

## 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 succeeding yearly investigations have appeared in the Bulletin and Reports of the Labour and Industrial Branch.\*

2. **Price Index-Numbers shewing relative Purchasing-Power of Money.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1921, are set out in the tables on pages 56 to 59. *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, 1921.* (See end of last column on page 59). 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 59) represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, 932 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 59), the index-number 671 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only, the index-number 261 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on rent of four-roomed houses, and 329 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 1024, while if four-roomed houses were substituted for five-roomed, the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 941,

\* See p. 56 of Labour Report No. 11.

of which 645 would be the expenditure on food and groceries, and the remaining 296 the expenditure on house rent. Again, the expenditure in Sydney on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is 1054, or 5.4 per cent. above the weighted average, and that number is made up of 673, the relative expenditure on food and groceries, and 381 the relative expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. The expenditure on the same items in Grafton is represented by 965, of which 710 represents the expenditure on food and groceries and 255 that on rent.

In the following table, the first column shows the index-numbers for food and groceries only, while the second and third show the index-numbers for the rent of houses having four and five rooms respectively. The fourth column shows 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, 1921.\***

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.
<b>New South Wales—</b>					
Sydney .. ..	673	326	381	999	1,054
Newcastle .. ..	683	252	362	935	1,045
Broken Hill .. ..	679	187	234	866	913
Goulburn .. ..	664	247	324	911	988
Bathurst .. ..	654	164	227	818	881
Adelong .. ..	686	107	134	793	820
Albury .. ..	666	284	343	950	1,009
Armidale .. ..	684	188	252	872	936
Bega .. ..	712	151	216	863	928
Bourke .. ..	708	96	140	804	848
Bowral .. ..	703	266	308	969	1,011
Casino .. ..	722	227	284	949	1,006
Cobar .. ..	752	65	87	817	839
Cooma .. ..	731	194	270	925	1,001
Coonamble .. ..	696	210	282	906	978
Cootamundra .. ..	699	278	337	977	1,036
Corrimal .. ..	698	183	222	881	920
Cowra .. ..	641	229	310	870	951
Deniliquin .. ..	661	200	246	861	907
Dubbo .. ..	693	253	340	946	1,033
Forbes .. ..	674	245	306	919	980
Glen Innes .. ..	636	217	282	853	918
Grafton .. ..	710	192	255	902	965
Grenfell .. ..	673	270	362	943	1,035
Gunnedah .. ..	679	197	271	876	950
Hay .. ..	707	183	272	890	979
Inverell .. ..	693	233	278	926	971
Junee .. ..	691	273	341	964	1,032
Katoomba .. ..	737	345	425	1,082	1,162
Kempsey .. ..	692	251	316	943	1,008
Lismore .. ..	737	227	307	964	1,044
Lithgow .. ..	687	253	299	940	986

\* 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, 1921—*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.
<b>New South Wales—<i>cont.</i></b>					
Maitland .. ..	664	231	275	895	939
Moree .. ..	712	214	270	976	982
Moss Vale .. ..	681	295	360	936	1,041
Mudgee .. ..	684	252	300	936	984
Narrabri .. ..	687	221	270	908	957
Nowra .. ..	712	218	262	930	974
Orange .. ..	657	217	279	874	936
Parkes .. ..	676	266	321	942	997
Queanbeyan .. ..	693	198	233	891	926
Tamworth .. ..	631	286	363	917	994
Temora .. ..	705	240	305	945	1,010
Wagga Wagga .. ..	654	265	305	919	959
Wellington .. ..	685	190	252	875	937
Wollongong .. ..	697	223	265	920	962
Wyalong .. ..	736	185	241	921	977
Yass .. ..	725	211	259	936	984
Young .. ..	673	196	247	869	920
Weighted Average for State .. ..	677	294	354	971	1,031
<b>Victoria—</b>					
Melbourne .. ..	645	296	379	941	1,024
Ballarat .. ..	648	133	204	781	852
Bendigo .. ..	642	179	230	821	872
Geelong .. ..	657	226	293	883	950
Warrnambool .. ..	663	223	322	886	985
Ararat .. ..	719	162	227	881	946
Bairnsdale .. ..	695	218	303	913	998
Beechworth .. ..	649	144	188	793	837
Benalla .. ..	666	199	267	865	933
Bright .. ..	714	120	153	834	867
Camperdown .. ..	651	227	295	878	946
Castlemaine .. ..	664	159	238	823	902
Colac .. ..	682	306	382	988	1,064
Creswick .. ..	643	70	101	713	744
Daylesford .. ..	672	138	210	810	882
Dunolly .. ..	623	79	105	702	728
Echuca .. ..	676	160	230	836	906
Euroa .. ..	652	161	183	813	835
Hamilton .. ..	697	228	289	925	986
Horsham .. ..	698	269	379	967	1,077
Korumburra .. ..	672	216	232	888	904
Kyneton .. ..	672	172	244	844	916
Maldon .. ..	645	92	107	737	752
Maryborough .. ..	678	118	186	796	864
Mildura .. ..	766	369	465	1,135	1,231
Nhill .. ..	715	175	217	890	932
Ormeo .. ..	751	96	135	847	886
Orbost .. ..	691	218	262	909	953
Portland .. ..	701	210	281	911	982
St. Arnaud .. ..	694	192	273	886	967
Sale .. ..	645	173	241	818	886
Shepparton .. ..	690	242	317	932	1,007
Stawell .. ..	708	159	238	867	946

