

CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—Information regarding variations in wholesale prices in Melbourne for 1925 and previous years is given herein. The investigation, commenced in 1912, included the collection of prices for years back to 1861 and the computation of index-numbers in connexion therewith. A statement of the results obtained and an explanation of the methods of collection and computation adopted will be found in Labour Report No. 1, pp. 43 to 66.

The data upon which the investigation is based were obtained mainly from reports of Melbourne market prices published in the ordinary press and in special trade reviews. In any case of doubt as to the reliability of the figures, the records thus obtained were verified by reference to well-known business firms dealing in the articles in question. Every care was taken to ensure that the prices quoted for each article refer to a uniform quality, and, in cases where several sources of information were utilized for obtaining prices of single commodities, special precautions were taken to ensure substantial continuity of quality or grade. In most cases, monthly prices were obtained (but where daily or weekly quotations were available, these were adopted), and arithmetic averages for the several years were computed. In regard, however, to a few commodities, such as coal, tea, cotton and wool, since monthly prices were not available for back years yearly averages, based in each case on reliable data, were secured.

It was at first intended to obtain records on the lines indicated for a uniform list of commodities for the capital city in each State. Owing, however, to the large amount of work involved, and to the difficulty experienced in obtaining regularly the prices of anything like a uniform representative list of commodities from the information published in some of these cities, this idea has for the present been abandoned.

2. **Basis.**—Retail prices have the advantage that a comparatively small list of commodities suffices to represent a large proportion of the average expenditure. They are, however, subject to the difficulty that their variations depend largely upon local conditions, and it is, therefore, necessary to collect the data over a wide area. Wholesale prices, on the other hand, are fixed usually at one or two centres, but a much larger list of commodities must be covered.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of 80 commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to 92.* The methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price index-numbers are the same as those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurements for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity in the units of measurement specified is used or consumed, are shown in the following statement.

* In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities in 1911 is taken.

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Commodities included, Units of Measurement, and
"Mass-Units."

Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.				GROUP V.			
Iron—				Currants		lb.	1,400
Pig	Mxd. Nos.	ton	61	Raisins	Sultans	doz. 1-lb.	1,400
Rod and Bar	Stafford	"	34	Herrings	1-lb. fresh	tins	50
Angle and T	"	"	34	Salmon	1 lb. tall	"	50
Plate	"	"	3		Alaska	"	
Hoop	"	"	4	Sardines	Halves	doz. halves	100
Galvanized	2d gauge	"	5	Coffee	Plantation	lb.	200
Tinned Plates	I.C. Coke	cwt.	60	Cocoa	McKenzie's	"	100
Fenong Wire	No. 8	ton	6	Sugar	No. 1A	ton	22
Zinc, sheet	"	"	1	Macaroni	"	lb.	200
Lead, sheet	"	"	2	Sago	"	cwt.	7
Pipes	"	"	3	Rice	"	ton	2
Copper, sheet	"	lb.	2,000	Salt	Australian	"	7
Quicksilver	"	"	12		fine	"	
Coal	Newcastle on wharf	ton	600	Salt	Rock	doz. 1-lb	6
				Mustard	Coleman's	tins	100
GROUP II.				Starch	Coleman's White	lb.	50
Brandbags		doz.	110	Matches	Australian	gross	30
Cornpacks		each	250	Candles	Safety	lb.	1,600
Woolpacks		"	200	Tobacco	Rangoon Two Seas	"	1,300
Leather—				Tea	Po'ket Pck.	gallon	3,000
Waxed Klp		lb.	600	Kerosene	"	"	1,700
Waxed Split		"	600				
Light Crop		"	600				
Cotton	Raw	"	24,000	GROUP VI.			
Wool	Greasy	"	12,200	Beef	Average quality	100 lbs.	390
Twine	Reaper and Binder	"	150	Mutton	"	lb.	33,000
Tallow	Mutton Prime	ton	1½	Veal	"	"	2,000
				Lamb	"	"	5,600
				Pork	"	"	3,700
GROUP III.				GROUP VII.			
Wheat		bushel	500	Timber—	Flooring—		
Flour		ton	48		6 x 1½	100 sq. ft.	30
Bran		"	14		6 x 3	"	30
Pollard		"	14		6 x 4	"	30
Oats	Milling	bushel	1,200		6 x 7	"	30
Oatmeal	Colonial	ton	1½		6 x 9	"	30
Barley	Malting	bushel	150		Weather-	"	200
	Feed	"	100		boards		
Maize	"	"	1,000		Oregon	1,000 ft.	20
Hay	Best Mngt.	ton	135		sup.		
Chaff	Prime	"	135		Shelving	10	30
Straw	Victorian	"	25	Cement	Portland	cask	10
Feas	"	bushel	55	White Lead	"	ton	½
Potatoes	"	ton	40	Slates	Welsh	1,000	½
Malt	Victorian	bushel	140		20 x 10		
Onions	"	ton	3				
GROUP IV.				GROUP VIII.			
Ham		lb.	800	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Bacon		"	3,200	Carbonate of	"	ton	½
Cheese		"	1,500	Soda	"	"	½
Butter	Best Fresh	"	9,500	Saltpetre	Refined	"	½
Lard	Bulk	"	200	Sulphur	"	cwt.	7
Eggs	Ordinary	doz.	1,800	Alum	Lump	ton	½
Honey	"	lb.	600	Cyanide of Pot-	"	lb.	570
Beeswax	"	"	40	assium			
Condensed Milk	Bocchus Marsh	doz. lb.	160				

3. **Index-Numbers.**—Index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined. These index-numbers are shown in the following table —

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers, 1861 to 1925, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

YEAR.	I Metals and Coal	II. Jute, Leather, &c.	III. Agricul- tural Pro- duce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Grocer- ies.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Com- modities combined.
1861	1,438	1,381	1,533	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,533
1871	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,536	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,088
1914	1,099	1,032	1,297	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,504
1916	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920	2,208	2,324	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921	2,173	1,392	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,843	1,809	1,787	2,005	1,985	1,758
1923	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,985
1925	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,644

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally. The index-numbers are reversible.

The index-numbers in each case have been computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base; in other words, they show the amount which would have had to be expended in each of the years specified in order to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911 distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities included in such group, and in all groups respectively. Thus, in the last column the cost of the relative quantities of the various commodities was 1,229 in 1871, and 974 in 1901, as compared with 1,000 in 1911 and 1,844 in 1925. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871 or 1925, and the purchasing-power of money in 1911 was accordingly greater. Again, prices were higher in 1911 than in 1901, and the purchasing-power of money in the former year was therefore less.

The general index-number for the year 1925 shows a decrease of 2.2 per cent. compared with that for 1924. In Groups I., III., and V. increases of 0.9, 9.1, and 0.1 per cent. respectively were recorded. All other groups showed decreases ranging from 0.5 per cent. in the case of Group VI. (Meat) to 18.7 per cent. in Group II. (Jute, Leather, etc.)

The index-numbers for the full period from 1871 to 1911 (and for 1861 and 1866) are given in Report No. 1, page 48.

4. **Quarterly Variations in Price Levels.**—The following table gives the index-numbers for the four quarters of 1925 and the first quarter of 1926:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1925 and First Quarter, 1926
(Base 1911 = 1,000).

Group.	No. of Com- modities.	Index Numbers.				
		Jan. to March, 1925.	April to June, 1925.	July to Sept., 1925.	Oct. to Dec., 1925.	Jan. to March, 1926.
I. Metals and Coal	14	1,942	1,830	1,849	1,885	1,908
II. Jute, Leather, etc.	10	2,244	2,012	1,865	1,745	1,705
III. Agricultural Produce	16	1,679	1,684	1,780	2,042	1,992
IV. Dairy Produce	9	1,498	1,687	1,694	1,666	1,779
V. Groceries	21	1,742	1,712	1,720	1,718	1,730
VI. Meat	5	2,239	2,247	2,401	1,961	1,893
VII. Building Materials	10	1,676	1,746	1,727	1,804	1,640
VIII. Chemicals	7	1,784	1,767	1,769	1,849	1,784
All Groups(a)	92	1,848	1,826	1,847	1,856	1,841

a) Weighted average.

5. Variations since Outbreak of War.—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1925, and for each month from January, 1925, to April, 1926, are shown in the following table, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (=1,000) for each group:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices, Index-Numbers, July 1914, Years 1915 to 1925, and Monthly, January, 1925, to April, 1926. (Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, etc.	III. Agricultural Produce.	IV. Dairy Pro- duce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mater- ials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	IX. All Groups.
July 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Year 1915 ..	1,168	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,807	1,130	1,335	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,841	1,084	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,085	1,695
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,002	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,704	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,495	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,378	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,701	1,653
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,662	1,746	1,617
Jan. 1925 ..	1,679	2,115	1,591	1,205	1,697	1,392	1,521	1,740	1,633
Feb. ..	1,669	2,086	1,564	1,226	1,689	1,423	1,518	1,740	1,625
March ..	1,670	1,982	1,558	1,306	1,677	1,327	1,550	1,740	1,601
April ..	1,666	1,903	1,551	1,348	1,650	1,313	1,548	1,728	1,584
May ..	1,661	1,802	1,589	1,439	1,665	1,335	1,561	1,728	1,592
June ..	1,659	1,836	1,591	1,420	1,657	1,510	1,673	1,718	1,625
July ..	1,663	1,744	1,643	1,404	1,667	1,492	1,605	1,716	1,618
August ..	1,668	1,730	1,651	1,403	1,669	1,519	1,556	1,716	1,620
Sept. ..	1,708	1,662	1,706	1,418	1,665	1,432	1,568	1,718	1,618
Oct. ..	1,700	1,627	1,848	1,437	1,654	1,304	1,550	1,834	1,631
Nov. ..	1,704	1,624	1,993	1,400	1,670	1,176	1,561	1,834	1,647
Dec. ..	1,732	1,557	1,904	1,318	1,670	1,148	1,527	1,740	1,604
Jan. 1926 ..	1,733	1,600	1,871	1,407	1,672	1,159	1,518	1,740	1,613
Feb. ..	1,735	1,571	1,851	1,481	1,681	1,094	1,491	1,740	1,601
March ..	1,732	1,525	1,873	1,548	1,678	1,249	1,481	1,740	1,627
April ..	1,734	1,514	1,870	1,663	1,678	1,530	1,476	1,732	1,676

6. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1925. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1925 as base. Corresponding figures for purchasing-power of money (retail prices of food, groceries and cost of house rent) have been included for comparative purposes.

Melbourne Wholesale and Retail Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers, 1925.

Particulars.	Jan. to March.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Whole Year.
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with 1911 as base (= 1,000)	1,848	1,826	1,847	1,866	1,844
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1925 as base (= 1,000)	1,002	990	1,002	1,007	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of House Rent) Index-Numbers with average for 1925 as base (= 1,000)	978	998	1,017	1,007	1,000

The results show a greater variation in retail than in wholesale prices. Wholesale prices were lowest in the second quarter and highest in the fourth quarter, while retail prices were lowest in the first quarter and highest in the third quarter.

7. **Prices, 1924 and 1925.**—In Section 1, Appendix, details are given of the average prices of the particular brands of commodities used in computing the index-numbers in the years 1924 and 1925. Corresponding information for previous years as far back as 1871 was given in the Appendixes to previous Reports.

§ 2. Retail Prices—Food, Groceries, and Rent.

1. **General.**—In normal circumstances changes in the cost of living due to variations in prices and not to alteration in standard can best be measured by means of index-numbers of prices. A "composite unit," consisting of appropriate quantities of the commodities which enter into general consumption in Australia, and including housing accommodation, has, therefore, been adopted, and a comparison of the value of this composite unit at the prices ruling at any given date with the value determined by means of the prices ruling at some basic date furnishes the retail price index-number for the given date, and indicates the proportionate increase or decrease in the amount of money necessary to purchase such a composite unit. This method of computation is usually known as the "aggregate expenditure method." There are other methods of computing index-numbers, but

probably none so satisfactorily combines simplicity of procedure with accuracy of result. Investigations concerning retail prices are made by this Bureau in respect of the following matters :—

- (i.) Monthly variation in the cost of food and groceries in 30 towns.
- (ii.) Quarterly variations in retail prices and house rent in 30 towns.
- (iii.) Quarterly variations in retail prices of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure in 30 towns.
- (iv.) Annual variations in retail prices and house rent in 200 towns.
- (v.) Intermittent Householders' Budget Inquiries.

In earlier reports the results of comprehensive investigations concerning prices and prices-indexes for past years were published, and an account was given of the methods used in the collection of data and the computation of results. A discussion of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was furnished in Appendixes to Report No. 1, issued in December, 1912. In Appendix 1, to Report No. 9, an endeavour was made to set forth the essentials of the problem and of its solution.

For further particulars concerning the "aggregate expenditure method" of index-numbers, reference may be made to Report No. 6, pages 19 and 20, and to Report No. 12, pages 22 and 23.

2 Cost of Commodities, Standard of Living, and Expenditure on Living.

—A change in the "cost of living" may be due to a change in the standard of living, or in the retail price level, or in both; the expenditure on living depends thus on three factors, viz. :—

- (i.) The nature of the commodities consumed;
- (ii.) The quantities of the commodities consumed; and
- (iii.) The prices of these commodities.

A change in any one of these may produce a change in the expenditure on living. In order to obtain index-numbers that will satisfactorily measure variation in price level, it is necessary that the particular series of commodities selected, and the relative quantities of these, remain constant. This phase of the subject is dealt with more fully in Labour Report No. 1, Appendix VIII.; in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 17-18; in Labour Bulletin No. 9, pp. 27 to 46; in Labour Bulletin No. 14, pp. 127 to 130; and in Part II. of Appendix I. of Labour Report No. 9.

Notwithstanding the explicit statement of the purpose and scope of these investigations given in the various Labour Reports, misunderstanding in regard thereto is still prevalent. Many persons, having noticed that a different regimen gives a very different aggregate cost, have thought that the computed price-indexes must vary considerably with change of regimen. In Labour Bulletin No. 14, pp. 127 to 130, it is shown, by calculations based on

widely different regimens, that the mode adopted of investigating retail price level is not vitiated by employing a fixed regimen. Where a standard of living, or living wage, has been fixed, the tables can be used as a basis to determine the variations in the cost of living until such time as the regimen used as a basis for estimation has ceased to be fairly representative of the usage of the community. Should a change be necessary, certain safeguards which have been indicated in Labour Report No. 1, Appendixes VIII. and IX., and further dealt with in Appendix I. of Labour Report No. 9 must be applied.

