

SECTION V.—INVESTIGATIONS INTO VARIATIONS IN PURCHASING-POWER-OF-MONEY PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS IN 150 TOWNS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1. **Introduction.**—In order to supplement the information as to variations in the purchasing-power of money, which is collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding Section, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, as to purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers in 70 additional towns in the Commonwealth. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120, and it is intended to carry it out in that month each year, thus making information available annually in all for 150 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the second investigation (November, 1914) were published in Labour Bulletin No. 8 (Section IV., pages 231 to 240); of the third in Labour Bulletin No. 12 (Section IV., pages 356 to 361); of the fourth in Report No. 7 (Section V., pages 393 to 403), of the fifth in Report No. 8 (Section V., pages 47 to 57); of the sixth in Report No. 9 (Section VI., pages 52 to 61), and of the seventh in Report No. 10 (Section VI., pages 55 to 65).

2. **Price Index-Numbers shewing relative Purchasing-Power of Money.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1920, are set out in the tables on pages 57 to 60. *The basis for the whole of this table is the weighted average aggregate expenditure for the 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, in November, 1920.* (See end of last column on page 60). This weighted average aggregate expenditure is made equal to 1000, and the aggregate expenditure on these items for each individual town is shewn in the last column in the form of index-numbers relative to this average. In the preceding column similar index-numbers are shewn for food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, and these index-numbers are again computed to the same base indicated above. That is to say, that while the index-number 1000 (see page 60) represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, 943 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses. Similarly, in the remaining three columns, if 1000 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses (page 60), the index-number 727 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only, the index-number 216 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on rent of four-roomed houses, and 273 the expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. It follows, therefore, that the figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for all 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses as equal to 1000, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1042, while if four-roomed houses were substituted for five-roomed, the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 968,

of which 729 would be the expenditure on food and groceries, and the remaining 239 the expenditure on house rent. Again, the expenditure in Sydney on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is 1051 or 5.1 per cent. above the weighted average, and that number is made up of 732, the relative expenditure on food and groceries, and 319 the relative expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. The expenditure on the same items in Grafton is represented by 960, of which 761 represents the expenditure on food and groceries and 199 that on rent.

In the following table, the first column shews the index-numbers for food and groceries only, while the second and third shew the index-numbers for the rent of houses having four and five rooms respectively. The fourth column shews the aggregate index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of four-roomed houses, and the last column the index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of five-roomed houses :—

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1920.*

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
New South Wales—					
Sydney	732	273	319	1,005	1,051
Newcastle	754	214	305	968	1,059
Broken Hill	853	160	200	1,013	1,053
Goulburn	764	194	253	958	1,017
Bathurst	764	140	194	904	958
Adelong	749	93	121	842	870
Albury	734	243	296	977	1,030
Armidale	740	195	248	935	938
Bega	747	142	196	889	943
Bourke	780	89	119	869	899
Bowral	756	199	246	955	1,002
Casino	717	157	224	874	941
Cobar	789	56	75	845	864
Cooma	809	159	196	968	1,005
Coonamble	802	174	224	976	1,026
Cootamundra	801	223	286	1,024	1,087
Corrinnal	769	138	168	907	937
Cowra	709	194	273	903	982
Deniliquin	771	151	191	922	962
Dubbo	773	220	291	993	1,064
Forbes	755	170	235	925	990
Glen Innes	695	184	234	879	929
Grafton	761	147	199	908	960
Grenfell	752	197	271	949	1,023
Gunnedah	757	179	220	931	977
Hay	784	142	208	926	992
Inverell	774	192	229	966	1,003
Junee	739	202	250	911	989
Katoomba	765	243	310	1,008	1,075
Kempsey	720	159	217	879	937
Lismore	732	195	254	927	986
Lithgow	746	193	235	939	981

* These results are based upon the regimen referred to on pages 20-23 Labour Report No. 6.

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1920—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms Index No.
New South Wales—cont.					
Maitland	745	176	198	921	943
Moree	811	201	281	1,012	1,072
Moss Vale	772	237	298	1,009	1,070
Mudgee	744	193	231	937	975
Narrabri	751	200	246	951	997
Nowra	776	187	224	963	1,000
Orange	714	160	245	874	959
Parkes	747	200	262	947	1,009
Queanbeyan	784	153	185	937	969
Tamworth	724	185	241	909	965
Temora	777	205	242	982	1,019
Wagga Wagga	704	200	248	904	952
Wellington	719	162	223	881	942
Wollongong	760	192	224	952	984
Wyalong	774	148	205	922	979
Yass	837	182	222	1,019	1,059
Young	735	183	231	918	966
Weighted Average for State	742	245	295	987	1,037
Victoria—					
Melbourne	729	239	313	968	1,042
Ballarat	740	115	165	855	905
Bendigo	706	137	188	843	894
Geelong	702	178	235	880	937
Warrnambool	750	188	252	938	1,002
Ararat	769	162	230	931	999
Bairnsdale	750	161	230	911	980
Beechworth	757	112	144	869	901
Benalla	728	160	196	888	924
Bright	752	97	134	849	886
Camperdown	713	170	220	883	933
Castlemaine	756	121	185	877	941
Colac	756	195	233	951	989
Creswick	743	54	77	797	820
Daylesford	755	101	142	856	897
Dunolly	671	86	101	757	772
Echuca	764	141	187	905	951
Euroa	749	132	142	881	891
Hamilton	733	184	230	917	963
Horsham	768	176	243	944	1,011
Korumburra	725	169	201	894	926
Kyneton	736	141	189	877	925
Maldon	720	77	90	797	810
Maryborough	737	101	153	838	890
Mildura	762	339	414	1,101	1,176
Nhill	720	149	179	869	899
Ormeo	801	90	127	891	928
Orbost	743	151	214	894	957
Portland	725	137	181	862	906
St. Arnaud	731	166	218	897	949
Sale	724	149	212	873	936
Shepparton	702	189	246	891	948
Stawell	782	140	196	922	978