**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, 1921—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.
<b>Victoria—cont.</b>					
Swan Hill ..	669	284	371	953	1,040
Walhalla ..	734	44	70	778	804
Wandiligong ..	728	70	87	798	815
Wangaratta ..	684	212	275	806	959
Warracknabeal ..	662	199	245	861	907
Wonthaggi ..	661	241	291	902	952
Yackandandah ..	702	149	184	851	886
Weighted Average for State ..	650	263	340	913	990
<b>Queensland—</b>					
Brisbane ..	668	193	251	861	919
Toowoomba ..	625	170	227	795	852
Rockhampton ..	603	149	179	812	842
Charters Towers ..	686	177	212	863	898
Warwick ..	654	177	218	831	872
Bundaberg ..	632	144	206	776	838
Cairns ..	748	230	277	978	1,025
Charleville ..	755	283	371	1,038	1,126
Chillagoe ..	816	175	262	991	1,078
Cloncurry ..	775	268	326	1,043	1,101
Cooktown ..	812	67	90	879	902
Cunnamulla ..	731	140	192	871	923
Goondiwindi ..	661	157	218	818	879
Gympie ..	687	140	184	827	871
Hamilton ..	669	262	310	931	979
Hughenden ..	777	328	415	1,105	1,192
Ipswich ..	695	208	272	903	967
Longreach ..	726	186	237	912	963
Mackay ..	734	230	306	964	1,040
Maryborough ..	668	158	237	826	905
Mt. Morgan ..	664	140	166	804	830
Roma ..	702	240	317	942	1,019
Townsville ..	755	259	348	1,014	1,103
Winton ..	775	291	378	1,066	1,153
Weighted Average for State ..	676	188	243	864	919
<b>South Australia—</b>					
Adelaide ..	658	258	355	916	1,013
Moonta & Kadina ..	660	168	231	828	891
Port Pirie ..	677	216	264	893	941
Mt. Gambier ..	645	150	190	795	835
Peterborough ..	696	195	260	891	956
Gawler ..	665	175	217	840	882
Kapunda ..	654	114	174	768	828
Murray Bridge ..	656	247	311	903	967
Pt. Augusta ..	696	217	276	913	972
Pt. Lincoln ..	696	183	235	879	931
Pt. Victor (Victor Harbour) ..	657	232	306	889	963
Renmark ..	732	341	422	1,073	1,154
Weighted Average for State ..	660	245	334	905	994

**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, 1921—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.
<b>Western Australia—</b>					
Perth & Fremantle	702	253	313	955	1,015
Kalgoorlie & Boulder	782	237	287	1,019	1,069
Midland Junction & Guildford ..	736	195	267	931	1,003
Bunbury .. ..	733	200	252	943	985
Geraldton .. ..	720	267	325	987	1,045
Albany .. ..	765	205	262	970	1,027
Broome .. ..	930	—*	—*	—*	—*
Carnarvon .. ..	861	240	297	1,101	1,158
Cue .. ..	890	118	174	1,008	1,064
Katanning .. ..	676	251	303	927	979
Leonora .. ..	841	87	131	928	972
Menzies .. ..	891	87	96	978	987
Norham .. ..	732	210	302	942	1,034
Ravensthorpe ..	841	66	109	907	950
Weighted Average for State ..	727	240	299	967	1,026
<b>Tasmania—</b>					
Hobart .. ..	717	291	365	1,008	1,082
Launceston .. ..	670	213	309	883	979
Zeehan .. ..	774	105	127	879	901
Beaconsfield ..	696	41	56	737	752
Queenstown .. ..	752	175	227	927	979
Burnie .. ..	675	240	310	915	985
Campbelltown ..	707	93	140	800	847
Devonport .. ..	713	239	294	952	1,007
Franklin .. ..	722	164	205	886	927
Oatlands .. ..	713	98	129	811	842
Scottsdale .. ..	662	175	218	837	880
Weighted Average for State ..	705	235	306	940	1,011
<b>Weighted Average Commonwealth</b>	671	261	329	932	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, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania are above the average for the Commonwealth, while Victoria and South Australia are below. Western Australia is the most expensive State (8.4 per cent. above the average), and Victoria the cheapest (3.1 per cent. below). Of the other States Tasmania is 5.1 per cent.; New South Wales 0.8 per cent.

and Queensland 0.7 above the average, while the index-number for South Australia is 1.6 per cent. below the average. In all the States except Western Australia some of the towns are above and some below the average for the Commonwealth. In New South Wales the most expensive town is Cobar, 12.1 per cent. above the weighted average for the 150 towns, while the cheapest town is Tamworth, which is 6.0 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Mildura is the most expensive town, 14.2 per cent. above, and Dunolly is the cheapest, 7.2 per cent. below the average. In Queensland the most expensive town is Chillagoe, 21.6 per cent. above, and the cheapest Toowoomba, 6.9 per cent. below the average. In South Australia the most expensive town is Renmark, 9.1 per cent. above, and the cheapest Mt. Gambier, 3.9 per cent. below the average. In Western Australia, Broome is the most expensive town, 38.6 per cent. above, and Katanning the cheapest, 0.7 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns. Zeehan is the most expensive town in Tasmania, being 15.4 per cent. above, while Scottsdale is the cheapest, being 1.3 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 899,099 inhabitants, and such towns as Hughenden in Queensland, Mildura in Victoria, and Renmark in South 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 12.6 per cent., and Victoria 0.8 per cent., above the average for the whole of the towns, while the other States are below the average—Queensland 28.0 per cent.; Tasmania 10.0 per cent.; Western Australia 8.0 per cent.; and South Australia 6.1 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 7.6 per cent. Of the remaining States, Victoria is 3.3 per cent., and South Australia 1.5 per cent., above the average for the whole of the towns, while Queensland is 26.1 per cent., Western Australia is 9.1 per cent., Tasmania is 7.0 per cent., below the average for the 150 towns.

