

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.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.								
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
RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.								
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
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.								
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.

- (2) The actual corresponding cost of living during each of the last five years.
- (3) How the Basic Wage may be automatically adjusted to the rise and fall from time to time of the purchasing-power of money.

Reference was made to the findings of the Commission in Report No. 11, pp. 28 and 29. In answer to the third clause of the enquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (*i.e.*, such a family as is described in Clause 1)." This suggestion was adopted by the Government as appears from a letter received by the Secretary of the Commission, a copy of which is given in the second report of the Commission. The Commonwealth Statistician was consulted as to the methods to be followed in this connection, and the duty of carrying out this recommendation entrusted to this Bureau. As the result of investigations and enquiry, as to methods adopted in other countries, the methods hereafter described have been adopted for the purpose of measuring variations in the cost of the commodities and services which comprise the total expenditure on living.

2. Methods Adopted.—The Commission was concerned principally with the ascertainment of variations in the cost of the regimen which its members adopted, and which is described in the Indicator Lists published in the Report. It is clear, however, that to confine the investigations by this Bureau in the way suggested by the Commission, would be to limit their usefulness. It has therefore been decided to apply to the extended investigation the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and rent. As will be shewn later, the index-numbers may be used to determine accurately 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 as outlined by the Commission, as well as for the determination of variations in any standard fixed by previous investigators or which may be fixed in the future.

The ordinary expenditure of a household may be conveniently divided under four main heads—(1) Food and Groceries; (2) Rent; (3) Clothing; (4) Other Miscellaneous Expenditure.

In the following computations these four groups have been adopted, and index-numbers are given shewing variations in each of the groups separately, and in all groups combined.

After careful investigation it has been decided to adopt for food, groceries and house rent the commodities, method, and weighting already in use for the investigations which have been and are being made by this Bureau. The commodities and quantities adopted for food and groceries conform very closely to those given in the Indicator Lists of the Commission. With regard to rent, the Commission adopted a certain type of five-roomed house as its standard for determining the amount allowed for house rent. The investigations made by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type but to the Predominant House Rent, can with safety be used to shew variations in the rent being paid for the type of house described by the Commission.

The investigations of this Bureau have advisedly hitherto been confined to food, groceries and house rent,* and it has been necessary,

* See paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Section IV. of this issue.

therefore, to make investigations into the cost of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a great deal of information as to prices and duration of articles, and these have been utilised in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables. Forms have been sent out to retailers on which the prices of the articles at November, 1920, were given, these prices, so far as the Capital Cities are concerned, being in general the prices quoted by the firms to whom the forms were sent; they are the predominant prices, *i.e.*, the price of the grade of the articles which is most in demand. The retailers were asked to quote for November, 1921, and for May, 1922, the prices of the same articles. In order to ascertain the change in expenditure, the quantities and duration as given in the Indicator Lists of the Basic Wage Commission have been used for "weighting" purposes, in order to arrive at a weekly expenditure in clothing. This weekly expenditure is then multiplied by weights in the same manner as is the weekly expenditure on rent, in order to arrive at an aggregate expenditure comparable with the aggregate expenditure on food and groceries and on rent.

With regard to Miscellaneous Expenditure, which covers a very wide field, enquiries have been made as to variations in cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, etc., and also with regard to other items included in the Indicator Lists for Miscellaneous Expenditure, and the aggregate expenditure on these items has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

The item Groceries (not Food) has been omitted from Miscellaneous Expenditure, though it was so described by the Commission, as the index-numbers already published by this Bureau cover the items allowed for in this amount, such as soap, starch, blue, &c.

3. Base Period.—For the purpose of making comparisons, it is necessary to fix some period as the base period with which all other periods are compared. In the case of index-numbers for food, groceries, and rent, already published, the base period is the year 1911. For the new index-numbers, covering all the items of household expenditure, November, 1914, has been adopted. This has been necessary because of the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for years prior to 1914. While the index-numbers for 1914 in the following tables relate to the month of November, it may be accepted as typical of immediately pre-war conditions. As in the case of the base period, 1911, the weighted average cost of the six capital cities has been taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November, 1914, made equal to 1000.

