430
5th "	1,304	1,381	1,290	1,592	1,391	1,311	1,490	1,820	1,481	1,462	1,642	1,398

Period.	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mootna, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov 1914 ..	872	..	..	..	..	..	1,002	..	..	..	..	..
1915 ..	915	..	..	..	..	..	1,088	..	..	..	..	..
1916 ..	1,031	..	..	..	..	..	1,218	..	..	..	..	..
1917 ..	1,192	..	..	..	..	..	1,392	..	..	..	..	..
1918 ..	1,359	..	..	..	..	..	1,414	..	..	..	..	..
1919 ..	1,531	..	..	..	..	..	1,728	..	..	..	..	..
1920 ..	1,689	..	..	..	..	..	1,836	..	..	..	..	..
May 1921 ..	1,492	1,026	2,079	2,015	2,015	1,618	1,585	1,903	2,251	1,505	1,641	
Aug. 1922 ..	1,397	1,690	1,816	1,606	1,711	1,426	1,577	1,579	1,786	1,207	1,480	
Nov. " ..	1,303	1,411	1,581	1,511	1,709	1,374	1,410	1,420	1,546	1,390	1,424	
1923 1st Qtr.	1,295	1,313	1,554	1,391	1,047	1,338	1,366	1,364	1,496	1,013	1,101	1,378
2nd " ..	1,430	1,472	1,454	1,370	1,532	1,448	1,476	1,491	1,421	1,602	1,406	1,476
3rd " ..	1,410	1,429	1,418	1,350	1,510	1,438	1,434	1,490	1,398	1,412	1,407	1,438
4th "	1,400	1,413	1,435	1,337	1,444	1,410	1,427	1,446	1,380	1,453	1,429	1,428

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avge, Tas.
Nov 1914 ..	926	..	..	..	..	..	1,004	..	..	..	..	1,000*
1915 ..	1,097	..	..	..	..	..	1,246	..	..	..	..	1,158
1916 ..	1,136	..	..	..	..	..	1,360	..	..	..	..	1,216
1917 ..	1,300	..	..	..	..	..	1,460	..	..	..	..	1,424
1918 ..	1,505	..	..	..	..	..	1,625	..	..	..	..	1,481
1919 ..	1,694	..	..	..	..	..	1,822	..	..	..	..	1,531
1920 ..	1,892	..	..	..	..	..	1,962	..	..	..	..	1,580
May 1921 ..	1,624	1,994	1,628	1,628	1,701	1,693	1,692	2,214	..	1,664	2,000	1,632
Aug. 1922 ..	1,464	1,505	1,628	1,462	1,490	1,493	1,493	1,523	..	1,625	1,700	1,417
Nov. " ..	1,310	1,430	1,068	1,469	1,389	1,389	1,448	1,738	..	1,752	1,730	1,469
1923 1st Qtr.	1,448	1,528	1,302	1,507	1,444	1,457	1,688	1,630	1,502	1,496	1,449	1,481
2nd " ..	1,426	1,501	1,366	1,504	1,443	1,440	1,628	1,637	1,491	1,464	1,623	1,480
3rd " ..	1,372	1,391	1,341	1,490	1,389	1,389	1,523	1,441	1,370	1,370	1,501	1,389
4th "	1,300	1,480	1,321	1,427	1,301	1,358	1,587	1,533	1,486	1,501	1,628	1,363

Miscellaneous.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Coulbura.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warman-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov. 1914	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	971	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022								
" 1915	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,047	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066								
" 1916	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,047	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070								
" 1917	1,186	1,186	1,186	1,186	1,186	1,186	1,174	1,186	1,186	1,186	1,186	1,186								
" 1918	1,819	1,819	1,819	1,819	1,819	1,819	1,868	1,819	1,819	1,819	1,819	1,819								
" 1919	1,414	1,414	1,414	1,414	1,414	1,414	1,357	1,414	1,414	1,414	1,414	1,414								
" 1920	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,577	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615								
May 1921	1,384	1,328	1,471	1,270	1,321	1,380	1,564	1,277	1,352	1,370	1,175	1,385								
Aug. 1922	1,386	1,277	1,448	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,392	1,295	1,326	1,362	1,150	1,324								
Nov. "	1,391	1,278	1,459	1,292	1,270	1,270	1,308	1,295	1,317	1,347	1,121	1,303								
1923 1st Qtr.	1,397	1,255	1,448	1,293	1,270	1,356	1,301	1,193	1,273	1,293	1,175	1,294								
" 2nd "	1,397	1,248	1,438	1,296	1,290	1,356	1,314	1,237	1,264	1,283	1,171	1,307								
" 3rd "	1,358	1,240	1,435	1,228	1,294	1,352	1,327	1,248	1,250	1,286	1,101	1,318								
" 4th "	1,363	1,242	1,435	1,217	1,293	1,352	1,321	1,233	1,280	1,276	1,107	1,313								