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1920—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, ^{and} Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
Victoria—cont.					
Swan Hill	719	243	280	862	999
Walhalla	775	38	60	813	835
Wandiligong	757	60	75	817	832
Wangaratta	786	132	223	968	1,009
Warracknabeal	709	161	205	870	914
Wonthaggi	790	175	224	965	1,014
Yackandandah	762	127	157	889	919
Weighted Average for State	730	212	279	942	1,009
Queensland—					
Brisbane	667	164	216	831	883
Toowoomba	637	142	190	779	827
Rockhampton	672	123	155	795	827
Charters Towers	712	136	173	848	885
Warwick	679	120	172	799	851
Bundaberg	687	119	168	806	855
Cairns	786	206	261	992	1,047
Charleville	730	212	300	942	1,030
Chillagoe	745	60	75	805	820
Cloncurry	827	197	279	1,024	1,106
Cooktown	811	68	87	879	898
Cunnamulla	721	157	187	878	908
Goondiwindi	698	132	190	830	888
Gympie	682	115	164	797	846
Hamilton	672	224	298	896	970
Hughenden	751	257	315	1,008	1,066
Ipswich	671	142	190	813	861
Longreach	734	153	196	887	930
Mackay	753	177	221	930	974
Maryborough	667	127	165	794	832
Mt. Morgan	684	150	187	834	871
Roma	678	187	224	865	902
Townsville	743	240	301	983	1,044
Winton	814	243	299	1,057	1,113
Weighted Average for State	681	157	206	838	887
South Australia—					
Adelaide	732	216	286	948	1,018
Moonta & Kadina	735	150	194	885	929
Port Pirie	741	194	237	935	978
Mt. Gambier	717	128	162	845	879
Peterborough	719	169	222	888	941
Gawler	702	147	191	849	893
Kapunda	708	90	120	798	828
Murray Bridge	724	226	283	950	1,007
Pt. Augusta	745	186	247	931	992
Pt. Lincoln	710	176	204	886	914
Pt. Victor (Victor Harbour)	706	174	254	880	960
Renmark	769	243	311	1,012	1,080
Weighted Average for State	731	206	271	937	1,002

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1920—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
Western Australia—					
Perth & Fremantle	665	201	256	866	921
Kalgoorlie & Boulder	781	200	244	961	1,005
Midland Junction & Guildford ..	693	147	194	940	897
Bunbury	692	164	190	856	882
Geraldton	693	217	266	910	959
Albany	732	177	220	909	952
Broome	844	*	*	*	*
Carnarvon	787	246	265	1,033	1,052
Cue	807	119	168	926	975
Katanning	660	219	245	879	905
Leonora	833	149	187	982	1,020
Menzies	935	75	90	1,010	1,025
Northam	683	189	258	872	941
Ravensthorpe ..	771	56	93	827	864
Weighted Average for State ..	692	196	246	888	938
Tasmania—					
Hobart	772	264	318	1,036	1,090
Launceston	760	181	257	941	1,017
Zeehan	805	104	142	909	947
Beaconsfield ..	702	35	51	737	753
Queenstown	723	149	194	872	917
Burnie	732	205	254	937	986
Campbelltown ..	688	70	94	758	782
Devonport	732	204	241	936	973
Franklin	753	134	179	887	932
Oatlands	709	90	108	799	817
Scottsdale	712	129	162	841	874
Weighted Average for State ..	759	207	263	966	1,022
Weighted Average Commonwealth	727	216	273	943	1,000 †

* Not available. † Basis of Tables.

3. **Food and Groceries.**—Comparing the index-numbers for food and groceries alone (column I.), it will be observed that, taking the weighted average for all the towns in each State, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania are above the average for the Commonwealth, while Queensland and Western Australia are below. Tasmania is the most expensive State (4.4 per cent. above the average), and Queensland the cheapest (6.3 per cent. below). Of the other States New South Wales is 2.1 per cent.; South Australia 0.6 per cent.

and Victoria 0.4 above the average, while the index-number for Western Australia is 4.8 per cent. below the average. In all the States some of the towns are above and some below the average for the Commonwealth. In New South Wales the most expensive town is Broken Hill, 17.3 per cent. above the weighted average for the 150 towns, while the cheapest town is Glen Innes, which is 4.4 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Omeo is the most expensive town, 10.2 per cent. above, and Dunolly is the cheapest, 7.7 per cent. below the average. In Queensland the most expensive town is Cloncurry, 13.8 per cent. above, and the cheapest Toowoomba, 12.4 per cent. below the average. In South Australia the most expensive town is Renmark, 5.8 per cent. above, and the cheapest Gawler, 3.4 per cent. below the average. In Western Australia, Menzies is the most expensive town, 28.6 per cent. above, and Katanning the cheapest, 9.2 per cent. below the weighted average for all towns. Zeehan is the most expensive town in Tasmania, being 10.7 per cent. above, while Campbelltown is the cheapest, being 5.4 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns.