4. Variations in the Thirty Towns.—As will be seen from the following tables, the investigations has been extended to the Thirty Towns for the months of November, 1921, and May, 1922. It has not been considered necessary to undertake the difficult task of securing the information as to prices of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure in towns other than the Capitals, for previous years. So far as the Capitals are concerned, the information was already available in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage. In future the information will be collected quarterly for all the towns, and quarterly index-numbers will be computed.

5. **Variations in Cost, November, 1914, to May, 1922.**—The following tables furnish index-numbers shewing the variations during the period covered, in the cost of—(a) Food and Groceries; (b) Rent; (c) Food, Groceries and Rent Combined; (d) Clothing; (e) Miscellaneous Expenditure; (f) Food and Groceries, Rent, Clothing and Miscellaneous Expenditure combined.

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities) Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in November, 1914, as base (=1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	995	..	..	..	..	..	960	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915 ..	1,316	..	..	..	..	..	1,301	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916 ..	1,299	..	..	..	..	..	1,233	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917 ..	1,367	..	..	..	..	..	1,244	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918 ..	1,368	..	..	..	..	..	1,315	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919 ..	1,074	..	..	..	..	..	1,521	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,911	..	..	..	..	..	1,903	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,503	1,524	1,515	1,482	1,459	1,504	1,439	1,447	1,434	1,467	1,479	1,441
May 1922 ..	1,471	1,474	1,587	1,493	1,419	1,475	1,459	1,466	1,457	1,465	1,412	1,459

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	957	..	..	..	..	..	1,006	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915 ..	1,341	..	..	..	..	..	1,339	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916 ..	1,166	..	..	..	..	..	1,302	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917 ..	1,285	..	..	..	..	..	1,256	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918 ..	1,376	..	..	..	..	..	1,344	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919 ..	1,607	..	..	..	..	..	1,579	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,742	..	..	..	..	..	1,911	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,490	1,395	1,480	1,531	1,460	1,482	1,408	1,474	1,510	1,440	1,554	1,471
May 1922 ..	1,394	1,311	1,391	1,467	1,367	1,391	1,581	1,519	1,506	1,442	1,570	1,572

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehan.	Beaconsfield.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,164	..	..	..	..	..	1,072	..	..	..	..	1,000*
" 1915 ..	1,277	..	..	..	..	..	1,339	..	..	..	..	1,314
" 1916 ..	1,332	..	..	..	..	..	1,259	..	..	..	..	1,267
" 1917 ..	1,291	..	..	..	..	..	1,480	..	..	..	..	1,393
" 1918 ..	1,272	..	..	..	..	..	1,432	..	..	..	..	1,343
" 1919 ..	1,539	..	..	..	..	..	1,624	..	..	..	..	1,600
" 1920 ..	1,736	..	..	..	..	..	1,917	..	..	..	..	1,886
" 1921 ..	1,567	1,746	1,644	1,636	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,495	1,728	1,553	1,680	1,482
May 1922 ..	1,603	1,703	1,674	1,654	1,640	1,642	1,600	1,516	1,734	1,493	1,621	1,484

	Weighted Average 30 Towns, C. wealth.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,000*
" 1915 ..	1,314
" 1916 ..	1,267
" 1917 ..	1,393
" 1918 ..	1,343
" 1919 ..	1,600
" 1920 ..	1,886
" 1921 ..	1,482
May 1922 ..	1,487

* Basis of Table.

House Rents.—Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in November, 1914, as base (= 1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,146						985					
" 1915	1,094						974					
" 1916	1,094						998					
" 1917	1,103						1,030					
" 1918	1,127						1,109					
" 1919	1,186						1,196					
" 1920	1,315						1,319					
" 1921	1,344	1,159	658	1,236	841	1,203	1,394	826	866	1,061	1,055	1,301
May 1922	1,383	1,179	658	1,248	855	1,327	1,436	860	888	1,091	1,088	1,342

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charter Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	780						867					
" 1915	774						839					
" 1916	760						842					
" 1917	774						874					
" 1918	835						950					
" 1919	931						1,012					
" 1920	977						1,136					
" 1921	978	932	754	689	856	923	1,173	784	800	678	844	1,113
May 1922	1,085	893	780	677	856	994	1,217	770	844	684	844	1,153

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, C'wealth.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehan.	Beaconsfield.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
Nov. 1914	808						833						1,000*	
" 1915	759						839						970	
" 1916	782						847						977	
" 1917	780						861						1,000	
" 1918	801						876						1,054	
" 1919	835						1,004						1,125	
" 1920	919						1,281						1,243	
" 1921	906	763	804	647	926	907	1,290	1,059	339	181	561	1,081	1,237	1,200
May 1922	985	754	880	732	850	922	1,306	1,126	340	208	561	1,112	1,332	1,245

* Basis of Table.