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadma, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.								
Nov. 1914	971	971	971	971	971	971	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,028								
" 1915	1,009	1,009	1,009	1,009	1,009	1,009	1,073	1,009	1,009	1,009	1,009	1,009								
" 1916	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,111	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022								
" 1917	1,117	1,117	1,117	1,117	1,117	1,117	1,149	1,117	1,117	1,117	1,117	1,117								
" 1918	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,518	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433								
" 1919	1,523	1,523	1,523	1,523	1,523	1,523	1,682	1,523	1,523	1,523	1,523	1,523								
" 1920	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,603	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,520								
May 1921	1,561	1,278	1,338	1,337	1,320	1,279	1,579	1,277	1,278	1,278	1,336	1,363								
Aug. 1922	1,239	1,269	1,278	1,293	1,270	1,232	1,379	1,232	1,232	1,232	1,319	1,368								
Nov. "	1,235	1,243	1,275	1,231	1,250	1,238	1,351	1,231	1,231	1,231	1,300	1,363								
1923 1st Qtr.	1,233	1,244	1,275	1,231	1,250	1,238	1,355	1,238	1,238	1,238	1,300	1,363								
" 2nd "	1,248	1,243	1,254	1,232	1,249	1,247	1,304	1,247	1,247	1,247	1,332	1,362								
" 3rd "	1,256	1,238	1,247	1,235	1,254	1,249	1,304	1,249	1,249	1,249	1,313	1,362								
" 4th "	1,256	1,236	1,247	1,235	1,254	1,249	1,379	1,249	1,249	1,249	1,313	1,378								

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge. Tas.	Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.						
Nov. 1914	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004	924	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004	1,004						
" 1915	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,028	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081	1,081						
" 1916	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,041	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236	1,236						
" 1917	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,155	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482	1,482						
" 1918	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,262	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485						
" 1919	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,344	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685	1,685						
" 1920	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,501	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,874						
May 1921	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,515	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375						
Aug. 1922	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,292	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,352						
Nov. "	1,347	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,248	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343						
1923 1st Qtr.	1,330	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,248	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333						
" 2nd "	1,345	1,307	1,282	1,241	1,341	1,341	1,237	1,307	1,149	1,100	1,234	1,330	1,321							
" 3rd "	1,345	1,300	1,282	1,229	1,406	1,317	1,244	1,285	1,137	1,134	1,234	1,334	1,325							
" 4th "	1,341	1,303	1,246	1,241	1,391	1,383	1,246	1,282	1,141	1,137	1,243	1,334	1,327							
" 4th "	1,341	1,290	1,246	1,239	1,391	1,333	1,244	1,254	1,137	1,139	1,239	1,336	1,327							

Total Household Expenditure.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, Base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,037	..	..	..	..	..	986	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915	1,159	..	..	..	..	..	1,117	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,187	..	..	..	..	..	1,124	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,266	..	..	..	..	..	1,104	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	1,328	..	..	..	..	..	1,294	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	1,506	..	..	..	..	..	1,437	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,691	..	..	..	..	..	1,704	..	..	..	..	..
May 1922	1,477	1,461	1,348	1,449	1,342	1,409	1,475	1,435	1,444	1,477	1,456	1,470
Aug "	1,438	1,388	1,310	1,441	1,288	1,427	1,435	1,381	1,375	1,453	1,391	1,428
Nov "	1,454	1,390	1,304	1,453	1,275	1,439	1,427	1,391	1,372	1,420	1,422	1,422
1923 1st Qtr.	1,440	1,366	1,290	1,405	1,261	1,427	1,417	1,365	1,344	1,424	1,323	1,408
" 2nd "	1,417	1,332	1,200	1,434	1,276	1,414	1,427	1,317	1,317	1,366	1,336	1,415
" 3rd "	1,478	1,416	1,322	1,487	1,300	1,450	1,488	1,352	1,353	1,396	1,386	1,469
" 4th "	1,459	1,419	1,350	1,501	1,343	1,469	1,515	1,383	1,382	1,420	1,422	1,601
1923 1st Qtr.	1,459	1,400	1,355	1,480	1,313	1,449	1,471	1,349	1,354	1,405	1,412	1,450
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.												
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	898	..	..	..	..	..	907	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915	1,046	..	..	..	..	..	1,114	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,016	..	..	..	..	..	1,180	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,018	..	..	..	..	..	1,239	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	1,222	..	..	..	..	..	1,435	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	1,408	..	..	..	..	..	1,437	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,611	..	..	..	..	..	1,637	..	..	..	..	..
May 1922	1,330	1,330	1,339	1,434	1,428	1,315	1,461	1,408	1,478	1,448	1,332	1,413
Aug "	1,270	1,235	1,234	1,286	1,413	1,291	1,425	1,392	1,360	1,391	1,258	1,414
Nov "	1,281	1,245	1,230	1,278	1,323	1,276	1,407	1,282	1,245	1,301	1,238	1,425
1923 1st Qtr.	1,276	1,229	1,213	1,213	1,294	1,260	1,370	1,359	1,278	1,278	1,228	1,356
" 2nd "	1,323	1,237	1,235	1,248	1,307	1,311	1,415	1,399	1,273	1,316	1,405	1,452
" 3rd "	1,340	1,318	1,261	1,294	1,310	1,325	1,434	1,338	1,291	1,329	1,442	1,452
" 4th "	1,347	1,332	1,293	1,250	1,321	1,338	1,480	1,352	1,317	1,324	1,385	1,443
" 4th "	1,356	1,343	1,309	1,321	1,321	1,338	1,453	1,313	1,350	1,323	1,443	1,443
* Basis of Table.												