4. House Rents.—There is a far greater divergence between the relative expenditure on house rents in the various towns than on food and groceries. As might naturally be expected, the general tendency appears to be that the cost of housing accommodation is higher in places where there is great centralisation of people than in sparsely-populated districts. That this is not always the case, however, is at once apparent on comparing the index-numbers for Sydney with its 897,640 inhabitants and such towns as Hughenden and Townsville in Queensland and Geraldton and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

Comparing the weighted average of the towns in each State, it will be seen that, in the case of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 13.4 per cent. above the average for the whole of the towns, while the other States are below the average; Queensland 27.3 per cent.; Western Australia 9.3 per cent.; South Australia 4.6 per cent.; Tasmania 4.2 per cent.; and Victoria 1.9 per cent. Turning now to houses having 5 rooms, it will be seen that again New South Wales is above the average for the whole of the towns, by 8.1 per cent. Of the remaining States, Victoria is 2.2 per cent. above the average for the whole of the towns, while Queensland is 24.5 per cent., Western Australia is 9.9 per cent., Tasmania is 3.7 per cent., and South Australia is 0.7 per cent., below the average for the 150 towns.

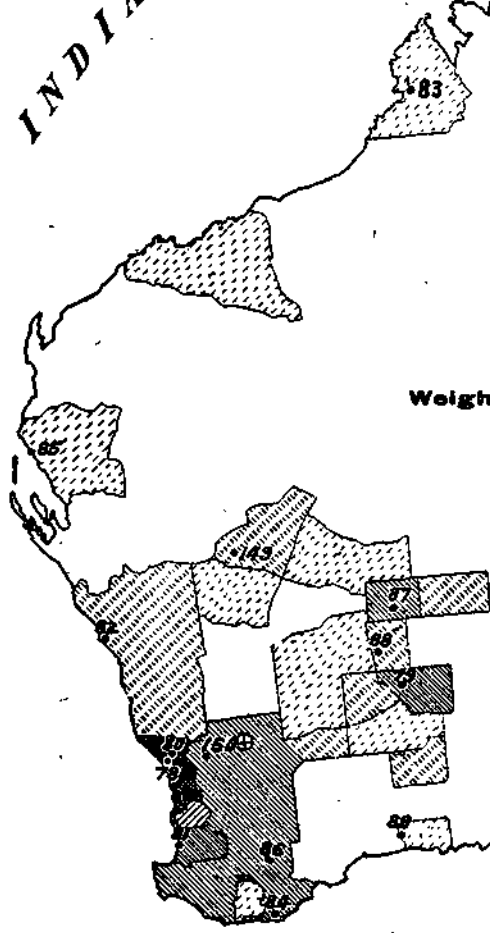
Comparing individual towns it may be seen that in New South Wales, Sydney has the highest index-number for houses of four and five rooms, 26.4 per cent. for the former and 16.8 per cent. for the latter, above the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole. Cobar has the lowest index-number for both kinds of houses, being 74.1 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 72.5 per cent. for 5 rooms, below the average. In Victoria, Mildura is the highest for houses of 4 rooms and 5 rooms, being 56.9 per cent. for the former, and 51.6 per cent. for the latter, above the average for all towns. Walhalla has the lowest index-number in both cases, 82.4 per cent. below the average for houses having

4 rooms and 78.0 per cent. below for houses having 5 rooms. In Queensland, Hughenden has the highest index-number for houses of 4 rooms and 5 rooms, being 19.0 per cent. for the former and 15.4 per cent. for the latter, above the average for all towns. Chillagoe has the lowest index-number in both cases, being 72.2 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 72.5 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average. In South Australia, Renmark has the highest index-number for rents for houses of 4 and 5 rooms, being 12.5 per cent. for the former, and 13.9 per cent. for the latter, above the average, while Kapunda has the lowest index-number, 58.3 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 56.0 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms below the average. In Western Australia, Carnarvon has the highest index-number for 4-roomed houses, being 13.9 per cent. above the average, and Geraldton the highest index-number for 5-roomed houses, being 2.6 per cent. above the average. For houses of 4 rooms, Ravensthorpe is 74.1 per cent., and for houses of 5 rooms Menzies is 67.0 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns. Hobart has the highest index-numbers for Tasmania in both cases, being 22.2 per cent. above the average for houses of 4 rooms, and 16.5 above the average for houses of 5 rooms. Beaconsfield has the lowest index-numbers in both cases, being 83.9 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 81.3 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole.

5. **Food, Groceries and House Rent.**—The index-numbers in the last two columns of the table on pages 57 to 60 show the relative cost of food and groceries combined with rent of the two classes of houses indicated. The general order and arrangement, both of the separate States and of individual towns, as regards relative cost of the commodities and house rent included, is the same whether the rent included refers to four or to five-roomed houses. Taking combined expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 4.7 per cent., and Tasmania 2.4 per cent. above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while the remaining States are below the average; Queensland, 11.1 per cent., Western Australia, 5.8 per cent., South Australia, 0.6 per cent., and Victoria, 0.1 per cent. For combined expenditure on food, groceries and houses having five rooms, the index-number for New South Wales is 3.7 per cent., Tasmania, 2.2 per cent., Victoria, 0.9 per cent., and South Australia, 0.2 per cent., above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-number for Queensland is 11.3 per cent., and for Western Australia 6.2 per cent., below the average.

