

## 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, Dec. Quarter, 1938. (a)
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**SECTION A.—GROCERIES.**

1	Bread, white flour (cash delivered) ..	2-lb. loaf ..	100	5.7
2	Flour, ordinary .. .. .	2 lb. . . .	25	1.0
3	Flour, self-raising .. .. .	2-lb. pkt. . .	12	1.0
4	Tea .. .. .	1-lb. pkt. . .	8	2.5
5	Sugar, white granulated, 1A ..	1 lb. . . .	100	4.6
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	2.9
18	Onions, brown .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	14	0.3
19	Soap .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	16	1.3
20	Kerosene, lighting, bulk .. ..	quart ..	4	0.2

**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	1.2
24	Bacon, rashers, best middle ..	1 lb. . . .	12	2.7
25	Milk, condensed, sweetened ..	1 tin ..	5	0.5
26	Milk, fresh—in sealed bottles or not bottled .. .. .	quart ..	72	5.8

**SECTION C.—MEAT.**

<b>Beef (fresh)—</b>				
27	Sirloin (Roast) .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	18	2.3
28	Rib (Roast) including bone ..	1 lb. . . .	22	2.3
29	Steak—Rump .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	11	2.0
30	Steak—Chuck (stewing) .. ..	1 lb. . . .	20	1.7
31	Sausages .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	7	0.5
<b>Beef (corned)—</b>				
32	Silverside, average quality ..	1 lb. . . .	14	1.5
33	Brisket, rolled .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	15	1.2
<b>Mutton (fresh)—</b>				
34	Leg .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	20	1.8
35	Forequarter .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	15	0.8
36	Loin .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	4	0.3
37	Chops—Loin .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	30	3.0
38	Chops—Leg .. .. .	1 lb. . . .	10	1.0
<b>Pork (fresh)—</b>				
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)	40.0
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(a) "B" 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).
<b>SECTION E.—CLOTHING—MAN.</b>			<b>SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS)—contd.</b>		
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	.. .. .	.. .. .
4	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) ..	1.00	49	Shirt, Sports .. .. .	5.00
5	Shirt, Fashion, with two collars ..	1.67	50	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1.00
6	Shirt, working—Drill .. .. .	4.00	51	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) ..	1.00
7	Collar, semi-soft, white .. .. .	6.00	52	Braces .. .. .	1.00
8	Singlet, Wool and Cotton (short sleeves)	1.00	53	Stockings, Golf, All Wool ..	4.00
9	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) .. .. .	1.00	54	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1.50
10	Underpants, Wool and Cotton (full length)	1.00	55	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0.50
11	Underpants, Cotton "Shorts" (plain)	1.00	56	Shoes (for best wear), Box Yearling	1.00
12	Sox, All Wool (fancy) .. .. .	2.00	57	Boots (school), Box Yearling ..	2.00
13	Sox, Wool and Cotton (fancy) ..	4.00	<b>SECTION H.—CLOTHING—GIRL (7 YEARS)</b>		
14	Braces .. .. .	1.33	58	Dress, Wool-de-chine .. .. .	1.00
15	Handkerchief, Cotton .. .. .	6.00	59	.. .. .	.. .. .
16	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1.50	60	Dress, Cotton .. .. .	3.00
17	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	1.00	61	Top Coat, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
18	Shoes (for best wear), Box Calf	0.50	62	Hat, Wool Felt (Australian) ..	1.00
19	Boots, working, Box Hide .. .. .	1.50	63	Hat, Straw .. .. .	2.00
<b>SECTION F.—CLOTHING—WOMAN.</b>			64	.. .. .	.. .. .
20	Costume, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.50	65	Petticoat, Art Silk .. .. .	1.00
21	Skirt, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.25	66	Singlet, Silk and Wool .. .. .	0.50
22	.. .. .	.. .. .	67	Singlet, Art Silk .. .. .	0.50
23	Hat, Fur Felt (Australian) .. .. .	0.75	68	Bloomers, Cotton, fleecy-lined	2.00
24	Hat, Straw .. .. .	1.50	69	Bloomers, Art Silk .. .. .	2.00
25	Frock, ready-made, Cotton .. .. .	1.50	70	Stockings, Cashmere .. .. .	4.00
26	Frock, ready-made, Art Silk .. .. .	1.50	71	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	0.33
27	Brassiere, Cotton Brocade .. .. .	4.50	72	Pyjamas, Art Silk .. .. .	0.33
28	Undervest, Wool and Art Silk ..	1.50	73	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0.50
29	Undervest, Art Silk .. .. .	1.50	74	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	0.67
30	.. .. .	.. .. .	75	Shoes (school), Box Yearling ..	1.50
31	Bloomers, Art Silk .. .. .	4.50	<b>SECTION J.—CLOTHING—BOY (3½ YEARS).</b>		
32	Princess Slip, Art Silk .. .. .	1.00	76	Blouse Coat .. .. .	3.00
33	Stockings, Silk .. .. .	6.00	77	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00
34	Stockings, Lisle .. .. .	3.00	78	Overcoat, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	0.33
35	Gloves, Fabric .. .. .	2.25	79	Hat, Cloth .. .. .	1.33
36	Gloves, Nappa .. .. .	0.75	80	Singlet, Wool and Cotton .. .. .	1.00
37	Nightdress, Art Silk .. .. .	1.50	81	Singlet, Cotton (athletic) .. ..	1.00
38	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	1.50	82	Sox, Art Silk and Lisle .. .. .	4.00
39	Dressing Gown, Art Silk .. .. .	0.50	83	Pyjamas, Winceyette .. .. .	2.00
40	Apron, Cotton .. .. .	6.00	84	Pullover, All Wool .. .. .	0.50
41	Cardigan, All Wool .. .. .	0.50	85	Shoes (for best wear), Patent Leather	1.00
42	Shoes (for best wear), Glace Kid ..	1.50	86	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Tan Yearling	2.00
43	Shoes (for ordinary wear), Box Calf	1.50	<b>SECTION G.—CLOTHING—BOY (10½ YEARS).</b>		
44	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.00	44	Suit, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	1.00
45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00	45	Pants, ready-made, Tweed (Australian)	3.00

\* 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 DRAPEY.			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.V. 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-fitted) ..	1.00
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) ..	1,578
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	SECTION N.—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS		
12	Plate, Dinner (Stone China) ..	2.00	No.	Item.	Amount per week (per household).
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, Aluminium (6-pint) ..	0.20	41	Smoking ..	(b)
19	Saucepan, Aluminium (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			

(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 or per household as the case may be in Australia of the units of quantity shown. Thus the *per capita* consumption of bread in Australia is estimated to be 100 2-lb. loaves and of sugar 100 lb., and the consumption of towels per household is estimated to be three. 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 J, the “mass units” represent the estimated annual consumption per head of the articles mentioned. In the case of Sections K to 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 the basis of consumption per head or per household. 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; 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 1938. 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 .. .. .	13.7
	B Dairy Produce .. .. .	10.5
	C Meat .. .. .	11.8
II. Housing .. .. .	D House Rent (4 and 5 rooms)	24.0
	E Man .. .. .	8.0
	F Woman .. .. .	8.7
III. Clothing .. .. .	G Boy, 10½ years .. .. .	1.5
	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 Fuel and Light .. .. .	5.3
	N Other Miscellaneous .. .. .	13.1
		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.

\* These index-numbers appear in the Appendix to each Labour Report from Nos. 16 to 28 and also in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics up to No. 155, June, 1938.

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

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

(a) November

The results obtained by the 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	313	Perth, etc	208	Hobart	60
Newcastle	105	Ballarat ..	38	T'woomba	26	Kadina, etc	11	Kalg'lie, etc	17	Launceston	33
Broken Hill	27	Bendigo ..	29	Rockham'n	29	Pt. Pirle	12	Northam	5	Burnie	4
Goulburn	15	Geelong ..	39	Townsville	26	Mt. Gamb'r	5	Bunbury	5	Devonport	5
Bathurst	10	W'nambool	9	Bundaberg	11	Peterbor'gh	3	Geraldton	5	Queenst'wn	4
Total ..	1392	Total ..	1107	†Total ..	392	Total ..	344	Total ..	240	Total ..	106

† Townsville and Bundaberg were substituted for Charters Towers (7) 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, Groceries 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 1938.**—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.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
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#### SECTION A.—GROCERIES.