Comparing individual towns, it may be seen that in New South Wales Katoomba has the highest index-number for houses of four and five rooms, 32.2 per cent. for the former, and 29.2 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 75.1 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 73.6 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average. In Victoria, Mildura is the highest for houses of 4 rooms and 5 rooms, being 41.4 per cent. for the former, and 41.3 per cent. for the latter, above the average for all towns. Walhalla has the lowest index-number in both cases, 83.1 per cent. below the average for houses having 4 rooms and 78.7 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 25.7 per cent. for the former and 26.1 per cent. for the latter, above the average for all towns. Cooktown has the lowest index-number in both cases, being 74.3 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 72.6 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 30.7 per cent. for the former, and 28.3 per cent. for the latter, above the average, while Kapunda has the lowest index-number, 56.3 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 47.1 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms below the average. In Western Australia, Geraldton has the highest index-number for houses of 4 rooms and 5 rooms; for the former being 2.3 per cent. above the average, and for the latter being 1.2 per cent. below the average. For houses of 4 rooms, Ravensthorpe is 74.7 per cent., and for houses of 5 rooms, Menzies is 70.8 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns. Hobart has the highest index-numbers for Tasmania in both cases, being 11.5 per cent. above the average for houses of 4 rooms, and 10.9 above the average for houses of 5 rooms. Beaconsfield has the lowest index-numbers in both cases, being 84.3 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 83.0 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 56 to 59 shew 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 4.9 per cent., Western Australia 3.8 per cent., and Tasmania 2.4 per cent. above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while the remaining States are below the average—Queensland, 7.3 per cent., South Australia, 2.9 per cent., and Victoria, 2.0 per cent. For combined expenditure on food, groceries and houses having five rooms, the index-number for New South Wales is 3.1 per cent., Western Australia 2.6 per cent., and Tasmania 1.1 per cent., above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-number for Queensland is 8.1 per cent., Victoria 1.0 per cent., and South Australia 0.6 per cent., below the average.

Comparing individual towns, it may be seen that in New South Wales, Katoomba has the highest index-number for the combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of four-roomed houses and five-roomed houses, being 16.1 per cent. for the former, and 16.2 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 14.9 per cent., and in the latter 18.0 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Mildura has the highest combined index-number in both cases, 21.8 per cent. and 23.1 per cent. above the respective weighted average index-numbers. Dunolly has the lowest combined index-number for both four and five-roomed houses, being 24.7 per cent. for the former, and 27.2 per cent. for the latter, below the weighted average for the Commonwealth. In Queensland, Hughenden has the highest index-

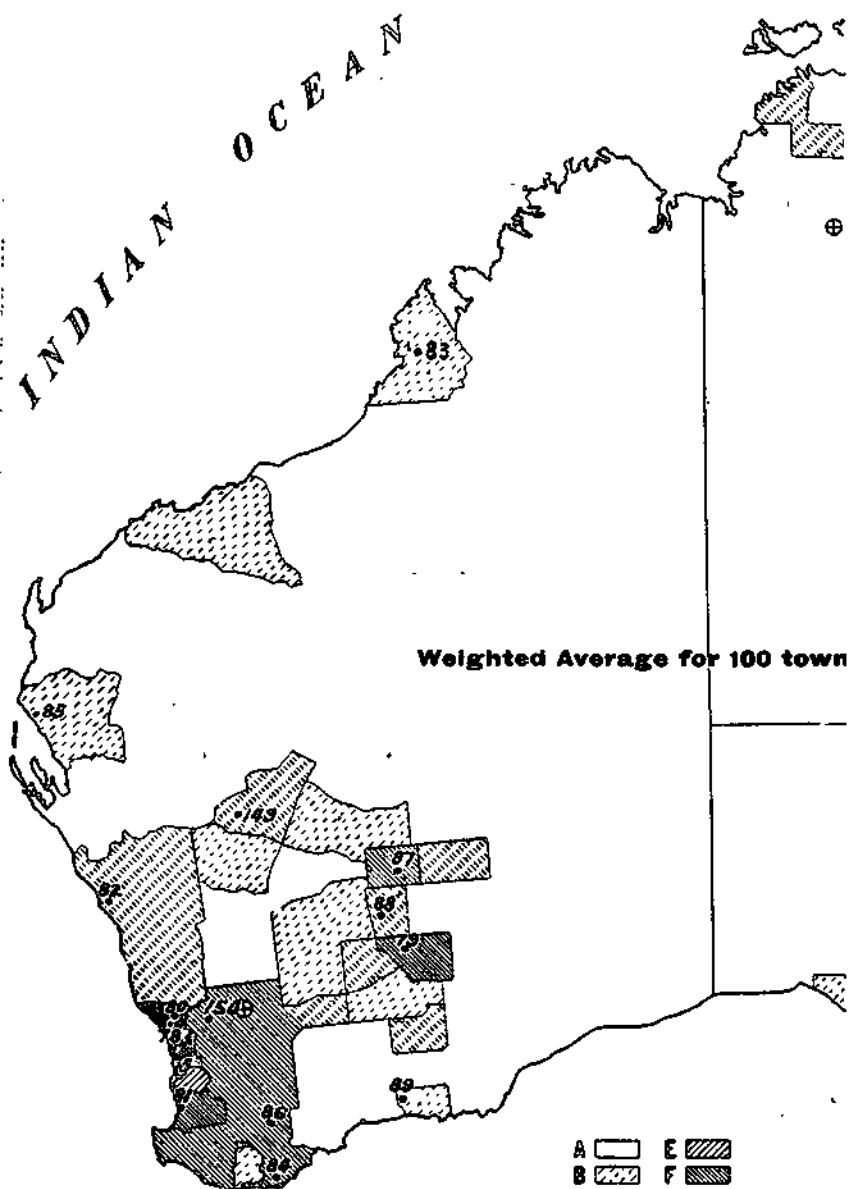
number, whether the combined expenditure includes four or five rooms. The combined index-number for Hughenden is 18.6 per cent. for four rooms, and 19.2 per cent. for five rooms, above the Commonwealth averages, while Bundaberg has the lowest index-number for four rooms, being 16.7 per cent. below the average, and Mt. Morgan the lowest combined index-number for five-roomed houses, being 17.0 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 15.1 per cent. for four rooms, and 15.4 per cent. for five rooms above, and for Kapunda, 17.6 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 18.1 per cent. for the former, and 15.8 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 2.7 per cent., and in the latter 5.0 per cent. below the Commonwealth average. Hobart has the highest combined index-number in Tasmania, being 8.2 per cent. for four rooms, and 8.2 per cent. for five rooms above the average. Beaconsfield has the lowest combined index-number, being 20.9 per cent. below the average, when combined expenditure for four rooms is taken, and 24.8 per cent. below the average including five rooms.