3. **The Composite Unit.**—The 47 items making up the "composite unit" may be divided into four groups, viz., (i.) groceries and bread, (ii.) dairy produce, (iii.) meat, (iv.) housing. The cost of these items covers about 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of a normal family.

Special investigations have been made with reference to variations in the cost of the items and services included in the balance of expenditure, and the results are given in § 3 of this Chapter.

The index-numbers computed on the basis of food, groceries, and housing in the past can be accepted as a fair reflection of the variation in the whole ordinary household expenditure in normal times. The question of procedure in abnormal circumstances was referred to in Labour Report No. 6, pp. 20 to 22.

The constitution of the "composite unit" is shown hereunder.

Retail Prices.—Composite Unit.

Commodity or Service.	Unity of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."	Commodity or Service.	Unity of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).			GROUP III.—MEAT.		
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	468	26. Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary ..	25 lb. bags	11	27. Beef, rib	"	82
3. Tea	lb.	30	28. Beef, flank	"	12
4. Coffee	"	2	29. Beef, shin	"	14
5. Sugar	"	460	30. Beef, steak, rump ..	"	24
6. Rice	"	50	31. Beef, steak, shoulder ..	"	53
7. Sago	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing ..	"	53
8. Jam	"	73	33. Beef, corned round ..	"	39
9. Oatmeal	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with	"	
10. Raisins	"	14	bone	"	11
11. Currants	"	1	35. Beef, brisket, without	"	
12. Starch	"	1	bone	"	32
13. Blue	doz. sqs.	1	36. Mutton, leg	"	92
14. Candles	lb.	18	37. Mutton, shoulder ..	"	62
15. Soap	"	64	38. Mutton, loin	"	30
16. Potatoes	1½ lbs.	64	39. Mutton, neck	"	62
17. Onions	lb.	68	40. Mutton, chops, loin ..	"	15
18. Kerosene	gallon	17	41. Mutton, chops, leg ..	"	31
			42. Mutton, chops, neck ..	"	9½
			43. Pork, leg	"	8½
			44. Pork, loin	"	10½
			45. Pork, belly	"	8½
			46. Pork, chops	"	
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.			GROUP IV.—HOUSING.		
19. Milk	quart	300	47. House Accommoda-	week	40½
20. Butter	lb.	95	tion		
21. Cheese	"	15			
22. Eggs	dozen	18			
23. Bacon, middle ..	lb.	18			
24. Bacon, shoulder ..	"	16			
25. Ham	"	8			

This inquiry so far as the capital cities are concerned goes back to 1901, and all possible precautions have been taken to ensure accuracy.

4. **Other Investigations.**—(i.) *General.*—These are concerned with (1) Annual variations in the price index-numbers for 200 towns, (2) the cost of living according to householders' budget inquiries, (3) special inquiries as to the cost of food, groceries, and housing in various towns and localities, and (4) the investigation by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.

(ii.) *Price-Indexes for 200 Towns.*—An investigation as to variation in price-indexes for 100 Australian towns was carried out for the months of November, 1913, and November, 1914. From 1915 to 1922 the number of towns from which returns were collected annually was increased from 100 to 150, and from November, 1923, the number was further raised to 200. The results of the investigations for November of each year from 1913 to 1922 were published in various issues of the Report. Prior to 1912 investigations were made concerning the price-indexes in the capital cities only, but for 1912 and subsequent years monthly inquiries have been extended to 30 towns. The general agreement of the various results shows that the index-numbers published for the capital cities only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years, fairly indicate the variations in the cost of food, groceries, and housing in each State and throughout Australia.

(iii.) *Householders' Budgets.*—The first collection of these was made in 1910-11, and the results, which covered a period of twelve months, were published in December, 1911. A second was made during 1913 for the month of November only, and results were given in a special report, entitled "Labour Report, No. 4, Expenditure on Living in the Commonwealth, November, 1913." In September, 1917, the Government of Western Australia appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the cost of the necessaries of life in that State. Under the authority of this Commission budgets were obtained from householders showing their weekly expenditure in detail. The Commonwealth Statistician undertook the necessary analysis of the returns, and the report, when completed, was forwarded to the Western Australian Government, at whose request it was published in Labour Report No. 9, pp. 63-71.

(iv.) *Special Investigations.*—During recent years, in connexion with Arbitration Court proceedings, the question has been raised of the cost of living in certain country towns and districts as compared with the cost in the towns usually covered by the investigations of the Bureau. In order to ascertain the necessary particulars, inquiries were made in over 100 towns and localities, and index-numbers were computed and submitted to the tribunals concerned.

(v.) *Investigations by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.*—In December, 1919, the Commonwealth Government appointed a Commission consisting of three representatives of Employers' Organizations, and three representatives of the Federated Trade Unions, with an independent Chairman. The terms of the Commission are given hereinafter.

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

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

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

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

Royal Commission on Basic Wage—Cost of Commodities, etc., 1914 to 1920.

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

The results of investigations into the variation in the cost of living since 1920 according to this standard are given in § 3 of this Chapter.

5. **Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1925.**—(i.) *General.*—Index numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, as well as the weighted average for all groups together, are shown for the capital city of each State in the next table. In this table the weighted aggregate expenditure for the whole of the capital cities in 1911 for each group or combination is taken as base (= 1,000), and the figures for the separate cities give the relative cost of the regimen. These index-numbers are comparable in all respects within the limits of a group or combination, since within such limits they show not only the variations from year to year in each city, but comparisons also as to the relative cost in the different cities for the same year or for different years:—

Retail Price Index-Numbers—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1925.

The index-numbers given in the separate parts of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing, and food and groceries, since the weighted average one for the six cities taken together in 1911 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

TOWN	1907.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney	904	1,018	1,112	2,130	1,976	1,837	1,833	1,710	1,864
Melbourne	817	924	998	1,920	1,897	1,705	1,708	1,575	1,727
Brisbane	969	1,067	1,076	2,155	1,958	1,841	1,832	1,685	1,836
Adelaide	903	958	1,061	2,030	1,907	1,760	1,744	1,643	1,770
Perth	1,013	1,276	1,113	2,008	1,955	1,729	1,692	1,627	1,770
Hobart	888	1,003	1,070	1,995	1,927	1,758	1,704	1,683	1,736
Weighted Average (a)	885	1,000	1,062	2,030	1,937	1,774	1,770	1,650	1,797
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.									
Sydney	932	971	1,110	1,957	1,823	1,979	1,831	1,660	1,613
Melbourne	967	959	1,075	1,929	1,840	1,695	1,745	1,604	1,583
Brisbane	837	983	995	1,816	1,904	1,562	1,670	1,558	1,540
Adelaide	928	1,103	1,194	1,887	1,723	1,578	1,684	1,626	1,622
Perth	1,200	1,241	1,244	1,954	1,951	1,730	1,800	1,720	1,689
Hobart	955	994	1,177	1,976	1,848	1,530	1,665	1,540	1,484
Weighted Average (a)	955	1,000	1,108	1,928	1,815	1,627	1,767	1,630	1,600
GROUP III.—MEAT.									
Sydney	904	959	1,280	2,388	1,838	1,400	1,788	1,845	1,833
Melbourne	1,067	929	1,270	2,414	1,972	1,591	2,020	1,958	1,959
Brisbane	1,024	935	1,109	2,120	1,719	1,256	1,468	1,638	1,705
Adelaide	1,059	1,037	1,502	2,507	2,007	1,815	2,100	2,222	2,193
Perth	1,511	1,577	1,688	2,224	2,113	1,904	2,084	2,520	2,432
Hobart	1,279	1,221	1,403	2,045	2,382	2,128	2,345	2,463	2,285
Weighted Average (a)	1,074	1,000	1,323	2,300	1,934	1,587	1,904	1,982	1,961
GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney	930	989	1,150	2,148	1,898	1,703	1,820	1,732	1,785
Melbourne	925	935	1,091	2,056	1,901	1,644	1,802	1,684	1,748
Brisbane	947	1,018	1,078	2,052	1,812	1,608	1,693	1,690	1,734
Adelaide	951	1,020	1,215	2,132	1,906	1,723	1,823	1,791	1,840
Perth	1,197	1,346	1,302	2,050	1,995	1,776	1,828	1,891	1,938
Hobart	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,162	2,025	1,794	1,863	1,849	1,810
Weighted Average (a)	955	1,000	1,144	2,101	1,902	1,684	1,805	1,732	1,786
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney	969	1,145	1,243	1,541	1,617	1,680	1,730	1,831	1,870
Melbourne	744	931	1,027	1,272	1,340	1,448	1,534	1,574	1,604
Brisbane	463	610	762	1,018	1,030	1,128	1,151	1,457	1,165
Adelaide	835	1,155	1,071	1,240	1,322	1,377	1,450	1,540	1,676
Perth	749	857	963	1,145	1,209	1,256	1,294	1,311	1,340
Hobart	661	739	847	1,420	1,441	1,359	1,503	1,592	1,649
Weighted Average (a)	813	1,000	1,082	1,344	1,410	1,486	1,553	1,615	1,647
ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney	948	1,048	1,188	1,920	1,793	1,694	1,790	1,760	1,817
Melbourne	857	934	1,067	1,762	1,600	1,571	1,702	1,643	1,694
Brisbane	765	895	950	1,064	1,519	1,427	1,490	1,490	1,621
Adelaide	908	1,070	1,161	1,797	1,687	1,593	1,683	1,607	1,741
Perth	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,710	1,700	1,581	1,627	1,673	1,714
Hobart	870	938	1,075	1,883	1,806	1,631	1,728	1,753	1,750
Weighted Average (a)	900	1,000	1,121	1,817	1,717	1,610	1,710	1,688	1,733

Note.—As to basis of index-numbers, see remarks on pages 13 to 16.

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii.) *Groceries (18 Commodities)*.—The index-number for this group was higher in 1925 than in 1924 in all the capital cities. The increase for all cities in 1925 compared with 1924 amounts to 8.9 per cent. ; compared with 1911 there has been an increase of 79.7 per cent. The average cost in 1925 of the commodities included was highest in Sydney and lowest in Melbourne.

(iii.) *Dairy Produce (7 Commodities)*.—The index-numbers for this group were lower for 1925 than for 1924 in all the capitals. The index-number for all the cities in 1925 was 1.8 per cent. lower than in 1924, and 60.0 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost in 1925 of the commodities was highest in Perth and lowest in Hobart.

(iv.) *Meat (21 Cuts, or Joints of Butcher's Meat)*.—The index-numbers for this group were lower in 1925 than in 1924 in all the capital cities except Melbourne. The index-number for all the cities in 1925 was 1.1 per cent. lower than in 1924 ; and 96.1 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost for 1925 of the commodities included was highest in Perth and lowest in Brisbane.

(v.) *Food and Groceries (Groups I., II., and III. combined)*.—The index-numbers for this group show the aggregate effect of movements in prices of the commodities included, apart from variations in house rent. There was an increase in 1925 as compared with 1924 in all the cities except Hobart. Taking the weighted average for all the capitals, the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries specified on page 15 were 3.1 per cent. higher in 1925 than in 1924, and 78.5 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost of these items for 1925 was highest in Perth and lowest in Brisbane.

(vi.) *Housing*.—The cost of housing increased in all the capital cities during 1925. The weighted average increase for the six capitals in 1925 compared with 1924 was 2.0 per cent. The increase in cost in 1925 compared with 1911 for the six capitals considered as a whole was 64.7 per cent. In 1925 the cost of housing was greatest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

(vii.) *Food, Groceries, and Housing combined*.—The weighted average index-numbers for the combined expenditure upon these items show an increase of 2.7 per cent. in 1925 compared with 1924, and an increase of 73.3 per cent. compared with 1911.

Compared with 1911, the base-year of the period, the weighted average price index-number showed an increase of 73.3 per cent. for 1925. In 1907 and 1911, the index-number for Perth was higher than for any other capital city. For the year 1921 the index-number for Hobart was the highest, and for 1920 and 1922 to 1925 inclusive the index-number for Sydney was higher than for any other capital city.

6. Change of Basis for Rent Constituent.—From and after the first quarter of 1925, the basis employed in computing the variations in housing costs has been amended to accord with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand, held in Adelaide in August, 1924. The conclusion then reached was that "for purposes of computing price-levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account."

Up to the present time the practice followed in computing the retail price index-number has been to take into account the rentals of all houses ranging from those of three rooms and under to those of seven rooms and upwards. In respect to rent this practice is, to some extent, a departure from the principle adopted with regard to prices of food and groceries, i.e., that of taking the price of the predominant type of commodity, inasmuch as the rent of houses of other than the predominant type has been included. The Census of 1921 disclosed the fact that while houses having five rooms predominated in some towns, in others the houses of four rooms predominated. Houses of four rooms represented 24 per cent. of the total dwellings, while those of five rooms represented 29 per cent; the two types together representing 53 per cent. of the total. While the tables hitherto published which included rent of all houses will in future be replaced by those including rent of houses of four and five rooms, the preparation of index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses in the 30 towns of the Commonwealth will be continued for the use of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and the parties interested in Awards and Variations made by that Court, and the results will be published in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics.

7. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1921 to 1925.—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (46 commodities), in 30 of the more important towns in Australia at yearly, quarterly, and monthly periods for the years specified. In addition, index-numbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing. As explained on pp. 31 and 32 of Labour Report No. 6, these are now computed to the same base as the index-numbers relating to the six capital cities, which go back to the year 1901.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1921 to 1925: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000).