Sydney .. ..	510	574	627	1,115	851	875	859	872	887
Melbourne .. ..	461	521	562	1,070	758	824	829	829	835
Brisbane .. ..	547	614	607	1,105	806	846	868	869	871
Adelaide .. ..	510	541	598	1,076	782	804	814	838	831
Perth .. ..	572	720	628	1,103	846	852	864	906	897
Hobart .. ..	501	566	604	1,087	810	812	840	871	874
Weighted Average (a) ..	499	564	599	1,093	809	846	846	857	864

#### SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Sydney .. ..	531	574	656	1,080	780	788	791	817	850
Melbourne .. ..	571	567	635	1,087	718	750	775	813	861
Brisbane .. ..	495	581	588	983	683	691	709	768	791
Adelaide .. ..	548	651	705	1,018	690	715	728	774	802
Perth .. ..	709	733	735	1,152	765	801	816	830	864
Hobart .. ..	564	587	693	1,091	665	701	702	765	802
Weighted Average (a) ..	563	591	654	1,072	739	758	771	807	843

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

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

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Sydney .. .. .	519	501	668	960	821	835	881	906	969
Melbourne .. .. .	557	485	663	1,030	758	755	809	857	960
Brisbane .. .. .	535	488	610	897	647	719	764	825	834
Adelaide .. .. .	553	541	784	1,095	832	804	839	851	950
Perth .. .. .	789	824	881	1,103	798	788	867	887	926
Hobart .. .. .	668	638	780	1,244	861	849	928	961	957
Weighted Average (a) ..	538	522	691	1,010	784	792	842	877	948

## SECTION C—MEAT.

Sydney .. .. .	519	501	668	960	821	835	881	906	969
Melbourne .. .. .	557	485	663	1,030	758	755	809	857	960
Brisbane .. .. .	535	488	610	897	647	719	764	825	834
Adelaide .. .. .	553	541	784	1,095	832	804	839	851	950
Perth .. .. .	789	824	881	1,103	798	788	867	887	926
Hobart .. .. .	668	638	780	1,244	861	849	928	961	957
Weighted Average (a) ..	538	522	691	1,010	784	792	842	877	948

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

Sydney .. .. .	523	553	646	1,062	825	840	848	868	904
Melbourne .. .. .	517	523	610	1,063	748	784	809	826	884
Brisbane .. .. .	530	569	603	1,044	727	763	791	828	838
Adelaide .. .. .	532	570	679	1,066	767	780	798	826	861
Perth .. .. .	679	753	748	1,116	807	821	853	881	894
Hobart .. .. .	565	592	678	1,133	786	792	827	870	886
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	783	806	825	851	886

## SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS)

Sydney .. .. .	593	701	760	989	860	891	930	965	1,004
Melbourne .. .. .	435	569	628	820	808	850	882	909	935
Brisbane .. .. .	283	373	466	630	691	720	766	822	841
Adelaide .. .. .	510	706	645	809	700	736	795	832	868
Perth .. .. .	458	524	589	730	794	792	844	861	872
Hobart .. .. .	405	452	518	881	865	890	908	899	913
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	810	839	879	912	942

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

Sydney .. .. .	548	606	687	1,036	840	858	878	904	941
Melbourne .. .. .	495	539	616	977	769	808	835	862	902
Brisbane .. .. .	442	500	554	877	723	747	781	824	838
Adelaide .. .. .	524	618	671	975	742	764	796	826	862
Perth .. .. .	594	672	679	982	802	810	849	871	887
Hobart .. .. .	508	542	621	1,044	814	827	856	879	891
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	792	818	844	872	906

(a) For Six Capital Cities.

3. Retail Price Index-Numbers: Thirty Towns, 1934 to 1939.—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.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>												
1934 ..	825	834	917	815	802	827	748	774	783	760	783	751
1935 ..	840	860	935	822	824	843	784	812	809	797	815	786
1936 ..	848	866	949	841	838	851	809	839	824	806	823	810
1937 ..	868	886	1,001	874	853	872	836	857	841	834	834	837
1938 ..	904	925	1,092	933	898	909	884	882	889	889	891	884
1938 June Qtr.	893	915	1,082	925	890	898	873	871	876	878	878	873
Sept. ..	926	943	1,094	948	911	930	906	901	906	910	918	906
Dec. ..	917	950	1,125	958	916	924	907	896	913	919	923	907
1939 Mar. Qtr.	944	973	1,160	968	942	951	951	933	938	947	948	950
June ..	930	962	1,121	991	938	936	942	911	929	945	953	942
1938.												
April ..	885	903	1,080	917	880	891	856	856	864	864	869	857
May ..	887	910	1,086	922	884	893	876	874	881	882	877	876
June ..	905	930	1,080	936	905	911	887	884	883	888	888	887
July ..	923	936	1,084	944	911	927	898	902	895	897	918	898
August ..	930	949	1,096	955	915	935	915	906	914	920	923	915
September ..	924	945	1,102	945	907	929	905	896	911	913	913	905
October ..	918	953	1,114	951	906	925	907	885	909	917	916	901
November ..	909	949	1,128	953	914	916	896	886	904	914	910	896
December ..	925	958	1,132	970	929	932	925	916	926	925	944	923
1939												
January ..	937	964	1,144	984	932	943	931	914	920	924	944	930
February ..	957	982	1,174	1,006	948	964	962	936	947	957	951	960
March ..	938	973	1,163	1,002	946	961	954	946	961	961	950	960
April ..	937	975	1,156	995	944	914	962	957	945	962	959	961
May ..	924	957	1,144	990	936	931	936	935	922	942	942	936
June ..	928	953	1,064	987	935	933	927	931	920	932	948	927
<b>HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>												
1934 ..	860	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	850	894
1938 ..	1,004	860	730	873	822	985	935	695	709	851	915	917
1938 June Qtr.	999	857	733	873	816	980	933	695	710	845	916	915
Sept. ..	1,010	863	738	873	815	991	938	697	709	851	915	921
Dec. ..	1,020	876	738	873	841	1,001	943	697	707	864	916	925
1939 Mar. Qtr.	1,027	879	756	872	841	1,007	949	713	725	870	916	932
June ..	1,033	889	757	870	839	1,014	954	713	725	875	916	936
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>												
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	815	780	777	845	827	831
1937 ..	904	858	869	872	818	890	862	794	798	833	842	847
1938 ..	941	898	948	908	867	937	902	808	817	872	898	895
1938 June Qtr.	932	890	943	903	859	928	894	801	809	863	891	888
Sept. ..	956	910	953	917	872	952	916	820	827	885	915	910
Dec. ..	955	917	972	922	885	952	919	816	831	895	918	912
1939 Mar. Qtr.	974	934	1,000	946	900	971	948	845	853	915	934	941
June ..	968	931	977	941	898	964	944	850	848	916	936	937