6. **Variation in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, 1913 to 1921.**—On the map facing page 61, 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, 1920 and 1921. 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 showing 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, thirteenth and fourteenth 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 1541, a rise of 39.0 per cent., between November, 1913, and November, 1921. 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) in November, 1913, while twelve months later the index-number (1124) was 8.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average

\* See note at foot of Table on Map facing p. 61.



INDIAN OCEAN



Weighted Average for 100 towns

A		E	
B		F	
C		G	
D		H	

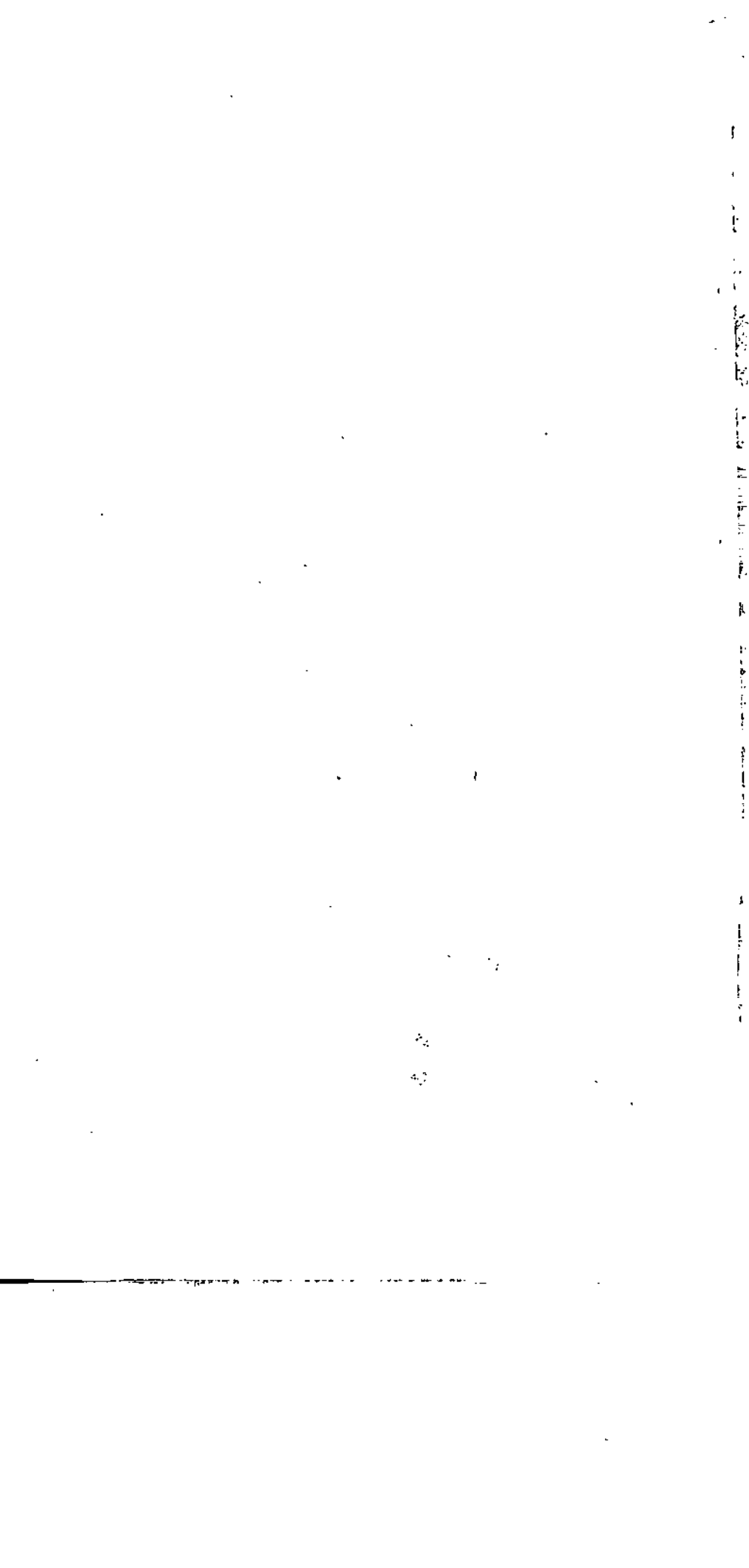
A—Less than one inhabitant to 16 sq. miles.  
 B—From 1 inhabitant in 16 sq. miles to less than 1 in 4 sq. miles.  
 C—" 1 " 4 " 1 sq. mile " 1 in 2 sq. miles.  
 D—" 1 " 1 " 1 sq. mile " 1 in 1 sq. mile.  
 E—" 2 inhabitants in 1 " 1 " 1 sq. mile " 1 in 1 sq. mile.  
 F—" 4 " 1 " 1 " 1 sq. mile " 1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