	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.
FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.												
1921 ..	1,806	1,936	2,128	1,921	1,854	1,911	1,901	1,912	1,880	1,932	1,920	1,902
1922 ..	1,703	1,706	1,776	1,691	1,632	1,705	1,644	1,654	1,649	1,642	1,591	1,644
1923 ..	1,820	1,838	1,909	1,855	1,766	1,826	1,802	1,793	1,706	1,757	1,750	1,800
1924 ..	1,732	1,749	1,954	1,767	1,647	1,739	1,684	1,704	1,729	1,673	1,723	1,687
1925 ..	1,785	1,801	2,105	1,785	1,720	1,794	1,748	1,763	1,778	1,730	1,721	1,749
1924 1st Qtr.	1,782	1,819	2,017	1,810	1,705	1,791	1,728	1,753	1,758	1,705	1,762	1,729
2nd "	1,735	1,756	1,927	1,801	1,662	1,742	1,694	1,715	1,756	1,683	1,744	1,697
3rd "	1,695	1,717	1,935	1,718	1,618	1,702	1,662	1,676	1,720	1,687	1,711	1,666
4th "	1,715	1,705	1,938	1,731	1,601	1,719	1,658	1,672	1,683	1,675	1,675	1,654
1925 1st Qtr.	1,727	1,749	1,981	1,740	1,678	1,735	1,692	1,715	1,719	1,670	1,661	1,693
2nd "	1,761	1,785	2,131	1,749	1,705	1,772	1,745	1,749	1,772	1,726	1,699	1,745
3rd "	1,813	1,820	2,178	1,795	1,720	1,822	1,787	1,793	1,815	1,755	1,768	1,787
4th "	1,840	1,849	2,130	1,858	1,777	1,848	1,767	1,793	1,810	1,769	1,755	1,769
1925.												
January ..	1,720	1,736	1,962	1,727	1,673	1,728	1,677	1,701	1,699	1,661	1,660	1,678
February ..	1,721	1,745	1,983	1,742	1,670	1,729	1,688	1,716	1,719	1,668	1,659	1,689
March ..	1,741	1,767	1,996	1,760	1,692	1,740	1,712	1,727	1,739	1,679	1,663	1,712
April ..	1,738	1,774	2,116	1,720	1,601	1,750	1,728	1,729	1,756	1,714	1,680	1,723
May ..	1,762	1,791	2,126	1,754	1,710	1,773	1,741	1,752	1,769	1,730	1,700	1,742
June ..	1,784	1,791	2,152	1,773	1,712	1,793	1,771	1,766	1,792	1,734	1,716	1,769
July ..	1,790	1,811	2,180	1,782	1,711	1,809	1,793	1,786	1,804	1,752	1,760	1,792
August ..	1,816	1,820	2,177	1,799	1,723	1,824	1,780	1,795	1,824	1,755	1,768	1,781
September ..	1,825	1,829	2,177	1,802	1,725	1,835	1,787	1,793	1,819	1,759	1,776	1,787
October ..	1,846	1,846	2,193	1,860	1,753	1,854	1,779	1,803	1,828	1,778	1,780	1,781
November ..	1,819	1,850	2,113	1,845	1,771	1,829	1,788	1,811	1,782	1,782	1,767	1,760
December ..	1,854	1,852	2,085	1,878	1,808	1,860	1,744	1,767	1,786	1,747	1,717	1,737
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1921 ..	1,617	1,447	914	1,440	976	1,563	1,340	781	843	1,098	1,104	1,254
1922 ..	1,680	1,449	914	1,448	1,015	1,617	1,448	819	942	1,158	1,140	1,355
1923 ..	1,739	1,437	883	1,538	1,044	1,683	1,534	912	995	1,263	1,204	1,476
1924 ..	1,681	1,520	930	1,755	1,255	1,776	1,574	960	986	1,267	1,227	1,513
1925 ..	1,870	1,654	1,001	1,687	1,373	1,823	1,604	1,034	1,089	1,322	1,222	1,548
1924 1st Qtr.	1,790	1,514	902	1,713	1,044	1,736	1,564	949	994	1,265	1,224	1,505
2nd "	1,837	1,514	920	1,749	1,332	1,781	1,575	977	900	1,265	1,227	1,515
3rd "	1,842	1,527	944	1,788	1,322	1,787	1,572	963	937	1,273	1,227	1,512
4th "	1,855	1,527	953	1,770	1,322	1,799	1,585	951	975	1,265	1,227	1,522
1925 1st Qtr.	1,869	1,653	991	1,695	1,352	1,822	1,594	1,040	1,057	1,266	1,227	1,537
2nd "	1,860	1,601	998	1,704	1,359	1,818	1,600	1,040	1,042	1,277	1,220	1,542
3rd "	1,852	1,680	1,015	1,675	1,384	1,810	1,617	1,020	1,151	1,342	1,220	1,563
4th "	1,802	1,680	1,000	1,675	1,395	1,844	1,602	1,027	1,106	1,403	1,220	1,550
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.												
1921 ..	1,793	1,752	1,672	1,740	1,543	1,780	1,690	1,487	1,490	1,607	1,614	1,659
1922 ..	1,694	1,609	1,452	1,600	1,401	1,672	1,571	1,349	1,384	1,440	1,422	1,536
1923 ..	1,790	1,687	1,580	1,736	1,495	1,773	1,702	1,462	1,495	1,571	1,545	1,678
1924 ..	1,769	1,663	1,370	1,763	1,506	1,753	1,643	1,425	1,450	1,520	1,537	1,622
1925 ..	1,817	1,746	1,581	1,748	1,590	1,805	1,694	1,489	1,520	1,577	1,533	1,673
1924 1st Qtr.	1,785	1,704	1,598	1,779	1,457	1,771	1,667	1,451	1,471	1,540	1,560	1,645
2nd "	1,773	1,665	1,549	1,782	1,538	1,757	1,649	1,438	1,468	1,526	1,550	1,629
3rd "	1,750	1,650	1,563	1,744	1,507	1,754	1,623	1,409	1,445	1,532	1,580	1,608
4th "	1,767	1,638	1,568	1,746	1,497	1,749	1,627	1,402	1,417	1,485	1,507	1,604
1925 1st Qtr.	1,781	1,713	1,609	1,723	1,556	1,768	1,656	1,461	1,470	1,519	1,498	1,635
2nd "	1,802	1,716	1,706	1,732	1,575	1,789	1,691	1,483	1,498	1,557	1,519	1,669
3rd "	1,828	1,768	1,741	1,750	1,594	1,817	1,723	1,506	1,566	1,600	1,562	1,702
4th "	1,859	1,786	1,708	1,789	1,634	1,846	1,705	1,506	1,546	1,632	1,554	1,687

(a) See explanatory note at head of page 18.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1921 to 1925: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000)....continued.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonah, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average.

FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).

1921	1,812	1,714	1,834	1,901	1,817	1,812	1,906	1,918	1,960	1,882	1,954	1,909
1922	1,608	1,689	1,616	1,698	1,679	1,609	1,723	1,710	1,725	1,626	1,782	1,720
1923	1,698	1,679	1,738	1,828	1,677	1,700	1,823	1,777	1,603	1,754	1,801	1,819
1924	1,690	1,600	1,679	1,841	1,685	1,696	1,791	1,786	1,820	1,692	1,817	1,700
1925	1,734	1,674	1,749	1,875	1,668	1,734	1,840	1,884	1,934	1,783	1,939	1,844
1924 1st Qtr.	1,757	1,689	1,735	1,911	1,713	1,754	1,845	1,776	1,820	1,801	1,768	1,888
2nd "	1,680	1,589	1,678	1,825	1,604	1,678	1,826	1,781	1,822	1,803	1,793	1,822
3rd "	1,672	1,578	1,659	1,822	1,588	1,667	1,760	1,734	1,822	1,844	1,844	1,761
4th "	1,661	1,546	1,646	1,805	1,581	1,646	1,734	1,782	1,812	1,783	1,872	1,787
1925 1st Qtr.	1,667	1,570	1,676	1,821	1,571	1,662	1,813	1,768	1,870	1,714	1,821	1,818
2nd "	1,726	1,643	1,721	1,831	1,647	1,721	1,888	1,802	1,943	1,771	1,979	1,888
3rd "	1,744	1,714	1,784	1,898	1,694	1,749	1,838	1,870	1,962	1,766	1,914	1,844
4th "	1,799	1,768	1,817	1,966	1,759	1,804	1,821	1,896	1,992	1,771	1,917	1,829
1925.	1,644	1,528	1,652	1,807	1,566	1,639	1,781	1,791	1,843	1,693	1,903	1,783
January	1,669	1,543	1,677	1,845	1,563	1,662	1,823	1,804	1,867	1,723	1,919	1,823
February	1,601	1,579	1,690	1,820	1,593	1,585	1,814	1,800	1,899	1,726	1,941	1,834
March	1,719	1,613	1,710	1,820	1,528	1,704	1,873	1,853	1,920	1,760	1,919	1,872
April	1,728	1,667	1,714	1,830	1,643	1,723	1,898	1,878	1,945	1,774	1,882	1,908
May	1,732	1,659	1,738	1,844	1,668	1,730	1,898	1,879	1,963	1,780	1,887	1,908
June	1,737	1,678	1,767	1,874	1,669	1,738	1,898	1,882	1,968	1,767	1,945	1,869
July	1,751	1,783	1,781	1,868	1,694	1,748	1,852	1,872	1,966	1,764	1,960	1,838
August	1,764	1,783	1,804	1,900	1,704	1,760	1,836	1,867	1,959	1,748	1,905	1,831
September	1,802	1,810	1,821	1,932	1,700	1,807	1,831	1,867	1,965	1,761	1,922	1,836
October	1,814	1,785	1,825	1,963	1,705	1,817	1,850	1,883	1,960	1,700	1,884	1,820
November	1,781	1,768	1,814	1,971	1,747	1,789	1,822	1,906	1,972	1,786	1,935	1,832
December												

HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1921	1,030	803	770	825	901	960	1,322	915	990	805	925	1,263
1922	1,128	870	788	854	863	1,037	1,377	1,010	984	805	929	1,314
1923	1,151	983	774	893	981	1,092	1,450	1,064	900	805	1,008	1,405
1924	1,157	1,033	709	911	1,097	1,106	1,540	900	1,005	810	1,225	1,485
1925	1,185	1,139	1,027	921	1,087	1,148	1,576	889	1,049	821	1,270	1,514
1924 1st Qtr.	1,153	1,014	792	911	983	1,098	1,462	991	984	703	1,151	1,418
2nd "	1,157	1,015	800	911	1,135	1,105	1,566	997	984	821	1,238	1,508
3rd "	1,157	1,005	800	911	1,125	1,105	1,568	986	1,026	810	1,248	1,502
4th "	1,161	1,009	805	911	1,135	1,115	1,574	980	1,026	812	1,268	1,517
1925 1st Qtr.	1,164	1,140	984	888	1,084	1,134	1,566	889	1,026	824	1,268	1,505
2nd "	1,164	1,129	1,041	930	1,095	1,141	1,680	808	1,054	819	1,208	1,518
3rd "	1,165	1,130	1,041	940	1,093	1,142	1,680	809	1,057	820	1,268	1,518
4th "	1,168	1,157	1,041	936	1,085	1,146	1,679	859	1,059	820	1,275	1,514

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1921	1,519	1,406	1,434	1,497	1,473	1,486	1,687	1,568	1,566	1,478	1,568	1,606
1922	1,427	1,288	1,305	1,381	1,310	1,394	1,693	1,447	1,437	1,318	1,449	1,509
1923	1,490	1,418	1,376	1,475	1,415	1,472	1,683	1,509	1,502	1,397	1,503	1,604
1924	1,490	1,386	1,349	1,492	1,437	1,468	1,697	1,469	1,514	1,361	1,505	1,675
1925	1,523	1,473	1,478	1,517	1,460	1,511	1,741	1,484	1,602	1,403	1,588	1,729
1924 1st Qtr.	1,530	1,430	1,381	1,535	1,489	1,508	1,701	1,430	1,506	1,343	1,530	1,678
2nd "	1,454	1,373	1,348	1,482	1,431	1,462	1,728	1,436	1,508	1,300	1,585	1,703
3rd "	1,470	1,363	1,337	1,480	1,423	1,456	1,745	1,428	1,528	1,308	1,619	1,664
4th "	1,467	1,378	1,330	1,470	1,414	1,447	1,674	1,451	1,517	1,307	1,645	1,664
1925 1st Qtr.	1,478	1,396	1,416	1,478	1,381	1,464	1,720	1,457	1,553	1,380	1,676	1,698
2nd "	1,515	1,450	1,465	1,493	1,440	1,503	1,743	1,489	1,600	1,410	1,708	1,749
3rd "	1,527	1,486	1,505	1,528	1,469	1,521	1,741	1,490	1,622	1,405	1,690	1,721
4th "	1,562	1,551	1,525	1,578	1,510	1,557	1,720	1,500	1,623	1,414	1,670	1,711

(c) See note at head of page 18.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1921 to 1925: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (b) (= 1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam (a).	Bainbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie (c).	Devonport (d).	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		

FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).

1921	1,995	2,207	..	2,020	2,017	2,042	2,095	1,934	..	..	2,058	2,000	1,902	1,811
1922	1,778	1,905	..	1,856	1,840	1,828	1,794	1,700	..	..	1,842	1,774	1,684	1,601
1923	1,828	2,101	1,992	1,840	1,918	1,861	1,843	1,820	1,883	1,855	1,853	1,854	1,805	1,801
1924	1,891	2,122	1,916	1,840	1,985	1,918	1,849	1,836	1,879	1,864	2,016	1,852	1,732	1,739
1925	1,932	2,144	2,043	2,001	2,077	1,965	1,810	1,795	1,821	1,849	2,143	1,917	1,785	1,779
1924 1st Qr.	1,874	2,120	1,944	1,860	1,930	1,901	1,895	1,804	1,840	1,862	2,031	1,891	1,778	1,785
2nd "	1,892	2,130	1,993	1,969	1,942	1,922	1,861	1,854	1,917	1,872	2,001	1,867	1,740	1,741
3rd "	1,902	2,115	1,908	1,938	2,042	1,930	1,843	1,830	1,885	1,801	2,019	1,850	1,706	1,711
4th "	1,805	2,115	1,821	1,943	2,027	1,920	1,798	1,796	1,772	1,820	2,015	1,806	1,705	1,700
1925 1st Qtr.	1,965	2,156	1,950	2,004	2,043	1,987	1,786	1,774	1,744	1,833	1,996	1,701	1,737	1,741
2nd "	2,019	2,157	2,079	2,054	2,088	2,038	1,790	1,783	1,785	1,834	2,038	1,790	1,784	1,789
3rd "	1,940	2,149	2,039	2,001	2,094	1,969	1,821	1,801	1,850	1,804	2,071	1,828	1,810	1,811
4th "	1,828	2,114	1,985	1,945	2,003	1,868	1,845	1,823	1,895	1,863	2,078	1,850	1,810	1,811
1925.														
January	1,930	2,129	1,804	1,975	2,005	1,957	1,793	1,787	1,734	1,831	1,991	1,798	1,722	1,727
February	1,971	2,169	1,956	2,019	2,058	1,995	1,784	1,772	1,740	1,832	1,993	1,789	1,734	1,731
March	1,988	2,168	2,030	2,019	2,069	2,010	1,780	1,762	1,757	1,838	2,006	1,785	1,755	1,775
April	2,010	2,139	2,076	2,070	2,079	2,027	1,778	1,776	1,773	1,812	2,025	1,788	1,785	1,771
May	2,030	2,161	2,078	2,073	2,033	2,047	1,788	1,790	1,784	1,848	2,042	1,801	1,798	1,791
June	2,017	2,173	2,084	2,090	2,103	2,038	1,805	1,782	1,797	1,841	2,045	1,809	1,803	1,807
July	1,950	2,160	2,030	1,990	2,100	1,937	1,804	1,785	1,838	1,854	2,051	1,811	1,809	1,811
August	1,961	2,139	2,047	2,001	2,094	1,985	1,813	1,800	1,855	1,869	2,079	1,824	1,808	1,811
September	1,900	2,138	2,031	2,012	2,083	1,934	1,846	1,817	1,884	1,870	2,034	1,849	1,812	1,811
October	1,868	2,157	2,035	1,999	2,068	1,909	1,866	1,838	1,897	1,870	2,066	1,861	1,820	1,821
November	1,808	2,098	1,972	1,925	1,991	1,848	1,829	1,806	1,885	1,804	2,080	1,835	1,807	1,811
December	1,809	2,087	1,948	1,911	1,950	1,840	1,851	1,824	1,908	1,855	2,087	1,854	1,802	1,811

HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1921	1,209	941	..	1,047	1,272	1,141	1,441	1,098	..	..	810	1,203	1,410	1,320
1922	1,256	944	..	1,114	1,251	1,180	1,359	1,175	..	..	810	1,180	1,486	1,398
1923	1,294	943	1,121	1,164	1,349	1,252	1,503	1,247	1,230	1,226	810	1,384	1,563	1,491
1924	1,311	919	1,390	1,158	1,349	1,298	1,592	1,272	1,300	1,277	810	1,449	1,615	1,551
1925	1,340	998	1,405	1,167	1,398	1,293	1,649	1,319	1,339	1,247	810	1,495	1,647	1,589
1924 1st Qr.	1,301	926	1,293	1,125	1,352	1,259	1,567	1,269	1,279	1,242	810	1,430	1,585	1,521
2nd "	1,307	902	1,292	1,167	1,351	1,292	1,551	1,274	1,291	1,294	810	1,425	1,619	1,551
3rd "	1,302	913	1,307	1,167	1,351	1,291	1,572	1,274	1,316	1,296	810	1,430	1,619	1,551
4th "	1,335	935	1,307	1,167	1,335	1,290	1,678	1,274	1,310	1,277	810	1,500	1,635	1,561
1925 1st Qtr.	1,335	915	1,394	1,167	1,344	1,289	1,746	1,335	1,311	1,296	810	1,550	1,644	1,585
2nd "	1,335	900	1,411	1,167	1,413	1,289	1,717	1,321	1,311	1,304	810	1,539	1,647	1,587
3rd "	1,350	894	1,408	1,167	1,413	1,301	1,677	1,310	1,368	1,208	810	1,448	1,644	1,561
4th "	1,330	881	1,408	1,167	1,421	1,291	1,556	1,310	1,368	1,181	810	1,435	1,653	1,591

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1921	1,700	1,782	..	1,660	1,737	1,704	1,800	1,620	..	..	1,530	1,701	1,717	1,691
1922	1,581	1,800	..	1,577	1,619	1,685	1,631	1,509	..	..	1,454	1,551	1,610	1,577
1923	1,627	1,906	1,646	1,582	1,706	1,632	1,728	1,605	1,652	1,619	1,654	1,678	1,710	1,639
1924	1,673	1,970	1,696	1,646	1,746	1,674	1,753	1,625	1,662	1,643	1,564	1,701	1,688	1,668
1925	1,714	1,976	1,735	1,693	1,803	1,713	1,750	1,616	1,640	1,623	1,592	1,696	1,733	1,701
1924 1st Qtr.	1,658	1,672	1,699	1,585	1,713	1,660	1,772	1,641	1,602	1,629	1,573	1,718	1,705	1,681
2nd "	1,672	1,674	1,730	1,668	1,720	1,674	1,744	1,636	1,689	1,655	1,554	1,701	1,694	1,677
3rd "	1,677	1,684	1,705	1,680	1,782	1,670	1,741	1,621	1,672	1,668	1,565	1,695	1,674	1,651
4th "	1,685	1,672	1,651	1,652	1,771	1,684	1,753	1,600	1,601	1,622	1,563	1,691	1,670	1,651
1925 1st Qtr.	1,729	1,690	1,741	1,690	1,780	1,725	1,771	1,600	1,591	1,632	1,551	1,704	1,702	1,683
2nd "	1,732	1,685	1,628	1,740	1,835	1,757	1,793	1,610	1,607	1,635	1,577	1,701	1,733	1,713
3rd "	1,710	1,678	1,802	1,668	1,839	1,715	1,729	1,616	1,674	1,613	1,508	1,685	1,747	1,731
4th "	1,645	1,651	1,768	1,653	1,784	1,651	1,737	1,630	1,607	1,607	1,602	1,694	1,751	1,737

(a) The Towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zeehan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). (b) See note at head of page 18.

In so far as they relate to the capital cities the index-numbers in these tables are comparable in every respect with those given on page 18 for the respective groups, and where they relate to the same period are identical in both tables.

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the table cannot be directly compared with one another in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing and food and groceries, since the weighted average cost in 1911 is in each case made equal to 1,000.

The last columns in each of the tables above refer to the weighted average for the 30 towns. The method of computing these weighted average index-numbers is explained in Report No. 1, page 35. The population weights used in the computations for 1923 and subsequent years were as follows :—

Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

N.S.W.		Vic.		Q'land.		S.A.		W.A.		Tas.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney ..	899	Melbourne	766	Brisbane	210	Adelaide	255	Perth, etc.	155	Hobart	52
Newcastle	84	Ballarat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadina, etc	13	Kalgo'lie, etc	19	Launceston	24
Broken Hill	26	Bendigo ..	30	Rockham'n	24	Pt. Pirie	10	Northam	4	Burnie ..	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chrs Twrs.	9	Mt Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	5
Bathurst	9	W'nambo'l	8	Warwick	6	Peterbor'gh	2	Geraldton	4	Queenst'wn	3

The weights used are based on the 1921 Census populations, and represent the actual populations at that date to the nearest 1,000.

8. Relative Retail Prices, 30 Towns, Food and Groceries and Housing.—

(i.) *General.*—The figures in the next table represent the relative index-numbers for the years 1923 to 1925 for the 30 towns in respect of which particulars are regularly collected, comparing expenditure on food and groceries and housing separately with the total expenditure on food, groceries, and housing. These index-numbers are comparable in all respects. For each year the first column gives the relative expenditure on groceries and food; the second, the relative expenditure on housing; while the remaining column relates to food and groceries combined with housing.

Index-Numbers, 30 Towns, showing Relative Expenditure on Food and Groceries and on Housing (4 and 5 rooms) separately, and on these Items combined. Basis of Table = Weighted Average Expenditure on Food, Groceries, and Housing (4 and 5 rooms) in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1923.			1924.			1925.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,137	653	1,790	1,082	637	1,769	1,115	702	1,817
Newcastle	1,143	539	1,687	1,092	571	1,633	1,123	621	1,745
Broken Hill	1,243	332	1,580	1,221	349	1,570	1,315	376	1,691
Goldburn	1,153	573	1,736	1,164	659	1,783	1,115	634	1,749
Bathurst	1,103	392	1,495	1,028	472	1,500	1,074	516	1,500
Weighted Average ..	1,141	632	1,773	1,086	667	1,753	1,120	685	1,805
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	1,126	576	1,702	1,052	591	1,643	1,003	602	1,694
Bellarat	1,120	342	1,462	1,084	361	1,425	1,101	388	1,489
Bendigo	1,121	374	1,495	1,080	370	1,450	1,111	409	1,520
Geelong	1,097	474	1,571	1,045	475	1,520	1,081	496	1,577
Warrnambool	1,093	452	1,545	1,076	461	1,537	1,074	469	1,533
Weighted Average ..	1,124	554	1,678	1,053	569	1,622	1,092	581	1,673
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	1,057	433	1,496	1,055	435	1,490	1,083	438	1,521
Toowoomba	1,048	369	1,418	1,000	383	1,388	1,045	428	1,473
Rockhampton	1,085	291	1,376	1,049	300	1,349	1,092	356	1,478
Charters Towers	1,140	335	1,475	1,150	342	1,492	1,171	346	1,517
Warwick	1,048	368	1,416	1,014	413	1,427	1,042	408	1,460
Weighted Average ..	1,062	410	1,472	1,053	415	1,468	1,083	428	1,511
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	1,138	545	1,683	1,119	578	1,697	1,149	592	1,741
Kadina, &c.	1,109	400	1,509	1,097	372	1,469	1,158	326	1,484
Port Pirie	1,130	372	1,502	1,137	377	1,514	1,208	391	1,602
Mount Gambier	1,095	302	1,397	1,057	304	1,361	1,095	306	1,403
Peterborough	1,124	379	1,603	1,135	400	1,595	1,211	477	1,688
Weighted Average ..	1,136	528	1,664	1,117	558	1,675	1,152	568	1,720
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth, &c.	1,141	486	1,627	1,181	492	1,673	1,210	504	1,714
Kalgoorlie, &c.	1,312	354	1,666	1,325	345	1,670	1,339	337	1,676
Northam	1,225	421	1,646	1,197	499	1,696	1,257	528	1,736
Bunbury	1,149	433	1,532	1,212	434	1,646	1,255	438	1,693
Geraldton	1,198	507	1,705	1,239	507	1,740	1,234	525	1,809
Weighted Average ..	1,192	470	1,632	1,198	476	1,674	1,228	485	1,713
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,164	564	1,723	1,155	593	1,753	1,131	619	1,750
Launceston	1,136	469	1,605	1,147	478	1,625	1,121	495	1,616
Burnie	1,176	478	1,652	1,173	439	1,662	1,137	503	1,640
Devonport	1,159	460	1,619	1,163	480	1,643	1,155	468	1,623
Queenstown	1,220	304	1,624	1,250	305	1,504	1,278	304	1,622
Weighted Average ..	1,153	520	1,678	1,157	544	1,701	1,135	561	1,696
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	1,129	560	1,689	1,085	583	1,668	1,118	597	1,715
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities	1,127	583	1,710	1,082	606	1,688	1,114	619	1,733

Expenditure in each town for food, groceries, and housing was multiplied by a number representing the population of the town, and a weighted result for all towns was thus computed. The weights used are given on page 24. The relative expenditure in each town for (a) food and groceries, (b) housing, and (c) food, groceries, and housing combined, is shown, the base being the

weighted average expenditure in the six capital cities for 1911 = 1,000. Therefore, in each horizontal line for each year the sum of the index-number for food and groceries and that for rent is equal to the index-number for food, groceries, and housing combined. The items in the table are comparable in all respects, and in addition show the proportionate cost of food and groceries and of housing. For example, taking the last line but one in the table for the year 1925, the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and housing being £1,715, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £1,118 (1st column), and the average rental £597; the sum of the two latter amounts being £1,715. In addition to showing the relative cost of food and groceries and house rent (for different classes of houses) in each town individually, the table also furnishes comparisons as to the relative cost of these items as between the several towns. Thus, taking food and groceries only for 1925, commodities which would cost £1,115 in Sydney can be purchased for £1,095 in Melbourne, or £1,149 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent, an expenditure of £1,694 in Melbourne is equivalent to £1,817 in Sydney, £1,741 in Adelaide, £1,676 in Kalgoorlie, or £1,809 in Geraldton.

The index-numbers are reversible, and may be used for comparisons between any of the towns included. Thus, if the average weekly rental of four and five-roomed houses in Melbourne is 21s. 7d. and the average rental of similar houses in Bendigo is required, the rental in Melbourne must be multiplied by the index-number for housing in Bendigo and divided by the index-number for Melbourne; $21s. 7d. \times \frac{409}{692} = 14s. 8d.$

(ii.) *Food and Groceries.*—The weighted average of the five towns was below the weighted average for all towns for 1925 in Victoria and Queensland, and above it in the other States.

(iii.) *Housing.*—As regards housing accommodation, Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, and Hobart are the most expensive, while Queenstown and Mt. Gambier are the cheapest towns.

(iv.) *Food and Groceries and Housing combined.*—The average cost of food, groceries, and housing in 1925 was greatest in Sydney, followed by Geraldton and Northam, and was least in Mt. Gambier and Warwick.

9. **Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.**—In the next table the average cost for the six capital cities in the year 1911 has been taken as base = 20s. The figures measure the variations in the cost of the regimen referred to on page 15 from year to year in each city separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several cities in each year (in the horizontal lines). Thus, 20s. 7d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 18s. 4d. in Brisbane, or 19s. 1d. in Hobart, while 33s. 11d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1924 was equivalent to 15s. 5d. in Brisbane in 1901, or 22s. 6d. in Perth in 1911.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1925 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 in 1911 in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
1907	s. d. 18 9	s. d. 18 6	s. d. 18 11	s. d. 19 0	s. d. 23 11	s. d. 20 2	s. d. 19 1
1911	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0a
1920	43 0	41 1	41 1	42 8	41 0	43 3	42 0
1921	38 0	38 0	36 3	38 1	40 0	40 6	38 0
1922	34 1	32 11	32 2	34 6	35 6	35 11	33 8
1923	36 5	36 1	33 10	36 6	36 7	37 3	36 1
1924	34 8	33 8	33 10	35 10	37 10	37 0	34 8
1925	35 8	35 0	34 8	36 10	38 9	36 2	35 8
1925 1st Qtr.	34 6	33 10	33 4	36 3	39 4	35 7	34 9
.. 2nd Qtr.	35 3	34 11	34 6	37 9	40 5	35 10	35 8
.. 3rd Qtr.	36 3	35 9	34 11	36 9	38 10	36 5	36 2
.. 4th Qtr.	36 10	35 4	36 0	36 5	36 7	36 11	36 2
HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).							
1907	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 0	20 0a
1920	30 10	25 5	20 4	24 10	22 11	28 5	26 11
1921	32 4	26 10	20 7	26 5	24 2	28 10	28 2
1922	33 7	28 10	22 7	27 6	25 1	27 2	28 9
1923	34 9	30 8	23 0	29 0	25 11	30 1	31 1
1924	36 7	31 6	23 2	30 10	26 3	31 10	32 4
1925	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1925 1st Qtr.	37 5	31 11	23 3	31 4	26 8	34 11	32 11
.. 2nd Qtr.	37 5	32 0	23 3	31 7	26 8	34 4	32 11
.. 3rd Qtr.	37 0	32 4	23 4	31 7	27 0	31 6	32 11
.. 4th Qtr.	37 10	32 0	23 4	31 6	26 9	31 1	33 1
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.							
1907	19 0	17 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0a
1920	38 5	35 3	33 3	35 11	34 2	37 8	36 4
1921	35 10	33 10	30 5	33 0	34 0	36 1	34 4
1922	33 10	31 5	28 6	31 10	31 7	32 7	32 2
1923	35 10	34 0	29 10	33 8	32 6	34 7	34 2
1924	35 5	32 10	29 10	33 11	33 6	35 1	33 9
1925	36 4	33 11	30 5	34 10	34 3	35 0	34 8
1925 1st Qtr.	35 7	33 1	29 7	34 5	34 7	35 5	34 0
.. 2nd Qtr.	36 0	33 10	30 4	35 6	35 3	35 3	34 8
.. 3rd Qtr.	36 7	34 6	30 6	34 10	34 5	34 7	34 11
.. 4th Qtr.	37 2	34 1	31 3	34 7	32 11	34 9	35 0

(a) Base of each Section.

