

## CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

### § 1.—Collection of Returns of Retail Prices and Rents.

One of the most important functions of the Labour Section of the Bureau is the regular collection and tabulation of returns of retail prices and house rentals.

The retail prices of an extensive range of articles and services in common demand are collected at frequent intervals from representative retail establishments in the more important towns throughout the Commonwealth. The prices of a less extensive range of commodities are also collected at annual intervals from most towns of any significant size, the total number of towns so covered reaching approximately 200.

Definite standards of quality have been established for each article in order to ensure that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for articles of identical grade or quality will be recorded at all times and for all places. These standards, which are incorporated in printed "specifications", are closely watched and revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing trade practices and conditions.

The actual collection of the data is carried out, under the direct supervision of the State Statisticians, by specially qualified officers of the Bureau, while a supervising field officer is provided to assist in the co-ordination of activities in the several States. The prices of foods are obtained, where practicable, from about ten retailers in each of the capital cities, and from about five retailers in the provincial towns. Tradespeople and agents are carefully selected in order to ensure the supply of representative figures for the whole of each town, and returns are carefully verified if there should be any doubt as to the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be abnormal.

Returns of rents are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number of house-agents in each town, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to the number of rooms. The returns from the larger cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, all of which are inspected by the Bureau's field officers. The returns from the smaller provincial towns are in the form of averages supplied by house-agents. As opportunity permits the system of listing and inspecting individual houses in provincial towns is being extended.

### § 2. Compilation of Indexes of Retail Prices and Rents.

1. **General.**—The methods adopted for the compilation of indexes of retail prices and rents are briefly described in the following pages. For a more detailed explanation, and an analysis of the problems involved, the reader should refer to the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9.

2. The "Regimen".—The "regimen" from which the retail price indexes are compiled consists of a list of those commodities and services which most commonly enter into the consumption of the average household. The regimen is divided into the following distinct 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.

An index (the "All Items" or "C" series) is compiled for the whole of the above Groups, but for many purposes indexes are required for each Group or Section separately. 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:—

Groups.	Content	Frequency.
I.	Food and Groceries .. .. .	Monthly
II.	Housing (4 and 5 rooms) .. .. .	Quarterly
I. and II.	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5 rooms) ("B" Series) .. .. .	Quarterly
III.	Clothing .. .. .	Quarterly
IV.	Miscellaneous Household Requirements .. .. .	Quarterly
I, II, III. and IV.	Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5 rooms), Clothing and Miscellaneous ("C" series) .. .. .	Quarterly
I.	Food and Groceries ("200 Towns" series) .. .. .	Yearly

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

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.	Mass Unit (per capita).	Cost of Items in Regimen as percentage of aggregate cost— Melbourne, 4th Quarter, 1937. (a)
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**SECTION A.—GROCERIES.**

1	Bread, white flour (cash delivered) ..	2-lb. loaf ..	100	6.3
2	Flour, ordinary .. .. .	2 lb. ..	25	1.3
3	Flour, self-raising .. .. .	2-lb. pkt. . .	12	1.0
4	Tea .. .. .	1-lb. pkt. . .	8	2.7
5	Sugar, white granulated, IA ..	1 lb. ..	100	4.9
6	Rice, polished (Australian) ..	1 lb. ..	8	0.3
7	Sago, seed tapioca .. .. .	1 lb. ..	1	0.1
8	Jam, plum .. .. .	1½-lb. tin ..	8	0.7
9	Golden Syrup .. .. .	2-lb. tin ..	1	0.1
10	Oats, flaked, loose .. .. .	1 lb. ..	8	0.3
11	Raisins, seeded .. .. .	1-lb. pkt. . .	5	0.6
12	Currants, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	2	0.2
13	Apricots, dried, loose, 2-Crown ..	1 lb. ..	1	0.2
14	Peaches, canned .. .. .	30-oz. tin ..	3	0.3
15	Pears, canned .. .. .	30-oz. tin ..	1	0.1
16	Salmon, in tins .. .. .	1-lb. tin ..	3	0.4
17	Potatoes, new and old .. .. .	7 lb. ..	18	0.9
18	Onions, brown .. .. .	1 lb. ..	14	0.3
19	Soap .. .. .	1 lb. ..	16	1.4
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk .. ..	quart ..	4	0.3

**SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.**

21	Butter, factory "choicest" ..	1-lb. ..	30	6.8
22	Cheese, ordinary, mild .. ..	1 lb. ..	4	0.6
23	Eggs, standard, new laid ..	1 doz. ..	6	1.3
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle ..	1 lb. ..	12	2.9
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened ..	1 tin ..	5	0.5
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or not bottled .. .. .	quart ..	72	5.6

**SECTION C.—MEAT.**

Beef (fresh)—				
27	Sirloin (Roast) .. .. .	1 lb. ..	18	2.2
28	Rib (Roast) including bone ..	1 lb. ..	22	2.2
29	Steak—Rump .. .. .	1 lb. ..	11	1.9
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing) ..	1 lb. ..	20	1.5
31	Sausages .. .. .	1 lb. ..	7	0.5
Beef (corned)—				
32	Silverside, average quality ..	1 lb. ..	14	1.4
33	Brisket, rolled .. .. .	1 lb. ..	15	1.1
Mutton (fresh)—				
34	Leg .. .. .	1 lb. ..	20	1.8
35	Forequarter .. .. .	1 lb. ..	15	0.8
36	Loin .. .. .	1 lb. ..	4	0.4
37	Chops—Loin .. .. .	1 lb. ..	30	3.0
38	Chops—Leg .. .. .	1 lb. ..	10	1.0
Pork (fresh)—				
39	Leg .. .. .	1 lb. ..	3	0.4
40	Loin .. .. .	1 lb. ..	3	0.4
41	Chops .. .. .	1 lb. ..	3	0.4

**GROUP II.—HOUSING.—SECTION D.—RENT.**

42	House Accommodation(b) ..	week ..	52(c)	40.9
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(a) "D" Series.

(b) Four and five roomed houses.

(c) Per household.

## Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.

## GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per capita).	No.	Item.	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, with two collars ..	1.67	51	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1.00
6	Shirt, working—Drill .. .. .	4.00	52	Braces .. .. .	1.00
7	Collar, semi-soft, white .. .. .	6.00	53	Stockings, Golf, All Wool ..	4.00
8	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1.00	54	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1.50
9	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) .. .. .	1.00	55	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0.50
10	Underpants, Wool and Cotton (full length)	1.00	56	Shoes (for best wear), Box Yearling	1.00
11	Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" (plain)	1.00	57	Boots (school), Box Yearling ..	2.00
12	Sox, All Wool (fancy) .. .. .	2.00	SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS).		
13	Sox, Wool and Cotton (fancy) ..	4.00	58	Dress, Wool-de-chine .. .. .	1.00
14	Braces .. .. .	1.33	59	Dress, Cotton .. .. .	3.00
15	Handkerchief, Cotton .. .. .	6.00	61	Top Coat, Tweed (Australian) ..	0.33
16	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1.50	62	Hat, Wool Felt (Australian) ..	1.00
17	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	1.00	63	Hat, Straw .. .. .	2.00
18	Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf ..	0.50	64	Petticoat, Art Silk .. .. .	1.00
19	Boots, working, Box Hide .. .. .	1.50	65	Singlet, Silk and Wool .. .. .	0.50
SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN.			67	Singlet, Art Silk .. .. .	0.50
20	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.50	68	Bloomers, Cotton, fleecy-lined ..	2.00
21	Skirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.25	69	Bloomers, Art Silk .. .. .	2.00
22	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) .. ..	0.75	70	Stockings, Cashmere .. .. .	4.00
23	Hat, Straw .. .. .	1.50	71	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	0.33
24	Frock, ready-made, Cotton .. .. .	1.50	72	Pyjamas, Art Silk .. .. .	0.33
25	Frock, ready-made, Art Silk .. ..	1.50	73	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0.50
26	Brassiere, Cotton Brocade .. .. .	4.50	74	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	0.67
27	Undervest, Wool and Art Silk ..	1.50	75	Shoes (school), Box Yearling ..	1.50
28	Undervest, Art Silk .. .. .	1.50	SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS).		
29	Bloomers, Art Silk .. .. .	4.50	76	House Coat .. .. .	3.00
30	Princess Slip, Art Silk .. .. .	1.00	77	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00
31	Stockings, Silk .. .. .	6.00	78	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
32	Stockings, Lisle .. .. .	3.00	79	Hat, Cloth .. .. .	1.33
33	Gloves, Fabric .. .. .	2.25	80	Singlet, Wool and Cotton .. .. .	1.00
34	Gloves, Nappa .. .. .	0.75	81	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1.00
35	Nightdress, Art Silk .. .. .	1.50	82	Sox, Art Silk and Lisle .. .. .	4.00
36	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1.50	83	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	2.00
37	Dressing Gown, Art Silk .. .. .	0.50	84	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0.50
38	Apron, Cotton .. .. .	6.00	85	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	1.00
39	Cardigan, All Wool .. .. .	0.50	86	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling	2.00
40	Shoes (for best wear), Glace Kid ..	1.50	SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).		
41	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf	1.50	44	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.00
42			45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00
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\* The total cost of each section is multiplied by a section "weight" representing the proportion of the population covered by the section.

Retail Price Indexes—Regimen—continued.  
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Item.	Mass Unit (per household).	No.	Item.	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 (stainless) ..	0 08
3	Quilt, D.U. Marcella ..	0 25	28	Spoon, Dessert (stainless) ..	0 08
4	.. .. .	..	29	Fork, Table (stainless) ..	0 10
5	Sheets, D.B. (pair) ..	0 50	30	Globe, Electric Light (gas-filled) ..	7 00
6	Sheets, S.B. (pair) ..	1 00	31	Iron, Electric (full size) ..	0 10
7	Pillow Slip, Cotton ..	5 00	SECTION M.—FUEL AND LIGHT.		
8	Towel ..	3 00	32	Firewood (blocks) (cwt) (a) ..	40
9	Table Cloth ..	0 20	33	Gas, cooking (units) (a) ..	1 518
10	Tea Towel (yard) ..	4 00	34	Electric lighting (units) ..	130
SECTION L.—HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.			35	Electric power (units) (a) ..	130
11	Cup and Saucer (Stone China) ..	2 00	No.	Item.	Amount per week (per household).
12	Plate, Dinner (Stone China) ..	2 00	SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS.		
13	Jug, Quart (Brownware) ..	1 00	36	Union Dues ..	d.
14	Teapot, Brownware (2-pint) ..	0 25	37	Lodge Dues ..	(b)
15	Basin, Pudding (Enamel), 6-inch	1 00	38	Medicine ..	24
16	Tumbler (9-oz.) ..	1 00	39	Newspapers ..	(b)
17	Kettle, Enamel (6-pint) ..	0 20	40	Recreation ..	24
18	Kettle, Aluminum (6-pint) ..	0 20	41	Smoking ..	(b)
19	Saucepan, Aluminum (3-pint) ..	0 40	42	Fares ..	(b)
20	Bucket, Galvanized (12-inch) ..	0 20	43	School requisites ..	3
21	Dipper, Galvanized (2-quart) ..	0 20			
22	Broom, Millet ..	0 50			
23	Broom, Hair, complete (11-inch) ..	0 33			
24	Brush, Scrubbing (10-inch) ..	1 50			
25	Mop, Polishing, complete ..	0 20			

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

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

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

3. **The Mass Units.**—The "mass units" or "multipliers" represent the estimated annual consumption per head in Australia of the units of quantity shown in the column headed "Unit". Thus the *per capita* consumption of bread in Australia is estimated to be 100 2-lb. loaves, and of sugar 100 lb. In the case of Food and Groceries (Group I.) the "mass units" adopted are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes of the various articles during the years 1927 to 1929. In the case of Housing (Group II.), the "mass unit" is the multiplier applied to the weekly rental to raise it to an annual basis. In the case of Sections E to L, the "mass units" represent the estimated annual consumption per head of the articles mentioned. In the case of Section M, the "mass units" represent the estimated consumption per household; while in Section N are shown the actual amounts provided to cover the estimated cost of the services included for an average household.