(e) 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.	Rundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S. A.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES</b>												
1934 ..	727	694	766	807 <sup>b</sup>	732 <sup>c</sup>	730	767	840	795	745	796	770
1935 ..	763	732	803	849 <sup>b</sup>	754 <sup>c</sup>	765	780	860	813	777	812	784
1936 ..	791	761	846	886 <sup>b</sup>	781 <sup>c</sup>	795	798	874	864	804	838	803
1937 ..	828	794	863	901	869	835	826	901	937	845	870	832
1938 ..	<b>838</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>866</b>
1938 Mar. Qtr	833	787	879	920	877	841	843	892	915	865	887	847
June ..	836	797	880	928	885	844	865	905	931	866	898	869
Sept. ..	848	804	884	937	889	855	870	911	942	874	899	874
Dec. ..	835	789	874	939	883	843	866	919	958	903	915	872
1939 Mar. Qtr	884	841	922	985	928	892	907	965	1,005	923	981	913
June ..	857	822	901	960	910	866	904	960	997	950	977	910
<b>1938</b>												
April ..	830	794	877	921	880	839	861	902	920	866	900	865
May ..	836	798	879	930	885	844	869	909	940	874	901	873
June ..	843	800	883	933	890	850	865	904	935	859	894	868
July ..	845	805	888	941	892	853	868	907	940	860	897	872
August ..	854	806	889	938	893	860	877	918	946	881	899	881
September ..	846	800	875	934	884	852	865	908	940	881	902	860
October ..	839	791	877	939	882	847	862	914	949	883	905	867
November ..	824	781	863	933	875	833	860	915	950	907	910	866
December ..	843	794	881	946	892	850	878	928	975	920	931	884
<b>1939.</b>												
January ..	868	819	914	973	912	876	888	946	983	914	943	894
February ..	868	859	931	992	940	906	914	978	1,018	929	1,004	921
March ..	887	843	922	989	933	895	919	971	1,013	927	995	925
April ..	883	850	922	982	934	892	919	971	1,005	930	986	924
May ..	848	815	897	952	901	858	899	969	995	978	975	907
June ..	838	802	884	916	896	848	892	966	991	941	970	890
<b>HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS)</b>												
1934 ..	691	732	595	515 <sup>b</sup>	625 <sup>c</sup>	681	700	388	598	623	653	684
1935 ..	720	746	596	530 <sup>b</sup>	645 <sup>c</sup>	707	736	393	625	626	663	719
1936 ..	766	798	608	510 <sup>b</sup>	622 <sup>c</sup>	748	795	381	629	648	721	772
1937 ..	822	840	728	844	575	810	832	371	659	685	737	808
1938 ..	<b>841</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>843</b>
1938 June Qtr	836	819	746	858	621	824	865	380	636	686	737	840
Sept. ..	844	856	747	859	641	831	873	389	636	686	737	847
Dec. ..	849	827	750	860	645	835	878	388	639	688	745	852
1939 Mar. Qtr	852	848	753	860	638	839	884	388	701	688	747	857
June ..	853	836	753	861	638	839	888	388	704	685	748	861
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.</b>												
1934 ..	713	705	705	703 <sup>b</sup>	694 <sup>c</sup>	712	742	680	725	701	746	739
1935 ..	747	737	730	736 <sup>b</sup>	716 <sup>c</sup>	745	764	694	746	723	759	791
1936 ..	781	774	757	741 <sup>b</sup>	721 <sup>c</sup>	777	796	689	775	745	793	791
1937 ..	824	810	808	877	752	823	826	662	811	780	816	821
1938 ..	<b>838</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>855</b>
1938 June Qtr	834	804	826	899	780	834	863	702	834	794	834	856
Sept. ..	845	814	829	905	791	844	869	705	840	799	834	861
Dec. ..	839	802	823	906	788	838	869	710	851	817	847	862
1939 Mar. Qtr	870	842	854	934	813	869	896	738	864	830	887	889
June ..	853	826	841	919	802	853	895	740	861	844	886	869

(a) See note at top of table on 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, 30 Counties, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Ceraldou.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1934 ..	807	987	849	846	817	823	786	765	793	795	899	784	783	786
1935 ..	821	977	852	850	846	834	792	789	830	808	903	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
1938 ..	899	1,049	935	918	925	911	880	889	916	908	975	889	886	890
1938 June Qtr.	908	1,058	943	914	930	920	878	883	912	900	980	885	879	883
Sept ..	907	1,068	942	914	934	920	874	895	921	910	982	888	904	907
Dec. ..	898	1,061	936	933	918	911	894	907	924	922	997	904	899	904
1939 Mar. Qtr.	931	1,092	966	950	947	944	913	913	932	926	1,012	918	935	939
June ..	950	1,095	982	977	955	962	921	910	939	936	1,024	924	935	929
1938.														
April ..	901	1,052	938	897	932	914	877	874	906	892	976	881	860	873
May ..	909	1,057	945	921	944	922	880	888	915	902	980	888	878	882
June ..	913	1,065	946	925	932	925	876	889	915	905	984	886	889	893
July ..	902	1,066	944	940	939	917	869	892	920	907	979	884	899	903
August ..	909	1,070	941	938	930	922	876	898	922	914	986	890	910	913
September ..	909	1,067	940	941	931	922	877	896	919	909	981	890	902	906
October ..	907	1,063	939	942	928	920	878	898	926	911	993	892	898	902
November ..	888	1,056	931	931	901	902	891	908	923	936	1,000	903	890	895
December ..	898	1,065	939	927	924	912	912	916	924	919	999	917	910	914
1939														
January ..	910	1,077	949	932	934	924	903	905	919	913	1,001	908	921	925
February ..	940	1,108	971	947	952	953	917	921	942	941	1,016	923	947	950
March ..	942	1,091	978	971	955	954	920	912	935	925	1,020	922	938	942
April ..	961	1,104	991	983	962	972	922	917	941	937	1,028	925	939	943
May ..	944	1,089	981	978	952	956	925	917	940	937	1,022	927	919	924
June ..	945	1,093	971	970	951	957	917	913	937	934	1,021	921	916	920

HOUSING—(4 AND 5 ROOMS).

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	698	736	730	836	839	828
1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	908	811	750	726	755	755	858	879	866
1937 ..	861	1,309	860	983	1,064	901	899	826	816	723	798	861	912	897
1938 ..	872	1,316	879	994	1,055	911	913	838	830	756	788	875	942	925
1938 June Qtr.	871	1,321	880	994	1,054	910	912	836	830	752	787	873	938	922
Sept. ..	873	1,324	875	995	1,054	912	914	839	830	757	791	876	946	929
Dec. ..	877	1,317	880	992	1,055	915	917	845	831	757	803	880	953	936
1939 Mar. Qtr.	878	1,317	883	1,003	1,058	916	920	847	831	757	803	882	959	941
June ..	881	1,321	886	1,000	1,066	919	924	849	830	763	803	885	963	946

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

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	785	783	843	811	818	816
1936 ..	849	1,061	858	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	844	835	844	841
1937 ..	871	1,126	899	921	1,009	894	879	843	866	824	874	895	872	860
1938 ..	887	1,152	911	945	974	909	891	867	880	846	900	882	908	902
1938 June Qtr.	891	1,158	916	943	970	914	889	863	878	840	902	879	900	896
Sept. ..	892	1,168	914	959	978	915	888	871	883	848	905	881	918	914
Dec. ..	888	1,159	912	954	969	911	901	881	886	856	919	893	918	914
1939 Mar. Qtr.	908	1,177	931	968	988	931	914	885	890	858	929	902	942	938
June ..	921	1,181	942	984	996	943	920	888	895	866	936	907	938	934

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

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

1. **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 June Quarter 1939.**—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.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	638	...	...	...	...	...	616	...	...	...	...	...
" 1921	964	977	971	950	935	964	923	928	919	941	948	924
Year 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 ..	848	860	949	841	838	851	809	839	824	806	823	810
" 1937 ..	868	880	1,001	874	855	872	836	857	851	834	834	817
" 1938 ..	904	925	1,092	933	898	909	884	882	889	889	891	884
1938 June Qtr	893	915	1,082	925	890	898	873	871	876	878	878	873
" Sept. "	926	943	1,094	948	911	930	906	901	906	910	918	906
" Dec. "	917	950	1,123	958	916	924	907	896	913	919	923	907
1939 Mar. Qtr	944	973	1,160	998	942	951	951	933	938	947	948	950
" June "	930	962	1,121	991	938	936	942	941	929	945	953	942

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

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	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Meroona, and Willaroo	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 (a)	614	..	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	981b	936c	950	941	945	968	923	997	943
Year 1933 ..	699	678	749	802b	727c	706	731	802	750	749	773	735
" 1934 ..	727	694	766	807b	732c	730	767	840	795	745	796	776
" 1935 ..	763	732	803	849b	754c	765	780	860	813	777	812	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	812
" 1938 ..	838	794	879	931	884	846	861	907	937	877	900	866
1938 June Qtr.	836	797	880	928	885	844	865	905	931	866	898	866
" Sept. "	848	804	884	937	889	855	870	911	942	874	899	874
" Dec. "	835	789	874	939	883	843	866	919	958	903	915	872
1939 Mar. Qtr.	884	841	922	985	928	802	907	965	1,005	923	981	913
" June "	857	822	901	960	910	866	904	969	997	950	977	910

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth and Fremantle	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities, 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 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	789	830	808	905	797	806	810
" 1936 ..	853	998	898	866	910	866	827	806	847	831	898	821	825	828
" 1937 ..	882	1,012	929	891	961	892	870	857	902	897	927	870	851	854
" 1938 ..	899	1,049	935	918	925	911	880	839	916	908	975	889	886	890
1938 June Qtr.	908	1,058	943	914	936	920	878	883	912	900	980	885	879	883
" Sept. "	907	1,068	942	940	931	920	874	895	921	910	982	888	904	907
" Dec. "	898	1,061	936	933	918	911	894	907	924	922	997	904	899	904
1939 Mar. Qtr.	931	1,092	966	950	947	944	913	913	932	926	1,012	918	935	939
" June "	950	1,095	982	977	955	962	921	916	939	936	1,024	924	925	929