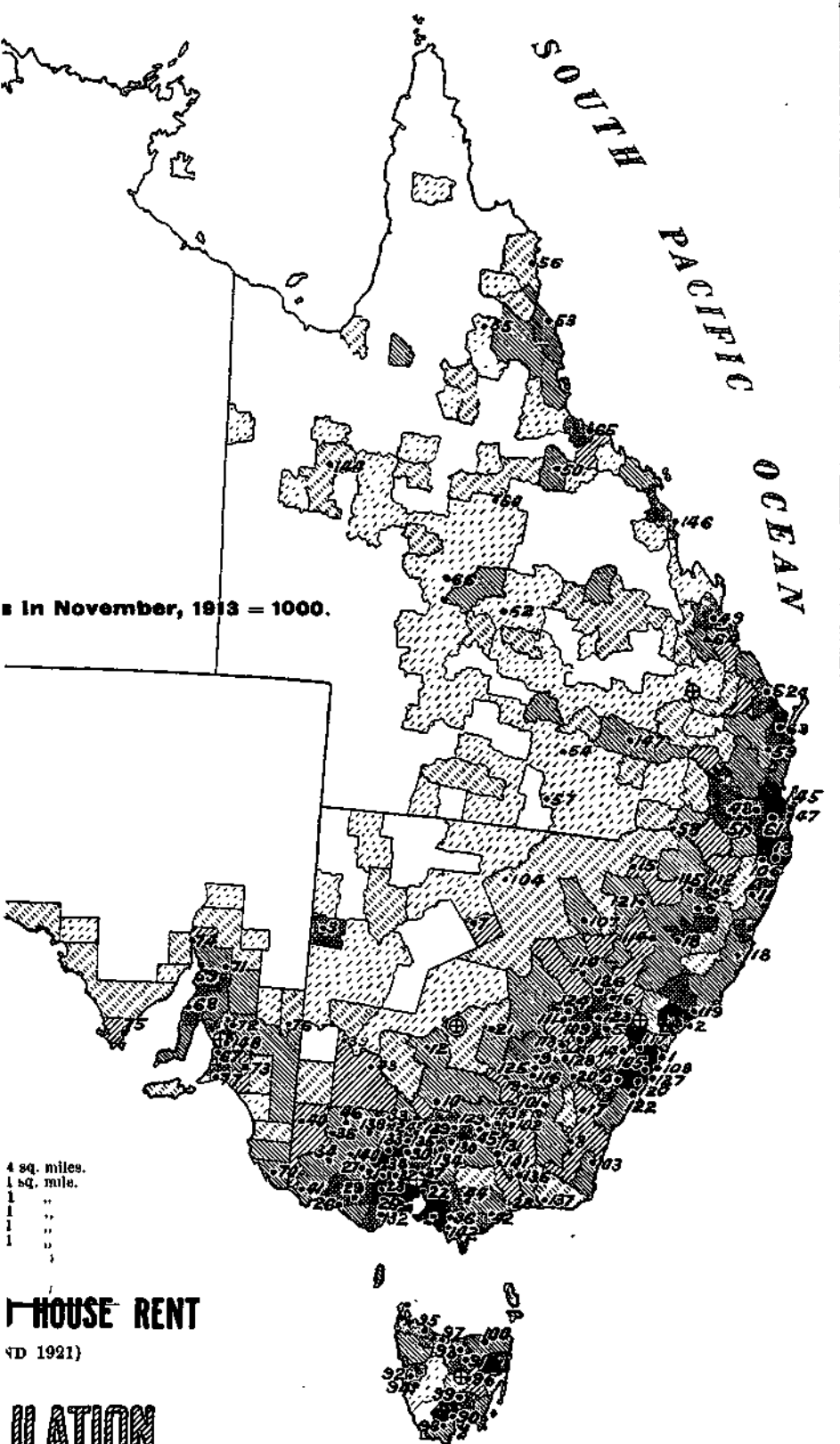
## RELATIVE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND

(NOVEMBER, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1919, 1920 AND 1921)

IN RELATION TO

## DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION





A.—Heavy Figures denote index-numbers for Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-roomed Houses.  
B.—Light figures denote index-numbers for Food and Groceries only.