Comparing individual towns, it may be seen that in New South Wales, Cootamundra has the highest index-number for the combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of four-roomed houses and five-roomed houses, being 7.9 per cent. for the former, and 8.7 per cent. for the latter above the average. The index-number is lowest in Adelong, whether the comparison be made with four or five rooms. In the former case it is 10.7 per cent., and in the latter 13.0 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Mildura has the highest combined index-number in both cases, 16.8 per cent. and 17.6 per cent. above the respective weighted average index-numbers. Dunolly has the lowest combined index-number for both four and five-roomed houses, being 19.7 per cent. for the former, and 22.8 per cent. for the latter, below the weighted average for

INDIAN OCEAN



Weighted Average for 11

A	[White box]	E	[Diagonal lines /]
B	[Diagonal lines \]	F	[Cross-hatch]
C	[Dotted]	G	[Horizontal lines]
D	[Vertical lines]	H	[Solid black]

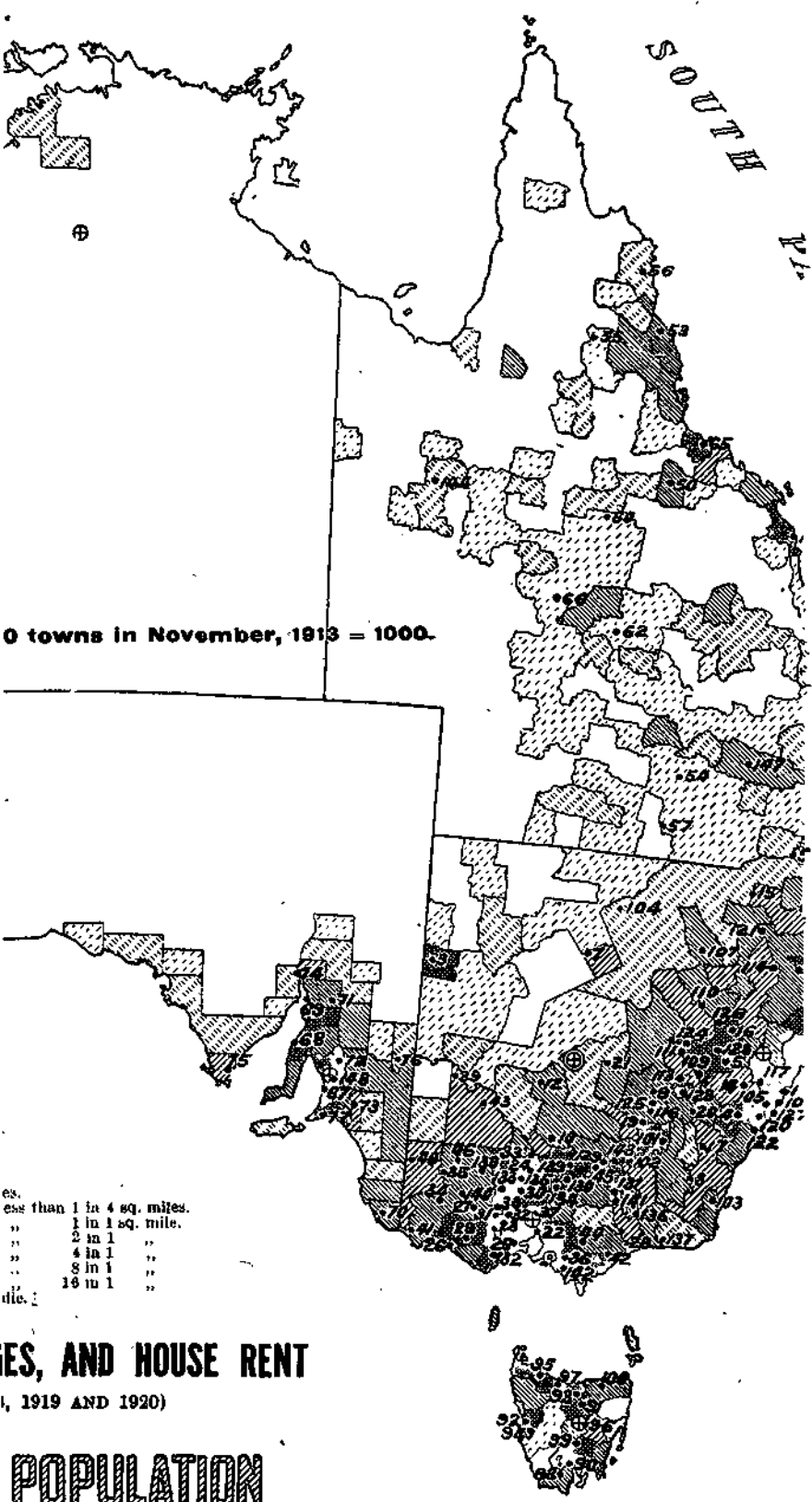
A—Less than one inhabitant to 16 sq. m.
 B—From 1 inhabitant in 16 sq. miles to
 C— " 1 " " 4 " "
 D— " 1 " " 1 sq. mile
 E— " 2 inhabitants in 1 " "
 F— " 4 " " 1 " "
 G— " 8 " " 1 " "
 H—16 inhabitants and upwards in 1 sq.

RELATIVE COST OF FOOD, GROCER

(NOVEMBER, 1918, 1914, 1915, 1916)

IN RELATION TO

DISTRIBUTION OF



A.—Heavy Figures denote index-numbers for Food, Groceries, and Rent on
 B.—Light figures denote index-numbers for Food and Groceries only.