10. Price Details, 1925.—The summarized results of price-movements are published quarterly, and the actual prices of food and groceries for each month are published in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. Full information with regard to house rents is published annually. In appendixes to Report No. 1, particulars were given of prices and house rents in the capital cities in each year from 1901 to 1911, and in appendixes to Report No. 2, similar particulars were given of prices and house rents in 1912 for each of the 30 towns from which returns are collected.

Corresponding data for subsequent years were given in the Reports specified:—1913, Report No. 5; 1914 and 1915, No. 6; 1916, No. 7; 1917, No. 8; 1918, No. 9; 1919, No. 10; 1920, No. 11; 1921, No. 12; 1922, No. 13; 1923, No. 14; 1924, No. 15; and 1925 in this Report.

11. Comparisons with previous years.—The following tables show for each capital city (i.) the total variation per cent. in the cost of food, groceries, and housing combined for 1925, as compared with preceding years; and (ii.), the amount of such variation due to (a) prices of food and groceries, and (b) house rent. The sum of the percentages for any year and city in the second and third sections of the table is equal to the corresponding total percentage in the first section. Thus, the total percentage of increase in cost of food, groceries, and house rent in Sydney for 1925 compared with 1907 is 91.64 per cent., of which percentage 55.94 is due to increased cost of food and groceries, and 35.70 to increase in house rents.

Variation per cent. in Price Index-Numbers, Capital Cities, in 1925, compared with years specified.

Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities.
VARIATION DUE TO FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).							
1907 ..	91.64	97.57	98.77	91.83	66.56	99.04	92.53
1911 ..	73.42	81.41	75.85	62.66	47.43	86.55	73.33
1914 ..	52.92	58.78	58.50	49.96	45.87	62.79	54.69
1920 ..	-5.36	-3.86	-8.61	-3.13	0.19	-7.08	-4.61
1921 ..	1.38	0.19	0.14	3.20	0.80	-3.11	0.93
1922 ..	7.27	7.84	6.52	9.26	8.41	7.31	7.70
1923 ..	1.54	-0.47	2.09	3.43	5.30	1.29	1.36
1924 ..	2.72	3.08	2.06	2.58	2.42	-0.16	2.68

VARIATION DUE TO PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1907 ..	55.94	59.93	64.27	61.16	44.98	56.86	57.73
1911 ..	47.44	54.35	51.73	47.89	31.83	50.10	49.03
1914 ..	33.08	38.47	42.71	33.65	33.83	34.76	35.74
1920 ..	-11.80	-10.92	-11.94	-10.14	-4.08	-11.65	-10.87
1921 ..	-3.93	-5.66	-3.21	-2.43	-2.10	-7.43	-4.25
1922 ..	3.05	4.12	5.52	4.58	6.42	6.63	3.94
1923 ..	-1.22	-2.01	1.73	0.64	4.24	-1.89	-0.72
1924 ..	1.88	2.41	1.65	1.80	1.77	-1.38	1.95

VARIATION DUE TO HOUSE RENTS (4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).

1907 ..	35.70	37.64	34.50	30.67	21.58	42.18	34.80
1911 ..	25.98	27.06	24.12	14.77	15.60	36.45	24.30
1914 ..	19.84	20.31	15.79	16.31	12.04	28.03	18.95
1920 ..	6.44	7.06	3.33	7.01	4.27	4.67	6.26
1921 ..	5.31	5.85	3.35	5.63	2.90	4.32	5.18
1922 ..	4.22	3.72	1.00	4.68	1.99	6.68	3.76
1923 ..	2.76	1.54	0.36	2.79	1.06	3.18	2.08
1924 ..	0.84	0.67	0.21	0.78	0.65	1.22	0.73

NOTE.—Variations not preceded by a sign represent increases, those preceded by a minus (—) represent decreases.

§ 3. Food, &c., Clothing and Miscellaneous.

1. **General.**—The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which met in 1919–1920, was appointed to inquire into and report upon the following matters:—

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

Reference was made to the findings of this Commission in Report No. 11, pp. 28 and 29. In answer to the third clause of the inquiry, the Commission recommended that “a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (i.e., such a family as is described in Clause 1).” This suggestion was adopted by the Government, the Commonwealth Statistician was consulted as to methods, and the duty of carrying out the recommendation was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of the regimen adopted, which is described in the “Indicator List” published in the Report. It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations by this Bureau would have been somewhat limited if confined in the way suggested by the Commission, and it was decided, therefore, to apply to a more detailed inquiry the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing. As will be shown later, the index-numbers may be used to measure accurately from time to time the rise and fall in prices 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 investigations or which may be fixed in the future.

The ordinary expenditure of a household has been grouped under four heads—(i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Clothing; (iv) Other Requirements.

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and house rent,* the commodities method and weighting already in use, and the commodities and quantities conform very closely to those given in the "Indicator Lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the cost of clothing and miscellaneous. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and duration of articles, and this has been used in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to miscellaneous expenditure, inquiries were made regarding cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, and other items in the "Indicator Lists", and the aggregate expenditure thereon 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 articles allowed for under this heading, such as soap, starch, blue, &c.

3. **Base.**—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some period as base. In the case of index-numbers for food, groceries, and housing, already published, the year 1911 was selected. For the new index-numbers, covering all items of household expenditure, November, 1914, was adopted owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. While the index-numbers for 1914 in the following tables relate to the month of November, they may be accepted as typical of conditions immediately preceding the war. For base the weighted average cost for the six capital cities has been taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November, 1914, made equal to 1,000.

4. **Variations—Thirty Towns.**—The investigations have been extended to the 30 towns for the months of November, 1921, and May, August and November, 1922, and quarterly for the year 1923 and subsequently. The task of securing information for previous years as to prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals was considered unnecessary. So far as the capitals are concerned, details were already available in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage. Information of this nature is at present collected quarterly for all the towns, and quarterly index-numbers are available.

5. **Variations—Nov., 1914, to 4th Quarter, 1925.**—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.

* The basis of housing accommodation has been altered in this section to conform with the basis adopted in §2. See p. 19.

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities) Index-Numbers—30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS										VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Houlburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov 1914	995	1,011	1,034	1,515	1,482	1,459	1,504	1,439	1,408	1,447	1,434	1,467	1,479	1,441						
" 1915	1,603	1,684	1,564	1,615	1,481	1,459	1,526	1,482	1,442	1,446	1,421	1,480	1,488	1,488						
" 1916	1,631	1,408	1,554	1,461	1,478	1,398	1,583	1,472	1,564	1,540	1,523	1,526	1,570	1,570						
Year 1923	1,698	1,603	1,743	1,618	1,541	1,541	1,603	1,472	1,467	1,487	1,506	1,469	1,503	1,471						
" 1924	1,511	1,536	1,705	1,542	1,436	1,517	1,517	1,460	1,487	1,552	1,509	1,471	1,542	1,542						
" 1925	1,557	1,571	1,636	1,557	1,500	1,500	1,565	1,525	1,538	1,552	1,509	1,501	1,561	1,525						
1926 1st Qtr.	1,507	1,556	1,728	1,518	1,464	1,464	1,514	1,476	1,496	1,499	1,456	1,449	1,477	1,477						
" 2nd "	1,536	1,569	1,659	1,524	1,487	1,487	1,546	1,492	1,528	1,540	1,505	1,482	1,522	1,522						
" 3rd "	1,682	1,587	1,900	1,595	1,509	1,589	1,589	1,555	1,564	1,584	1,531	1,542	1,568	1,568						
" 4th "	1,605	1,613	1,858	1,621	1,550	1,612	1,541	1,541	1,564	1,579	1,545	1,531	1,548	1,548						
Period.	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS										SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS									
Brisbane.	987	1,792	1,490	1,305	1,430	1,381	1,460	1,462	1,391	1,414	1,440	1,554	1,471	1,471						
" 1920	1,480	1,478	1,400	1,400	1,470	1,361	1,393	1,463	1,463	1,446	1,478	1,470	1,500	1,499						
" 1921	1,386	1,473	1,460	1,450	1,460	1,468	1,488	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,470	1,487	1,487						
" 1922	1,477	1,465	1,518	1,502	1,468	1,468	1,471	1,471	1,471	1,471	1,471	1,471	1,471	1,471						
Year 1923	1,474	1,396	1,405	1,404	1,404	1,417	1,431	1,404	1,404	1,404	1,404	1,404	1,404	1,404						
" 1924	1,474	1,400	1,620	1,635	1,455	1,455	1,513	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405						
" 1925	1,513	1,460	1,620	1,635	1,455	1,455	1,513	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405						
1926 1st Qtr.	1,454	1,352	1,462	1,591	1,371	1,371	1,450	1,381	1,509	1,491	1,405	1,476	1,582	1,582						
" 2nd "	1,506	1,433	1,501	1,508	1,437	1,501	1,501	1,467	1,494	1,494	1,545	1,471	1,647	1,647						
" 3rd "	1,521	1,495	1,556	1,646	1,478	1,478	1,526	1,504	1,631	1,631	1,532	1,495	1,609	1,609						
" 4th "	1,509	1,580	1,598	1,709	1,535	1,535	1,574	1,598	1,845	1,712	1,544	1,672	1,600	1,600						
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS										TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS									
Perth.	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 1920	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 1921	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 1922	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
Year 1923	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 1924	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 1925	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
1926 1st Qtr.	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 2nd "	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 3rd "	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
" 4th "	1,104	1,740	1,407	1,644	1,630	1,608	1,610	1,601	1,406	1,428	1,406	1,477	1,488	1,488						
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.						

(a) Base.

HOUSING (4 and 5 rooms)—Index-Numbers—30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	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.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,168	..	..	..	..	..	937	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,244	798	812	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,511	1,364	882	1,357	919	1,488	1,303	771	872	1,080	1,066	1,210	1,921	1,360	882	1,381	957	1,140	1,080	1,139	1,080	1,138	1,382	1,488
" 1921 ..	1,642	1,300	882	1,381	957	1,552	1,409	771	857	1,140	1,080	1,319	1,616	1,355	893	1,450	984	1,587	1,446	860	898	1,100	1,138	1,382
Year 1923 ..	1,639	1,355	893	1,450	984	1,587	1,446	860	898	1,100	1,138	1,382	1,726	1,432	876	1,085	1,183	1,674	1,484	905	890	1,194	1,156	1,427
" 1924 ..	1,726	1,432	876	1,085	1,183	1,674	1,484	905	890	1,194	1,156	1,427	1,703	1,450	1,591	1,294	1,719	1,512	875	1,027	1,247	1,152	1,450	1,460
1925 1st Qtr.	1,762	1,556	885	1,568	1,274	1,718	1,603	901	997	1,195	1,157	1,449	1,792	1,600	941	1,607	1,281	1,714	1,600	981	988	1,204	1,151	1,473
" 2nd "	1,746	1,584	941	1,579	1,305	1,706	1,525	970	985	1,204	1,151	1,473	1,783	1,584	957	1,316	1,739	1,511	908	1,043	1,327	1,151	1,462	
" 3rd "	1,746	1,584	943	1,579	1,316	1,739	1,511	908	1,043	1,327	1,151	1,462	1,783	1,584	957	1,316	1,739	1,511	908	1,043	1,327	1,151	1,462	
" 4th "	1,783	1,634	943	1,579	1,316	1,739	1,511	908	1,043	1,327	1,151	1,462	1,783	1,634	943	1,579	1,316	1,739	1,511	908	1,043	1,327	1,151	1,462
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																								
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, Co.A.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, Co.A.
	Nov. 1914 ..	714	..	..	..	..	942	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	970	848	734	814	824	916	1,202	672	639	750	872	1,204	1,021	870	782	754	882	960	847	830	759	887	1,252	1,488
" 1921 ..	1,075	827	745	882	783	986	1,313	647	630	759	887	1,252	1,075	827	780	842	925	1,059	1,307	647	630	759	887	1,252
Year 1923 ..	1,065	827	780	842	925	1,059	1,307	647	630	759	887	1,252	1,061	824	754	859	974	1,043	1,452	647	630	754	859	960
" 1924 ..	1,081	974	754	859	974	1,043	1,452	647	630	754	859	960	1,081	974	754	859	974	1,043	1,452	647	630	754	859	960
" 1925 ..	1,089	1,074	908	869	1,025	1,078	1,436	810	969	774	1,155	1,400	1,089	1,074	908	869	1,025	1,078	1,436	810	969	774	1,155	1,427
1925 1st Qtr.	1,097	1,075	927	838	1,008	1,069	1,476	838	967	777	1,198	1,419	1,097	1,065	981	894	1,075	1,195	1,481	894	924	772	1,195	1,431
" 2nd "	1,097	1,065	981	877	1,032	1,078	1,400	819	964	772	1,195	1,431	1,097	1,065	981	894	1,075	1,195	1,481	894	924	772	1,195	1,431
" 3rd "	1,099	1,065	981	877	1,032	1,078	1,400	819	964	772	1,195	1,431	1,099	1,065	981	894	1,075	1,195	1,481	894	924	772	1,195	1,431
" 4th "	1,102	1,091	881	882	1,032	1,081	1,488	810	969	773	1,202	1,458	1,102	1,091	881	882	1,032	1,081	1,488	810	969	773	1,202	1,458
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																								
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.
	Nov. 1914 ..	004	..	..	..	..	810	..	..	..	..	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,107	802	649	1,000	1,001	1,004	1,394	454	281	764	1,138	1,218	1,182	1,008	802	1,050	1,127	1,132	1,259	485	283	764	1,138	1,218
" 1921 ..	1,182	802	649	1,000	1,001	1,004	1,394	454	281	764	1,138	1,218	1,182	1,008	802	1,050	1,127	1,132	1,259	485	283	764	1,138	1,218
Year 1923 ..	1,280	889	1,057	1,088	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,178	1,380	1,156	1,482	1,430	1,280	889	1,057	1,088	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,178	1,380	1,156	1,482	1,430
" 1924 ..	1,325	846	1,254	1,001	1,272	1,106	1,501	1,208	1,290	1,138	1,529	1,482	1,325	846	1,254	1,001	1,272	1,106	1,501	1,208	1,290	1,138	1,529	1,482
" 1925 ..	1,528	846	1,325	1,131	1,318	1,219	1,555	1,248	1,268	1,176	1,533	1,482	1,528	846	1,325	1,131	1,318	1,219	1,555	1,248	1,268	1,176	1,533	1,482
1925 1st Qtr.	1,250	868	1,315	1,131	1,267	1,215	1,640	1,250	1,230	1,232	1,602	1,485	1,250	868	1,315	1,131	1,267	1,215	1,640	1,250	1,230	1,232	1,602	1,485
" 2nd "	1,250	848	1,330	1,101	1,332	1,210	1,619	1,246	1,220	1,230	1,602	1,485	1,250	848	1,330	1,101	1,332	1,210	1,619	1,246	1,220	1,230	1,602	1,485
" 3rd "	1,273	843	1,328	1,101	1,332	1,227	1,487	1,235	1,280	1,138	1,580	1,487	1,273	843	1,328	1,101	1,332	1,227	1,487	1,235	1,280	1,138	1,580	1,487
" 4th "	1,203	890	1,328	1,101	1,330	1,217	1,407	1,235	1,280	1,113	1,580	1,487	1,203	890	1,328	1,101	1,330	1,217	1,407	1,235	1,280	1,113	1,580	1,487

(4) Base.