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 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 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	810	666	688	812	843	838		
" 1936 ..	930	857	653	870	814	918	882	683	702	861	836	869		
" 1937 ..	965	830	669	873	816	947	909	690	720	836	859	894		
" 1938 ..	1,004	860	730	873	822	985	935	695	709	851	915	917		
1938 June Qtr.	999	857	733	873	816	980	933	695	710	845	916	915		
" Sept. "	1,010	863	738	873	815	991	938	697	709	851	915	921		
" Dec. "	1,020	870	738	873	841	1,001	943	697	707	864	916	925		
1939 Mar. Qtr.	1,027	879	756	872	841	1,007	949	713	725	870	916	932		
" June "	1,033	889	757	870	839	1,014	954	713	725	875	916	936		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	McGambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	528b	535c	594	819	566	603	492	566	781		
Year 1933 ..	681	708	567	517b	610c	666	694	379	601	610	710	676		
" 1934 ..	691	732	595	515b	625c	681	700	388	598	623	653	684		
" 1935 ..	720	746	596	530b	645c	707	736	393	625	626	663	719		
" 1936 ..	766	798	608	510b	622c	748	795	381	629	648	721	772		
" 1937 ..	822	840	728	844	575	810	832	371	659	685	737	808		
" 1938 ..	841	834	744	857	626	828	868	386	689	687	739	843		
1938 June Qtr.	836	819	746	858	621	824	865	389	686	686	737	840		
" Sept. "	844	856	747	859	641	831	873	380	686	686	737	847		
" Dec. "	849	827	750	860	645	835	878	388	689	688	745	852		
1939 Mar. Qtr.	852	848	753	860	638	839	884	388	701	688	747	857		
" June "	853	836	753	861	638	839	888	388	704	685	748	861		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.							
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Hambury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Ave., W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Ave., Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 20 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	586	..	..	..	..	..	525	..	..	..	..	..	649	..
" 1921 ..	754	578	616	649	779	709	870	676	394	150	495	729	877	823
Year 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	810	940	813	890	778	698	736	730	826	839	828
" 1936 ..	844	1,174	794	886	1,010	810	908	811	750	726	755	858	879	866
" 1937 ..	861	1,309	860	983	1,064	901	899	816	733	798	798	861	912	897
" 1938 ..	872	1,319	879	994	1,055	911	913	838	830	756	788	875	942	925
1938 June Qtr.	871	1,321	880	994	1,054	910	912	836	830	751	787	873	938	922
" Sept. "	873	1,324	875	995	1,054	912	914	830	830	757	791	876	946	929
" Dec. "	877	1,317	880	992	1,055	915	917	845	831	757	803	860	953	936
1939 Mar. Qtr.	878	1,317	883	1,003	1,058	916	920	847	831	757	803	882	959	941
" June "	881	1,321	886	1,000	1,066	919	924	849	830	763	803	885	963	946

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 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.	Ceelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	977	944	825	926	815	965	895	769	780	844	855	866		
Year 1933 ..	822	791	789	794	778	818	742	666	698	731	761	738		
" 1934 ..	840	818	818	817	794	838	760	730	738	753	789	766		
" 1935 ..	848	853	832	835	803	857	808	760	766	803	826	805		
" 1936 ..	878	858	837	854	829	875	838	780	777	825	827	831		
" 1937 ..	904	858	866	872	838	899	862	794	798	833	842	857		
" 1938 ..	941	898	948	908	867	937	902	808	817	872	898	895		
1938 June Qtr.	932	890	943	903	859	928	894	801	809	863	891	888		
" Sept. "	956	910	953	917	872	952	916	820	827	885	915	910		
" Dec. "	955	917	972	922	885	952	919	816	831	895	918	912		
1939 Mar. Qtr.	974	934	1,000	946	900	971	948	845	853	915	934	941		
" June ..	968	931	977	941	898	964	944	850	848	916	936	937		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Renfrew, 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 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		
" 1938 ..	838	806	825	900	781	837	862	702	838	801	836	855		
1938 June Qtr.	834	804	826	899	780	834	863	702	834	794	834	856		
" Sept. "	845	814	829	905	791	844	869	705	840	799	834	861		
" Dec. "	839	802	823	906	788	838	869	710	851	817	847	862		
1939 Mar. Qtr.	870	842	854	934	813	869	896	738	884	830	887	889		
" June ..	853	826	841	910	802	853	895	740	887	844	886	889		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.					TASMANIA.								
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	689	..	..	..	..	..	630	..	..	..	..	..	644	..
" 1921 ..	916	928	898	907	942	918	971	858	819	696	871	911	924	907
Year 1933 ..	768	890	798	782	821	782	792	746	732	733	809	774	768	765
" 1934 ..	802	955	825	820	855	876	814	766	745	754	830	794	792	790
" 1935 ..	810	1,003	822	836	879	826	827	785	793	783	843	811	818	816
" 1936 ..	849	1,064	858	873	945	867	856	807	810	790	844	835	844	841
" 1937 ..	871	1,126	899	924	999	909	879	843	866	824	874	865	872	865
" 1938 ..	887	1,152	911	945	974	904	891	867	880	846	900	882	896	902
1938 June Qtr.	891	1,158	916	943	980	914	889	863	878	840	902	879	900	896
" Sept. "	862	1,165	944	959	978	915	888	871	883	848	905	881	918	914
" Dec. "	888	1,159	912	954	969	911	901	831	886	856	919	893	918	914
1939 Mar Qtr.	908	1,177	931	968	988	931	914	885	890	858	929	902	942	938
" June ..	921	1,181	942	984	996	943	920	888	895	866	936	907	938	934

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 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.	Warrambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 (a)	755	..	..	..	..	..	780	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,455	1,327	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,463	1,612	1,326
Year 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	822	803
" 1938 ..	833	810	833	848	824	831	820	843	832	833	831	823
1938 June Qtr.	834	811	834	849	824	832	810	842	833	833	831	821
" Sept. "	834	813	835	850	824	833	821	843	814	835	830	822
" Dec. "	834	811	835	851	827	832	819	844	830	835	831	821
1939 Mar. Qtr.	835	812	837	852	828	834	819	844	829	837	832	821
" June "	841	817	850	860	838	840	822	844	836	841	836	824

  

Period.	QUEENSLAND.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	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	1,433	1,460	1,697	1,180	1,238
Year 1933 ..	791	912	832	764	844	804	830	849	796	961	951	833
" 1934 ..	786	897	815	750	840	796	846	828	794	944	964	871
" 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	831
" 1937 ..	794	805	826	812	806	799	821	804	811	818	814	820
" 1938 ..	823	826	840	833	831	825	857	848	846	846	844	856
1938 June Qtr.	823	828	839	833	832	825	859	844	852	849	847	859
" Sept. "	825	828	841	833	834	827	859	853	853	850	846	858
" Dec. "	829	829	846	841	836	831	861	852	849	854	844	860
1939 Mar. Qtr.	829	829	847	842	840	832	860	850	850	851	845	859
" June "	833	831	847	845	846	835	861	850	852	848	841	860

  

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.						TASMANIA.						
	Perth and Fremantle.	Kalgoorlie and Boulder.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	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
Year 1933 ..	819	1,033	791	874	834	843	881	962	847	831	1,067	905	787
" 1934 ..	815	1,035	767	864	821	834	882	958	839	844	1,048	907	785
" 1935 ..	825	1,056	775	911	839	843	903	938	813	827	987	910	783
" 1936 ..	815	959	802	878	851	827	857	873	807	826	375	859	792
" 1937 ..	806	832	819	828	827	809	821	825	820	832	320	822	811
" 1938 ..	823	846	835	845	841	826	848	839	835	845	342	844	829
1938 June Qtr.	825	848	837	847	843	828	847	836	835	846	342	843	830
" Sept. "	825	849	837	847	843	828	847	836	835	845	343	843	831
" Dec. "	826	848	837	847	843	829	852	845	837	844	346	848	831
1939 Mar. Qtr.	825	848	837	847	843	828	852	846	838	839	348	849	832
" June "	825	850	836	846	842	828	854	848	841	839	351	851	836

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 1914 to 1920, see page 24. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick.