REFERENCE TO NUMBERS ON

	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
1 SYDNEY ..	1,109	634	1,124	661	1,321	861	1,372
2 Newcastle ..	960	637	972	648	1,328	847	1,379
3 Broken Hill ..	1,118	768	849	773	1,192	1,013	1,298
4 Goulburn ..	974	629	1,035	667	1,271	854	1,257
5 Bathurst ..	892	583	909	608	1,102	825	1,112
6 Armidale ..	875	601	948	618	1,148	863	1,263
7 Cobar ..	957	661	881	742	996	907	1,189
8 Cooma ..	861	638	875	662	1,231	962	1,195
9 Cootamundra ..	977	632	890	653	1,290	892	1,363
10 Deniliquin ..	836	606	943	675	1,199	924	1,190
11 Grafton ..	919	632	922	654	1,181	913	1,254
12 Hay ..	918	688	989	740	1,277	1,006	1,200
13 Lismore ..	931	695	1,042	723	1,213	860	1,353
14 Lithgow ..	916	628	928	625	1,227	894	1,263
15 Moree ..	981	681	1,041	696	1,256	937	1,406
16 Mudgee ..	824	569	895	640	1,131	863	1,175
17 Queanbeyan ..	1,052	650	980	635	1,213	906	1,194
18 Tamworth ..	902	599	1,066	649	1,231	874	1,247
19 Wagga Wagga ..	967	584	949	670	1,172	834	1,315
20 Yass ..	943	637	1,040	676	1,251	948	1,239
21 West Wyalong ..	966	631	952	669	1,130	890	1,278
22 MELBOURNE ..	964	568	1,019	628	1,240	852	1,304
23 Ballarat ..	767	566	845	636	1,084	874	1,051
24 Bendigo ..	815	573	873	641	1,068	843	1,090
25 Geelong ..	872	579	943	639	1,145	819	1,122
26 Warrnambool ..	865	581	914	620	1,152	868	1,172
27 Ararat ..	833	577	915	641	1,179	895	1,160
28 Bairnsdale ..	798	579	838	615	1,155	903	1,136
29 Camperdown ..	868	572	915	625	1,101	818	1,148
30 Castlemaine ..	773	547	911	638	1,137	862	1,138
31 Creswick ..	730	577	898	636	1,056	883	1,055
32 Daylesford ..	779	590	817	638	1,073	885	1,060
33 Echuca ..	811	607	857	672	1,051	876	1,069
34 Hamilton ..	871	594	928	636	1,275	924	1,160
35 Horsham ..	849	534	888	670	1,202	921	1,189
36 Korumburra ..	839	596	892	625	1,162	907	1,103
37 Kyneton ..	766	582	790	611	1,114	887	1,098
38 Maryborough ..	745	573	808	626	1,029	844	1,040
39 Mildura ..	972	608	1,053	696	1,272	939	1,353
40 Nhill ..	867	593	905	656	1,121	887	1,170
41 Portland ..	796	592	904	624	1,220	928	1,170
42 Sale ..	784	551	874	634	1,070	824	1,086
43 Swan Hill ..	975	618	1,000	649	1,279	874	1,288
44 Waihalia ..	790	687	808	693	1,025	897	982
45 Wangaratta ..	825	589	965	662	1,173	876	1,165
46 Warracknabeal ..	810	555	877	647	1,082	814	1,082
47 BRISBANE ..	878	583	919	627	1,166	878	1,205
48 Toowoomba ..	840	603	898	646	1,119	894	1,192
49 Rockhampton ..	862	617	920	668	1,184	945	1,177
50 Charters Towers ..	907	658	997	752	1,188	942	1,307
51 Warwick ..	822	590	863	635	1,077	863	1,177
52 Bundaberg ..	851	621	893	650	1,128	873	1,248
53 Cairns ..	1,067	704	1,140	809	1,248	913	1,421
54 Charleville ..	1,069	704	1,041	722	1,396	1,001	1,421
55 Olligaloe ..	1,153	834	1,052	892	1,319	1,000	1,161
56 Cooktown ..	937	745	1,003	799	1,125	959	1,15
57 Gunnamulla ..	892	724	1,047	779	1,321	1,065	1,231
58 Goondiwindi ..	958	639	858	680	1,190	935	1,191
59 Gympie ..	791	600	819	653	1,083	890	1,211
60 Hughenden ..	1,145	756	1,269	803	1,334	951	1,517
61 Ipswich ..	874	606	900	632	1,180	899	1,241
62 Lougheach ..	1,047	728	1,123	823	1,200	945	1,346
63 Maryborough ..	762	584	830	624	1,133	913	1,131
64 Mount Morgan ..	880	637	951	696	1,204	949	1,221
65 Townsville ..	996	636	1,123	769	1,343	982	1,477
66 Winton ..	1,147	803	1,136	817	1,443	997	1,534
67 ADELAIDE ..	1,056	619	1,078	698	1,243	876	1,284
68 Kadina-Moonta ..	862	636	941	690	1,150	891	1,181
69 Port Pirie ..	972	644	973	729	1,189	922	1,321
70 Mount Gambier ..	816	568	894	614	1,100	838	1,111
71 Peterborough ..	996	613	1,099	742	1,214	895	1,291
72 Kapunda ..	847	618	901	690	1,066	893	1,05
73 Murray Bridge ..	911	618	1,004	640	1,210	856	1,211
74 Port Augusta ..	931	660	1,115	770	1,300	892	1,381
75 Port Lincoln ..	993	674	1,034	716	1,220	901	1,191
76 Renmark ..	985	666	1,041	696	1,222	897	1,381
77 Victor Harbour ..	924	637	1,103	720	1,192	863	1,284
78 PERTH ..	1,116	719	1,131	762	1,186	836	1,202
79 Kalgoorlie ..	1,277	912	1,344	988	1,451	1,036	1,431
80 Midland Junction ..	1,079	731	1,106	777	1,171	847	1,111
81 Bunbury ..	1,113	757	1,155	819	1,155	894	1,111
82 Geraldton ..	1,317	783	1,344	856	1,413	941	1,311
83 Broome ..	†	942	†	943	†	944	†
84 Albany ..	1,147	793	1,184	817	1,268	901	1,211
85 Carnarvon ..	1,343	960	1,318	965	1,296	961	1,451
86 Katanning ..	1,154	748	1,160	774	1,218	844	1,211
87 Leonora ..	1,265	1,042	1,324	1,069	1,361	1,139	1,361
88 Menzies ..	1,153	1,026	1,296	1,133	1,395	1,242	1,311
89 Ravensthorpe ..	1,147	1,019	1,150	1,010	1,260	1,119	1,211
90 HOBART ..	975	645	1,042	702	1,231	876	1,311
91 Launceston ..	911	596	999	668	1,209	868	1,211
92 Zeehan ..	934	717	928	758	1,141	975	1,111
93 Beaconsfield ..	769	654	806	710	1,032	987	1,011
94 Queenstown ..	988	724	1,062	746	1,314	982	1,321
95 Burnie ..	956	606	1,011	633	1,220	870	1,211
96 Campbell Town ..	701	599	756	660	†	†	1,051
97 Devonport ..	899	623	879	633	1,223	903	1,211
98 Franklin ..	909	654	919	703	†	†	1,211
99 Ostlands ..	820	628	874	632	961	788	1,011
100 Scottsdale ..	768	570	844	632	1,032	846	1,111