It will be noted that the "mass units" are all shown on an annual *per capita* basis. In the tabulation for index-number purposes, the figures are raised to a "total population" basis, by multiplying the aggregate cost of each Group or Section by the numbers of the population properly applicable

to it. Thus Group I. (Food and Groceries) is multiplied by the whole population; Group II. (Housing) by the total number of households; Sections E to J (Clothing) by the proportions of the population applicable to each; and Sections K to N (Miscellaneous) by the total number of households. The resultant index-numbers measure changes, therefore, in the cost to the whole population of the commodities and services included.

The five sections into which the clothing group is divided are somewhat arbitrary, but they are those adopted by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage (see § 7, p. 31). 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 the boy aged three and a half years is taken as representative of children aged four years and under.

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. Foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions, are not included in the regimen, owing to the fact that comparable prices for a standard grade for these items cannot be obtained; while a further difficulty arises from the seasonal character of their production and consumption. The inclusion of such items, therefore, would impair the accuracy and stability of the index, and even if accurate information could be obtained, the index would probably not be materially affected by their inclusion. In the original regimen certain omissions were made partly on account of the difficulty of securing comparable prices. Some of the joints of meat, for example, are not only insufficiently standardized, but anomalies in price are not uncommon. In making these omissions, however, the appropriate total weight for meat is distributed amongst the more standardized joints.

The estimated annual consumption per head of articles of clothing and miscellaneous household requirements is based largely on the results of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. After exhaustive inquiries the Commission established what it considered a desirable "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 "All Items" index, but, as old articles were deleted and new ones substituted, appropriate modifications were introduced. In these revisions the principle has been followed of redistributing the mass-units in the manner most conformable to the original findings of the Commission.

The mass-units used for fuel and light are also based, indirectly, on the findings of the Commission. Until the September quarter of 1936 flat amounts were used for the miscellaneous items of Section N, their chief function—apart from a slight stabilizing influence on the index-numbers—being to vary in accordance with the Commission's findings the relative heights of the index-numbers for the several States. Since the date mentioned, provision has been made to vary the amounts set down for three of these items periodically, in accordance with ascertained changes.

4. **Relative Importance of the Items and Groups.**—The relative importance in the grand aggregate of any item of the regimen will, of course, change slightly with the variation of prices. In the last column of the regimen for Groups I. (Food and Groceries) and II. (Housing) shown on page 3, the approximate relative importance of the items in these two groups can be gauged from the figures shown for Melbourne for the December quarter of 1937. The relative importance of all the groups and sections in the "All Items" ("C" series) index for Melbourne for the same quarter was as follows :—

Group.	Section.	Percentage of Total Aggregate Cost.
I. Food and Groceries	A Groceries .. .. .	13.2
	B Dairy Produce .. .. .	10.4
	C Meat .. .. .	11.2
II. Housing .. .. .	D House Rent (4 and 5 rooms) .. .. .	24.1
	E Man .. .. .	8.3
	F Woman .. .. .	8.9
III. Clothing .. .. .	G Boy, 10½ years .. .. .	1.6
	H Girl, 7 years .. .. .	1.1
	J Boy, 3½ years .. .. .	0.6
	K Household Drapery .. .. .	1.2
	L Household Utensils .. .. .	0.5
IV. Miscellaneous .. .. .	M Miscellaneous and Light .. .. .	5.5
	N Other Miscellaneous .. .. .	13.4
		100.0

5. **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 "All Items" ("C" series) index, the month of November, 1914, was adopted as the base period for this series. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians in 1929, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the five years 1923-27 should be adopted as the base period. Commencing with Labour Report No. 21 for 1930, therefore, the retail price indexes have been published on this base. The aggregate to which all index-numbers are related is the weighted aggregate cost of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base.

Index-numbers 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)—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)—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)—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)—Labour Reports Nos. 17 to 20.

\* From Labour Report No. 16 to date these index-numbers will be found in the Appendix to each Report, and in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics.

The conversion of these index-numbers from one base to another may be readily effected by multiplying the index-number to be converted by one of the following factors :—

Group.	1923-27 to 1911.	1911 to 1923-27.	1923-27 to 1914.	1914 to 1923-27.
Food and Groceries .. ..	1.7880	0.55929	1.5597	0.64116
Rent (4 and 5 Rooms) .. ..	1.6350	0.61161	1.5415	0.64872
Food and Rent (" B " Series) .. ..	1.7306	0.57785	1.5532	0.64384
Clothing .. ..	..	..	1.3261	0.75412
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	..	1.3353	0.74891
All Items (" C " Series) .. ..	..	..	1.4553	0.68715

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

**6. The Methods of Tabulation.**—The prices (converted to pence) received from each retailer for each item of the regimen are added together and divided by the number of individual prices. These averages are then multiplied by their respective " mass units ". The sum of these products for each section or group of the regimen is then multiplied by the population factor applicable to such section or group. The aggregate so produced for any section, group or combination thereof for the period taken as the base of the indexes is regarded as equal to 1,000. The index-number for any other period is then calculated by applying to 1,000 the ratio which the aggregate for such period bears to the base aggregate. The various base periods adopted for retail price indexes from time to time are set out in paragraph 5 of this section.

**7. Relative Population Weights for Towns.**—Weighted averages for any combination of towns or States may be calculated approximately by multiplying the index-numbers\* of the towns or States to be included by their population weights, and dividing the sum of the products by the sum of the multipliers. The population weights used in the computations of these weighted averages for 1934 and succeeding years are as follows :—

Relative Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney ..	1235	Melbourne	992	Brisbane	300	Adelaide	319	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 ..	59	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 ..	106

† Townsville and Bundaberg were substituted for Charters Towers (2) and Warwick (7) in the " five towns " tabulation in the March Quarter of 1937.

\* 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.



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

The new weights given above 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.

### § 3. The Food and Rent ("B" Series) Index of Retail Prices.

1. **General.**—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled in respect of the year 1925, and index-numbers were retrospectively computed for the several earlier years shown below. It was designed to replace the "A" series index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index first compiled by the Bureau in 1912. Owing, however, to the continued use of the latter index by Industrial Tribunals for the purpose of adjusting wages to variations in retail prices, the "B" series index never replaced the "A" series in this connexion.

2. **Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities, 1907 to 1937.**—Index numbers computed separately for each section of the regimen, and the weighted average for all sections together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table.

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

The index-numbers given in the separate sections of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of housing and food and groceries, since each section or combination has its own base, viz., the weighted average cost for the six capital cities taken together during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 for that section or combination

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

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney .. ..	510	574	627	1,115	844	851	875	859	872
Melbourne .. ..	461	521	561	1,070	714	758	824	829	829
Brisbane .. ..	547	614	607	1,105	771	806	846	868	869
Adelaide .. ..	510	541	598	1,076	718	782	804	814	838
Perth .. ..	572	720	628	1,103	761	846	852	864	906
Hobart .. ..	501	566	604	1,087	789	810	812	840	871
Weighted Average (a) ..	499	564	599	1,093	774	809	846	846	857
SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.									
Sydney .. ..	551	574	656	1,080	758	780	788	791	817
Melbourne .. ..	571	567	635	1,087	687	718	750	773	813
Brisbane .. ..	495	581	588	983	686	683	691	709	768
Adelaide .. ..	548	651	705	1,018	677	690	715	728	774
Perth .. ..	709	733	735	1,152	731	765	801	816	830
Hobart .. ..	564	587	695	1,091	641	665	701	702	765
Weighted Average (a) ..	563	591	654	1,072	715	739	758	771	807

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

## Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities—"B" Series—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
SECTION C—MEAT.									
Sydney .. ..	519	501	668	960	764	821	835	881	906
Melbourne .. ..	557	485	663	1,030	731	758	755	809	857
Brisbane .. ..	535	488	610	897	599	647	719	764	825
Adelaide .. ..	535	541	784	1,095	809	832	804	839	851
Perth .. ..	789	824	881	1,103	777	798	788	867	887
Hobart .. ..	668	638	780	1,244	817	861	849	928	964
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	746	784	792	842	877

## SECTIONS A, B AND C COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Sydney .. ..	523	553	646	1,062	800	825	840	848	868
Melbourne .. ..	517	523	610	1,063	713	748	784	809	836
Brisbane .. ..	530	569	603	1,014	699	727	763	791	828
Adelaide .. ..	532	570	679	1,066	731	767	780	798	826
Perth .. ..	670	753	728	1,116	757	807	821	853	881
Hobart .. ..	565	592	678	1,133	757	786	792	827	870
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	751	783	806	825	851

## SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).

Sydney .. ..	593	701	760	989	864	869	891	930	965
Melbourne .. ..	455	569	628	820	801	808	850	882	909
Brisbane .. ..	283	373	466	630	681	691	720	766	822
Adelaide .. ..	510	706	655	809	694	700	736	795	832
Perth .. ..	458	524	589	739	795	794	792	844	861
Hobart .. ..	405	452	518	881	860	865	890	908	899
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	804	810	83	879	912

## ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING

Sydney .. ..	548	606	687	1,036	822	840	858	878	904
Melbourne .. ..	495	539	616	977	742	769	808	815	862
Brisbane .. ..	442	500	554	877	690	713	747	781	824
Adelaide .. ..	524	618	671	975	716	742	764	796	826
Perth .. ..	594	672	679	982	768	802	810	849	871
Hobart .. ..	508	542	621	1,044	792	814	827	856	879
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	768	792	818	844	872

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

3. Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns, 1933 to 1938.—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the prices of food and groceries (41 commodities) in 30 of the more important towns at yearly, quarterly and monthly intervals. In addition, index-numbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents (4 and 5-rooms) and in the combined prices of food, groceries and housing.

Retail Price Index-Numbers ("B" Series).

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1933 ..	800	799	880	785	779	801	713	732	733	738	746	715
1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	816	760
1936 ..	848	860	949	841	838	851	809	830	824	806	823	810
1937 ..	868	880	1,001	874	855	872	836	857	851	834	834	837
1937 Mar. Qtr.	872	885	978	857	858	875	817	853	845	815	832	819
June ..	857	875	994	862	848	861	824	846	847	821	831	825
Sept. ..	865	870	1,001	889	853	869	848	863	853	842	835	848
Dec. ..	879	882	1,031	889	859	882	853	865	858	856	837	854
1938 Mar. Qtr.	878	892	1,066	901	875	883	850	860	862	847	843	850
1937.												
January ..	878	887	978	860	860	880	829	862	857	820	839	830
February ..	872	887	977	857	857	875	815	853	840	817	832	817
March ..	865	882	980	854	848	868	808	845	838	810	824	810
April ..	865	879	993	855	850	868	819	848	849	819	831	821
May ..	853	874	996	854	849	857	825	848	848	822	834	827
June ..	854	871	992	878	845	858	827	843	844	823	829	828
July ..	862	880	995	886	854	866	839	855	853	827	828	840
August ..	858	879	995	882	852	862	842	862	848	838	837	837
September ..	874	878	1,013	898	853	877	862	871	859	860	839	862
October ..	884	878	1,009	885	852	886	861	869	859	857	837	861
November ..	877	882	1,036	888	861	880	848	860	853	857	834	849
December ..	876	885	1,046	893	863	880	851	867	863	853	840	852
1938.												
January ..	876	886	1,045	894	872	880	848	860	860	854	840	849
February ..	880	893	1,076	904	877	885	847	859	864	841	841	841
March ..	879	897	1,076	906	877	884	853	862	863	845	848	853

HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1933 ..	864	779	630	812	781	850	801	636	641	721	795	785
1934 ..	869	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	658	741	803	796
1935 ..	891	839	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	843	838
1936 ..	930	857	653	879	814	918	882	683	702	861	836	869
1937 ..	965	830	669	873	816	947	909	699	720	836	859	874
1937 Mar. Qtr.	949	818	657	873	817	932	898	698	713	845	842	884
June ..	960	825	667	873	816	942	906	701	723	826	850	891
Sept. ..	973	833	673	873	816	954	913	699	724	834	873	898
Dec. ..	978	842	678	873	816	960	919	699	720	838	871	903
1938 Mar. Qtr.	988	848	710	873	816	969	924	692	709	843	913	908

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	742	696	698	731	761	738
1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766
1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	760	766	802	826	805
1936 ..	878	858	837	854	829	875	835	780	777	825	827	831
1937 ..	904	858	869	872	838	899	862	794	798	833	842	857
1937 Mar. Qtr.	900	857	851	861	840	895	847	791	792	825	834	843
June ..	895	853	864	864	834	891	854	788	797	821	837	849
Sept. ..	905	859	871	881	837	900	871	797	801	837	848	866
Dec. ..	916	864	891	880	840	910	877	798	802	847	848	871
1938 Mar. Qtr.	919	873	925	888	850	915	877	793	801	843	869	871

(a) See explanatory note at top of table on page 9.

## Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("B" Series.)—continued.

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

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba	Rockhampton.	Townsville	Wundaberg	Weighted Average, Queensland	Adelaide.	Adelaide, Morningside, and Walkerville.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S. A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.												
1933 ..	699	678	749	804	727	706	731	802	750	740	773	735
1934 ..	727	694	766	807	732	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
1935 ..	763	732	803	849	754	765	780	860	813	777	812	784
1936 ..	791	761	846	880	781	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
1937 ..	828	794	863	901	889	835	826	901	912	845	870	832
1937 Mar. Qtr.	840	818	866	898	869	845	811	903	898	832	857	818
June ..	820	793	867	897	867	828	819	905	914	847	864	826
Sept. ..	819	779	854	895	868	826	838	903	918	847	874	843
Dec. ..	833	787	870	913	870	839	834	893	919	852	884	839
1938 Mar. Qtr.	833	787	879	920	877	841	843	892	945	865	887	847
1937.												
January ..	859	837	884	903	883	863	816	898	906	835	852	822
February ..	838	815	858	896	863	842	810	910	898	829	860	817
March ..	822	804	857	896	861	830	808	902	891	811	860	814
April ..	823	804	862	893	862	830	811	905	910	844	864	819
May ..	821	793	862	899	865	828	823	906	919	840	865	830
June ..	816	784	861	899	873	824	824	901	915	848	862	830
July ..	818	780	858	896	869	825	827	909	916	844	874	833
August ..	820	779	854	895	871	826	837	908	916	848	874	843
September ..	820	777	851	897	864	826	850	893	920	850	873	854
October ..	831	786	854	900	864	835	839	887	921	849	881	844
November ..	835	789	877	921	873	842	833	897	915	847	884	838
December ..	833	785	880	919	874	840	829	894	921	860	886	835
1938.												
January ..	830	781	881	918	872	837	836	892	916	869	887	841
February ..	835	789	878	919	877	842	845	891	916	863	884	849
March ..	835	792	877	924	881	842	848	893	914	862	891	852

## HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1933 ..	681	708	567	517	610	666	694	379	601	610	710	676
1934 ..	691	732	595	515	635	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
1935 ..	720	746	596	530	645	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
1936 ..	766	798	608	510	622	748	795	381	629	648	721	772
1937 ..	822	840	728	844	575	810	832	371	659	685	737	808
1937 Mar. Qtr.	817	834	726	848	576	806	814	369	638	691	737	791
June ..	821	850	726	848	578	810	822	368	640	683	737	799
Sept. ..	823	844	729	842	573	811	838	368	676	681	737	814
Dec. ..	827	830	732	838	574	814	852	378	681	686	737	828
1938 Mar. Qtr.	834	834	734	851	597	821	857	379	693	686	737	832

## FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1933 ..	690	684	684	700	684	689	716	631	695	693	748	713
1934 ..	713	705	705	703	694	712	742	680	725	701	746	739
1935 ..	747	737	730	736	716	745	764	694	746	723	759	761
1936 ..	781	774	757	741	721	777	796	689	775	745	793	791
1937 ..	824	810	808	877	752	823	826	692	811	780	816	821
1937 Mar. Qtr.	829	823	809	876	753	828	810	693	795	775	809	806
June ..	818	814	806	876	752	819	819	693	805	781	813	814
Sept. ..	819	802	804	872	751	818	836	692	821	780	819	830
Dec. ..	829	802	814	882	753	827	839	690	824	785	824	833
1938 Mar. Qtr.	832	804	820	891	766	831	846	690	826	793	827	839

(a) See note at top of page 9.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick.

Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("B" Series)—continued.

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

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.						Weighted Average, 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Dunbury.	Ceramidon.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1933 ..	757	936	807	793	760	777	757	736	764	766	873	756	751	754
1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	784	783	786
1935 ..	821	977	852	850	846	834	792	780	830	803	905	797	806	810
1936 ..	853	998	868	866	810	856	827	806	847	811	998	824	825	828
1937 ..	881	1,012	928	891	961	892	870	857	902	891	927	870	851	854
1937 Mar. Qtr	868	1,010	915	881	973	881	864	846	891	880	922	862	845	849
June ..	904	1,020	946	897	976	914	865	853	906	889	931	866	843	847
Sept. "	882	1,013	937	893	966	864	866	859	904	901	929	869	853	857
Dec. "	868	1,004	913	891	927	880	885	871	905	895	926	883	861	864
1938 Mar. Qtr.	883	1,009	920	885	913	864	875	871	906	898	941	878	861	865
1937														
January ..	867	1,014	913	880	977	881	870	857	895	891	930	870	853	857
February ..	863	1,009	907	880	973	877	870	842	892	878	919	864	844	848
March ..	873	1,007	921	884	969	886	851	839	886	872	917	852	837	842
April ..	902	1,020	936	895	879	913	866	846	905	883	926	864	844	848
May ..	901	1,021	943	898	980	912	867	853	906	893	936	868	842	846
June ..	908	1,019	959	898	969	918	861	861	908	891	931	867	843	847
July ..	893	1,018	948	899	975	905	861	865	906	902	932	868	849	853
August ..	876	1,010	934	896	970	890	858	859	898	900	928	864	848	852
September ..	876	1,011	928	884	954	889	880	853	907	900	929	875	863	865
October ..	872	1,008	921	884	934	885	883	866	902	898	923	880	866	868
November ..	866	1,002	905	896	924	879	889	870	906	895	922	885	859	862
December ..	864	1,003	914	893	924	877	883	878	907	892	933	884	859	863
1938														
January ..	874	1,003	915	884	905	885	875	871	903	892	936	878	858	862
February ..	878	1,006	918	885	915	889	878	873	905	900	940	880	862	866
March ..	898	1,018	928	885	920	907	871	869	910	904	946	876	864	868

HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	813	804	788
1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	769	657	682	706	814	810	798
1935 ..	792	1,050	767	810	940	813	890	778	668	736	730	836	839	828
1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	872	908	811	750	726	755	858	879	866
1937 ..	861	1,309	860	983	1,064	901	899	826	816	723	798	861	912	897
1937 Mar. Qtr	857	1,305	831	958	1,053	895	893	822	773	721	771	854	899	885
June ..	858	1,309	851	987	1,059	898	894	824	830	723	803	859	907	892
Sept. "	864	1,310	872	991	1,071	903	901	828	830	727	803	864	917	902
Dec. "	866	1,313	885	994	1,071	906	907	830	830	720	813	868	923	907
1938 Mar. Qtr.	868	1,314	882	993	1,057	907	909	831	830	756	771	870	930	914

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1933 ..	768	890	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	800	774	768	765
1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	783	783	843	811	818	816
1936 ..	849	1,064	858	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	944	835	844	841
1937 ..	871	1,126	899	924	999	894	879	843	866	824	874	865	872	869
1937 Mar. Qtr	861	1,123	880	909	1,006	884	873	835	843	816	861	857	864	861
June ..	884	1,130	907	930	1,002	906	874	840	875	822	879	861	866	863
Sept. "	873	1,127	909	929	1,003	896	878	845	873	831	878	865	876	873
Dec. "	865	1,123	900	929	981	888	891	853	874	825	879	875	883	879
1938 Mar. Qtr	875	1,126	903	925	967	897	886	854	874	841	873	873	886	882

(a) See note at top of table on page 9.

### § 4. The All Items ("C" Series) Index of Retail Prices.

I. **General.**—This index measures the prices of food and groceries, rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements, and for convenience of reference has been designated the "All Items" ("C" series) index. It has become more important in recent years because of its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court from 1st May, 1934, for the adjustment of wages controlled by that Court. It is used at present as the basis of the "Court" series of index-numbers adopted from July, 1937 by the same Court.

The compilation of this series was undertaken by the Bureau following a recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. A short account of its inquiries and findings is contained in section 7 of this chapter. The Commission itself had collected data on prices in the capital cities for the month of November, 1914 to 1920 inclusive. In consequence, the Bureau commenced its own more comprehensive inquiries in the five principal towns of each State, as from November, 1921, and continued them at quarterly intervals thereafter.

2. **Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities, 1914 to 1920.**—The table published on page 24 gives index-numbers representing the variations in the prices, in each capital city, of (i) food and groceries, (ii) housing (4 and 5 rooms), (iii) food, groceries and housing combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous household requirements, and (vi) all items of household consumption combined, in the years 1914 to 1920 inclusive. The index-numbers for the clothing and miscellaneous groups for these years were compiled from data collected by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.

3. **Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns, November, 1914 to March Quarter 1938.**—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the prices, in 30 of the more important towns, of (i) food and groceries, (ii) housing, (iii) food, groceries and housing combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous requirements, and (vi) all items of household consumption combined.

#### Food and Groceries.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warran-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	638	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	964	977	972	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924
Year 1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	801	760
" 1933 ..	800	799	880	785	779	801	713	732	733	738	746	715
" 1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
" 1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	816	786
" 1936 ..	846	860	949	841	838	851	800	839	824	806	823	810
" 1937 ..	868	850	1,001	874	855	872	836	857	851	834	834	837
1937 Mar. Qtr.	872	885	978	857	856	875	817	853	845	815	832	819
" June ..	857	875	904	862	848	861	824	846	847	821	831	825
" Sept ..	865	879	1,001	889	853	869	848	863	853	842	835	848
" Dec ..	879	882	1,031	889	859	882	853	865	858	856	837	854
1938 Mar. Qtr.	878	862	1,066	901	875	883	850	860	862	847	843	850

Food and Groceries.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series)—continued.

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

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	981b	936	950	941	945	968	923	997	943
Year 1932 ..	738	729	808	876b	770c	749	761	848	818	774	816	767
" 1933 ..	699	678	749	802b	727c	706	731	802	750	740	773	735
" 1934 ..	727	694	766	807b	732c	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
" 1935 ..	763	734	803	849b	754c	765	780	866	813	777	814	784
" 1936 ..	791	761	846	880b	781c	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
" 1937 ..	828	794	863	901	869	835	826	901	912	845	870	832
1937 Mar. Qtr.	840	818	866	898	869	845	811	903	898	832	857	818
" June ..	820	793	861	897	867	828	819	905	914	847	864	826
" Sept. ..	819	779	854	895	868	826	838	903	918	847	874	843
" Dec. ..	833	787	870	913	870	839	834	893	919	852	884	839
1938 Mar. Qtr.	833	787	879	920	877	841	843	892	915	863	887	847

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	746	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	641	..
" 1921 ..	1,005	1,120	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,011	950	954
Year 1932 ..	804	974	854	831	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798	796	801
" 1933 ..	757	936	807	793	760	777	757	736	764	766	873	756	751	754
" 1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	784	783	786
" 1935 ..	821	977	852	850	846	814	792	789	830	868	905	797	806	810
" 1936 ..	853	998	898	866	910	866	827	806	847	831	898	824	825	828
" 1937 ..	881	1,012	928	891	961	892	870	857	902	891	927	870	851	854
1937 Mar. Qtr.	868	1,010	915	881	973	881	864	846	891	880	922	862	845	849
" June ..	904	1,029	946	897	976	914	865	853	906	889	931	866	843	847
" Sept. ..	882	1,013	937	893	966	894	866	859	904	901	929	860	853	857
" Dec. ..	868	1,004	913	891	927	880	885	871	905	895	926	883	861	864
1938 Mar. Qtr.	883	1,009	920	885	923	894	875	871	906	898	941	878	861	865

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, see page 24.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick.