# REFERENCE TO NUMBERS ON MAP.

	1913.		1914.		1915.		1918.		1919.		1920.		A
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	
SYDNEY ..	1,109	634	1,124	651	1,321	861	1,372	896	1,536	1,096	1,796	1,251	1,411
Newcastle ..	960	637	972	648	1,223	847	1,279	907	1,568	1,096	1,811	1,290	1,411
Broken Hill ..	1,118	768	849	773	1,192	1,013	1,293	954	1,526	1,185	1,900	1,458	1,411
Goulburn ..	974	620	1,035	667	1,271	854	1,237	903	1,467	1,079	1,738	1,306	1,411
Bathurst ..	892	583	909	608	1,102	825	1,112	858	1,314	1,020	1,638	1,306	1,411
Armidale ..	875	601	948	618	1,148	863	1,263	899	1,441	1,094	1,639	1,266	1,411
Cobar ..	987	661	831	742	996	907	1,189	923	1,338	1,191	1,476	1,348	1,411
Cooma ..	861	638	975	662	1,221	962	1,195	898	1,451	1,136	1,718	1,383	1,411
Geelong ..	977	632	990	653	1,290	892	1,363	894	1,489	1,045	1,857	1,369	1,411
Deniliquin ..	836	606	943	675	1,199	924	1,190	904	1,343	1,020	1,645	1,318	1,411
Grafton ..	919	632	922	654	1,181	913	1,254	935	1,398	1,086	1,640	1,300	1,411
Hay ..	918	688	989	740	1,277	1,006	1,200	889	1,406	1,068	1,695	1,339	1,411
Lismore ..	931	695	1,042	723	1,213	860	1,353	938	1,535	1,120	1,684	1,250	1,411
Lithgow ..	915	628	938	625	1,227	894	1,263	912	1,459	1,090	1,676	1,275	1,411
Morée ..	981	681	1,041	696	1,256	937	1,408	960	1,599	1,190	1,832	1,386	1,411
Mudgee ..	924	569	995	640	1,131	863	1,176	888	1,430	1,099	1,666	1,271	1,411
Queanbeyan ..	1,052	650	980	635	1,213	906	1,194	914	1,421	1,105	1,657	1,340	1,411
Tamworth ..	902	599	1,066	649	1,231	874	1,247	911	1,469	1,122	1,648	1,238	1,411
Wagga Wagga ..	967	584	949	670	1,172	834	1,315	875	1,464	1,018	1,628	1,204	1,411
Yass ..	943	637	1,040	676	1,251	948	1,239	911	1,492	1,159	1,810	1,431	1,411
West Wyalong ..	956	631	952	669	1,130	890	1,278	935	1,474	1,123	1,672	1,322	1,411
MELBOURNE ..	964	568	1,019	628	1,240	852	1,304	861	1,472	995	1,780	1,246	1,411
Ballaarat ..	787	566	845	636	1,084	874	1,051	842	1,203	979	1,547	1,265	1,411
Bendigo ..	815	573	873	641	1,068	843	1,090	826	1,207	935	1,527	1,207	1,411
Geelong ..	872	579	943	639	1,145	849	1,122	821	1,340	984	1,801	1,280	1,411
Warrnambool ..	865	581	914	620	1,152	868	1,172	893	1,353	972	1,711	1,281	1,411
Ararat ..	833	577	915	641	1,179	895	1,160	879	1,302	1,021	1,707	1,313	1,411
Bairnsdale ..	798	579	838	615	1,155	903	1,138	876	1,320	1,052	1,674	1,281	1,411
Camperdown ..	866	572	915	625	1,101	818	1,148	865	1,300	975	1,596	1,219	1,411
Castlemaine ..	773	547	911	636	1,137	862	1,138	864	1,263	1,005	1,608	1,292	1,411
Creswick ..	730	577	808	636	1,056	833	1,055	858	1,146	1,018	1,401	1,270	1,411
Daylesford ..	779	590	817	638	1,073	885	1,060	833	1,222	1,026	1,534	1,291	1,411
Echuca ..	811	607	857	672	1,061	876	1,069	862	1,208	985	1,624	1,305	1,411
Hamilton ..	871	594	926	636	1,276	924	1,160	860	1,314	970	1,645	1,252	1,411
Horsham ..	849	534	988	670	1,202	921	1,189	890	1,396	1,016	1,727	1,312	1,411
Korumburra ..	839	596	892	625	1,182	907	1,103	835	1,264	964	1,583	1,238	1,411
Kyneton ..	768	562	790	611	1,114	887	1,093	849	1,245	951	1,581	1,259	1,411
Maryborough ..	745	573	808	626	1,029	844	1,040	855	1,205	988	1,521	1,259	1,411
Mildura ..	972	608	1,053	696	1,272	939	1,366	896	1,528	1,064	2,010	1,302	1,411
Mhill ..	867	593	905	650	1,121	867	1,170	889	1,281	980	1,536	1,230	1,411
Portland ..	796	592	904	624	1,220	928	1,170	872	1,336	1,024	1,549	1,239	1,411
Sale ..	784	561	874	634	1,070	824	1,035	836	1,259	970	1,600	1,237	1,411
Swan Hill ..	975	618	1,000	640	1,279	874	1,298	858	1,422	993	1,708	1,220	1,411
Walhalla ..	790	687	808	693	1,025	897	982	890	1,126	1,037	1,427	1,325	1,411
Wangaratta ..	825	589	965	662	1,173	876	1,165	843	1,323	1,021	1,724	1,343	1,411
Warracknabeal ..	810	555	877	647	1,082	814	1,092	804	1,266	955	1,561	1,211	1,411
BRISBANE ..	978	583	919	627	1,166	878	1,205	901	1,441	1,091	1,510	1,140	1,411
Toowoomba ..	840	593	898	646	1,119	894	1,192	941	1,350	1,073	1,413	1,089	1,411
Rockhampton ..	863	617	920	663	1,184	915	1,178	924	1,390	1,128	1,413	1,149	1,411
Charlton Towers ..	907	658	997	752	1,188	942	1,301	1,015	1,472	1,179	1,512	1,216	1,411
Warwick ..	822	590	863	635	1,077	863	1,175	922	1,355	1,084	1,454	1,161	1,411
Bundaberg ..	851	621	893	650	1,128	873	1,245	965	1,346	1,091	1,461	1,174	1,411
Cairns ..	1,067	704	1,140	809	1,248	913	1,420	1,044	1,660	1,214	1,789	1,343	1,411
Charleville ..	1,039	704	1,041	722	1,396	1,001	1,428	1,031	1,663	1,195	1,761	1,247	1,411
Chillagoe ..	1,153	834	1,052	892	1,319	1,000	1,423	1,064	1,344	1,216	1,401	1,273	1,411
Cooktown ..	937	745	1,003	799	1,125	959	1,150	1,018	1,364	1,220	1,535	1,386	1,411
Gunnamulla ..	992	724	1,047	779	1,321	1,065	1,239	959	1,434	1,141	1,652	1,233	1,411
Goondiwindi ..	958	639	988	680	1,190	945	1,193	917	1,387	1,093	1,518	1,192	1,411
Gympie ..	791	600	819	653	1,088	890	1,213	975	1,427	1,142	1,446	1,165	1,411
Hughenden ..	1,145	756	1,269	803	1,334	951	1,517	1,038	1,857	1,283	1,822	1,283	1,411
Ipswich ..	874	605	900	632	1,130	890	1,243	969	1,478	1,118	1,472	1,147	1,411
Longreach ..	1,047	728	1,123	823	1,200	945	1,346	1,024	1,564	1,181	1,569	1,254	1,411
Maryborough ..	762	581	830	621	1,133	913	1,131	920	1,305	1,093	1,421	1,130	1,411
Mount Morgan ..	880	637	851	696	1,204	949	1,223	929	1,395	1,039	1,488	1,160	1,411
Townsville ..	996	636	1,123	769	1,343	952	1,471	985	1,688	1,184	1,793	1,269	1,411
Winton ..	1,147	803	1,136	817	1,443	977	1,534	1,087	1,795	1,235	1,901	1,391	1,411
ADELAIDE ..	1,056	619	1,078	698	1,243	876	1,286	880	1,475	1,034	1,740	1,251	1,411
Kadina-Mounts ..	862	636	941	690	1,150	891	1,181	892	1,352	1,029	1,588	1,257	1,411
Port Pirie ..	972	644	973	720	1,189	922	1,399	921	1,456	1,048	1,670	1,265	1,411
Mount Gambier ..	816	568	894	614	1,100	838	1,115	852	1,204	947	1,503	1,225	1,411
Peterborough ..	996	613	1,089	742	1,214	895	1,268	883	1,395	1,013	1,608	1,228	1,411
Kapunda ..	847	618	901	690	1,096	893	1,058	871	1,204	1,006	1,414	1,210	1,411
Murray Bridge ..	911	618	1,004	640	1,210	856	1,213	866	1,348	982	1,722	1,237	1,411
Port Augusta ..	931	660	1,115	770	1,300	892	1,381	945	1,556	1,131	1,695	1,272	1,411
Port Lincoln ..	993	674	1,034	718	1,220	901	1,199	944	1,364	1,083	1,562	1,214	1,411
Renmark ..	985	666	1,041	696	1,222	897	1,335	926	1,510	1,048	1,847	1,315	1,411
Victor Harbour ..	924	637	1,103	720	1,192	863	1,264	868	1,469	1,022	1,641	1,207	1,411
PERTH ..	1,116	719	1,131	762	1,186	836	1,202	833	1,396	1,007	1,574	1,186	1,411
Kalgoorlie ..	1,277	912	1,344	988	1,451	1,036	1,438	1,018	1,634	1,214	1,717	1,300	1,411
Midland Junction ..	1,079	731	1,106	777	1,171	847	1,121	824	1,299	1,001	1,516	1,183	1,411
Bunbury ..	1,113	757	1,155	819	1,155	894	1,145	880	1,392	1,087	1,608	1,182	1,411
Geraldton ..	1,317	783	1,344	856	1,413	941	1,335	894	1,482	1,041	1,638	1,184	1,411
Broom ..	942	942	943	943	944	944	944	944	944	944	944	944	1,411
Albany ..	1,147	793	1,184	817	1,268	901	1,289	922	1,468	1,095	1,627	1,251	1,411
Carnarvon ..	1,343	960	1,316	965	1,296	961	1,457	1,040	1,579	1,126	1,797	1,344	1,411
Katanning ..	1,154	746	1,180	774	1,218	844	1,278	895	1,352	947	1,647	1,129	1,411
Leonora ..	1,265	1,042	1,324	1,069	1,331	1,139	1,359	1,104	1,640	1,321	1,743	1,424	1,411
Menzies ..	1,153	1,026	1,286	1,133	1,395	1,242	1,312	1,159	1,560	1,497	1,751	1,598	1,411
Ravensthorpe ..	1,147	1,019	1,150	1,010	1,260	1,119	1,294	1,084	1,538	1,347	1,477	1,317	1,411
HOBERT ..	973	645	1,042	792	1,231	876	1,308	937	1,529	1,063	1,884	1,320	