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	Bendigo.	Geelong	Warrnam-bool.	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	880	1,015		
Year 1933 ..	988	913	985	871	879	979	916	874	904	885	827	912		
" 1934 ..	975	921	988	867	864	969	914	877	908	880	825	911		
" 1935 ..	976	927	964	868	867	970	922	880	922	873	851	918		
" 1936 ..	949	900	1,007	887	881	945	947	958	977	947	922	948		
" 1937 ..	939	895	1,061	901	902	937	978	1,006	1,011	995	953	980		
" 1938 ..	936	903	1,053	909	892	935	962	1,006	1,011	994	954	983		
1938 June Qtr.	931	905	1,052	910	893	934	982	1,006	1,011	994	953	983		
" Sept. "	935	905	1,052	912	890	934	982	1,005	1,011	993	953	983		
" Dec. "	935	906	1,052	910	890	934	981	1,005	1,011	992	954	983		
1939 Mar. Qtr.	937	896	1,046	906	886	935	978	985	1,001	975	947	979		
" June "	930	899	1,048	908	887	937	974	988	1,003	977	949	975		
Period.	QUEENSLAND						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Townsville	Bundaberg	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kodjia, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 (a)	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009b	988r	958	1,033	1,065	1,065	1,032	1,000	1,036		
Year 1933 ..	900	909	881	973b	897r	901	983	944	944	957	956	980		
" 1934 ..	900	907	876	967b	891r	900	976	937	944	949	958	973		
" 1935 ..	904	909	877	1,015b	929r	905	973	941	921	937	968	969		
" 1936 ..	917	929	920	1,067b	993r	922	993	978	936	970	1,003	991		
" 1937 ..	941	988	969	1,000	1,007	952	1,022	981	995	1,013	1,015	1,020		
" 1938 ..	947	990	971	1,000	1,001	957	1,023	991	1,001	1,017	1,011	1,021		
1938 June Qtr.	947	1,000	975	1,002	1,013	958	1,022	988	998	1,017	1,011	1,020		
" Sept. "	949	981	976	1,002	991	958	1,022	991	1,003	1,017	1,015	1,020		
" Dec. "	949	981	961	995	992	956	1,021	991	1,002	1,018	997	1,019		
1939 Mar. Qtr.	951	981	963	996	989	958	1,019	986	995	1,013	995	1,016		
" June "	955	989	968	995	993	962	1,020	988	998	1,014	997	1,018		
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)	780	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	749	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,019	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	932	985	941	960	939	934	1,010	1,009
Year 1933 ..	945	963	895	894	966	945	860	864	825	827	803	856	950	944
" 1934 ..	943	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	908	839	859	841	887	947	946
" 1937 ..	946	971	953	903	1,058	950	939	947	869	876	854	933	960	961
" 1938 ..	949	968	953	909	1,053	951	933	939	860	867	843	927	961	962
1938 June Qtr.	948	968	953	910	1,053	951	930	944	863	864	842	926	960	961
" Sept. "	947	968	953	910	1,052	950	931	931	867	864	842	923	961	961
" Dec. "	952	971	951	910	1,050	955	930	931	866	865	841	922	961	961
1939 Mar. Qtr.	952	972	946	910	1,055	955	929	934	867	876	872	924	960	960
" June "	952	972	947	910	1,028	954	939	943	876	885	862	935	961	960

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities November 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.	Warrnam-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	
Nov. 1914 (a)	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..	
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	991	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003	
Year 1933 ..	837	819	806	843	801	830	789	760	789	772	812	787	
" 1934 ..	842	834	819	852	807	841	801	781	811	782	826	801	
" 1935 ..	852	856	819	860	814	852	824	803	820	848	850	824	
" 1936 ..	866	853	848	864	833	865	814	826	821	848	851	843	
" 1937 ..	889	849	893	867	842	886	868	839	840	855	856	866	
" 1938 ..	913	877	940	893	860	911	896	850	854	834	892	893	
1938 June Qtr.	908	873	937	890	856	906	892	846	850	879	887	889	
" Sept. "	923	886	943	899	862	920	905	857	860	892	901	902	
" Dec. "	922	889	934	902	871	920	906	855	862	898	904	903	
1939 Mar. Qtr.	934	893	970	916	880	932	923	869	873	907	912	919	
" June "	932	898	959	915	880	929	921	872	870	909	914	917	
Period.	QUEENSLAND.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Townsville.	Bundaberg.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Altona, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	
Nov. 1914 (a)	611	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..	
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,023	994	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992	
Year 1933 ..	751	778	752	762	757	753	789	747	762	800	832	787	
" 1934 ..	762	785	759	759	761	764	806	758	778	800	832	804	
" 1935 ..	780	785	776	789	769	780	820	763	789	809	833	817	
" 1936 ..	804	802	802	810	779	803	830	765	813	818	843	835	
" 1937 ..	837	840	840	883	809	840	859	769	844	830	851	855	
" 1938 ..	852	843	853	902	831	854	888	786	868	849	868	883	
1938 June Qtr.	850	844	854	901	833	853	889	787	866	846	868	884	
" Sept. "	858	846	857	905	835	859	893	789	871	849	868	888	
" Dec. "	855	839	852	906	834	856	893	791	877	861	872	888	
1939 Mar. Qtr.	874	863	871	923	849	875	908	806	805	867	896	904	
" June "	866	855	864	915	845	867	908	808	894	875	895	904	
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.					TASMANIA.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queens-town.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 (a)	707	..	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	687	..
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,040	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,003	904	1,031	1,057	1,013
Year 1933 ..	811	937	814	824	851	825	825	817	775	773	867	820	804
" 1934 ..	830	975	825	843	856	842	837	828	780	787	876	831	817
" 1935 ..	834	1,011	829	865	886	848	849	834	792	801	873	841	832
" 1936 ..	856	1,027	869	880	933	870	860	840	814	809	850	850	850
" 1937 ..	869	1,030	890	897	970	884	875	856	854	833	857	866	873
" 1938 ..	884	1,048	900	914	957	897	897	872	865	848	875	879	897
1938 June Qtr.	886	1,052	901	914	961	900	885	870	863	844	876	877	894
" Sept. "	886	1,057	902	923	960	901	885	872	867	848	878	878	905
" Dec. "	884	1,053	901	920	955	899	893	880	869	852	836	886	905
1939 Mar. Qtr.	896	1,064	911	928	967	911	901	883	872	855	898	892	919
" June "	904	1,067	918	937	966	918	907	888	877	861	905	897	917