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms)—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ;
 Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, Base (= 1,000).

Period.	N. S. W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N. S. W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warmambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914	1,057	..	..	..	..	..	952	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,778	1,467	1,982	1,438	1,066	1,409	1,097	1,104	1,212	1,211	1,298	1,361	1,517	1,204	1,271	1,292	1,273	1,282		
" 1921	1,517	1,447	1,807	1,432	1,237	1,536	1,424	1,271	1,342	1,410	1,273	1,362	1,582	1,265	1,348	1,354	1,367	1,369		
" 1922	1,562	1,447	1,877	1,558	1,242	1,591	1,527	1,312	1,342	1,410	1,273	1,362	1,582	1,265	1,348	1,354	1,367	1,369		
Year 1923	1,606	1,514	1,918	1,558	1,242	1,591	1,475	1,275	1,342	1,410	1,273	1,362	1,582	1,265	1,348	1,354	1,367	1,369		
" 1924	1,588	1,468	1,909	1,562	1,242	1,573	1,590	1,298	1,364	1,415	1,298	1,361	1,576	1,265	1,348	1,354	1,367	1,369		
" 1925	1,031	1,607	1,617	1,569	1,227	1,620	1,590	1,298	1,364	1,415	1,298	1,361	1,576	1,265	1,348	1,354	1,367	1,369		
1925 1st Qtr.	1,598	1,538	1,444	1,545	1,389	1,587	1,486	1,312	1,385	1,468	1,368	1,345	1,467	1,281	1,365	1,383	1,345	1,407		
" 2nd "	1,617	1,610	1,631	1,555	1,413	1,606	1,517	1,331	1,390	1,458	1,383	1,345	1,467	1,281	1,365	1,383	1,345	1,407		
" 3rd "	1,440	1,586	1,563	1,570	1,480	1,631	1,546	1,352	1,405	1,435	1,383	1,345	1,467	1,281	1,365	1,383	1,345	1,407		
" 4th "	1,669	1,608	1,581	1,906	1,406	1,657	1,589	1,351	1,387	1,464	1,396	1,396	1,464	1,281	1,365	1,383	1,345	1,407		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914	870	..	..	..	..	..	1,021	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920	1,468	1,198	1,210	1,274	1,233	1,270	1,054	1,202	1,106	1,311	1,375	1,270	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281		
" 1921	1,202	1,178	1,166	1,221	1,154	1,215	1,204	1,251	1,170	1,251	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281		
" 1922	1,287	1,272	1,285	1,328	1,271	1,321	1,251	1,251	1,170	1,251	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281		
Year 1923	1,312	1,245	1,212	1,328	1,290	1,315	1,251	1,251	1,170	1,251	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281		
" 1924	1,387	1,245	1,212	1,328	1,290	1,315	1,251	1,251	1,170	1,251	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281		
" 1925	1,368	1,252	1,257	1,301	1,201	1,267	1,252	1,252	1,170	1,251	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,270	1,281	1,281	1,281	1,281		
1925 1st Qtr.	1,827	1,253	1,271	1,822	1,293	1,314	1,544	1,308	1,384	1,289	1,504	1,424	1,308	1,444	1,269	1,533	1,570	1,570		
" 2nd "	1,860	1,301	1,351	1,871	1,292	1,349	1,599	1,338	1,456	1,261	1,527	1,338	1,456	1,261	1,261	1,527	1,570	1,570		
" 3rd "	1,870	1,341	1,351	1,871	1,318	1,365	1,563	1,338	1,456	1,261	1,527	1,338	1,456	1,261	1,261	1,527	1,570	1,570		
" 4th "	1,402	1,302	1,389	1,411	1,355	1,398	1,592	1,347	1,467	1,260	1,504	1,504	1,467	1,260	1,504	1,504	1,504	1,504		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.						
Nov. 1914	1,071	..	..	..	..	..	978	..	..	..	..	1,000	..					
" 1920	1,611	1,431	1,399	1,409	1,463	1,426	1,069	1,273	1,081	1,362	1,415	1,631	1,409							
" 1921	1,378	1,411	1,344	1,371	1,431	1,386	1,142	1,288	1,026	1,312	1,374	1,436	1,409							
" 1922	1,308	1,447	1,421	1,421	1,483	1,468	1,251	1,453	1,307	1,406	1,416	1,436	1,427							
Year 1923	1,400	1,460	1,422	1,477	1,467	1,408	1,321	1,461	1,415	1,404	1,377	1,416	1,416							
" 1924	1,502	1,439	1,422	1,477	1,467	1,408	1,373	1,461	1,415	1,404	1,377	1,416	1,416							
" 1925	1,398	1,304	1,304	1,330	1,357	1,357	1,371	1,340	1,472	1,407	1,352	1,356	1,350							
1925 1st Qtr.	1,551	1,517	1,509	1,517	1,508	1,548	1,389	1,444	1,419	1,464	1,392	1,528	1,510							
" 2nd "	1,378	1,312	1,343	1,352	1,350	1,375	1,392	1,432	1,442	1,407	1,357	1,558	1,538							
" 3rd "	1,442	1,000	1,016	1,016	1,050	1,045	1,362	1,451	1,309	1,434	1,318	1,368	1,323							
" 4th "	1,470	1,482	1,387	1,484	1,401	1,482	1,399	1,463	1,323	1,453	1,350	1,368	1,353							

(a) Base.

Clothing.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns : Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914,
base (= 1,000).

Period.	N. S. W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.											VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.													
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N. S. W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warra-mbool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadma, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S. A.	
Nov. 1914 ..	1,062	1,754	1,663	1,922	1,672	1,676	1,935	1,886	2,082	1,940	2,138	1,357	1,492	1,319	1,407	1,385	1,658	1,892	1,836	1,903	1,618	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453
" 1920 ..	1,065	1,760	1,683	1,922	1,672	1,676	1,935	1,886	2,082	1,940	2,138	1,357	1,492	1,319	1,407	1,385	1,658	1,892	1,836	1,903	1,618	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453
" 1921 ..	1,304	1,415	1,413	1,577	1,458	1,401	1,683	1,633	1,720	1,620	1,678	1,357	1,492	1,319	1,407	1,385	1,658	1,892	1,836	1,903	1,618	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453
" 1922 ..	1,304	1,415	1,413	1,577	1,458	1,401	1,683	1,633	1,720	1,620	1,678	1,357	1,492	1,319	1,407	1,385	1,658	1,892	1,836	1,903	1,618	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453
Year 1923 ..	1,317	1,436	1,308	1,581	1,470	1,380	1,697	1,647	1,735	1,635	1,693	1,372	1,507	1,332	1,421	1,402	1,677	1,917	1,855	1,941	1,638	2,311	1,617	1,748	1,468
" 1924 ..	1,241	1,331	1,173	1,569	1,301	1,253	1,357	1,314	1,377	1,377	1,388	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377
" 1925 ..	1,240	1,308	1,173	1,569	1,301	1,253	1,357	1,314	1,377	1,377	1,388	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377
1925 1st Qtr.	1,230	1,319	1,137	1,550	1,319	1,247	1,335	1,289	1,369	1,300	1,387	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357	1,357
" 2nd "	1,240	1,318	1,188	1,562	1,305	1,250	1,318	1,291	1,372	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
" 3rd "	1,205	1,287	1,188	1,554	1,297	1,280	1,291	1,291	1,297	1,295	1,380	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295
" 4th "	1,241	1,288	1,107	1,563	1,302	1,248	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
Nov. 1914 ..	872	..	..	..	..	..	1,002	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,402	1,607	1,626	2,070	1,647	1,658	1,828	1,808	1,903	1,803	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453	1,402	1,313	1,354	1,384	1,421	1,470	1,308	1,604	1,417	1,438	1,468
" 1921 ..	1,402	1,607	1,626	2,070	1,647	1,658	1,828	1,808	1,903	1,803	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453	1,402	1,313	1,354	1,384	1,421	1,470	1,308	1,604	1,417	1,438	1,468
" 1922 ..	1,402	1,607	1,626	2,070	1,647	1,658	1,828	1,808	1,903	1,803	2,251	1,566	1,742	1,453	1,402	1,313	1,354	1,384	1,421	1,470	1,308	1,604	1,417	1,438	1,468
Year 1923 ..	1,430	1,443	1,433	1,841	1,344	1,427	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437
" 1924 ..	1,370	1,445	1,445	1,481	1,290	1,413	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451	1,451
" 1925 ..	1,360	1,422	1,377	1,421	1,190	1,395	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442
1925 1st Qtr.	1,377	1,415	1,368	1,410	1,304	1,273	1,454	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430
" 2nd "	1,377	1,407	1,380	1,418	1,302	1,298	1,454	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413	1,413
" 3rd "	1,377	1,432	1,377	1,410	1,302	1,298	1,454	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430
" 4th "	1,350	1,436	1,387	1,417	1,308	1,302	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																									
Nov. 1914 ..	926	..	..	..	..	1,004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,601	1,824	1,825	1,751	1,093	1,806	2,214	2,022	1,803	1,094	2,000	1,524	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510
" 1921 ..	1,601	1,824	1,825	1,751	1,093	1,806	2,214	2,022	1,803	1,094	2,000	1,524	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510
" 1922 ..	1,316	1,424	1,571	1,673	1,350	1,666	1,673	1,639	1,428	1,012	1,655	1,396	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311
" 1923 ..	1,300	1,512	1,385	1,472	1,100	1,403	1,638	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437
Year 1924 ..	1,346	1,517	1,258	1,450	1,100	1,403	1,638	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437
" 1925 ..	1,341	1,509	1,255	1,451	1,100	1,403	1,638	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437
1925 1st Qtr.	1,350	1,507	1,312	1,305	1,373	1,572	1,446	1,357	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302
" 2nd "	1,347	1,497	1,314	1,381	1,320	1,537	1,447	1,403	1,354	1,314	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302
" 3rd "	1,333	1,518	1,338	1,366	1,295	1,504	1,435	1,309	1,337	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295	1,295
" 4th "	1,325	1,514	1,342	1,300	1,319	1,545	1,435	1,355	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345
Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.											Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.														
2,000.											1,308														

(a) Base.

Miscellaneous.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	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.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	
Nov. 1914 ..	1,022	1,616	..	..	..	..	971	1,577	1,247	1,502	1,288	1,164	1,323	1,090	1,616	1,219	1,427	1,108	1,197	1,234	1,232	1,351	1,242	1,385	1,326
" 1920 ..	1,348	1,328	1,471	1,270	1,321	1,350	1,364	1,277	1,352	1,317	1,347	1,175	1,315	1,380	1,321	1,438	1,222	1,270	1,371	1,270	1,265	1,344	1,242	1,324	1,318
" 1921 ..	1,348	1,272	1,439	1,222	1,270	1,350	1,306	1,225	1,317	1,255	1,317	1,137	1,300	1,300	1,308	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
Year 1923 ..	1,364	1,242	1,438	1,226	1,264	1,353	1,316	1,253	1,259	1,259	1,261	1,173	1,308	1,308	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
" 1924 ..	1,358	1,253	1,432	1,221	1,265	1,353	1,342	1,246	1,262	1,261	1,270	1,173	1,332	1,332	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
" 1925 ..	1,353	1,219	1,426	1,108	1,238	1,354	1,329	1,246	1,262	1,261	1,270	1,162	1,350	1,350	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
1925 1st Qtr.	1,333	1,220	1,415	1,107	1,234	1,352	1,332	1,247	1,262	1,261	1,270	1,164	1,323	1,323	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
" 2nd "	1,330	1,219	1,428	1,108	1,242	1,351	1,330	1,246	1,263	1,263	1,264	1,162	1,321	1,321	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
" 3rd "	1,334	1,219	1,427	1,108	1,244	1,325	1,327	1,246	1,262	1,262	1,264	1,185	1,318	1,318	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318
" 4th "	1,335	1,219	1,436	1,108	1,220	1,320	1,327	1,245	1,262	1,262	1,264	1,161	1,318	1,318	1,243	1,250	1,264	1,264	1,316	1,264	1,292	1,268	1,185	1,318	1,318

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.														
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moolta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moolta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	
Nov. 1914 ..	971	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320
" 1920 ..	1,530	1,273	1,339	1,347	1,350	1,279	1,603	1,422	1,422	1,373	1,336	1,336	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 1921 ..	1,281	1,273	1,339	1,347	1,350	1,279	1,603	1,422	1,422	1,373	1,336	1,336	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 1922 ..	1,222	1,244	1,275	1,231	1,250	1,238	1,385	1,345	1,360	1,310	1,306	1,333	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
Year 1923 ..	1,247	1,244	1,247	1,290	1,264	1,240	1,370	1,301	1,326	1,312	1,314	1,308	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 1924 ..	1,246	1,245	1,238	1,301	1,234	1,234	1,371	1,343	1,326	1,312	1,314	1,308	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 1925 ..	1,246	1,232	1,232	1,236	1,240	1,247	1,370	1,343	1,326	1,312	1,314	1,308	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
1925 1st Qtr.	1,232	1,265	1,225	1,275	1,248	1,251	1,372	1,344	1,375	1,323	1,333	1,370	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 2nd "	1,245	1,263	1,220	1,237	1,247	1,246	1,372	1,344	1,377	1,320	1,330	1,370	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 3rd "	1,245	1,272	1,219	1,232	1,247	1,246	1,371	1,344	1,377	1,320	1,330	1,370	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	
" 4th "	1,244	1,274	1,232	1,230	1,218	1,245	1,369	1,337	1,365	1,318	1,339	1,367	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	1,366	1,323	1,028	1,379	1,343	1,371	1,320	

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avge, Tas.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,041	..	..	..	..	..	984	1,248	1,248	1,248	1,248	1,248
" 1920 ..	1,483	1,375	1,357	1,354	1,471	1,374	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 1921 ..	1,374	1,375	1,357	1,354	1,471	1,374	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 1922 ..	1,383	1,383	1,350	1,231	1,422	1,356	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 1923 ..	1,344	1,350	1,251	1,240	1,401	1,353	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
Year 1923 ..	1,350	1,350	1,278	1,230	1,353	1,353	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 1924 ..	1,350	1,350	1,278	1,230	1,353	1,353	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 1925 ..	1,313	1,304	1,231	1,230	1,350	1,310	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
1925 1st Qtr.	1,315	1,306	1,277	1,236	1,358	1,314	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 2nd "	1,316	1,306	1,244	1,252	1,350	1,313	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 3rd "	1,314	1,303	1,243	1,250	1,351	1,313	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
" 4th "	1,306	1,280	1,242	1,249	1,315	1,313	1,501	1,316	1,247	1,292	1,260	1,248
Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317
Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315	1,315

(a) Base.