B		1915.		1918.		1919.		1920.		1921.	
		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	<b>N. S. Wales—</b>										
984	101 Adelong ..	1,110	922	1,048	874	1,147	994	1,486	1,279	1,187	1,003
987	102 Albury ..	1,174	868	1,281	888	1,455	1,027	1,759	1,253	1,474	973
992	103 Bega ..	1,187	873	1,150	879	1,339	1,065	1,612	1,277	1,355	1,040
970	104 Bourke ..	1,146	920	1,171	956	1,380	1,156	1,537	1,333	1,238	1,034
955	105 Bowral ..	1,135	841	1,247	909	1,497	1,124	1,712	1,291	1,477	1,027
1000	106 Casino ..	1,165	884	1,171	929	1,428	1,097	1,608	1,225	1,470	1,055
1,099	107 Coonamble ..	1,202	883	1,339	988	1,538	1,155	1,753	1,370	1,429	1,017
1,067	108 Corral ..	1,073	854	1,135	905	1,349	1,119	1,601	1,314	1,345	1,019
1,021	109 Cowra ..	1,217	854	1,280	917	1,572	1,107	1,878	1,212	1,390	937
966	110 Dubbo ..	1,190	887	1,278	898	1,488	1,073	1,819	1,322	1,509	1,012
1,037	111 Forbes ..	1,131	886	1,215	908	1,421	1,064	1,692	1,290	1,432	985
1,033	112 Glen Innes ..	1,101	859	1,246	895	1,392	1,041	1,587	1,187	1,341	929
1,070	113 Grenfell ..	1,221	902	1,310	927	1,603	1,109	1,749	1,285	1,512	983
1,003	114 Gunnedah ..	1,232	870	1,271	888	1,456	1,112	1,670	1,294	1,388	992
1,040	115 Inverell ..	1,201	841	1,312	955	1,570	1,178	1,714	1,323	1,418	1,012
999	116 Junee ..	1,223	885	1,279	902	1,505	1,083	1,691	1,263	1,508	1,010
1,012	117 Katoomba ..	1,325	847	1,368	928	1,579	1,101	1,837	1,307	1,698	1,076
922	118 Kempsey ..	1,120	862	1,195	908	1,351	1,061	1,600	1,230	1,473	1,010
956	119 Maitland ..	1,087	822	1,182	870	1,411	1,070	1,612	1,274	1,372	970
1,059	120 Moss Vale ..	1,258	869	1,251	901	1,518	1,076	1,829	1,318	1,521	994
1,076	121 Narrabri ..	1,190	877	1,313	926	1,593	1,192	1,704	1,283	1,398	1,004
942	122 Nowra ..	1,060	856	1,172	917	1,514	1,119	1,710	1,327	1,423	1,040
947	123 Orange ..	1,210	834	1,219	888	1,440	1,065	1,639	1,221	1,368	960
939	124 Parkes ..	1,153	879	1,238	941	1,471	1,088	1,724	1,277	1,456	988
960	125 Temora ..	1,262	911	1,272	924	1,475	1,070	1,742	1,327	1,476	1,029
968	126 Wellington ..	1,197	859	1,233	920	1,455	1,105	1,610	1,229	1,368	1,001
1,050	127 Wollongong ..	1,141	838	1,227	902	1,456	1,108	1,681	1,298	1,405	1,019
1,016	128 Young ..	1,180	874	1,243	911	1,447	1,090	1,651	1,255	1,345	983