(a) For index-numbers for Capital Cities, November 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.	1937.					1938.				
	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 .. .. .	352	251	202	195	1,000	356	254	201	189	1,000
Newcastle .. .. .	374	226	206	194	1,000	380	227	203	190	1,000
Broken Hill .. .. .	403	174	203	220	1,000	418	180	195	207	1,000
Goulburn .. .. .	363	233	211	193	1,000	377	226	209	188	1,000
Bathurst .. .. .	366	223	213	198	1,000	376	221	211	192	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	355	247	202	196	1,000	359	251	200	190	1,000
<b>Victoria—</b>										
Melbourne .. .. .	347	242	203	208	1,000	355	241	201	203	1,000
Ballarat .. .. .	368	192	217	223	1,000	374	189	218	219	1,000
Bendigo .. .. .	365	198	214	223	1,000	375	192	214	219	1,000
Geelong .. .. .	351	226	208	215	1,000	362	223	207	208	1,000
Warrnambool .. .. .	350	233	211	206	1,000	360	236	205	199	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	348	239	204	209	1,000	357	237	202	204	1,000
<b>Queensland—</b>										
Brisbane .. .. .	356	227	209	208	1,000	354	228	212	206	1,000
Toowoomba .. .. .	340	231	211	218	1,000	340	227	216	217	1,000
Rockhampton .. .. .	370	200	217	213	1,000	371	201	217	211	1,000
Townsville .. .. .	367	221	203	209	1,000	372	220	203	205	1,000
Bundaberg .. .. .	387	164	219	230	1,000	383	174	220	223	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	358	222	210	210	1,000	357	224	212	207	1,000
<b>South Australia—</b>										
Adelaide .. .. .	347	223	210	220	1,000	349	226	212	213	1,000
Kadina, etc. .. .. .	421	112	230	237	1,000	417	113	237	233	1,000
Port Pirie .. .. .	390	181	211	218	1,000	380	183	215	213	1,000
Mount Gambler .. .. .	366	191	217	226	1,000	372	187	219	222	1,000
Peterborough .. .. .	368	201	210	221	1,000	373	197	215	215	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	351	217	211	221	1,000	353	220	213	214	1,000
<b>Western Australia—</b>										
Perth, etc. .. .. .	365	229	205	201	1,000	367	229	205	199	1,000
Kalgoorlie, etc. .. .. .	353	294	178	175	1,000	361	291	177	171	1,000
Northam .. .. .	375	224	202	199	1,000	374	226	204	196	1,000
Bunbury .. .. .	358	253	203	186	1,000	362	251	203	184	1,000
Geraldton .. .. .	357	253	188	202	1,000	348	255	193	204	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	363	235	202	200	1,000	366	235	203	196	1,000
<b>Tasmania—</b>										
Hobart .. .. .	358	237	206	199	1,000	357	238	210	195	1,000
Launceston .. .. .	361	223	211	205	1,000	367	222	211	200	1,000
Burnie .. .. .	381	220	211	188	1,000	382	222	212	184	1,000
Devonport .. .. .	385	201	220	194	1,000	385	206	219	190	1,000
Queenstown .. .. .	390	214	210	186	1,000	402	208	212	178	1,000
Weighted Average, 5 Towns	361	230	209	200	1,000	364	230	210	196	1,000
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	354	238	204	204	1,000	358	239	204	199	1,000
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities	351	241	204	204	1,000	356	243	203	198	1,000
Charters Towers (Q) .. .. .	391	135	221	253	1,000	395	136	222	247	1,000
Warwick (Q) .. .. .	368	170	225	237	1,000	367	176	226	231	1,000
Port Augusta (S A) .. .. .	401	168	214	217	1,000	397	173	217	213	1,000

4. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency: Capital Cities, 1933 to 1939.—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	Adelalde	Perth.	Hobart	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities
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**GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES**

	<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>
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
1938 ..	18 1	17 8	16 9	17 3	18 0	17 7	17 9
1938 Mar. Qtr.	17 7	17 0	16 8	16 10	17 8	17 6	17 3
.. June ..	17 10	17 6	16 9	17 4	18 2	17 7	17 7
.. Sept. ..	18 6	18 1	17 0	17 5	18 2	17 6	18 1
.. Dec. ..	18 4	18 2	16 8	17 4	18 0	17 11	18 0
1939 Mar. ..	18 11	19 0	17 8	18 2	18 7	18 3	18 8
.. June ..	18 7	18 10	17 2	18 1	19 0	18 5	18 6

**GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).**

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
1938 ..	20 1	18 8	16 10	17 4	17 5	18 3	18 10
1938 Mar. Qtr.	19 9	18 6	16 7	17 2	17 4	18 2	18 7
.. June ..	20 0	18 8	16 9	17 4	17 5	18 3	18 9
.. Sept. ..	20 2	18 9	16 11	17 6	17 6	18 3	18 11
.. Dec. ..	20 5	18 10	17 0	17 7	17 7	18 4	19 1
1939 Mar. ..	20 7	19 0	17 1	17 8	17 7	18 5	19 2
.. June ..	20 8	19 1	17 1	17 9	17 7	18 7	19 3

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

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
1938 ..	18 10	18 1	16 9	17 3	17 9	17 10	18 1
1938 Mar. Qtr.	18 5	17 7	16 8	16 11	17 6	17 9	17 9
.. June ..	18 8	17 11	16 8	17 3	17 10	17 9	18 0
.. Sept. ..	19 1	18 4	16 11	17 5	17 10	17 9	18 4
.. Dec. ..	19 1	18 5	16 9	17 5	17 9	18 0	18 4
1939 Mar. ..	19 6	19 0	17 5	17 11	18 2	18 3	18 10
.. June ..	19 4	18 11	17 1	17 11	18 5	18 5	18 9

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

continued.

(Base of each Group : Weighted average of Six Capitals Cities, 1923-27 = 206. 0d.)

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
1933	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.	a. d.
1934	14 10	16 3	15 10	16 7	16 5	17 7	15 9
1935	14 11	16 1	15 9	16 11	16 4	17 8	15 8
1936	15 7	15 11	15 5	17 1	16 0	18 1	15 8
1937	15 4	15 10	15 7	16 8	16 4	17 2	15 10
1938	16 4	16 1	15 11	16 5	16 1	16 5	16 3
1938	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 2	16 6	17 0	16 7
1938	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 2	16 6	16 11	16 7
1939	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 3	16 6	16 11	16 7
1939	16 8	16 5	16 7	17 2	16 6	17 1	16 8
1939	16 8	16 5	16 7	17 2	16 6	17 1	16 8
1939	16 10	16 5	16 8	17 3	16 6	17 1	16 9
1938	Mar. Qtr.	16 5	16 3	17 0	16 4	16 11	16 6
1938	June "	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 2	16 6	16 7
1938	Sept. "	16 8	16 5	16 6	17 2	16 6	16 7
1939	Dec. "	16 8	16 5	16 7	17 3	16 6	16 7
1939	Mar. "	16 8	16 5	16 7	17 2	16 6	16 8
1939	June "	16 10	16 5	16 8	17 3	16 6	16 9

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

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 7	18 11
1937	18 9	19 7	18 10	20 5	18 11	18 9	19 2
1938	18 9	19 8	18 11	20 6	19 0	18 8	19 3
1938	Mar. Qtr.	18 10	19 7	18 10	18 11	18 10	19 3
1938	June "	18 8	19 8	18 11	19 0	18 7	19 2
1938	Sept. "	18 8	19 8	19 0	18 11	18 7	19 3
1938	Dec. "	18 8	19 7	19 0	19 1	18 7	19 3
1939	Mar. "	18 9	19 7	19 0	20 5	18 7	19 2
1939	June "	18 9	19 6	19 1	20 5	18 9	19 3

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

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
1938	18 3	17 11	17 1	17 9	17 8	17 9	17 11
1938	Mar. Qtr.	18 0	17 7	16 11	17 7	17 8	17 8
1938	June "	18 2	17 10	17 0	17 9	17 9	17 10
1938	Sept. "	18 6	18 1	17 -2	17 10	17 8	18 1
1938	Dec. "	18 5	18 1	17 10	17 8	17 10	18 1
1939	Mar. "	18 8	18 6	17 6	18 2	18 0	18 5
1939	June "	18 8	18 5	17 4	18 2	18 2	18 5

## 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	616	614	683	746	687	641
" 1915 ..	844	835	860	858	819	858	842
" 1916 ..	833	791	748	835	854	807	812
" 1917 ..	877	798	825	805	828	949	836
" 1918 ..	877	843	882	862	816	918	861
" 1919 ..	1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
" 1920 ..	1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 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	680	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 ..	1,000	976	899	1,040	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	881
" 1918 ..	988	950	931	988	1,035	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194
GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS 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 issues of these publications prior to No. 28 of 1937, 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 information collected 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 consider requests for special investigations by its staff of field officers.

**2. Retail Price Index-Numbers: 200 Towns, 1934 to 1938.**—In the following table the base of the index-numbers has been changed from that used in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 28 of 1937. The new base is the weighted average cost of food and groceries in the six capital cities in the period 1923-27.

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

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

State and Town	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.
<b>New South Wales—</b>					
Albury .. ..	794	803	857	864	930
Armidale .. ..	776	821	811	853	890
Ballina .. ..	803	812	853	852	930
Bathurst* .. ..	809	842	838	861	914
Bega .. ..	823	851	863	875	937
Berry .. ..	861	874	873	880	956
Blackheath .. ..	851	882	920	927	977
Bourke .. ..	847	873	901	913	1,002
Bowral .. ..	832	848	861	887	954
Broken Hill* .. ..	924	929	977	1,036	1,128

\* Information also available monthly for these towns.