## Housing (4 and 5 rooms)—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	758	..	..	..	..	..	608	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	479	527	668	685	789		
Year 1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	804	799		
" 1933 ..	864	779	630	812	781	850	801	636	641	721	795	783		
" 1934 ..	869	789	642	820	780	857	808	652	658	741	803	796		
" 1935 ..	891	830	644	860	777	881	850	666	688	812	843	838		
" 1936 ..	930	857	653	879	814	918	882	683	702	861	836	869		
" 1937 ..	965	830	669	873	816	942	909	699	720	836	859	894		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	949	818	657	873	817	932	898	698	713	845	842	884		
" June "	960	825	667	873	816	942	906	701	723	826	850	891		
" Sept. "	973	833	673	873	816	954	913	699	724	834	873	898		
" Dec. "	978	842	678	873	816	960	919	699	720	838	871	903		
1938 Mar. Qtr.	988	848	710	873	816	969	924	692	709	843	913	908		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	5286	5350	594	819	566	603	492	566	781		
Year 1932 ..	641	649	582	5426	6170	633	691	378	624	610	700	673		
" 1933 ..	681	708	567	5176	6100	666	694	379	601	610	710	676		
" 1934 ..	691	732	595	5156	6257	681	700	388	598	623	653	684		
" 1935 ..	720	746	596	5306	6450	707	736	393	625	626	663	719		
" 1936 ..	766	798	608	5106	6222	748	795	381	629	618	721	772		
" 1937 ..	822	840	728	844	575	810	832	371	659	685	737	808		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	817	834	726	848	576	806	814	369	638	691	737	791		
" June "	821	850	726	848	578	810	822	368	640	683	737	799		
" Sept. "	823	844	729	842	573	811	838	368	676	681	737	814		
" Dec. "	827	830	732	838	574	814	852	378	681	686	737	828		
1938 Mar. Qtr.	834	834	734	851	597	821	857	379	693	686	737	831		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Ferth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	754	578	616	649	779	709	870	676	294	150	495	729	649	823
Year 1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	702	694	673	816	817	800
" 1933 ..	795	816	786	772	941	800	860	770	678	678	699	813	804	788
" 1934 ..	794	901	781	775	925	805	865	709	657	682	706	814	810	798
" 1935 ..	792	1,050	767	816	946	813	890	778	698	736	730	836	839	828
" 1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	872	908	811	750	726	755	858	879	866
" 1937 ..	861	1,309	860	983	1,064	901	899	826	816	723	798	861	912	897
1937 Mar. Qtr.	857	1,305	831	958	1,053	895	893	822	773	721	771	854	899	885
" June "	858	1,309	851	987	1,059	898	894	824	830	723	803	859	907	892
" Sept. "	864	1,310	872	991	1,071	903	901	828	830	727	803	864	917	902
" Dec. "	866	1,313	885	994	1,071	906	907	830	830	720	813	868	923	907
1938 Mar. Qtr.	868	1,314	882	993	1,057	907	909	831	830	756	771	870	930	914

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, see page 24.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick.



Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms).—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("B" (d) and "C" Series.)

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	977	944	825	926	815	965	895	769	780	844	855	866
Year 1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773
" 1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	742	696	698	731	761	738
" 1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	769	730	738	753	789	766
" 1935 ..	858	853	832	835	808	857	808	760	766	802	826	805
" 1936 ..	878	858	837	854	829	875	835	780	777	825	827	831
" 1937 ..	904	858	869	872	838	899	862	794	798	833	842	857
1937 Mar. Qtr.	900	857	851	861	840	895	847	791	792	825	834	843
" June ..	895	853	864	864	834	891	854	788	797	821	837	849
" Sept. ..	905	859	871	881	837	900	871	797	801	837	848	866
" Dec. ..	916	864	861	880	840	910	877	798	802	847	848	871
1938 Mar. Qtr.	919	873	925	888	850	915	877	793	801	813	869	871

Period.	QUEENSLAND.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.						
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	560	..	..	..	..	..	658	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820b	794c	824	898	811	839	770	844	885
Year 1932 ..	704	699	718	758h	716c	708	736	681	749	714	774	734
" 1933 ..	690	684	684	700b	684c	689	716	651	695	693	748	713
" 1934 ..	713	705	705	703b	694c	712	742	680	725	701	746	739
" 1935 ..	747	737	730	736b	716c	745	764	694	746	723	759	761
" 1936 ..	781	774	757	741b	721c	777	796	689	775	745	793	791
" 1937 ..	824	810	808	877	752	823	826	692	811	780	816	821
1937 Mar. Qtr.	829	823	809	876	753	818	810	693	795	775	809	806
" June ..	818	811	806	876	752	819	819	693	805	781	813	814
" Sept. ..	819	802	804	872	751	818	836	692	821	780	819	830
" Dec. ..	829	802	814	882	753	827	839	690	824	785	824	833
1938 Mar. Qtr.	832	804	820	891	766	831	846	690	826	793	827	839

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Derwent.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Terras, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	689	..	..	..	..	..	630	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	916	928	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	696	871	911	844	807
Year 1932 ..	805	892	836	804	902	817	822	772	784	777	822	804	803	800
" 1933 ..	768	890	798	821	782	792	746	732	739	809	774	768	768	765
" 1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	816	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
" 1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	783	783	843	811	818	816
" 1936 ..	849	1,064	858	873	945	867	850	807	810	796	844	835	844	841
" 1937 ..	871	1,120	899	924	999	894	879	843	866	824	874	863	872	869
1937 Mar. Qtr.	861	1,123	880	909	1,002	884	873	835	843	816	861	857	864	861
" June ..	884	1,130	907	930	1,006	906	874	840	875	822	878	866	866	863
" Sept. ..	873	1,127	909	929	1,005	896	878	845	831	831	878	865	876	872
" Dec. ..	865	1,123	900	929	981	888	891	853	874	825	879	875	883	879
1938 Mar. Qtr.	875	1,120	903	925	967	897	886	854	874	841	873	873	886	882

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, see page 24. (b) Charters Towers.  
 (c) Warwick. (d) The index-numbers in this table are the same as those of the "B" Series (p. 9).

## Clothing.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	755	..	..	..	..	..	780	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,255	1,327	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,463	1,612	1,326
Year 1932 ..	769	841	722	983	798	777	819	851	931	804	935	825
" 1933 ..	743	820	711	948	796	751	811	839	936	794	928	817
" 1934 ..	746	811	696	935	797	753	802	840	929	784	921	807
" 1935 ..	746	810	680	922	790	751	794	856	884	843	912	802
" 1936 ..	778	809	753	878	811	782	791	845	816	834	863	795
" 1937 ..	818	796	824	833	812	817	803	831	819	809	862	805
1937 Mar. Qtr.	809	788	813	822	805	807	787	822	800	794	816	790
" June ..	817	795	827	831	809	815	799	828	815	807	819	801
" Sept. ..	820	798	828	836	816	819	806	829	820	810	821	807
" Dec. ..	826	803	828	840	819	825	820	843	831	824	832	822
1938 Mar. Qtr.	828	806	827	841	820	826	820	843	831	827	832	822

  

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Radiata, Mooloola, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	657	..	..	..	..	..	756	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,568	1,519	1,235	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,697	1,180	1,238
Year 1932 ..	813	921	835	750	850	822	834	877	792	969	956	818
" 1933 ..	791	912	832	764	844	806	830	849	796	961	951	833
" 1934 ..	786	897	815	750	840	794	846	828	794	944	964	801
" 1935 ..	772	818	824	761	791	779	853	810	803	937	927	852
" 1936 ..	777	779	831	794	767	782	833	803	819	890	851	832
" 1937 ..	794	805	826	812	806	799	821	804	811	818	814	820
1937 Mar. Qtr.	780	793	817	805	791	786	801	790	802	813	809	801
" June ..	780	801	825	808	802	794	818	803	809	811	811	817
" Sept. ..	797	807	827	809	808	801	827	809	814	818	814	826
" Dec. ..	811	819	833	826	821	814	839	814	820	827	823	837
1938 Mar. Qtr.	813	819	832	826	822	816	849	833	831	830	838	847

  

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W. A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	698	..	..	..	..	..	825	..	..	..	..	754	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,232	1,376	1,382	1,454	1,320	1,277	1,427	1,670	1,525	1,405	1,504	1,513	1,246	1,290
Year 1932 ..	843	1,045	825	901	858	866	886	964	867	840	1,067	911	884	818
" 1933 ..	819	1,033	791	874	834	843	881	962	847	831	1,061	905	787	797
" 1934 ..	817	1,035	767	864	821	834	882	958	839	844	1,048	907	785	794
" 1935 ..	825	1,056	775	911	839	843	903	938	813	827	987	910	783	790
" 1936 ..	815	959	802	878	851	827	857	873	807	826	875	859	792	796
" 1937 ..	806	832	819	828	827	809	821	823	820	832	820	822	811	811
1937 Mar. Qtr.	793	823	809	816	820	796	796	795	802	814	808	797	797	798
" June ..	805	832	820	829	825	808	819	802	820	834	818	821	808	808
" Sept. ..	811	835	822	832	828	814	827	833	824	835	820	829	814	814
" Dec. ..	814	837	824	835	835	817	843	839	832	845	835	841	824	824
1938 Mar. Qtr.	815	840	828	838	835	818	845	839	833	848	838	842	825	826

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, see page 24.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Watwick.

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Benalla.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	766	..	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	860	1,015		
Year 1932 ..	906	901	984	883	898	986	925	882	910	886	832	921		
" 1933 ..	958	943	981	871	879	979	916	874	904	885	827	912		
" 1934 ..	973	921	988	867	864	969	914	877	908	880	825	918		
" 1935 ..	976	927	964	868	867	970	922	886	922	873	851	918		
" 1936 ..	949	900	1,007	887	887	945	947	950	977	947	922	948		
" 1937 ..	939	895	1,061	901	901	937	978	1,006	1,011	995	953	980		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	933	892	1,055	897	901	912	968	999	1,008	993	951	971		
" June "	937	893	1,068	900	901	933	981	1,008	1,011	992	953	983		
" Sept. "	939	895	1,067	903	901	938	981	1,009	1,012	997	954	983		
" Dec. "	945	898	1,053	904	903	942	980	1,000	1,012	997	954	982		
1938 Mar. Qtr.	940	897	1,054	904	896	938	981	1,008	1,012	995	954	983		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Radiata, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Bt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009b	988c	956	1,033	1,065	1,065	1,032	1,000	1,036		
Year 1932 ..	907	917	884	969b	898c	908	987	948	939	966	957	983		
" 1933 ..	900	909	881	973b	897c	901	983	944	944	957	956	980		
" 1934 ..	900	907	876	967b	891c	900	976	937	944	949	958	975		
" 1935 ..	904	909	877	1,015b	919c	905	973	941	921	957	968	969		
" 1936 ..	917	929	920	1,067b	993c	922	993	978	936	970	1,003	991		
" 1937 ..	941	948	969	1,000	1,007	952	1,022	981	995	1,013	1,015	1,020		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	937	972	968	996	1,006	948	1,018	978	989	1,011	1,010	1,016		
" June "	941	992	968	999	1,006	952	1,020	979	997	1,010	1,015	1,018		
" Sept. "	942	991	969	1,000	1,008	953	1,024	982	998	1,015	1,016	1,022		
" Dec. "	943	995	971	1,003	1,007	955	1,025	984	995	1,014	1,017	1,023		
1938 Mar. Qtr.	943	999	971	1,000	1,009	955	1,026	992	1,000	1,017	1,021	1,024		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Lanncaston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	780	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	932	985	941	960	959	952	749	1,010
Year 1932 ..	954	967	899	895	970	953	866	863	829	829	804	860	958	950
" 1933 ..	945	963	895	894	966	945	860	864	825	823	803	856	950	944
" 1934 ..	942	961	902	894	966	942	855	864	825	823	804	853	944	939
" 1935 ..	927	975	925	909	972	931	856	864	793	831	824	855	946	941
" 1936 ..	932	990	916	906	1,002	937	883	868	839	859	841	887	947	946
" 1937 ..	946	971	953	903	1,058	950	939	947	869	876	854	933	980	961
1937 Mar. Qtr.	944	978	953	902	1,049	948	934	946	863	879	855	930	954	955
" June "	945	981	954	902	1,054	950	939	946	867	874	856	933	960	961
" Sept. "	946	961	953	902	1,063	949	941	947	875	875	854	934	962	962
" Dec. "	948	963	953	907	1,064	951	941	949	872	873	849	935	964	964
1938 Mar. Qtr.	947	965	953	907	1,050	949	942	949	867	876	847	935	963	963