6-roomed Houses.

Weighted Average .. *1,000 *621 *1,035 *665 †1,284 †872 †1,21

* Weighted average of 100 Towns.
 † Weighted average of 150 Towns.

† Not available.

NOTE.—Corresponding Index-Numbers for the intervening year

MAP.

L.	1919.		1920.			1915.		1918.		1919.		1920.		
	B	A	B	A		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	
	N. S. Wales—													
896	1,586	1,096	1,798	1,251	101	Adelong ..	1,110	922	1,046	874	1,147	994	1,486	1,279
907	1,568	1,096	1,811	1,290	102	Albury ..	1,174	868	1,261	888	1,455	1,027	1,759	1,258
954	1,526	1,185	1,800	1,458	103	Bega ..	1,187	878	1,150	879	1,339	1,095	1,612	1,277
903	1,467	1,079	1,738	1,306	104	Bourke ..	1,146	920	1,171	956	1,380	1,156	1,537	1,333
858	1,814	1,020	1,638	1,306	105	Bowral ..	1,135	841	1,247	909	1,487	1,124	1,712	1,291
899	1,441	1,094	1,689	1,266	106	Casino ..	1,166	834	1,171	929	1,428	1,087	1,698	1,225
923	1,338	1,191	1,479	1,348	107	Coonamble ..	1,202	838	1,339	988	1,538	1,155	1,783	1,370
898	1,451	1,138	1,718	1,383	108	Corrimal ..	1,078	854	1,135	905	1,249	1,119	1,601	1,314
894	1,489	1,045	1,867	1,369	109	Cowra ..	1,217	854	1,280	917	1,572	1,107	1,878	1,212
904	1,343	1,020	1,645	1,318	110	Dubbo ..	1,180	887	1,278	898	1,488	1,078	1,819	1,322
935	1,398	1,086	1,640	1,300	111	Forbes ..	1,131	886	1,215	908	1,421	1,064	1,682	1,290
888	1,406	1,068	1,695	1,339	112	Glen Innes ..	1,191	859	1,246	895	1,392	1,041	1,587	1,187
938	1,535	1,120	1,684	1,250	113	Grenfell ..	1,251	902	1,310	927	1,603	1,109	1,749	1,285
912	1,459	1,090	1,676	1,275	114	Gunnedah ..	1,252	870	1,271	888	1,456	1,112	1,714	1,294
960	1,599	1,190	1,832	1,386	115	Inverell ..	1,291	841	1,312	955	1,570	1,178	1,819	1,323
888	1,430	1,099	1,666	1,271	116	Junee ..	1,253	885	1,279	902	1,505	1,033	1,681	1,263
914	1,421	1,105	1,657	1,340	117	Katoomba ..	1,325	847	1,368	928	1,579	1,101	1,837	1,307
911	1,469	1,122	1,648	1,238	118	Kempsey ..	1,120	862	1,195	908	1,351	1,061	1,690	1,230
875	1,464	1,018	1,628	1,204	119	Maitland ..	1,087	822	1,182	870	1,411	1,070	1,612	1,274
911	1,492	1,159	1,810	1,431	120	Moss Vale ..	1,258	849	1,251	901	1,516	1,076	1,829	1,318
935	1,474	1,123	1,672	1,322	121	Narrabri ..	1,190	877	1,313	922	1,593	1,192	1,704	1,283
					122	Norwa ..	1,060	856	1,172	917	1,514	1,119	1,710	1,327
					123	Orange ..	1,210	834	1,319	888	1,440	1,085	1,639	1,221
					124	Parkes ..	1,153	879	1,238	941	1,471	1,038	1,724	1,277
					125	Temora ..	1,362	911	1,272	924	1,475	1,070	1,742	1,327
					126	Willington ..	1,197	859	1,233	920	1,455	1,105	1,610	1,229
					127	Wollongong ..	1,141	838	1,227	902	1,456	1,108	1,681	1,298
					128	Young ..	1,180	874	1,243	911	1,447	1,090	1,651	1,255
VICTORIA—														
					129	Beechworth ..	1,059	893	1,017	851	1,176	955	1,541	1,294
					130	Benalla ..	1,153	879	1,142	855	1,303	977	1,579	1,241
					131	Bright ..	1,118	921	1,094	868	1,256	1,026	1,515	1,255
					132	Colac ..	1,161	856	1,213	879	1,232	1,013	1,690	1,291
					133	Dunolly ..	1,045	853	994	847	1,108	936	1,319	1,147
					134	Euroa ..	1,071	867	1,089	815	1,212	960	1,522	1,280
					135	Maldon ..	998	875	993	853	1,099	959	1,385	1,232
					136	Ormeo ..	1,158	1,005	1,086	920	1,253	1,092	1,586	1,369
					137	Orbost ..	1,182	890	1,201	892	1,376	1,033	1,636	1,270
					138	St Arnaud ..	1,188	948	1,161	872	1,307	1,009	1,623	1,250
					139	Shepparton ..	1,149	858	1,171	871	1,380	1,023	1,621	1,200
					140	Stawell ..	1,186	942	1,136	878	1,328	1,042	1,672	1,337
					141	Wandiligong ..	1,091	954	1,041	930	1,157	1,030	1,422	1,294
					142	Wonthaggi ..	1,236	917	1,295	912	1,418	1,033	1,723	1,350
					143	Yackandandah ..	1,038	873	1,074	854	1,190	970	1,571	1,303
QUEENSLAND—														
					144	Cloncurry ..	1,447	1,032	1,646	1,178	1,898	1,425	1,890	1,414
					145	Hamilton ..	1,276	896	1,460	949	1,632	1,162	1,653	1,148
					146	Meekay ..	1,327	895	1,384	971	1,535	1,155	1,665	1,237
					147	Roma ..	1,388	937	1,393	1,016	1,512	1,117	1,642	1,159
S. AUSTRALIA—														
					148	Gawler ..	1,160	875	1,183	864	1,330	1,016	1,528	1,196
W. AUSTRALIA—														
					149	Cue ..	1,315	1,032	1,207	984	1,384	1,176	1,666	1,379
					150	Northam ..	1,269	879	1,233	901	1,415	1,029	1,608	1,188
880	1,476	1,034	1,740	1,251										
892	1,358	1,039	1,588	1,257										
921	1,466	1,048	1,670	1,265										
852	1,204	947	1,503	1,226										
888	1,395	1,043	1,608	1,228										
871	1,204	1,006	1,414	1,210										
866	1,348	982	1,722	1,237										
945	1,556	1,131	1,695	1,272										
944	1,384	1,083	1,662	1,214										
926	1,510	1,048	1,847	1,315										
868	1,489	1,022	1,641	1,207										
833	1,396	1,007	1,574	1,186										
1,018	1,634	1,214	1,717	1,300										
824	1,299	1,001	1,515	1,183										
880	1,392	1,087	1,508	1,182										
894	1,432	1,041	1,638	1,184										
1,118	1,181	1,181	1,442	1,118										
922	1,463	1,065	1,687	1,251										
1,040	1,579	1,126	1,797	1,344										
895	1,353	947	1,547	1,129										
1,104	1,640	1,321	1,743	1,424										
1,159	1,580	1,497	1,751	1,598										
1,084	1,533	1,347	1,477	1,317										
937	1,529	1,063	1,864	1,320										
898	1,487	1,074	1,738	1,298										
997	1,284	1,114	1,617	1,375										
925	1,168	1,080	1,287	1,200										
1,007	1,443	1,124	1,667	1,235										
880	1,481	1,079	1,684	1,250										
916	1,249	1,030	1,336	1,176										
927	1,410	1,040	1,663	1,251										
921	1,345	1,039	1,593	1,287										
885	1,157	1,010	1,396	1,211										
907	1,194	964	1,493	1,217										
†891	†1,477	†1,059	†1,709	†1,243										