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

State and Town.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.
<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>					
Casino .. ..	790	855	900	900	979
Cessnock .. ..	792	846	849	858	924
Cobar .. ..	976	1,012	1,031	1,038	1,109
Cooma .. ..	837	895	879	883	990
Coonamble .. ..	880	918	961	921	990
Cootamundra .. ..	789	824	849	829	944
Corrimal .. ..	817	834	876	884	920
Cowra .. ..	808	844	860	873	953
Cronulla .. ..	833	859	876	886	901
Deniliquin .. ..	864	883	907	967	995
Dubbo .. ..	771	842	848	863	892
Forbes .. ..	823	883	862	863	918
Gilgandra .. ..	846	873	864	881	938
Glen Innes .. ..	767	807	814	819	873
Goulburn* .. ..	824	846	855	888	952
Grafton .. ..	781	824	854	888	913
Grenfell .. ..	806	830	837	841	923
Griffith .. ..	908	913	940	936	983
Gulgong .. ..	782	821	855	839	883
Gunnedah .. ..	775	829	842	833	870
Hay .. ..	897	903	931	906	1,010
Inverell .. ..	809	848	802	831	878
Junee .. ..	817	828	876	914	922
Katoomba .. ..	833	867	885	915	970
Kempsey .. ..	810	803	811	836	889
Kiama .. ..	887	887	904	911	965
Kurri Kurri .. ..	818	808	839	838	919
Leeton .. ..	848	886	894	926	978
Lismore .. ..	782	834	886	918	994
Lithgow* .. ..	854	859	809	873	961
Maitland .. ..	788	833	832	835	906
Moree .. ..	878	886	904	894	956
Moss Vale .. ..	813	844	849	895	922
Mudgee .. ..	773	819	840	860	922
Narrabri .. ..	841	877	894	901	954
Narrandera .. ..	848	864	898	896	977
Newcastle* .. ..	849	880	869	882	940
Nowra .. ..	840	901	899	887	983
Orange .. ..	773	817	812	815	918
Parke .. ..	805	843	859	903	964
Penrith .. ..	788	806	818	825	868
Port Kembla .. ..	855	866	908	905	963
Portland .. ..	841	862	857	877	903
Queanbeyan .. ..	850	884	905	953	1,000
Quirindi .. ..	855	864	866	890	909
Richmond .. ..	839	826	816	827	826
Scone .. ..	809	836	861	871	893
Singleton .. ..	779	826	813	830	900
Sydney* .. ..	836	851	863	877	909
Tamworth .. ..	785	806	806	829	895

\* Information also available monthly for these towns.

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

State and Town.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.
<b>New South Wales—<i>contd.</i></b>					
Taree .. ..	785	848	864	889	922
Temora .. ..	803	804	823	862	961
Tenterfield .. ..	772	831	865	864	936
Tumut .. ..	810	832	837	842	947
Ulmarra .. ..	828	852	892	885	969
Wagga Wagga .. ..	797	835	850	884	935
Walcha .. ..	836	927	845	866	910
Wellington .. ..	831	818	828	829	851
Weston .. ..	792	818	835	841	913
Windsor .. ..	788	850	851	864	892
Wollongong .. ..	867	829	853	878	955
Wyalong .. ..	815	862	870	895	966
Yass .. ..	813	850	837	887	978
Young .. ..	853	855	843	867	948
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) .. ..	834	852	863	878	919
<b>Victoria—</b>					
Ararat .. ..	828	855	918	910	942
Bacchus Marsh .. ..	788	820	860	887	920
Bairnsdale .. ..	846	862	880	879	912
Ballarat* .. ..	777	818	872	860	886
Beechworth .. ..	813	828	885	890	969
Benalla .. ..	830	850	880	905	945
Bendigo* .. ..	794	812	856	853	904
Camperdown .. ..	814	849	863	868	932
Casterton .. ..	835	845	888	873	957
Castlemaine .. ..	775	828	845	848	884
Colac .. ..	813	817	842	850	907
Creswick .. ..	789	838	859	863	882
Daylesford .. ..	789	813	843	865	922
Dunolly .. ..	794	835	889	872	909
Echuca .. ..	784	824	846	857	921
Euroa .. ..	803	845	875	878	975
Geelong* .. ..	757	796	833	857	914
Hamilton .. ..	805	855	911	885	958
Healesville .. ..	818	831	892	917	947
Horsham .. ..	801	873	926	916	928
Kerang .. ..	819	869	895	927	941
Koroit .. ..	795	828	856	840	896
Korumburra .. ..	781	783	835	859	895
Kyneton .. ..	757	785	851	870	921
Lilydale .. ..	815	845	884	881	915
Maffra .. ..	785	825	901	865	925
Maldon .. ..	827	848	876	888	953
Maryborough .. ..	785	811	888	891	978
Melbourne* .. ..	758	797	833	848	896
Mildura .. ..	870	903	938	977	992
Morwell .. ..	822	842	858	887	922
Nhill .. ..	853	913	956	933	967
Orbost .. ..	814	870	912	919	968
Portland .. ..	804	863	863	862	903
Port Fairy .. ..	783	820	862	840	911

\* Information also available monthly for these towns.

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

State and Town.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.
<b>Victoria—continued.</b>					
St. Arnaud .. ..	851	875	930	930	997
Sale .. ..	785	827	895	890	958
Seymour .. ..	848	880	901	937	991
Shepparton .. ..	804	819	864	880	954
Stawell .. ..	801	911	949	934	1,007
Swan Hill .. ..	833	874	918	924	969
Terang .. ..	819	875	863	885	924
Traralgon .. ..	787	816	839	834	878
Wangaratta .. ..	787	827	880	879	955
Warracknabeal .. ..	788	828	858	881	936
Warragul .. ..	789	820	827	845	905
Warrnambool* .. ..	759	785	844	834	910
Wonthaggi .. ..	794	804	895	913	946
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) .. ..	765	803	841	854	902
<b>Queensland—</b>					
Ayr .. ..	819	825	841	867	913
Barcaldine .. ..	881	938	959	959	993
Bowen .. ..	888	885	902	902	961
Brisbane* .. ..	726	780	820	835	824
Bundaberg* .. ..	753	803	874	873	875
Cairns .. ..	837	887	915	914	949
Charleville .. ..	881	949	989	969	970
Charters Towers* .. ..	802	876	889	887	933
Chillagoe .. ..	913	900	915	946	944
Cloncurry .. ..	930	1,030	1,026	1,031	1,050
Cooktown .. ..	920	963	986	989	1,003
Cunnamulla .. ..	894	927	938	921	951
Dalby .. ..	760	807	870	836	835
Gayndah .. ..	792	851	907	867	895
Gladstone .. ..	771	827	871	870	903
Goondiwindi .. ..	820	889	914	868	893
Gympie .. ..	773	857	849	840	859
Hughenden .. ..	891	919	931	925	989
Innisfail .. ..	907	943	974	995	978
Ipswich .. ..	745	785	820	825	824
Longreach .. ..	921	978	990	993	1,009
Mackay .. ..	807	872	898	895	916
Maryborough .. ..	723	794	828	835	849
Mount Morgan .. ..	831	855	891	880	902
Nambour .. ..	767	834	844	863	883
Rockhampton* .. ..	764	839	864	877	863
Roma .. ..	823	877	885	870	921
Stanthorpe .. ..	775	803	817	830	898
Toowoomba* .. ..	695	751	800	789	781
Townsville* .. ..	817	887	904	921	933
Warwick* .. ..	721	792	820	795	822
Winton .. ..	919	931	951	963	1,021
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. ..	747	806	841	850	849

\* Information also available monthly for these towns.