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, see page 24.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick

## All Items of Household Expenditure.—Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.)

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

Period.	NEW SOUTH WALES.						VICTORIA.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
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		
Year 1932 ..	867	840	834	877	820	863	813	776	868	794	838	811		
" 1933 ..	832	819	806	843	801	830	789	760	789	773	812	787		
" 1934 ..	842	834	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801		
" 1935 ..	852	856	818	860	814	852	824	803	820	824	850	824		
" 1936 ..	866	853	842	864	833	865	844	826	821	848	843	843		
" 1937 ..	889	849	893	867	842	866	868	539	846	855	856	866		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	884	846	878	857	842	880	854	834	833	847	849	853		
" June ..	884	846	892	862	842	880	863	835	838	848	849	861		
" Sept. ..	890	850	896	873	842	887	875	841	842	858	859	872		
" Dec. ..	899	855	905	874	842	895	881	845	845	868	863	879		
1938 Mar. Qtr.	900	866	925	879	850	897	881	841	844	866	874	878		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Burnsberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	923	949	973	1,025b	994c	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992		
Year 1932 ..	764	788	779	794b	777c	768	802	772	791	816	848	801		
" 1933 ..	751	778	752	762b	757c	753	789	747	762	800	832	787		
" 1934 ..	762	785	759	759b	761c	764	806	758	778	800	832	804		
" 1935 ..	780	785	776	789b	769c	780	820	763	789	809	833	817		
" 1936 ..	804	802	802	816b	779c	803	839	765	813	818	843	835		
" 1937 ..	837	840	840	810b	809	840	859	769	844	830	851	855		
1937 Mar. Qtr.	836	842	838	881	806	839	845	765	830	825	844	841		
" June ..	833	842	839	882	808	836	854	769	840	829	848	850		
" Sept. ..	835	837	838	880	809	838	867	770	851	830	852	862		
" Dec. ..	844	839	846	890	813	846	871	771	853	835	858	867		
1938 Mar. Qtr.	846	841	849	895	821	849	878	776	858	841	863	873		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted A'v'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted A'v'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	707	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013	1,013
Year 1932 ..	840	940	844	842	904	852	844	832	811	800	875	838	830	829
" 1933 ..	811	937	814	824	851	825	825	817	775	773	867	820	804	808
" 1934 ..	830	975	825	843	866	842	837	828	780	787	876	831	817	816
" 1935 ..	834	1,011	829	865	886	848	849	834	792	801	873	841	832	831
" 1936 ..	856	1,027	860	880	933	870	860	840	814	809	850	850	850	846
" 1937 ..	869	1,030	890	897	970	884	875	856	854	833	857	866	873	871
1937 Mar. Qtr.	860	1,028	877	885	969	875	865	845	836	825	859	855	864	862
" June ..	876	1,035	895	900	973	861	872	854	859	833	859	864	868	867
" Sept. ..	871	1,029	896	900	975	860	876	859	860	838	859	868	876	874
" Dec. ..	867	1,028	891	902	962	882	888	866	862	837	862	877	883	880
1938 Mar. Qtr.	873	1,031	894	900	951	887	885	866	862	846	858	876	885	882

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, years 1914 to 1920, see p. 24.

(b) Charters Towers.

(c) Warwick.

## Retail Price Index-Numbers. ("C" Series.) All Items of Household Consumption.

## Relative Cost of Each Group of Items.

(Base: Weighted average Cost of All Groups in each Town = 1,000.)

Town.	1936.					1937.				
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
<b>New South Wales—</b>										
Sydney .. .. .	366	238	202	194	1,000	352	251	202	195	1,000
Newcastle .. .. .	376	223	213	188	1,000	374	226	206	194	1,000
Broken Hill .. .. .	417	172	199	212	1,000	403	174	203	220	1,000
Goulburn .. .. .	363	226	229	182	1,000	363	233	211	193	1,000
Bathurst .. .. .	376	217	220	187	1,000	366	223	213	198	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	366	236	204	194	1,000	355	247	202	196	1,000
<b>Victoria—</b>										
Melbourne .. .. .	358	231	211	200	1,000	347	242	203	208	1,000
Bairat .. .. .	379	184	230	207	1,000	368	192	217	223	1,000
Bendigo .. .. .	374	190	224	212	1,000	365	198	214	223	1,000
Geelong .. .. .	353	225	222	198	1,000	351	226	208	215	1,000
Warrnambool .. .. .	360	219	228	193	1,000	350	233	211	206	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	358	229	212	201	1,000	348	230	204	209	1,000
<b>Queensland—</b>										
Brisbane .. .. .	367	211	218	204	1,000	356	227	209	208	1,000
Toowoomba .. .. .	354	221	218	207	1,000	349	231	211	218	1,000
Rockhampton .. .. .	394	168	234	204	1,000	370	200	217	213	1,000
Townsville .. .. .	406	4140	4220	4234	1,000	367	221	203	209	1,000
Mundaburg .. .. .	6375	6177	6221	6227	1,000	387	161	219	230	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	370	207	219	204	1,000	358	222	210	210	1,000
<b>South Australia—</b>										
Adelaide .. .. .	355	210	224	211	1,000	347	223	210	220	1,000
Kadina, etc. .. .. .	426	110	237	227	1,000	421	112	230	237	1,000
Port Pirie .. .. .	396	172	226	206	1,000	390	181	211	218	1,000
Mount Gambier .. .. .	367	176	246	211	1,000	366	191	217	226	1,000
Peterborough .. .. .	371	190	228	211	1,000	368	201	210	221	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	359	205	225	211	1,000	351	217	211	221	1,000
<b>Western Australia—</b>										
Perth, etc. .. .. .	371	220	215	194	1,000	365	229	205	201	1,000
Kalgoorlie, etc. .. .. .	363	254	211	172	1,000	353	294	178	175	1,000
Northam .. .. .	390	205	210	195	1,000	375	224	202	199	1,000
Bunbury .. .. .	367	224	225	184	1,000	358	253	203	186	1,000
Geraldton .. .. .	363	240	206	191	1,000	357	253	188	202	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	371	223	215	191	1,000	363	235	202	200	1,000
<b>Tasmania—</b>										
Hobart .. .. .	357	235	224	181	1,000	358	237	206	199	1,000
Lanunceston .. .. .	358	214	235	193	1,000	361	223	211	205	1,000
Burnie .. .. .	388	204	225	183	1,000	381	220	211	188	1,000
Devonport .. .. .	383	190	229	189	1,000	385	201	220	194	1,000
Queenstown .. .. .	394	198	232	176	1,000	390	214	210	186	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	361	225	228	186	1,000	361	230	209	200	1,000
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	364	226	212	198	1,000	354	238	204	204	1,000
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. .. .	363	229	209	199	1,000	351	241	204	201	1,000
Charters Towers (Q.) .. .. .	406	140	220	234	1,000	391	135	221	253	1,000
Warwick .. .. .	375	177	221	227	1,000	368	170	225	237	1,000
Port Augusta (S.A.) .. .. .	408	165	222	205	1,000	401	168	214	217	1,000

(a) Charters Towers.

(b) Warwick.

4. **Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency: Capital Cities, 1932 to 1938.**—In each part of the following table the average cost of the particular regimen in the six capital cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 has been equated to a base of 20 shillings. The figures measure the variations in the prices of—(i) food and groceries, (ii) housing (4 and 5 rooms), (iii) food, groceries, and housing combined, (iv) clothing, (v) miscellaneous household requirements, and (vi) all items of household consumption combined.

**Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency: Capital Cities ("C" Series).**

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 20s. od.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>							
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1932 ..	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 1	15 11	15 11
1933 ..	16 0	14 3	14 0	14 7	15 2	15 2	15 0
1934 ..	16 6	15 0	14 7	15 4	16 2	15 9	15 8
1935 ..	16 10	15 8	15 3	15 7	16 5	15 10	16 1
1936 ..	17 0	16 2	15 10	16 0	17 1	16 6	16 6
1937 ..	17 4	16 9	16 7	16 6	17 7	17 5	17 0
1937 Mar. Qtr.	17 5	16 4	16 10	16 3	17 4	17 3	16 11
"   June ..	17 2	16 6	16 5	16 5	18 1	17 4	16 10
"   Sept. ..	17 4	17 0	16 5	16 9	17 8	17 4	17 1
"   Dec. ..	17 7	17 1	16 8	16 8	17 4	17 9	17 3
1938 Mar. ..	17 7	17 0	16 8	16 10	17 8	17 6	17 3
<b>GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>							
1932 ..	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1933 ..	17 3	16 0	13 7	13 11	15 11	17 2	16 1
1934 ..	17 5	16 2	13 10	14 0	15 11	17 4	16 2
1935 ..	17 10	17 0	14 5	14 9	15 10	17 10	16 9
1936 ..	18 7	17 8	15 4	15 11	16 11	18 2	17 7
1937 ..	19 4	18 2	16 5	16 8	17 3	18 0	18 3
1937 Mar. Qtr.	19 0	18 0	16 4	16 3	17 2	17 10	18 0
"   June ..	19 2	18 1	16 5	16 5	17 2	17 11	18 2
"   Sept. ..	19 6	18 3	16 6	16 9	17 3	18 0	18 4
"   Dec. ..	19 7	18 5	16 7	17 1	17 4	18 2	18 6
1938 Mar. ..	19 9	18 6	16 8	17 2	17 4	18 2	18 7
<b>GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>							
1932 ..	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1933 ..	16 5	14 10	13 10	14 4	15 4	15 10	15 4
1934 ..	16 10	15 5	14 3	14 10	16 1	16 3	15 10
1935 ..	17 2	16 2	14 11	15 3	16 2	16 7	16 4
1936 ..	17 7	16 8	15 7	15 11	17 0	17 1	16 11
1937 ..	18 1	17 3	16 6	16 6	17 5	17 7	17 5
1937 Mar. Qtr.	18 0	16 11	16 7	16 2	17 3	17 6	17 3
"   June ..	17 11	17 1	16 4	16 5	17 8	17 6	17 4
"   Sept. ..	18 1	17 5	16 5	16 9	17 6	17 7	17 6
"   Dec. ..	18 4	17 7	16 7	16 9	17 4	17 10	17 8
1938 Mar. ..	18 5	17 7	16 8	16 11	17 6	17 9	17 9

Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency: Capital Cities ("C" Series)—  
continued.