the Commonwealth. In Queensland, Winton has the highest index-number, whether the combined expenditure includes four or five rooms. The combined index-number for Winton is 12.1 per cent. for four rooms, and 11.3 per cent. for five rooms, above the Commonwealth averages, while Toowoomba has the lowest index-number for four rooms, being 17.4 per cent. below the average, and Chillagoe the lowest combined index-number for five-roomed houses, being 18.0 per cent. below the average. In South Australia Renmark has the highest, and Kapunda the lowest index-number in both cases. The index-number for Renmark is 7.3 per cent. for four rooms, and 8.0 per cent. for five rooms above, and for Kapunda, 15.4 per cent. for four rooms, and 17.2 per cent. for five rooms below the weighted averages for the Commonwealth. In Western Australia, Carnarvon has the highest combined index-number for houses of both four and five rooms, being 9.5 per cent. for the former, and 5.2 per cent. for the latter, above the average. Ravensthorpe has the lowest combined index-number for both four and five rooms. In the former case it is 12.3 per cent., and in the latter 13.6 per cent. below the Commonwealth average. Hobart has the highest combined index-number in Tasmania, being 9.9 per cent. for four rooms, and 9.0 per cent. for five rooms above the average. Beaconsfield has the lowest combined index-number, being 21.8 per cent. below the average, when combined expenditure for four rooms is taken, and 24.7 per cent. below the average including five rooms.