	<b>VICTORIA—</b>										
952	129 Beechworth ..	1,059	893	1,017	851	1,176	955	1,541	1,294	1,223	949
940	130 Benalla ..	1,153	879	1,142	855	1,308	977	1,679	1,244	1,263	973
982	131 Bright ..	1,118	921	1,094	868	1,256	1,026	1,615	1,285	1,267	1,044
988	132 Colac ..	1,161	856	1,213	879	1,322	1,013	1,690	1,291	1,555	997
1,018	133 Dunnolly ..	1,045	853	994	847	1,108	936	1,319	1,147	1,063	910
1,020	134 Euroa ..	1,071	867	1,039	815	1,212	960	1,522	1,280	1,220	952
982	135 Malden ..	996	875	993	853	1,099	959	1,385	1,232	1,098	942
981	136 Omeo ..	1,158	1,005	1,086	920	1,258	1,092	1,586	1,369	1,295	1,097
901	137 Orbost ..	1,162	890	1,201	892	1,376	1,038	1,636	1,270	1,393	1,010
1,119	138 St Arnaud ..	1,188	946	1,181	872	1,307	1,009	1,623	1,250	1,412	1,014
1,045	139 Shepparton ..	1,149	859	1,171	871	1,380	1,023	1,621	1,200	1,471	1,008
1,024	140 Stawell ..	1,186	942	1,136	878	1,326	1,042	1,672	1,337	1,382	1,034
942	141 Wandiligong ..	1,081	954	1,041	939	1,157	1,030	1,422	1,294	1,191	1,063
977	142 Wonthaggi ..	1,236	917	1,295	912	1,416	1,033	1,733	1,350	1,390	965
1,072	143 Yackandandah ..	1,038	873	1,074	854	1,150	970	1,571	1,303	1,294	1,020

	<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>										
975	144 Cloncurry ..	1,447	1,032	1,646	1,178	1,898	1,425	1,890	1,414	1,609	1,133
913	145 Hamilton ..	1,279	896	1,450	949	1,622	1,162	1,658	1,148	1,430	977
969	146 Mackay ..	1,227	895	1,334	971	1,535	1,155	1,665	1,287	1,519	1,073
1,002	147 Roma ..	1,288	937	1,398	1,016	1,512	1,117	1,542	1,159	1,488	1,026

	<b>S. AUSTRALIA—</b>										
1,093	148 Gawler ..	1,160	873	1,123	864	1,330	1,015	1,526	1,199	1,268	972

	<b>W. AUSTRALIA—</b>										
966	149 Cue ..	1,315	1,092	1,207	994	1,384	1,176	1,686	1,379	1,555	1,300
1,004	150 Northam ..	1,259	879	1,233	901	1,415	1,029	1,608	1,168	1,510	1,070

1,136	1,016
1,001	975
970	1,103
1,132	961
965	968
943	1,017
955	958
1,017	1,016
1,070	960
1,026	1,143
1,076	1,071
1,053	1,359
1,117	1,257
987	1,228
1,302	1,290

(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); in November, 1920, it was 1796, or 5.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1709); and in November, 1921, it was 1541, or 6.5 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1461). 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; in November, 1920, 1251; and in November, 1921, 984, shewing that the cost increased from November, 1913, to November, 1921, by 55.2 per cent., and was then 0.4 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (980). The difference between the two index-numbers for Sydney in 1913 was 475; the corresponding difference in 1918 was 476; in 1919, was 490; in 1920, was 545; and in 1921 was 557. This shows 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.; in November, 1920, had further increased 11.2 per cent.; and in November, 1921, had a further slight increase of 2.2 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 1921; was 150. The index-numbers for the 50 additional towns for November, 1915 to 1921, 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, 1921, in each case, it may be seen that the index-number for rent of five-roomed houses was in Melbourne 554, and in Bright 223. Thus the rent of five-roomed houses was at that period 58.2 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 with 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 1920. Similar comparisons are now made in connection with the 1921 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, 1921, 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, 1921.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'ght Aver- age.
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**FOOD AND GROCERIES.**

All Towns* .. ..	1,009	969	1,007	984	1,083	1,051	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,012	970	997	989	1,083	1,062	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,013	971	1,006	991	1,057	1,080	1,000

**RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.**

All Towns* .. ..	1,076	1,033	739	1,015	909	930	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,088	1,032	695	991	892	921	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,052	1,047	693	981	865	1,008	1,000

**FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.**

All Towns* .. ..	1,031	990	919	994	1,026	1,011	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,038	991	895	990	1,018	1,014	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,027	998	896	987	989	1,055	1,000

\* For list of towns included, see Table on pages 56 to 59.

As regards variations in cost of living for November, 1915 to 1921, compared with November, 1913, the index-numbers for November, 1915 to 1921, 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 1921.**

Particulars.	1913.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>								
All Towns* .. ..	1,000	1,405	1,353	1,395	1,435	1,706	2,002	1,578
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,404	1,354	1,390	1,430	1,701	2,007	1,577
Capital Towns only ..	1,000	1,408	1,358	1,397	1,440	1,715	2,021	1,588
<b>RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.</b>								
All Towns* .. ..	1,000	952	959	981	1,031	1,103	1,228	1,268
Five Towns in each State	1,000	961	966	987	1,039	1,110	1,235	1,271
Capital Towns only ..	1,000	955	961	980	1,033	1,099	1,225	1,261
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.</b>								
All Towns* .. ..	1,000	1,234	1,204	1,238	1,282	1,477	1,709	1,461
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,232	1,203	1,234	1,278	1,471	1,706	1,458
Capital Towns only ..	1,000	1,223	1,196	1,227	1,274	1,464	1,697	1,455

*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 to 150 towns for November, 1915 to 1921. 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, 1921, the average cost of food and groceries throughout the Commonwealth increased 57.8 per cent., house rents increased 26.8 per cent., the aggregate result shewing an increase of approximately 46.1 per cent.

## SECTION VI.—INVESTIGATIONS INTO VARIATIONS IN THE COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES, RENT, CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.

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

- (1) The actual cost of living at the present time, according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household, for a man with a wife and three children under fourteen years of age, and the several items and amounts which make up that cost.