6. **Application of Index-Numbers.**—The following table shows the manner in which the index-numbers in the preceding tables may be applied to the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage:—

Basic Wage Commission's Findings of 1920.—Cost at November, 1914, 1920, 1922, and 4th Quarter, 1923.

Town.	November 1914.		November, 1920.		November, 1922.		4th Quarter, 1923.	
	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.	Actual Finding.	Index-Number.	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.
Sydney ..	1,087	£ s. d. 3 12 3	£ s. d. 5 17 1	1,881	1,440	£ s. d. 5 0 4	1,456	£ s. d. 5 1 5
Melbourne ..	886	3 7 5	5 16 6	1,704	1,417	4 18 11	1,471	5 0 7
Brisbane ..	898	3 3 1	5 6 2	1,511	1,275	4 9 7	1,356	4 15 3
Adelaide ..	997	3 9 10	5 16 1	1,657	1,370	4 16 0	1,455	5 1 11
Perth ..	1,001	3 13 6	5 13 11	1,552	1,301	4 15 5	1,339	4 18 3
Hobart ..	907	3 7 7	5 16 11	1,724	1,452	4 18 5	1,527	5 3 7
Wt. Aver. ..	1,000	3 9 7	5 15 8	1,665	1,402	4 17 4	1,446	5 0 5

The table shows, in the third column, the amount determined by the Basic Wage Commission as the cost of living according to the standard fixed by the Commission in November, 1920. The index-numbers from the table on the preceding page are given in the fourth column. Applying the index-numbers for November, 1922, and 4th quarter, 1923, the relative costs of the Commission's standard for those two months are obtained. In order to check the applicability of the index-numbers for the determination of variations in the Basic Wage Commission's finding, the relative costs of the standard fixed for November, 1914, have been computed in the same manner, and are also given in the first two columns. While they do not correspond exactly with the amounts as given in the supplementary Report of the Commission, they are sufficiently near to show that the method adopted by this Bureau for measuring the variations gives results which closely approximate to those of the Commission. The amounts for November, 1914, as found by the Commission, are given on page 28 of this Report. The greatest difference between the results is shown for Hobart, and amounts to only 1s. 6d. per week, while for Melbourne the difference is only 4d. per week.

These index-numbers for the period from November, 1914, onwards may be used in conjunction with those for an earlier period relating to a somewhat different standard. For instance, the index-number for food, groceries and housing for the 4th Quarter of 1914 in Melbourne was 1,106. To ascertain the equivalent of the Harvester Wage in November, 1922, the procedure is as follows:—The index-number for Melbourne in 1907 was 875, while the Harvester Wage was £2 2s. The equivalent of the latter in the 4th Quarter of 1914 is obtained thus:—

$$\frac{\text{£2 2s.} \times 1,106}{875} = \text{£2 13s. 1d.}$$

Taking the index-numbers for all commodities in Melbourne for November, 1914, as being equivalent to the amount of £2 13s. 1d., the equivalent for the 4th Quarter, 1923, will be:—

$$\frac{\text{£2 13s. 1d.} \times 1,471}{1,446} = \text{£3 19s. 2d.}$$