Total Household Expenditure—Index-Numbers—30 Towns: Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, Base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.											VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warramb-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.						
Nov. 1914 ..	1,086	..	..	..	..	..	076	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,736	..	..	..	..	..	1,706	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,623	1,515	1,419	1,604	1,379	1,510	1,402	1,448	1,456	1,453	1,504	1,400	1,476	1,408	1,446	1,446		
" 1922 ..	1,586	1,407	1,358	1,430	1,290	1,471	1,400	1,302	1,301	1,430	1,330	1,397	1,450	1,408	1,442	1,442		
Year 1923 ..	1,488	1,444	1,354	1,490	1,316	1,481	1,400	1,344	1,304	1,405	1,391	1,400	1,451	1,431	1,448	1,448		
" 1924 ..	1,478	1,408	1,354	1,511	1,316	1,450	1,432	1,304	1,312	1,388	1,397	1,410	1,431	1,431	1,448	1,448		
" 1925 ..	1,478	1,438	1,414	1,488	1,361	1,472	1,432	1,330	1,328	1,388	1,371	1,422	1,432	1,432	1,448	1,448		
1925 1st Qtr.	1,456	1,422	1,361	1,464	1,340	1,452	1,424	1,310	1,304	1,388	1,354	1,412	1,412	1,412	1,428	1,428		
" 2nd "	1,408	1,424	1,424	1,424	1,490	1,468	1,432	1,327	1,320	1,377	1,363	1,421	1,421	1,421	1,442	1,442		
" 3rd "	1,480	1,442	1,448	1,407	1,362	1,488	1,441	1,338	1,351	1,391	1,390	1,431	1,431	1,431	1,448	1,448		
" 4th "	1,490	1,452	1,458	1,519	1,361	1,492	1,492	1,330	1,387	1,405	1,379	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,448	1,448		

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX NUMBERS.							SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.								
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonie, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.				
Nov. 1914 ..	889	..	..	..	..	..	1,018	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,654	1,381	1,416	1,691	1,447	1,370	1,663	1,452	1,462	1,497	1,379	1,444	1,444	1,444	1,476	1,476
" 1921 ..	1,344	1,224	1,284	1,259	1,297	1,271	1,440	1,314	1,342	1,318	1,264	1,376	1,376	1,376	1,408	1,408
" 1922 ..	1,270	1,200	1,287	1,262	1,267	1,264	1,368	1,385	1,362	1,358	1,360	1,376	1,376	1,376	1,408	1,408
Year 1923 ..	1,343	1,300	1,297	1,287	1,314	1,314	1,407	1,388	1,372	1,390	1,390	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,408	1,408
" 1924 ..	1,332	1,296	1,299	1,314	1,308	1,329	1,476	1,352	1,372	1,390	1,410	1,408	1,408	1,408	1,428	1,428
" 1925 ..	1,344	1,337	1,320	1,304	1,314	1,339	1,496	1,358	1,411	1,393	1,475	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485	1,485
1925 1st Qtr.	1,326	1,296	1,298	1,280	1,290	1,317	1,489	1,343	1,389	1,348	1,406	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,485	1,485
" 2nd "	1,341	1,321	1,314	1,291	1,306	1,335	1,514	1,358	1,418	1,369	1,492	1,502	1,502	1,502	1,502	1,502
" 3rd "	1,346	1,351	1,333	1,312	1,326	1,344	1,465	1,362	1,421	1,365	1,472	1,484	1,484	1,484	1,484	1,484
" 4th "	1,392	1,381	1,346	1,382	1,386	1,360	1,467	1,361	1,414	1,400	1,460	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,030	..	..	..	..	..	990	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1920 ..	1,617	1,526	1,106	1,590	1,637	1,484	1,596	1,552	1,460	1,310	1,501	1,538	1,538	1,538
" 1921 ..	1,482	1,469	1,394	1,469	1,472	1,370	1,460	1,421	1,328	1,170	1,373	1,419	1,419	1,419
" 1922 ..	1,556	1,469	1,394	1,442	1,478	1,370	1,460	1,438	1,348	1,281	1,370	1,419	1,419	1,419
Year 1923 ..	1,429	1,464	1,404	1,400	1,478	1,371	1,471	1,438	1,408	1,353	1,388	1,419	1,419	1,419
" 1924 ..	1,480	1,468	1,410	1,430	1,472	1,371	1,520	1,460	1,388	1,388	1,388	1,419	1,419	1,419
" 1925 ..	1,440	1,467	1,438	1,460	1,460	1,400	1,460	1,468	1,360	1,360	1,360	1,419	1,419	1,419
1925 1st Qtr.	1,450	1,472	1,446	1,430	1,486	1,460	1,498	1,468	1,388	1,375	1,417	1,470	1,470	1,470
" 2nd "	1,472	1,470	1,488	1,458	1,516	1,473	1,505	1,498	1,375	1,375	1,433	1,488	1,488	1,488
" 3rd "	1,442	1,471	1,477	1,429	1,497	1,461	1,478	1,465	1,400	1,364	1,417	1,488	1,488	1,488
" 4th "	1,400	1,455	1,450	1,409	1,477	1,414	1,461	1,412	1,407	1,361	1,428	1,451	1,451	1,451

(7) Basis of Table.

6. **Application of Index-Numbers.**—The following table shows the manner in which the index-numbers in the preceding tables may be applied to the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage:—

Basic Wage Commission's Findings of 1920.—Cost at November, 1914, 1920, and 4th Quarter, 1925.

Town.	November, 1914.		November, 1920.		4th Quarter, 1925.	
	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.	Actual Finding.	Index-Number.	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Sydney	1,036	3 9 10	5 17 1	1,736	1,499	5 1 1
Melbourne	976	3 6 8	5 16 6	1,706	1,432	4 17 9
Brisbane	889	3 1 6	5 6 2	1,534	1,362	4 14 3
Adelaide	1,018	3 9 10	5 16 1	1,693	1,487	5 2 0
Perth	1,029	3 12 6	5 13 11	1,617	1,405	4 19 1
Hobart	999	3 6 2	5 15 11	1,765	1,481	4 18 1
Weighted Average	1,000	3 8 2	5 15 8	1,697	1,457	4 19 4

The table shows, in the third column, the amount determined by the Basic Wage Commission as the cost of living according to the standard fixed by the Commission in November, 1920. Applying the index-numbers for 4th quarter, 1925, the relative costs of the Commission's standard for that quarter are obtained. 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. While they do not correspond exactly with the amounts as given in the supplementary Report of the Commission, they are sufficiently near to show that the method adopted by this Bureau for measuring the variations gives results which closely approximate to those of the Commission. The amounts for November, 1914, as found by the Commission, are given on page 17 of this Report. The greatest difference between the results is shown for Sydney, and amounts to 3s. 1d. per week, while for Perth the difference is only 3d. per week.

§ 4. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. **General.**—To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding chapter, a special investigation into prices in 70 additional towns was undertaken in November, 1913. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number was further increased to 170. Information in regard to prices obtained in November each year will relate, therefore, to 200 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 succeeding investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. **Results—1923 to 1925.**—The results of the investigation in November, 1925, are set out in the tables on pages 38 to 41. (See end of last column, on page 41.) Aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-rooms, and food, groceries, and rent of 5-rooms are shown for each year for each town. The index-number 1,675 (see page 41), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,549 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1925. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,077 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1925. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for the 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1,675, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,691; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,556 compared with an expenditure of 1,549 on the average for 200 towns.

The change made in Report No. 13 in the basis on which the index-numbers were computed is continued in this issue. Previously the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the same base is taken as in the tables referring to 30 towns and 6 capital cities given in the second paragraph, i.e., the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing in the 6 capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1,000.

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns for November, 1923, 1924, and 1925, compared with the Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent for all houses in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 as base (= 1,000).

State and Town.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Sydney	1,087	1,608	1,705	1,022	1,554	1,690	1,072	1,623	1,759
Newcastle	1,120	1,531	1,676	1,006	1,447	1,599	1,090	1,603	1,733
Broken Hill	1,227	1,510	1,587	1,145	1,467	1,525	1,244	1,670	1,648
Goulburn	1,095	1,570	1,661	1,020	1,521	1,604	1,086	1,607	1,695
Bathurst	1,045	1,325	1,414	941	1,264	1,376	1,043	1,418	1,488
Albury	1,060	1,636	1,754	900	1,648	1,785	1,082	1,812	1,954
Armidale	1,073	1,424	1,536	986	1,371	1,469	1,095	1,464	1,674
Ballina	1,169	1,511	1,564	1,062	1,346	1,678	1,117	1,644	1,742
Bega	1,132	1,408	1,530	1,029	1,322	1,437	1,114	1,432	1,561
Berry	1,117	1,413	1,512	1,068	1,331	1,406	1,151	1,464	1,505

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Blackheath ..	1,199	1,633	1,725	1,130	1,623	1,738	1,203	1,677	1,779
Bourke ..	1,228	1,426	1,505	1,055	1,266	1,292	1,201	1,382	1,474
Bowral ..	1,141	1,701	1,700	1,060	1,530	1,672	1,118	1,684	1,790
Casino ..	1,133	1,541	1,643	1,063	1,490	1,611	1,157	1,617	1,708
Cessnock ..	1,111	1,576	1,659	1,014	1,529	1,683	1,094	1,664	1,774
Colar ..	1,152	1,251	1,284	1,073	1,162	1,208	1,156	1,245	1,291
Cooma ..	1,220	1,611	1,709	1,083	1,425	1,537	1,131	1,474	1,615
Cootnamble ..	1,142	1,405	1,475	1,077	1,406	1,472	1,143	1,459	1,559
Cootamundra ..	1,098	1,558	1,690	976	1,447	1,549	1,100	1,669	1,807
Corrimal ..	1,106	1,435	1,527	975	1,304	1,370	1,077	1,471	1,498
Cowra ..	1,074	1,605	1,599	1,017	1,438	1,511	1,102	1,536	1,618
Cronulla ..	1,155	1,748	1,870	1,071	1,713	1,844	1,099	1,740	1,878
Cudjoe ..	1,167	1,364	1,463	1,053	1,289	1,355	a	a	a
Deniliquin ..	1,087	1,405	1,474	1,009	1,330	1,429	1,078	1,412	1,529
Dubbo ..	1,204	1,657	1,791	1,065	1,537	1,641	1,141	1,630	1,741
Forbes ..	1,105	1,559	1,737	1,000	1,491	1,561	1,098	1,609	1,756
Gilgandra ..	1,136	1,426	1,605	1,016	1,268	1,321	1,146	1,398	1,556
Glen Innes ..	1,015	1,326	1,423	925	1,254	1,401	1,000	1,337	1,505
Grafton ..	1,149	1,644	1,643	1,035	1,324	1,430	1,093	1,611	1,734
Grenfell ..	1,179	1,541	1,771	1,038	1,498	1,630	1,129	1,571	1,696
Griffith ..	1,214	1,872	2,004	1,006	1,796	1,862	1,106	1,877	2,186
Gulgong ..	1,092	1,388	1,451	995	1,201	1,354	1,093	1,297	1,360
Gunnedah ..	1,039	1,434	1,506	962	1,333	1,439	1,051	1,437	1,545
Hay ..	a	a	a	1,085	1,392	1,531	1,175	1,513	1,683
Inverell ..	1,102	1,452	1,521	1,011	1,373	1,451	1,103	1,513	1,607
Junee ..	1,117	1,561	1,676	972	1,264	1,396	1,068	1,390	1,788
Katoomba ..	1,205	1,728	1,860	1,129	1,619	1,737	1,147	1,663	1,779
Kempsey ..	1,021	1,350	1,383	1,004	1,398	1,484	1,046	1,472	1,547
K. M. ..	a	a	a	a	a	a	1,144	1,491	1,651
Kurri Kurri ..	1,181	1,477	1,550	1,008	1,424	1,496	1,148	1,576	1,658
Lecton ..	1,190	1,914	1,949	1,097	1,667	1,886	1,172	1,896	1,932
Lismore ..	1,162	1,517	1,678	1,049	1,404	1,506	1,088	1,490	1,680
Lithgow ..	1,166	1,647	1,655	1,023	1,422	1,502	1,087	1,489	1,581
Maitland ..	1,086	1,564	1,596	952	1,400	1,491	1,078	1,578	1,700
Morée ..	1,238	1,692	1,797	1,104	1,556	1,692	1,183	1,657	1,782
Moss Vale ..	1,112	1,622	1,704	1,034	1,516	1,670	1,121	1,648	1,779
Mudgee ..	1,115	1,515	1,611	982	1,398	1,485	1,080	1,503	1,691
Narrabri ..	1,109	1,427	1,563	960	1,309	1,436	1,096	1,493	1,518
Narrandera ..	1,187	1,621	1,746	1,069	1,516	1,694	1,164	1,592	1,727
Nowra ..	1,164	1,559	1,717	1,036	1,481	1,595	1,105	1,563	1,681
Orange ..	1,032	1,432	1,535	992	1,447	1,565	1,057	1,476	1,561
Parkes ..	1,120	1,604	1,696	1,020	1,480	1,595	1,110	1,587	1,693
Penrith ..	1,083	1,440	1,557	1,025	1,340	1,436	1,090	1,491	1,606
Port Kembla ..	1,145	1,467	1,540	1,057	1,380	1,450	1,120	1,442	1,537
Portland ..	1,106	1,402	1,494	1,042	1,423	1,535	1,122	1,583	1,623
Queanbeyan ..	1,172	1,577	1,676	1,057	1,551	1,704	1,136	1,682	1,815
Quirindi ..	1,123	1,437	1,562	1,034	1,350	1,507	1,134	1,446	1,647
Richmond ..	1,121	1,492	1,588	1,075	1,493	1,590	1,135	1,547	1,645
Scone ..	1,023	1,462	1,587	965	1,335	1,491	1,058	1,475	1,604
Singleton ..	1,117	1,479	1,548	988	1,353	1,442	1,080	1,445	1,534
Tamworth ..	1,065	1,427	1,532	947	1,380	1,465	1,047	1,519	1,610
Taree ..	1,088	1,598	1,687	979	1,528	1,686	1,076	1,586	1,750
Temora ..	1,090	1,555	1,667	1,057	1,584	1,692	1,100	1,703	1,861
Tenterfield ..	1,137	1,499	1,565	1,010	1,383	1,476	1,079	1,473	1,540
Tumut ..	1,149	1,511	1,643	1,039	1,533	1,632	1,158	1,619	1,783
Ulmarra ..	1,163	1,571	1,623	1,075	1,470	1,602	1,101	1,549	1,691
Wagga Wagga ..	1,132	1,356	1,488	1,016	1,740	1,838	1,068	1,776	1,989
Walcha ..	1,009	1,305	1,436	904	1,257	1,405	1,111	1,471	1,572
Wellington ..	1,129	1,414	1,506	1,018	1,308	1,421	1,100	1,404	1,486
Weston ..	1,108	1,487	1,527	1,006	1,356	1,395	1,155	1,519	1,583
Windsor ..	1,103	1,483	1,634	1,052	1,488	1,562	1,143	1,554	1,653
Wollongong ..	1,137	1,566	1,652	1,045	1,508	1,595	1,092	1,599	1,678
Wyalong ..	1,148	1,595	1,681	1,009	1,494	1,626	1,125	1,520	1,619
Yass ..	1,249	1,567	1,648	1,080	1,458	1,524	1,211	1,658	1,737
Young ..	1,014	1,412	1,511	942	1,376	1,475	1,085	1,671	1,727
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	1,099	1,585	1,683	1,023	1,527	1,653	1,083	1,607	1,737