(Base of each Group: Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 208.0d.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>GROUP III.—CLOTHING.</b>							
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1932 ..	15 5	16 5	16 3	16 8	16 10	17 9	16 1
1933 ..	14 10	16 3	15 10	16 7	16 5	17 7	15 9
1934 ..	14 11	16 1	15 9	16 11	16 4	17 8	15 8
1935 ..	14 11	15 11	15 5	17 1	16 6	18 1	15 8
1936 ..	15 7	15 10	15 7	16 8	16 4	17 2	15 10
1937 ..	16 4	16 1	15 11	16 5	16 1	16 5	16 3
1937 Mar. Qtr.	16 2	15 9	15 7	16 0	15 10	15 11	15 11
" June "	16 4	16 0	15 9	16 4	16 1	16 5	16 2
" Sept. "	16 5	16 1	15 11	16 7	16 3	16 7	16 3
" Dec. "	16 6	16 5	16 3	16 9	16 3	16 10	16 6
1938 Mar. "	16 7	16 5	16 3	17 0	16 4	16 11	16 6

**GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.**

1932 ..	19 11	18 6	18 2	19 9	19 1	17 4	19 2
1933 ..	19 9	18 4	18 0	19 8	18 11	17 2	19 0
1934 ..	19 6	18 3	18 0	19 6	18 10	17 1	18 11
1935 ..	19 6	18 5	18 1	19 6	18 7	17 1	18 11
1936 ..	19 0	18 11	18 4	19 10	18 8	17 8	18 11
1937 ..	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 5	18 11	18 9	19 2
1937 Mar. Qtr.	18 8	19 4	18 9	20 4	18 11	18 8	19 1
" June "	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 5	18 11	18 9	19 2
" Sept. "	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 6	18 11	18 10	19 3
" Dec. "	18 11	19 7	18 10	20 6	19 0	18 10	19 3
1938 Mar. "	18 10	19 7	18 10	20 6	18 11	18 10	19 3

**GROUPS I-IV.—ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.**

1932 ..	17 4	16 3	15 3	16 1	16 10	16 11	16 7
1933 ..	16 8	15 9	15 0	15 9	16 3	16 6	16 1
1934 ..	16 10	16 0	15 3	16 1	16 7	16 9	16 4
1935 ..	17 1	16 6	15 7	16 5	16 8	17 0	16 8
1936 ..	17 4	16 11	16 1	16 9	17 1	17 2	17 0
1937 ..	17 9	17 4	16 9	17 2	17 5	17 6	17 6
1937 Mar. Qtr.	17 8	17 1	16 9	16 11	17 2	17 4	17 3
" June "	17 8	17 3	16 8	17 1	17 6	17 5	17 4
" Sept. "	17 10	17 6	16 8	17 4	17 5	17 6	17 6
" Dec. "	18 0	17 7	16 11	17 5	17 4	17 9	17 8
1938 Mar. "	18 0	17 7	16 11	17 7	17 6	17 8	17 8

## Retail Price Index-Numbers: Capital Cities ("C" Series). All Items of Household Consumption.

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

Period.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Nov. 1914 ..	638	614	615	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 ROOMS).							
Nov. 1914 ..	758	608	463	611	586	525	649
" 1915 ..	780	611	472	574	581	571	659
" 1916 ..	791	625	467	573	592	574	665
" 1917 ..	797	657	492	606	602	586	685
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851
GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.							
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	1,935	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194
GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION.							
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



### § 5. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

**I. General.**—To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding sections, a special investigation into prices in 70 additional towns was undertaken in November, 1913. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number was further increased to 170. Information in regard to prices obtained in November each year relates at present, therefore, to 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (pages 26 to 33), and details respecting succeeding investigations are incorporated in the Labour Bulletins and Reports issued subsequently by this Bureau.

In previous issues of these publications information was given regarding movements in the rents of 4-roomed and 5-roomed houses. While the index-numbers were useful in a general way as a measure of changes in rents in any one town from time to time, there has been an increasing tendency to regard them as an adequate measure of the relative absolute levels of rents in different towns at any given date. In order to prevent such a misuse of the figures, and because of increasing doubts as to the ability of the Bureau, except at prohibitive cost, to ensure that returns of rents from all these towns shall be based on continuously representative samples, it has reluctantly been decided to limit the published information to the prices of food and groceries. Should any industrial tribunal desire further information on house rentals in any of these towns, the Bureau will be prepared to make its records available, and to consider requests for special investigations by its staff of field officers.

**2. Retail Price Index-Numbers: 200 Towns, 1933 to 1937.**—In the following table the base of the index-numbers has been changed from that used in previous issues of the Labour Report. The new base is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in the period 1923-27. To facilitate comparisons over a period of years, the index-numbers previously published have been recomputed and the table has been extended to include the results of the last five investigations.

#### Retail Price Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries.

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

State and Town	1933 November.	1934. November.	1935 November.	1936. November	1937. November.
<b>New South Wales—</b>					
Albury .. ..	749	794	803	857	864
Armidale .. ..	729	776	821	811	853
Bathna .. ..	808	803	812	853	852
Bathurst* .. ..	774	809	842	838	861
Bega .. ..	790	823	851	863	875
Berry .. ..	814	861	874	873	880
Blackheath .. ..	800	851	882	920	927
Bourke .. ..	835	847	873	901	913
Bowral .. ..	803	832	848	861	887
Broken Hill* .. ..	874	924	929	977	1,036

\* Information also available monthly for these towns.

## Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series) : Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1933 November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>					
Casino .. ..	776	790	855	900	900
Cessnock .. ..	759	792	846	849	858
Cobar .. ..	1,007	976	1,012	1,031	1,038
Cooma .. ..	855	837	895	879	883
Cootamundra .. ..	844	880	918	961	921
Cootamundra .. ..	731	789	824	849	829
Corrimal .. ..	767	817	834	876	884
Cowra .. ..	745	808	844	860	873
Cronulla .. ..	789	833	859	876	886
Deniliquin .. ..	823	864	883	907	967
Dubbo .. ..	686	771	842	848	863
Forbes .. ..	788	823	883	862	863
Gilgandra .. ..	783	846	873	864	881
Glen Innes .. ..	758	767	807	814	819
Goulburn* .. ..	770	824	846	855	888
Grafton .. ..	751	781	824	854	888
Grenfell .. ..	772	806	830	837	841
Griffith .. ..	856	908	913	940	936
Gulgong .. ..	745	782	821	855	839
Gunnedah .. ..	732	775	829	842	833
Hay .. ..	866	897	903	931	906
Inverell .. ..	770	809	848	802	831
Junee .. ..	773	817	828	876	914
Katoomba .. ..	811	833	867	885	915
Kempsey .. ..	780	810	803	811	836
Kiama .. ..	819	887	887	904	911
Kurri Kurri .. ..	752	818	808	839	838
Leeton .. ..	811	848	886	894	926
Lismore .. ..	773	782	834	886	918
Lithgow* .. ..	771	854	859	809	873
Maitland .. ..	731	788	833	832	835
Moree .. ..	836	878	886	904	894
Moss Vale .. ..	782	813	844	849	895
Mudgee .. ..	684	773	819	840	860
Narrabri .. ..	770	841	877	894	901
Narrandera .. ..	801	848	864	898	896
Newcastle* .. ..	803	849	880	869	882
Nowra .. ..	830	840	901	899	887
Orange .. ..	750	773	817	812	815
Parkes .. ..	782	805	843	859	903
Penrith .. ..	743	788	806	818	825
Port Kembla .. ..	797	855	866	908	905
Portland .. ..	804	841	862	857	877
Queanbeyan .. ..	796	850	884	905	953
Quirindi .. ..	833	855	864	866	890
Richmond .. ..	761	839	826	816	827
Scone .. ..	767	809	836	861	871
Singleton .. ..	755	779	826	813	830
Sydney* .. ..	785	836	851	863	877
Tamworth .. ..	740	785	806	806	829

\* See note p. 25.

## Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>					
Tarco .. ..	748	785	848	864	889
Temora .. ..	763	803	804	823	862
Tenterfield .. ..	736	772	831	865	864
Tumut .. ..	792	810	832	837	842
Ulmarra .. ..	774	828	852	892	885
Wagga Wagga .. ..	753	797	835	850	884
Walcha .. ..	798	836	927	845	866
Wellington .. ..	754	831	818	828	829
Weston .. ..	763	792	818	835	841
Windsor .. ..	781	788	850	851	864
Wollongong .. ..	755	867	829	853	878
Wyalong .. ..	801	815	862	870	895
Yass .. ..	758	813	850	837	887
Young .. ..	774	853	855	843	867
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	785	834	852	863	878
<b>Victoria—</b>					
Ararat .. ..	778	828	855	918	910
Bacchus Marsh .. ..	736	788	820	860	887
Bairnsdale .. ..	781	846	862	880	879
Ballarat* .. ..	732	777	818	872	860
Beechworth .. ..	784	813	828	885	890
Benalla .. ..	759	830	850	880	905
Bendigo* .. ..	727	794	812	856	853
Camperdown .. ..	766	814	849	863	868
Casterton .. ..	792	835	845	888	873
Castlemaine .. ..	748	775	828	845	848
Colac .. ..	761	813	817	842	850
Creswick .. ..	743	789	838	859	863
Daylesford .. ..	765	789	813	843	865
Dunolly .. ..	741	794	835	889	872
Echuca .. ..	746	784	824	846	857
Euroa .. ..	769	803	845	875	878
Geelong* .. ..	732	757	796	833	857
Hamilton .. ..	762	805	855	911	885
Healesville .. ..	763	818	831	892	917
Horsham .. ..	766	801	873	926	916
Kerang .. ..	753	819	869	895	927
Koroit .. ..	767	795	828	836	840
Korumburra .. ..	737	781	783	835	859
Kyneton .. ..	795	757	785	851	870
Lilydale .. ..	784	815	845	884	881
Maffra .. ..	761	785	825	901	865
Maldon .. ..	790	827	848	876	888
Maryborough .. ..	732	785	811	888	891
Melbourne* .. ..	721	758	797	833	848
Mildura .. ..	843	870	903	938	977
Morwell .. ..	797	822	842	858	887
Nhill .. ..	798	853	913	956	933
Orbost .. ..	832	814	870	912	919
Portland .. ..	789	804	863	863	862
Port Fairy .. ..	761	783	820	862	840

\* See note p. 25.

## Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series) : Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1933. November	1934 November	1935. November	1936. November	1937. November.
<b>Victoria—continued.</b>					
St. Arnaud .. ..	804	851	875	930	930
Sale .. ..	784	785	827	895	890
Seymour .. ..	782	848	880	901	937
Shepparton .. ..	738	804	819	864	886
Stawell .. ..	801	861	911	949	934
Swan Hill .. ..	743	833	874	918	924
Terang .. ..	798	819	875	863	885
Traralgon .. ..	734	787	816	839	834
Wangaratta .. ..	782	787	827	880	879
Warracknabeal .. ..	750	788	828	858	881
Warragul .. ..	713	789	820	827	845
Warrnambool* .. ..	740	759	785	844	834
Wonthaggi .. ..	737	794	804	895	913
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	728	765	803	841	854
<b>Queensland—</b>					
Ayr .. ..	803	819	825	841	867
Barcaldine .. ..	830	881	938	959	959
Bowen .. ..	816	888	885	902	902
Brisbane* .. ..	696	726	780	820	835
Bundaberg* .. ..	722	753	803	874	873
Cairns .. ..	814	837	887	915	914
Charleville .. ..	849	881	949	989	969
Charters Towers* .. ..	779	802	876	889	887
Chullagoe .. ..	911	913	900	915	946
Cloncurry .. ..	907	930	1,030	1,026	1,031
Cooktown .. ..	887	920	963	986	989
Cunnamulla .. ..	861	894	927	938	921
Dalby .. ..	744	760	807	870	836
Gayndah .. ..	763	792	851	907	867
Gladstone .. ..	743	771	827	871	870
Goondiwindi .. ..	794	820	889	914	868
Gympie .. ..	737	773	857	849	840
Hughenden .. ..	905	891	919	931	925
Innisfail .. ..	852	907	943	974	995
Ipswich .. ..	728	745	785	820	825
Longreach .. ..	868	921	978	990	993
Mackay .. ..	772	807	872	898	895
Maryborough .. ..	716	723	794	828	835
Mount Morgan .. ..	791	831	855	891	880
Nambour .. ..	723	767	834	844	863
Rockhampton* .. ..	733	764	839	864	877
Roma .. ..	805	823	877	885	870
Stanthorpe .. ..	766	775	803	817	830
Toowoomba* .. ..	673	695	751	800	789
Townsville* .. ..	785	817	887	904	921
Warwick* .. ..	721	721	792	820	795
Winton .. ..	905	919	931	951	963
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	724	747	806	841	850

\* See note p. 25.

## Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries—continued.

State and Town.	1933 November	1934. November.	1935 November.	1936. November.	1937. November.
<b>South Australia—</b>					
Adelaide* .. ..	733	774	784	804	833
Freeling .. ..	731	768	804	823	845
Gawler .. ..	732	777	772	814	827
Kadina, Moonta, Wall- aroo* .. ..	797	849	868	890	897
Kapunda .. ..	718	762	793	812	836
Kooringa .. ..	771	790	868	879	899
Millicent .. ..	757	806	805	820	918
Mount Gambier* .. ..	726	751	802	815	847
Murray Bridge .. ..	710	732	763	776	810
Peterborough* .. ..	770	806	816	851	884
Port Augusta* .. ..	824	864	892	926	945
Port Pirie* .. ..	738	813	811	896	915
Quorn .. ..	778	801	848	841	853
Renmark .. ..	840	791	920	919	906
Victor Harbour .. ..	760	908	815	839	852
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. ..	738	779	791	813	841
<b>Western Australia—</b>					
Albany .. ..	792	871	884	896	892
Beverley .. ..	848	873	890	918	963
Bridgetown .. ..	878	918	930	955	973
Broome .. ..	1,156	1,155	1,142	1,180	1,181
Bunbury* .. ..	781	844	845	873	896
Carnarvon .. ..	971	1,008	1,032	1,082	1,127
Collie .. ..	724	862	855	901	874
Geraldton* .. ..	764	835	840	960	924
Greenbushes .. ..	862	924	946	960	937
Kalgoorlie and Boulder* .. ..	926	994	981	1,006	1,002
Katanning .. ..	769	844	829	884	872
Leonora and Gwalia .. ..	1,028	1,084	1,094	1,140	1,168
Meekatharra .. ..	1,026	1,047	1,088	1,143	1,164
Narrogin .. ..	802	873	863	910	884
Northam* .. ..	792	845	850	910	903
Perth and Fremantle* .. ..	740	813	813	863	866
Wagin .. ..	814	817	856	924	870
York .. ..	767	802	859	848	867
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) .. ..	769	833	835	882	884
<b>Tasmania—</b>					
Beaconsfield .. ..	744	801	818	841	830
Burnie* .. ..	747	821	837	883	906
Campbelltown .. ..	779	814	860	878	872
Deloraine .. ..	756	788	787	795	824
Devonport* .. ..	762	835	824	873	893
Franklin .. ..	817	889	896	868	905
Hobart* .. ..	756	813	797	874	889
Launceston* .. ..	722	786	793	844	870
New Norfolk .. ..	783	822	830	909	891
Queenstown* .. ..	869	913	900	920	922

\* See note p. 25.

Index-Numbers (200 Towns Series): Food and Groceries—*continued.*

State and Town.	1933. November.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936 November.	1937. November.
<b>Tasmania—<i>continued.</i></b>					
Scottsdale .. ..	729	770	780	814	829
Ulverstone .. ..	770	815	812	888	867
Zeehan* .. ..	938	966	943	981	983
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	756	812	805	867	884
<b>Territories (a)—</b>					
Canberra* .. ..	857	916	931	949	965
<b>Weighted Averages—</b>					
Australia (200 Towns) ..	754	797	825	851	865
Thirty Towns .. ..	750	795	820	847	862
Six Capitals .. ..	746	792	817	843	859

\* See note p. 25.

(a) Not included in Weighted Averages.

3. **Comparison of Capital Cities with other Towns.**—In the preceding pages index-numbers for food and groceries have been given for the six capital cities, for the 30 towns, and for 200 towns. Index-numbers for food and housing have been given for the six capital cities and the 30 towns on pages 9 to 13. The figures for the six capital cities and the 30 towns are based on monthly prices of food and quarterly records of rentals, while the figures for the 200 towns are based on prices in the month of November. In the following table the index-numbers for the three groups of towns have been brought to a common base (November, 1913 = 1000) for the period 1921 to 1937. The table indicates that, since 1913, food prices have increased slightly more in the capital cities than in the larger groups of towns, while the increase in house rents has been more marked in the five towns than in the capital cities. For food and housing combined, however, the difference between the two sets of index-numbers is only slight.

**Comparative Retail Price Index-Numbers: November of each year.**

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average Cost of each Group, November, 1913 = 1000.)

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1932.	1933	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>								
All Towns (200) .. ..	1,000	1,578	1,267	1,241	1,312	1,356	1,400	1,423
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,264	1,240	1,314	1,355	1,400	1,425
Capital Cities only .. ..	1,000	1,588	1,270	1,248	1,324	1,365	1,410	1,436
<b>HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS.)</b>								
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,330	1,273	1,271	1,297	1,355	1,422	1,465
Capital Cities only .. ..	1,000	1,323	1,213	1,210	1,229	1,282	1,347	1,392
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>								
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,487	1,267	1,251	1,308	1,356	1,407	1,439
Capital Cities only .. ..	1,000	1,488	1,248	1,233	1,288	1,335	1,386	1,420

The figures in the vertical columns show the cost in November of each year compared with November, 1913, for "All Towns (200)" "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Cities only" respectively.

## § 6. Publication of Prices and Price Index-Numbers.

The results of inquiries into price movements are available in the following publications :—

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

(ii) **Quarterly.**—A mimeographed statement is issued each quarter giving the "C" Series index-numbers. The Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains the average prices of the items comprising the Food and Groceries regimen, for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. The weighted average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.

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

## § 7. Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage is a valuable source of reference for information on retail prices during the years 1914 to 1920. It was also largely responsible for the extension of the prices investigations of the Bureau from food, groceries and housing only to all items of household consumption. The direct use of the Commission's data made in the "All Items" index has already been referred to in earlier sections of this chapter. The Commission was appointed in 1919 to inquire into and report upon the following matters :—

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

The Commission issued two reports—the first in November, 1920, and the second in April, 1921. These reports show that, according to the standard assumed by the Commission, the cost of living as at the 1st November, 1920, for a family consisting of man, wife, and three children under fourteen years of age, was as follows:—

**Royal Commission on Basic Wage—Cost of Living, 1st November, 1920.**

Particulars.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rent ..	1 2 0	1 0 6	0 17 0	0 19 6	0 19 0	0 19 0
Food ..	2 6 9	2 6 2	2 3 1	2 7 2	2 4 11	2 8 11
Clothing ..	1 7 0	1 9 0	1 6 0	1 8 3	1 7 9	1 9 2
Miscellaneous ..	1 1 4	1 0 10	1 0 1	1 1 2	1 2 3	0 19 10
Total (a) ..	5 17 1	5 16 6	5 6 2	5 16 1	5 13 11	5 16 11

(a) Weighted Average Six Capitals—£5 15s. 8d.

The corresponding cost of the commodities and services included (which are fully set out in the first Report) for the years 1914 to 1920 was as follows:—

**Royal Commission on Basic Wage—Cost of Living, 1914 to 1920.**

Years	Sydney	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1914 ..	3 12 11	3 7 9	3 4 0	3 11 2	3 12 9	3 6 9
1915 ..	4 1 6	3 16 9	3 11 3	3 19 0	3 17 1	3 15 1
1916 ..	4 4 6	3 17 5	3 13 10	3 19 7	4 1 2	3 15 6
1917 ..	4 9 8	4 2 2	3 19 3	4 3 2	4 4 2	4 4 10
1918 ..	4 14 8	4 8 10	4 6 0	4 10 11	4 9 2	4 8 6
1919 ..	5 5 3	4 18 5	4 15 10	5 2 6	5 0 9	5 0 4
1920 ..	5 17 1	5 16 6	5 6 2	5 16 1	5 13 11	5 16 11

In answer to the third clause of the inquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (i.e., such a family as is described in Clause I)." After consulting the Commonwealth Statistician as to methods of collection and tabulation, the Government decided that the recommendation would be met by widening the scope of inquiries of this nature already made by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of an assumed regimen, which is described in the Report as the "Indicator List". It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations of this Bureau would have been somewhat impaired had they been limited in the manner suggested by the Commission. It was decided, therefore, to apply to a more detailed inquiry the methods of index-number construction already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing.



It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and housing the commodities, methods and weighting already in use, which conformed very closely with those given in the "Indicator List" 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. The figures used by this Bureau are the rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses, and are not confined to any particular type, but they fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Previous inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items. The results of these investigations are set out in earlier sections of this chapter.

### § 8. Changes in the Regimen.

Since the original compilation of retail price indexes by the Bureau, the regimens of the several Groups and Sections have undergone some modifications. These are briefly explained in the following paragraphs.

(i) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen for food and groceries was originally introduced in 1912, and the first revision was made in the September quarter of 1932. The regimen in use up to that date will be found on page 13 of the Labour Report No. 23. A second revision took place in the September quarter of 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 (iv) 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 have been continuously used since 1912 in the "A" Series Index. They were also used in the "All Items" 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.

Since the December quarter of 1936, following on the resolutions of the 1936 Conference of Statisticians, the rentals of 4 and 5-roomed houses in certain towns have been collected and tabulated on a somewhat different basis from that previously used. The returns in the twelve more important cities and towns show the rents of individual houses, on the basis of which variations from a pre-determined standard are measured. This standard, the change in which has affected the index-numbers only in respect of the relative levels of rents in the different towns, and in respect of their absolute height, was determined by means of a special investigation of the 1933 Census data relating to rentals of all 4 and 5 roomed wood and brick houses occupied by fully-employed wage and salary-earners. This method not being generally

\* Revisions of collection and compilation methods have occupied a longer period, and are still proceeding. Proper precautions are taken to prevent such revisions from disturbing the essential principle of continuity.

applicable to the circumstances of small country towns, on account of the greater diversity of average "quality" of houses, returns from these centres show the average rent of occupied houses of a defined standard.

(iii) *Clothing and Miscellaneous*.—The regimen for clothing and miscellaneous household requirements was originally introduced in 1921, and the first revision was made in the March quarter of 1935. Details of the original regimen were never published, but the revised regimen of 1935 appeared in Labour Report No. 26. A second revision took place in the September quarter of 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 (iv) below.

(iv) The revision of the regimen by the Conference of Statisticians of April, 1936, was of 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 were made with a view to improving the index-numbers as measures of price variations. They 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 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. Improved methods of collecting and weighting average house rentals were also adopted (see paragraph (ii) above).

(v) 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., paragraphs 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.

While this involves no break of continuity in the index-numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, 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-

\* Revisions of collection and compilation methods have occupied a longer period, and are still proceeding. Proper precautions are taken to prevent such revisions from disturbing the essential principle of continuity.

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 paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, the following considerations should be kept in mind :—

*Food and groceries.*—These index-numbers are substantially comparable throughout the period up to the June quarter of 1936. From and including the September quarter of 1936, the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other, but are not strictly so with those for previous quarters.

*Rent.*—No changes have taken place in the method of calculating the rentals of "All Houses", and these index-numbers are therefore comparable throughout the period. 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 the June quarter of 1936. In the September quarter, 1936, a change was made in the weighting system which gave rise to slight disparities not due to rental fluctuations, and rendered the index-numbers for individual towns not strictly comparable with those of former periods. The change, however, made the index-numbers for any one town more comparable with those of other towns. In the December quarter of 1936 the rent tabulations in the two principal towns of each State were placed on an entirely new basis, which rendered them incomparable individually with index-numbers 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.

*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 the September quarter of 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.

### § 9. Retail Price Index-Numbers and Wage Variations.

In view of the fact that several "series" of retail price index-numbers are still associated with the variation of wages, the following short explanation of their significance is given.

It is desirable again to emphasize the fact that the retail price index-numbers compiled by the Bureau are designed to measure the *variations* in the cost of the definite regimen of commodities and services covered by each of the series. The use made of them by wage-fixing tribunals for the purpose of adjusting wage-rates is entirely the responsibility of the tribunals concerned, and not of the Bureau, although the Bureau fully realizes the great importance of the use to which these indexes are put in this connexion, and takes every care to make them as accurate as possible.