Food, Groceries and House Rent Combined.—Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in November, 1914, as base (=1000.)

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Baharat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,056						970					
" 1915	1,226						1,169					
" 1916	1,217						1,135					
" 1917	1,200						1,158					
" 1918	1,275						1,232					
" 1919	1,477						1,390					
" 1920	1,671						1,668					
" 1921	1,430	1,377	1,170	1,383	1,210	1,419	1,421	1,196	1,205	1,303	1,308	1,385
May 1922	1,435	1,355	1,213	1,395	1,102	1,416	1,450	1,224	1,228	1,314	1,282	1,412

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	888						986					
" 1915	1,112						1,137					
" 1916	1,006						1,117					
" 1917	1,080						1,102					
" 1918	1,158						1,185					
" 1919	1,371						1,350					
" 1920	1,434						1,599					
" 1921	1,284	1,200	1,187	1,191	1,217	1,257	1,340	1,106	1,224	1,133	1,268	1,327
May 1922	1,270	1,142	1,145	1,145	1,161	1,230	1,434	1,217	1,275	1,137	1,278	1,403

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, C. wealth.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehan.	Beaconsfield.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
Nov. 1914	1,020						976						1,000	
" 1915	1,068						1,131						1,175	
" 1916	1,110						1,093						1,150	
" 1917	1,089						1,234						1,181	
" 1918	1,082						1,204						1,227	
" 1919	1,255						1,410						1,409	
" 1920	1,406						1,720						1,627	
" 1921	1,325	1,350	1,305	1,237	1,333	1,327	1,476	1,310	1,168	1,000	1,229	1,377	1,404	1,374
May 1922	1,354	1,356	1,354	1,282	1,322	1,352	1,482	1,359	1,172	976	1,103	1,300	1,423	1,389

* Basis of Table.

Clothing.—Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in November, 1914, as base (= 1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,002						1,035					
.. 1915	1,097						1,056					
.. 1916	1,197						1,154					
.. 1917	1,337						1,294					
.. 1918	1,462						1,463					
.. 1919	1,641						1,609					
.. 1920	1,754						1,885					
.. 1921	1,665	1,760	1,683	1,822	1,672	1,676	1,685	2,120	2,032	1,940	2,133	1,758
May 1922	1,501	1,540	1,444	1,708	1,510	1,505	1,474	1,862	1,765	1,851	1,827	1,542

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	872						1,002					
.. 1915	915						1,088					
.. 1916	1,034						1,218					
.. 1917	1,102						1,392					
.. 1918	1,359						1,414					
.. 1919	1,581						1,723					
.. 1920	1,689						1,836					
.. 1921	1,492	1,867	1,926	2,079	2,015	1,638	1,585	1,903	1,963	2,251	1,565	1,641
May 1922	1,297	1,630	1,816	1,666	1,711	1,426	1,460	1,577	1,579	1,786	1,297	1,480

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average 30 Towns, C'wealth.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeelan.	Beaconsfield.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.	
Nov. 1914	926						1,094						1,000*
.. 1915	1,007						1,105						1,050
.. 1916	1,126						1,246						1,168
.. 1917	1,300						1,380						1,315
.. 1918	1,505						1,592						1,454
.. 1919	1,694						1,782						1,641
.. 1920	1,802						1,896						1,810
.. 1921	1,634	1,824	1,832	1,928	1,751	1,693	1,892	2,214	2,022	1,863	1,994	2,006	1,653
May 1922	1,464	1,505	1,687	1,628	1,552	1,490	1,793	1,839	1,713	1,644	1,823	1,796	1,475

* Basis of Table.