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

State and Town.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.
<b>South Australia—</b>					
Adelaide* .. ..	774	784	804	833	860
Freeling .. ..	768	804	823	845	856
Gawler .. ..	777	772	814	827	840
Kadina, Moonta, Wall- aroo* .. ..	849	868	890	897	915
Kapunda .. ..	762	793	812	836	848
Koorunga .. ..	790	868	879	899	1,037
Millicent .. ..	806	805	820	918	875
Mount Gambier* ..	751	802	815	847	907
Murray Bridge ..	732	763	776	810	839
Peterborough* ..	806	816	851	884	910
Port Augusta* ..	864	892	926	945	949
Port Pirie* .. ..	813	811	896	915	950
Quorn .. ..	801	848	841	853	881
Renmark .. ..	791	920	919	906	931
Victor Harbour ..	908	815	839	852	857
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	779	791	813	841	868
<b>Western Australia—</b>					
Albany .. ..	871	884	896	892	911
Beverley .. ..	873	890	918	963	956
Bridgetown .. ..	918	930	955	973	971
Broome .. ..	1,155	1,142	1,180	1,181	1,184
Bunbury* .. ..	844	845	873	896	931
Carnarvon .. ..	1,008	1,032	1,082	1,127	1,128
Collie .. ..	862	855	901	874	804
Geraldton* .. ..	835	840	960	924	901
Greenbushes .. ..	924	946	960	937	965
Kalgoorlie and Boulder*	994	981	1,006	1,002	1,056
Katanning .. ..	844	829	884	872	904
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,084	1,094	1,140	1,168	1,172
Meekatharra .. ..	1,047	1,088	1,143	1,164	1,124
Narrogin .. ..	873	863	910	884	918
Northam* .. ..	845	850	910	905	931
Perth and Fremantle* ..	813	813	863	866	888
Wagin .. ..	817	856	924	870	908
York .. ..	802	859	848	867	922
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	833	835	882	884	907
<b>Tasmania—</b>					
Beaconsfield .. ..	801	818	841	830	912
Burnie* .. ..	821	837	883	906	923
Campbelltown .. ..	814	860	878	872	904
Deloraine .. ..	788	787	795	824	854
Devonport* .. ..	835	824	873	895	936
Franklin .. ..	889	896	868	905	911
Hobart* .. ..	813	797	874	889	891
Launceston* .. ..	786	793	844	870	908
New Norfolk .. ..	822	830	909	891	892
Queenstown* .. ..	913	900	920	922	1,000

\* Information also available monthly for these towns.

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

State and Town.	1934. November.	1935. November.	1936. November.	1937. November.	1938. November.
<b>Tasmania—continued.</b>					
Scottsdale .. ..	770	780	814	829	853
Ulverstone .. ..	815	812	888	867	889
Zeehan .. ..	966	943	981	983	1,001
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	812	805	867	884	903
<b>Australian Capital Ter- ritory (a)—</b>					
Canberra* .. ..	916	931	949	965	1,026
<b>Weighted Averages—</b>					
Australia (200 Towns) ..	797	825	851	865	906
Thirty Towns .. ..	795	820	847	862	895
Six Capitals .. ..	792	817	843	859	890

\* Information also available monthly for this town

(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, groceries 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 groceries and the 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 1913 to 1938. The table indicates that, since 1913, prices of food and groceries 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, groceries 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.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>								
All Towns (200) .. ..	1,000	1,578	1,241	1,312	1,356	1,400	1,423	1,490
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,240	1,314	1,355	1,400	1,425	1,479
Capital Cities only .. ..	1,000	1,588	1,248	1,324	1,365	1,410	1,435	1,487
<b>HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS.)</b>								
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,330	1,271	1,297	1,355	1,422	1,465	1,512
Capital Cities only .. ..	1,000	1,323	1,210	1,229	1,282	1,347	1,392	1,438
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>								
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,487	1,251	1,308	1,356	1,407	1,439	1,496
Capital Cities only .. ..	1,000	1,488	1,233	1,288	1,335	1,386	1,420	1,476

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* 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
<b>Total (a) ..</b>	<b>5 17 1</b>	<b>5 16 6</b>	<b>5 6 2</b>	<b>5 16 1</b>	<b>5 13 11</b>	<b>5 16 11</b>

(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 1)." 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 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 were continuously used in the "A" Series Index from 1912 to 30th June, 1938, when this series was discontinued. 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

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\* 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 a comprehensive nature. The Resolutions of the Conference are reprinted in Appendix XI. of Labour Report No. 27.

This Conference not only recommended extensive revisions of the regimen from which the indexes are compiled, but also considered methods of collection and compilation. As a result of its deliberations, and subsequent discussions by correspondence, many improvements and refinements were introduced.

The changes in the regimen 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 change was ever made in the method of calculating the rentals of "All Houses", and consequently these index-numbers were comparable throughout the whole period of their existence.\* In regard to rentals of houses of 4 and 5 rooms, however, the index-numbers for individual towns are comparable with each other up to 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.

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

(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 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.

(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 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 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 81s. 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 = 81s. 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 III. 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 by the judgment of the Court referred to under "C" series. 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 has been 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 pages 25 to 30.

(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 1938 and 1929 to 1938, as disclosed by the table in Appendix VIII. of this Report, the changes are substantially of the same order:—

	Increase per cent. 1911-1938.	Decrease per cent. 1929-1938.
Food and Groceries only .. .. .	58	15
Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses .. .. .	54	12
Food Groceries and Rent of 4 and 5-roomed Houses (" B " Series) .. .. .	57	14
" All Items " of Household Expenditure (" C " Series) .. .. .	49*	13

\* 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.	BELGIUM.	CHINA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
Number of Towns and Localities.	68-509	59	Shanghai.	100	21	Paris.	72	50	Tokio.	Amsterdam.
1932 .. ..	88	84	110	90	84	95	78	83	75	84
1933 .. ..	85	83	99	92	82	94	77	80	80	83
1934 .. ..	86	79	98	96	80	93	79	76	82	83
1935 .. ..	87	80	99	99	81	87	80	77	84	81
1936 .. ..	89	85	105	101	83	91	81	83	88	79
1937 .. ..	94	92	122	104	86	111	81	91	96	82
1938 .. ..	95	94	139	106	88	126	82	98	110	83
1938—										
March Qtr. ..	95	95	143	107	88	124	81	98	104	83
June .. ..	96	93	133	105	87	125	82	98	109	83
Sept. .. ..	95	93	143	106	87	124	82	98	112	83
Dec. .. ..	93	95	138	106	89	130	81	98	116	82
1939—										
March Qtr. ..	94	94	139	106	89		82	99	117	83

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Number of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	49	34	51-174	30	Bombay. (a)	60	25	9
1932 .. ..	90	74	92	86	79	81		82	84	90
1933 .. ..	89	67	91	81	76	78		79	79	88
1934 .. ..	89	62	91	80	79	80		79	81	87
1935 .. ..	91	60	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
1938 .. ..	103	61	98	85	86	87	106	84	95	94
1938—										
March Qtr. ..	103	61	97	85	87	86	107	84	94	94
June .. ..	103	61	98	85	87	87	105	84	95	94
Sept. .. ..	103	60	98	85	86	88	105	84	95	93
Dec. .. ..	102	60	98	85	86	88	105	84	95	93
1939—										
March Qtr. ..	102	60	99	85	85	89	104	83	96	94

\* With the following exception the index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items.—Japan, exclusive of housing. (a) 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.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	IRELAND.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
Number of Towns and Localities.	68-509	59	100	36 (a)	Paris	72	105	Milan.	Tokio.	Amsterdam
1927 ..	104	95	103	..	92	98	101	98	104	100
1928 ..	102	95	102	..	92	98	99	98	100	103
1929 ..	100	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930 ..	94	96	92	..	104	94	95	94	85	93
1931 ..	85	81	79	..	105	84	87	82	74	84
1932 ..	82	69	76	..	94	74	83	78	78	74
1933 ..	78	69	79	..	92	73	78	73	79	74
1934 ..	79	65	85	..	91	76	80	70	81	76
1935 ..	81	67	91	100	83	77	83	72	84	73
1936 ..	84	73	92	99	90	79	87	77	91	71
1937 ..	90	80	95	107	110	79	92	85	95	78
1938 ..	92	82	98	108	126	78	94	92	102	80

Period.	NORWAY	POLAND.	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES	AUSTRALIA	BRITISH INDIA	CANADA	NEW ZEALAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
Number of Towns and Localities	31	Warsaw	40	34	51	30	Bombay (b)	60	25	9
1927 ..	110	105	101	101	102	96	..	97	97	103
1928 ..	106	103	103	101	98	95	..	98	99	102
1929 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	..	100	100	100
1930 ..	96	86	93	97	92	90	..	98	96	96
1931 ..	88	76	86	90	75	79	..	77	83	91
1932 ..	85	67	83	80	63	77	..	64	77	83
1933 ..	83	60	81	75	64	72	100	63	72	86
1934 ..	84	54	81	74	71	75	101	69	76	90
1935 ..	87	51	85	73	76	77	103	70	82	88
1936 ..	91	50	89	77	78	79	107	73	86	88
1937 ..	100	56	92	83	81	82	114	77	94	89
1938 ..	104	54	95	83	75	85	113	77	98	93

(a) Base 1935=100

(b) Base 1933=100