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

This is the series which the Commonwealth Arbitration Court adopted in 1913 to determine the relative basic wage for towns throughout Australia, and to vary what is popularly known as the "Harvester" Basic Wage of 1907—the wage (42s. per week for Melbourne) declared by Mr. Justice Higgins to be sufficient to meet the "normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being, living in a civilized community." This series has had very little application since May, 1933, as the result of the adoption by the Court successively of the "*D*" series at that date, the "*C*" series in May, 1934, and the "Court" series in July, 1937. The "*A*" series of indexes are published in Appendix VII. of this Report.

(ii) "*B* Series.—The "*B*" series covers the items food and groceries and rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-1927 as the base (1,000). This series was first compiled in 1925, and is available for the six capital cities for the years 1907 and 1911, and at annual intervals 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, but up to date has not been used in connexion with the fixation or adjustment of wages by Industrial Tribunals. This series appears on pages 9 to 13 of this Report.

(iii) "*C* Series.—The "*C*" series covers all items of household expenditure, viz., food and groceries; rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses; clothing (man, wife and three children); household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items, with the prices ruling in the years 1923-1927 as the base (1,000).

This series was introduced as the result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and the regimen adopted was practically that of the "Indicator" Lists of the Commission. It was first compiled in 1921 and is available at annual intervals 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 series was not used in connexion with the variation of wages until its partial adoption by the Commonwealth Court in May, 1933, when that Court introduced the "*D*" series of indexes (for explanation of which see next page). In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, the Court adopted the "*C*" series as the sole basis for the adjustment of the wages declared in the judgment; In its judgment of 23rd June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court adopted this index as the basis of the "Court" series for the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the Court's new basic wage (see next page). The Court is, of course, quite free to alter the basis of the "Court" series at any time it thinks fit.

This series, covering as it does a far wider range of commodities, displays a different relationship between the towns from that shown in the preceding series ("A" and "B"). The series is published on pages 14 to 24 of this Report.

(iv) *The "Court" Series.*—The "Court" series of index-numbers was created by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its basic wage judgment of 23rd June, 1937, and operated from 1st July, 1937. Its purpose was to provide a set of index-numbers which would be published by, and under the direct control of, the Court. It was created primarily for the purpose of removing conditions which tended to engender the impression that the Commonwealth Statistician was in some way responsible for the fixation and adjustment of wage-rates. Its introduction has the added advantage of enabling the index-numbers to be specially numbered in the manner most convenient for adjustment purposes, and of enabling the Statistician to change the base of his index-numbers without upsetting the wage and adjustment provisions of the Court's awards. It is at present based on the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index, and is obtained as follows:—The "C" series index-number for any town for the quarter in question is multiplied by .081, and the first three figures on the left of the product are taken as the corresponding number in the "Court" series. This number itself states in whole and decimal figures the number of shillings with current purchasing power equivalent to that of 8s. when the "C" series index-number is 1,000. The base of the series is, therefore, the weighted average of the six capital cities, 1923-27 = 8s. The judgment provides that the nearest whole number of shillings (a decimal of .5 or over being regarded as a whole number) shall be taken as the "needs" basic wage, to which will be added the relevant fixed "prosperity loadings" granted by the Court. The "Court" series entirely supersedes the "C" series for all wage adjustments decreed by the Commonwealth Court. A set of index-numbers under this series is reproduced in Appendix IV. of this Report.

(v) *"D" Series.*—The "D" series is a combination of the "A" and "C" series, and was introduced by the Commonwealth Court for the adjustment of wages of those employees who were subject to the full 10 per cent. "cut" imposed by the Court in January, 1931. It came into operation from 1st May, 1933, and was devised in order to counteract the excessive drop in wages occasioned by the "A" series index after 1929.

The series has for its base the "A" series index for each town for the December quarter of 1929, which is varied according to the ratio of change indicated by the "C" series index-number for the whole of 1929 and the corresponding "C" index-number of the town for the quarter for which the adjustment is to be made. It will thus be seen that, whereas the "D" index for each town from the December quarter of 1929 to date fluctuates in the same way as the "C" index for the same town, the relationship of different towns is that of the "A" series for the December quarter of 1929, slightly modified by the difference in movement between the "A" series and the "C" series index for each town since that quarter.

This series has been superseded almost entirely by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" series, and continues to operate only in a few industries. The index-numbers of this series were published in Appendix VIII. of Labour Reports Nos. 24 to 27.

(vi) *Food and Groceries.*—The regimen of food and groceries is a component part of each of the series of retail price index-numbers mentioned above. Details of the regimen will be found on page 3. 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 is still employed for the adjustment of the wages of members of the North Australian Workers' Union above the 20th parallel.

(vii) *The "200 Towns" Series.*—This series is 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 is limited to food and groceries only. This table has been used mostly in discussions of suitable relative rates for country towns, but the index-numbers have not been directly employed by Industrial Tribunals in this connexion. The base of this table is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in 1923-27 = 1,000. This series has been compiled for the month of November since 1913. It was originally confined to 100 towns, but was increased to 150 in 1915, and 200 in 1923. The index-numbers will be found on page 25.

(viii) *Relative Merits of Series.*—The relative merits of the various series of index-numbers have been much discussed. Prices of all commodities do not change simultaneously nor to the same degree. Consequently, over short periods there may be differences of some magnitude between the results ascertained from the different series, but over longer periods these differences tend to be much reduced.

Thus, taking the movement of the following retail price indexes for the six capital cities over the two periods 1911 to 1937 and 1929 to 1937, as disclosed by the table in Appendix IX. of this Report, the changes are substantially of the same order:—

	Increase per cent., 1911-1937.	Decrease per cent., 1929-1937.
Food and Groceries only.. .. .	52	18
Rent of All Houses .. .. .	49	16
Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses .. .. .	49	15
Food and Rent of All Houses (" A " Series)	51	17
Food and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses (" B " Series) .. .. .	51	17
" All Items " of Household Expenditure (" C " Series) .. .. .	45*	15

\* Taken back to 1911 from base 1914 by means of " A " Series Index.

(ix) For information in regard to the different bases upon which the above index-numbers have been compiled, see page 7.

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

The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices for (i) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (ii) foodstuffs only. For the countries included, the prices for the year 1929 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken chiefly from the League of Nations *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, and the International Labour Office *Year Book of Labour Statistics*, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each country, and are obviously not comparable horizontally.

## Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries.

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

## (i) COST OF LIVING.\*

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
Number of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna	39	100	21	Paris.	72	50	Tokio.	Amsterdam.
1931 .. ..	96	96	93	89	85	102	88	87	75	90
1932 .. ..	88	97	84	89	84	95	78	83	75	84
1933 .. ..	85	95	83	93	84	94	77	86	80	85
1934 .. ..	85	95	79	96	85	93	79	76	82	85
1935 .. ..	87	94	80	99	81	87	80	77	84	81
1936 .. ..	89	94	85	100	82	91	81	83	88	79
1937 .. ..	94	94	92	104	86	111	81	91	96	82
1937—										
March Qtr. ..	92	94	90	103	..	104	81	86	94	80
June .. ..	94	94	89	104	85	109	81	90	95	81
Sept. .. ..	95	94	93	105	86	113	82	93	96	83
Dec. .. ..	98	95	93	106	89	118	81	97	100	83
1938—										
March Qtr. ..	95	94	95	106	..	124	81	98	104	83

  

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Number of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	Madrid.	49	34	51-174	30	Bombay. (ii)	60	25	9
1931 .. ..	92	85	107	94	93	87	85	74	90	90	94
1932 .. ..	90	74	103	92	86	79	81	..	82	84	90
1933 .. ..	89	67	100	91	81	76	78	..	79	79	88
1934 .. ..	89	62	102	91	80	79	80	..	79	81	87
1935 .. ..	91	60	99	92	80	81	81	100	80	83	88
1936 .. ..	93	58	..	93	81	85	83	101	81	86	88
1937 .. ..	100	62	..	95	85	88	85	106	83	92	91
1937—											
March Qtr. ..	96	64	..	95	84	87	84	105	82	89	89
June .. ..	99	62	..	95	85	89	85	105	83	91	90
Sept. .. ..	101	61	..	95	85	89	85	108	84	92	91
Dec. .. ..	103	62	..	97	86	89	86	107	84	94	92
1938—											
March Qtr. ..	103	61	..	97	85	..	86	107	..	94	94

\* With the following exceptions the index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food housing, clothing and miscellaneous items:—Japan, exclusive of housing; Spain, exclusive of clothing and rent. (ii) Base: year 1933-34 = 100.

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

(Base: Year 1929 = 100.)

## (II) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS †

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	
Number of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna	59	100	21	Paris	72	Milan	Tokio	Amsterdam.	
1927 .. .. .	104	98	95	103	99	92	98	98	104	100	
1928 .. .. .	102	98	95	102	102	92	98	98	100	103	
1929 .. .. .	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
1930 .. .. .	94	97	96	91	86	104	94	94	85	93	
1931 .. .. .	85	89	81	81	77	105	84	82	74	84	
1932 .. .. .	82	90	69	79	80	94	74	78	78	74	
1933 .. .. .	78	85	69	82	80	92	73	73	79	74	
1934 .. .. .	79	83	65	80	78	91	76	70	81	76	
1935 .. .. .	81	83	67	94	81	83	77	72	84	73	
1936 .. .. .	84	83	73	95	80	90	79	77	91	71	
1935—											
April .. .. .	77	80	61	..	70	..	76	72	81	..	
May .. .. .	78	80	62	..	78	84	77	72	82	..	
June .. .. .	52	84	65	95	79	..	78	73	80	72	
July .. .. .	82	81	66	..	81	..	79	72	81	..	
August .. .. .	81	83	67	..	83	80	79	72	82	..	
September ..	83	83	71	94	83	..	78	..	87	72	
October .. ..	85	84	73	..	84	..	77	..	86	..	
November .. .	85	84	75	..	84	82	77	..	86	..	
December .. .	85	84	73	94	83	..	78	..	87	73	
1936—											
January .. ..	84	84	74	..	81	..	79	..	89	..	
February .. .	84	83	74	..	81	85	70	..	91	..	
March .. .. .	82	81	..	95	81	..	78	..	92	..	
Period	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Number of Towns and Localities.	51	Warsaw	Madrid	49	31	51	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1927 .. .. .	110	105	104	101	101	102	96	103	97	97	103
1928 .. .. .	106	103	97	103	101	98	95	99	98	99	102
1929 .. .. .	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930 .. .. .	96	86	703	93	97	92	90	92	98	96	96
1931 .. .. .	88	76	107	86	90	75	79	70	77	83	91
1932 .. .. .	85	67	103	83	80	63	77	70	64	77	83
1933 .. .. .	83	60	100	81	75	64	72	64	63	72	86
1934 .. .. .	84	54	102	81	74	71	75	60	69	76	90
1935 .. .. .	87	51	99	85	73	76	77	63	70	82	88
1936 .. .. .	91	50	..	80	77	78	79	64	73	86	88
1935—											
April .. .. .	85	49	104	83	71	78	76	62	68	81	90
May .. .. .	86	50	99	85	71	78	77	63	69	82	90
June .. .. .	87	51	94	86	72	78	77	64	69	82	90
July .. .. .	86	54	97	87	74	76	75	64	71	82	89
August .. .. .	89	53	97	87	74	76	78	64	70	82	88
September ..	89	54	99	87	74	76	79	64	72	83	87
October .. ..	90	54	98	87	75	77	79	66	72	86	87
November .. .	90	54	99	88	76	77	78	66	73	86	87
December .. .	90	50	98	88	76	79	78	66	73	84	87
1936—											
January .. ..	90	49	98	89	76	78	78	64	72	83	88
February .. .	91	48	97	80	76	77	78	64	73	82	88
March .. .. .	91	48	..	89	76	76	77	63	70	82	88

† The publication of these figures was discontinued after those appearing herein.