Miscellaneous Items of Household Expenditure.—Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in November, 1914, as base (=1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,022	..	..	..	..	..	971	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915	1,066	..	..	..	..	..	1,028	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,079	..	..	..	..	..	1,047	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,186	..	..	..	..	..	1,174	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	1,319	..	..	..	..	..	1,268	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	1,414	..	..	..	..	..	1,357	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,015	..	..	..	..	..	1,577	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921	1,348	1,328	1,471	1,270	1,321	1,350	1,364	1,277	1,352	1,379	1,176	1,355
May 1922	1,364	1,288	1,445	1,230	1,206	1,358	1,332	1,235	1,326	1,362	1,150	1,324

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	971	..	..	..	..	..	1,028	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915	1,009	..	..	..	..	..	1,073	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,022	..	..	..	..	..	1,111	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,117	..	..	..	..	..	1,180	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	1,243	..	..	..	..	..	1,319	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	1,293	..	..	..	..	..	1,392	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,520	..	..	..	..	..	1,603	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921	1,261	1,273	1,338	1,347	1,320	1,279	1,379	1,423	1,422	1,378	1,330	1,383
May 1922	1,236	1,268	1,293	1,302	1,275	1,252	1,356	1,371	1,390	1,344	1,319	1,358

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehan.	Beaconsfield.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.
Nov. 1914	1,041	..	..	..	..	..	934	..	..	..	..	1,000*
" 1915	1,098	..	..	..	..	..	1,028	..	..	..	..	1,050
" 1916	1,161	..	..	..	..	..	1,041	..	..	..	..	1,071
" 1917	1,236	..	..	..	..	..	1,155	..	..	..	..	1,178
" 1918	1,382	..	..	..	..	..	1,262	..	..	..	..	1,295
" 1919	1,495	..	..	..	..	..	1,344	..	..	..	..	1,364
" 1920	1,685	..	..	..	..	..	1,501	..	..	..	..	1,594
" 1921	1,374	1,375	1,357	1,304	1,471	1,374	1,245	1,315	1,257	1,282	1,280	1,349
May 1922	1,352	1,345	1,322	1,272	1,401	1,348	1,246	1,274	1,228	1,242	1,262	1,338

	Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, C'wealth.
Nov. 1914	1,000*	..
" 1915	1,050	..
" 1916	1,071	..
" 1917	1,178	..
" 1918	1,295	..
" 1919	1,364	..
" 1920	1,594	..
" 1921	1,349	1,347
May 1922	1,338	1,332

* Basis of Table.

Total Household Expenditure—(Food, Groceries, Rent, Clothing and Miscellaneous Expenditure combined).—Index-Numbers for each of Thirty Towns, with Weighted Average of Six Capital Towns in November, 1914, as Base (= 1000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS					
	Sydney.	Newcastle	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Bellarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914	1,037	..	..	..	..	..	986	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915	1,159	..	..	..	..	..	1,117	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,187	..	..	..	..	..	1,124	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,266	..	..	..	..	..	1,194	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	1,328	..	..	..	..	..	1,294	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	1,505	..	..	..	..	..	1,437	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,681	..	..	..	..	..	1,704	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921	1,477	1,461	1,348	1,469	1,342	1,469	1,475	1,435	1,444	1,471	1,486	1,470
May 1922	1,438	1,388	1,319	1,441	1,288	1,427	1,435	1,381	1,375	1,453	1,391	1,428

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba	Rockhampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kaduna, Moonta and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mc. Gambier.	Petersburg.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914	898	..	..	..	..	..	997	..	..	..	..	..
" 1915	1,046	..	..	..	..	..	1,114	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,016	..	..	..	..	..	1,140	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,114	..	..	..	..	..	1,186	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	1,222	..	..	..	..	..	1,265	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	1,408	..	..	..	..	..	1,447	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,511	..	..	..	..	..	1,657	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921	1,330	1,380	1,393	1,434	1,428	1,353	1,411	1,408	1,438	1,448	1,352	1,413
May 1922	1,270	1,283	1,334	1,299	1,315	1,281	1,427	1,332	1,369	1,331	1,290	1,414