6 Variation in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, 1913 to 1920.—On the map facing page 62, index-numbers are given which represent the relative purchasing-power-of-money in each of the 100 towns in 1913 and 1914, and also shew the increase or decrease in 100 towns between *November, 1913*, and the same month in 1914, 1915, 1918, 1919, and 1920. In these index-numbers the *weighted average expenditure in 1913* on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is taken as base (= 1000, see end of first column). The second column represents the proportional expenditure in each town on food and groceries only, so that the difference between the index-number in the first column and that in the second column for any town represents the relative expenditure on rent in November, 1913. In the third and fourth columns shewing purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers for November, 1914, the same base is retained, with the result that the figures shew not only the relative cost in that month, but also the increase or decrease in cost during the periods indicated. Similarly, the index-numbers in the fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth, ninth and tenth, eleventh and twelfth, columns are again computed to the original base, so that they shew both the relative cost of food and groceries as between the several towns, and the variation in cost in each individual town since November, 1913.* Thus it may be seen that in Sydney the purchasing-power-of-money index-number increased from 1109 to 1796, a rise of 61.9 per cent., between November, 1913, and November, 1920. The figures shew, moreover, that the purchasing-power-of-money index-number in Sydney (1109) was 10.9 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1000)

* See note at foot of Table on Map facing p. 62.

in November, 1913, while twelve months later the index-number (1124) was 8.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1035); in November, 1915, it was 1321, or 7.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1234); in November, 1918, it was 1372 or 7.0 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1282); in November, 1919, it was 1586, or 7.4 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1477); and in November, 1920, it was 1796, or 5.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1709). Again, as regards cost of food and groceries only, the index-number in Sydney in 1913 was 634, or 2.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (621); in November, 1914, the corresponding number was 651; in November, 1915, 861; in November, 1918, 896; in November, 1919, 1096, and in November, 1920, 1251, shewing that the cost increased from November, 1913, to November, 1920, by 97.3 per cent., and was then 0.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1243). The difference between the two index-numbers for Sydney in 1913 was 475; the corresponding difference in 1918, was 476; in 1919, was 490; and in 1920, was 545. This shews that rent of five-roomed houses was approximately the same in November, 1918, as in November, 1913, but in November, 1919, had increased 3.2 per cent., and in November, 1920, had further increased 11.2 per cent.

It has already been explained that the list of towns from which information as to prices and house rents is collected annually has been extended, and for November, 1915 to 1920, was 150. The index-numbers for the 50 additional towns for November, 1915 to 1920, are shewn in columns 13 to 20 on the map. They are computed to the same base as the 100 towns, and are therefore comparable with them in all respects. Thus, it may be seen that comparing Melbourne and Bright, the index-number for food and groceries in November, 1915, was 852 for Melbourne, and 921 for Bright, shewing that the cost of food and groceries was 8.1 per cent. higher in Bright than in Melbourne. Again, taking the difference between the two index-numbers for November, 1920, in each case, it may be seen that the index-number for rent of five-roomed houses was in Melbourne 534, and in Bright 230. Thus the rent of five-roomed houses was at that period 56.9 per cent. less in Bright than in Melbourne.

7. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and Quarterly Results.—In order to ascertain the degree of accuracy to which the investigations as to variations in the purchasing-power of money made prior to 1912 for the capital towns only, and those made since the beginning of 1912 for the thirty towns, reflect the conditions obtaining throughout the States and Commonwealth, comparisons between the three sets of results were made in connection with the inquiry of November, 1913 to 1919. Similar comparisons are now made in connection with the 1920 inquiry. In the following table

the first line in each section shews the results obtained, as to relative purchasing-power of money, from the special inquiry covering in all 150 towns. The second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1920, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received, and the last line the results obtained from the November returns for the capital towns only. The capital towns are, of course, included in each of the other two investigations, and the five towns in each State are included in the investigation for "all towns":—

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and from Ordinary Periodic Returns, November, 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'ght Aver- age.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns*	1,020	1,004	937	1,006	952	1,044	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,020	1,003	922	1,009	948	1,054	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,013	1,009	923	1,013	920	1,069	1,000

RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns*	1,082	1,022	754	993	902	963	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,095	1,023	714	966	879	959	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,061	1,040	719	950	851	1,057	1,000

FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.

All Towns*	1,037	1,009	887	1,002	938	1,022	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,041	1,009	864	997	928	1,027	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,027	1,018	863	995	900	1,066	1,000

* For list of towns included, see Table on pages 57 to 60.

As regards variations in cost of living for November, 1914 to 1920, compared with November, 1913, the index-numbers for November, 1914 to 1920, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above are shewn in the following table:—

Variations in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Price Index-Numbers, Results obtained from Annual Inquiry for extended List of Towns and from Periodic Monthly Inquiries, November, 1913 to 1920.

Particulars.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
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FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns*	1,000	1,072	1,405	1,353	1,395	1,435	1,706	2,002
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,073	1,404	1,354	1,390	1,430	1,701	2,007
Capital Towns only . .	1,000	1,072	1,408	1,358	1,397	1,440	1,715	2,021

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns*	1,000	974	952	959	961	1,031	1,103	1,228
Five Towns in each State	1,000	969	961	966	987	1,039	1,110	1,235
Capital Towns only . .	1,000	975	955	961	980	1,033	1,099	1,225

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns*	1,000	1,035	1,234	1,204	1,238	1,282	1,477	1,709
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,033	1,232	1,203	1,234	1,278	1,471	1,706
Capital Towns only . .	1,000	1,032	1,223	1,196	1,227	1,274	1,464	1,697

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

* See footnote to preceding table.

The index-numbers in the first line of each part of the latter table refer to 100 towns for November, 1913 and 1914, and to 150 towns for November, 1915 to 1920. The general closeness of the results shewn in these two tables is remarkable, and is a further confirmation of the conclusions previously stated, that the index-numbers published for the capital towns only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the thirty towns for 1912 and subsequent years, reflect, with a substantial degree of accuracy, the variations in the purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers, not only in each State separately, but also throughout the Commonwealth as a whole. The second table also shews that during the period November, 1913, to November, 1920, the average cost of food and groceries throughout the Commonwealth increased over 100 per cent., house rents increased over 22 per cent., the aggregate result shewing an increase of approximately 70 per cent.