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Midland Junction and Guildford.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Zeehan.	Beaconsfield.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.
Nov. 1914	1,001	..	..	..	..	..	997	..	..	..	..	1,000*
" 1915	1,059	..	..	..	..	..	1,110	..	..	..	..	1,123
" 1916	1,123	..	..	..	..	..	1,121	..	..	..	..	1,140
" 1917	1,166	..	..	..	..	..	1,253	..	..	..	..	1,213
" 1918	1,238	..	..	..	..	..	1,311	..	..	..	..	1,295
" 1919	1,404	..	..	..	..	..	1,480	..	..	..	..	1,481
" 1920	1,552	..	..	..	..	..	1,724	..	..	..	..	1,685
" 1921	1,409	1,470	1,442	1,417	1,459	1,424	1,536	1,535	1,391	1,259	1,423	1,454
May 1922	1,380	1,391	1,429	1,364	1,392	1,385	1,515	1,400	1,313	1,261	1,360	1,420
											Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, C'wealth.
											1,451	1,410

* Basis of Table

6. Application of Index-Numbers to the Findings of the Basic Wage Commission and other Investigations.—The following table has been prepared to show the manner in which the index-numbers in the preceding tables may be applied to the Commission's findings:—

**Basic Wage Commission's Findings.—Relative Cost at November, 1920 and 1921.
May, 1922, and November, 1914.**

Town.	November, 1920.		November, 1921.		May, 1922.		November, 1914.	
	Actual Finding.	Index-Number.	Index-Number.	Relative Cost	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.	Index-Number	Relative Cost
Sydney	£ s. d. 5 17 1	1,681	1,477	£ s. d. 5 2 10	1,438	£ s. d. 5 0 2	1,037	£ s. d. 3 12 3
Melbourne	5 16 6	1,704	1,475	5 0 10	1,435	4 18 1	986	3 7 5
Brisbane	5 16 2	1,511	1,380	4 13 5	1,270	4 9 3	898	3 3 1
Adelaide	5 16 1	1,657	1,411	4 18 10	1,427	5 0 0	997	3 9 10
Perth	5 13 11	1,552	1,409	5 3 5	1,380	5 1 3	1,001	3 13 6
Hobart	5 16 11	1,724	1,536	5 4 2	1,515	5 2 9	997	3 7 7
Wt. Aver	5 15 8	1,695	1,454	5 1 0	1,420	4 18 8	1,000	3 9 7

The above table shews, in the first place, the amount determined by the Basic Wage Commission as the actual cost of living according to the standard fixed by the Commission in November, 1920. The index-numbers from the table on the preceding page are given in the next column. Applying the index-numbers for November, 1921, and May, 1922, the relative costs of the Commission's standard for those two periods are then given. In order to check the applicability of the index-numbers for the determination of variations in the Basic Wage Commission's finding, the relative costs of the standard fixed for November, 1914, have been computed in the same manner, and are given in the last column. While they do not correspond exactly with the amounts as given in the supplementary Report of the Commission, they are sufficiently near to shew that the method adopted by this Bureau for measuring the variations, described in the preceding paragraphs, gives results which closely approximate in accuracy to those adopted by the Commission. The actual amounts for November, 1914, as found by the Commission, are given on page 28 of this Report. The greatest difference between the two results is shewn for Hobart, and amounts to only 1s. 6d. per week, while for Melbourne the difference is only 4d. per week.

The index-numbers, as already stated, can be used for measuring variations in any other standard of living. For instance, the index-number for food, groceries and rent only for the 4th Quarter of 1914 in Melbourne was 1106. If it be desired to ascertain the equivalent of the Harvester Wage in May, 1922, the following calculations can be made. The index-number for Melbourne in 1907 was 875, and the Harvester Wage in that year £2 2s. The equivalent of that amount in the 4th Quarter of 1914 can be determined as follows:—

$$\frac{£2\ 2s. \times 1106}{875} = £2\ 13s. 1d.$$

Then taking the index-numbers for all commodities in Melbourne, November, 1914, as being equivalent to the amount of £2 13s. 1d., the equivalent for May, 1922, will be:—

$$\frac{£2\ 13s. 1d. \times 1435}{986} = £3\ 17s. 3d.$$

Similarly it will be found that the Harvester Basis equivalent for Melbourne in November, 1920, based upon the increase shewn in the cost of all commodities from 1914, was £4 11s. 9d.