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
Victoria—	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Melbourne ..	1,062	1,547	1,639	903	1,455	1,600	1,053	1,560	1,691
Bairat ..	1,080	1,356	1,403	987	1,288	1,384	1,006	1,306	1,506
Bendigo ..	1,075	1,375	1,473	988	1,293	1,373	1,070	1,403	1,524
Geelong ..	1,054	1,427	1,556	945	1,318	1,448	1,049	1,476	1,690
Warrumbtoo ..	1,067	1,448	1,573	987	1,370	1,497	1,040	1,424	1,545
Ararat ..	1,160	1,472	1,540	1,049	1,372	1,455	1,174	1,518	1,613
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,081	1,439	1,640	961	1,389	1,520	1,150	1,498	1,642
Bairnsdale ..	1,166	1,528	1,692	1,052	1,414	1,578	1,151	1,545	1,677
Beechworth ..	1,114	1,364	1,433	1,040	1,303	1,369	1,116	1,373	1,440
Benalla ..	1,081	1,413	1,489	993	1,325	1,421	1,036	1,448	1,560
Camperdown ..	1,055	1,450	1,581	1,001	1,404	1,527	1,008	1,515	1,647
Casterton ..	1,073	1,345	1,446	1,013	1,300	1,425	1,111	1,424	1,517
Castlemaine ..	1,049	1,358	1,454	1,056	1,339	1,505	1,111	1,427	1,550
Colac ..	1,136	1,675	1,793	1,042	1,574	1,667	1,070	1,501	1,728
Creswick ..	1,035	1,154	1,206	962	1,107	1,126	1,072	1,230	1,289
Daylesford ..	1,080	1,376	1,458	936	1,216	1,282	1,064	1,327	1,426
Dunolly ..	1,067	1,212	1,238	930	1,147	1,180	1,056	1,214	1,267
Echuca ..	1,069	1,364	1,464	1,026	1,355	1,470	1,110	1,438	1,570
Euroa ..	1,131	1,414	1,476	1,070	1,389	1,465	1,143	1,470	1,604
Hamilton ..	1,140	1,567	1,667	1,036	1,580	1,744	1,141	1,623	1,744
Healesville ..	1,147	1,588	1,700	1,016	1,430	1,642	1,075	1,469	1,568
Horsham ..	1,103	1,673	1,827	1,045	1,663	1,805	1,117	1,732	1,907
Kerang ..	1,126	1,662	1,784	1,061	1,620	1,752	1,118	1,688	1,797
Koroit ..	1,096	1,372	1,458	1,038	1,251	1,357	1,076	1,345	1,404
Korumburra ..	1,124	1,387	1,519	1,037	1,497	1,620	1,084	1,545	1,600
Kyneton ..	1,064	1,390	1,450	980	1,316	1,410	1,062	1,307	1,532
Lilydale ..	1,127	1,555	1,653	1,012	1,440	1,572	1,138	1,582	1,747
Malra ..	1,146	1,738	1,870	1,019	1,622	1,732	1,023	1,618	1,747
Maldon ..	1,086	1,242	1,279	1,000	1,153	1,206	1,061	1,214	1,278
Maryborough ..	1,108	1,315	1,407	1,000	1,214	1,309	1,104	1,337	1,456
Mildura ..	1,163	1,700	1,920	1,084	1,693	1,805	1,162	1,784	1,926
Morwell ..	1,108	1,733	1,832	1,041	1,764	1,830	1,123	1,790	1,853
Nhill ..	1,149	1,518	1,639	1,124	1,550	1,699	1,174	1,700	1,832
Orbost ..	1,104	1,433	1,499	1,047	1,442	1,573	1,127	1,522	1,785
Portland ..	1,097	1,412	1,525	1,067	1,357	1,498	1,187	1,525	1,690
Port Fairy ..	1,060	1,358	1,424	1,076	1,292	1,352	1,096	1,391	1,468
St. Arnaud ..	1,122	1,451	1,591	1,040	1,435	1,514	1,193	1,632	1,752
Sal ..	1,072	1,487	1,643	987	1,432	1,582	1,074	1,537	1,677
Seymour ..	1,090	1,370	1,462	1,062	1,400	1,490	1,145	1,476	1,556
Shopperton ..	1,092	1,487	1,566	1,067	1,476	1,530	1,060	1,633	1,760
Stawell ..	1,180	1,452	1,548	1,087	1,375	1,451	1,179	1,500	1,695
Swan Hill ..	1,086	1,612	1,777	1,052	1,710	1,800	1,098	1,600	1,822
Terang ..	1,105	1,447	1,522	1,041	1,449	1,567	1,125	1,546	1,651
Traralgon ..	1,067	1,426	1,518	1,024	1,386	1,485	1,115	1,401	1,612
Wangaratta ..	1,160	1,618	1,680	1,061	1,458	1,563	1,149	1,590	1,720
Warracknabeal ..	1,065	1,512	1,634	1,020	1,536	1,645	1,131	1,657	1,746
Warragul ..	1,099	1,595	1,735	969	1,420	1,561	1,080	1,551	1,716
Wonthaggi ..	1,204	1,674	1,761	1,049	1,474	1,566	1,145	1,623	1,693
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	1,069	1,625	1,660	973	1,437	1,574	1,062	1,539	1,671
Queensland—									
Brisbane ..	1,030	1,376	1,487	970	1,303	1,423	1,068	1,405	1,523
Toowoomba ..	1,049	1,339	1,423	905	1,223	1,324	1,051	1,350	1,505
Rockhampton ..	1,085	1,329	1,375	972	1,211	1,278	1,075	1,372	1,474
Charters Towers ..	1,132	1,300	1,474	1,065	1,292	1,411	1,156	1,422	1,510
Warwick ..	1,023	1,206	1,404	931	1,201	1,352	1,030	1,377	1,450
Ayr ..	1,195	1,611	1,732	1,125	1,546	1,691	1,224	1,685	1,849
Baraldine ..	1,237	1,582	1,681	1,116	1,477	1,609	1,184	1,579	1,727
Bowen ..	1,103	1,498	1,567	1,079	1,507	1,655	1,184	1,570	1,645
Bundaberg ..	959	1,211	1,293	947	1,232	1,327	1,044	1,364	1,439
Cairns ..	1,163	1,602	1,738	1,130	1,596	1,710	1,235	1,780	1,913
Charleville ..	1,145	1,573	1,671	1,077	1,537	1,702	1,183	1,571	1,676
Chillagoe ..	1,136	1,467	1,533	1,063	1,326	1,392	1,277	1,513	1,540
Cloncurry ..	1,174	1,510	1,653	1,178	1,540	1,636	1,212	1,592	1,708
Cocktown ..	e	e	e	1,072	1,173	1,221	1,141	1,273	1,350
Cunnamulla ..	1,155	1,484	1,550	1,074	1,403	1,468	1,186	1,515	1,581
Dalby ..	1,031	1,368	1,321	981	1,310	1,375	1,051	1,412	1,496
Gayndah ..	1,031	1,390	1,426	952	1,245	1,310	1,093	1,383	1,455
Gladstone ..	1,040	1,303	1,435	1,020	1,283	1,415	1,109	1,386	1,487
Goodwindi ..	1,145	1,423	1,540	1,033	1,362	1,471	1,139	1,554	1,643
Gympie ..	1,054	1,305	1,405	900	1,286	1,362	1,087	1,399	1,493

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.—continued.

State and Town.	1923. November.			1924. November.			1925. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
Queensland—continued.									
Bushenden	1,194	1,636	1,770	1,101	1,583	1,682	1,197	1,734	1,866
Immistal	1,509	1,814	1,923	1,211	1,649	1,803	1,319	1,842	1,974
Innisfail	1,063	1,406	1,458	963	1,216	1,331	1,044	1,373	1,430
Isptwich	1,221	1,552	1,647	1,073	1,446	1,591	1,177	1,661	1,646
Longreach	1,066	1,448	1,571	987	1,407	1,511	1,087	1,536	1,671
Mackay	998	1,251	1,353	953	1,233	1,351	1,051	1,317	1,449
Maryborough	1,127	1,357	1,384	1,023	1,300	1,346	1,071	1,342	1,321
Mount Morgan	1,054	1,400	1,498	994	1,410	1,498	1,085	1,418	1,541
Nambour	1,132	1,484	1,534	1,010	1,326	1,434	1,109	1,466	1,545
Roma	1,134	1,503	1,575	1,075	1,431	1,503	1,153	1,548	1,614
Stanthorpe	1,149	1,603	1,731	1,085	1,560	1,719	1,176	1,655	1,797
Townsville	1,235	1,735	1,834	1,108	1,656	1,722	1,199	1,802	1,912
Winton									
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	1,063	1,393	1,492	987	1,320	1,430	1,085	1,430	1,540
South Australia—									
Adelaide	1,072	1,518	1,667	1,020	1,516	1,645	1,067	1,567	1,688
Kadina, etc.	1,050	1,354	1,435	1,014	1,281	1,373	1,110	1,369	1,460
Port Pirie	1,110	1,433	1,530	1,060	1,399	1,479	1,154	1,500	1,596
Mount Gambier	1,051	1,286	1,354	994	1,233	1,316	1,040	1,265	1,362
Peterborough	1,079	1,395	1,470	1,103	1,502	1,584	1,118	1,520	1,596
Freeling	1,006	1,269	1,375	1,083	1,379	1,445	1,105	1,473	1,539
Gawler	1,014	1,326	1,400	1,010	1,308	1,457	1,050	1,386	1,458
Kapunda	1,041	1,304	1,403	1,004	1,215	1,327	1,073	1,284	1,349
Korinna	1,110	1,505	1,571	1,053	1,448	1,514	1,101	1,298	1,386
Millicent	1,099	1,428	1,520	966	1,427	1,440	980	1,299	1,398
Murray Bridge	1,079	1,524	1,623	1,023	1,474	1,582	1,070	1,491	1,543
Port Augusta	1,112	1,437	1,540	1,123	1,448	1,551	1,209	1,565	1,648
Quorn	1,065	1,529	1,651	1,028	1,518	1,620	1,100	1,536	1,643
Victor Harbour	1,031	1,530	1,711	1,050	1,642	1,774	1,102	1,635	1,777
Renmark	1,166	1,640	1,759	1,116	1,613	1,749	1,231	1,708	1,810
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	1,073	1,498	1,639	1,024	1,494	1,616	1,074	1,545	1,661
Western Australia—									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,046	1,446	1,538	1,114	1,527	1,618	1,065	1,467	1,569
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,233	1,580	1,645	1,258	1,590	1,651	1,235	1,556	1,611
Northam	1,164	1,510	1,610	1,074	1,496	1,612	1,161	1,556	1,732
Bunbury	1,056	1,420	1,525	1,137	1,507	1,601	1,134	1,504	1,595
Geraldton	1,131	1,570	1,654	1,102	1,632	1,704	1,172	1,619	1,751
Albany	1,172	1,468	1,567	1,204	1,498	1,609	1,230	1,532	1,626
Beverley	1,072	1,281	1,360	1,132	1,366	1,423	1,119	1,384	1,472
Bridgetown	1,149	1,560	1,626	1,103	1,533	1,604	1,232	1,643	1,709
Broome	1,306	1,964	2,030	1,330	1,933	2,053	1,322	1,930	2,045
Carnarvon	1,249	1,743	1,841	1,184	1,710	1,776	1,329	1,823	1,921
Collie	1,106	1,467	1,533	1,172	1,567	1,632	1,236	1,598	1,664
Greenbushes	1,193	1,378	1,404	1,242	1,440	1,466	1,251	1,435	1,474
Katanning	1,009	1,404	1,407	1,077	1,459	1,577	1,089	1,473	1,553
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,355	1,513	1,552	1,399	1,567	1,597	1,354	1,512	1,551
Meekeatharra	1,162	1,425	1,491	1,164	1,627	1,693	1,430	1,893	1,759
Narrogin	1,136	1,636	1,794	1,154	1,628	1,812	1,160	1,643	1,782
Wagin	1,104	1,328	1,453	1,185	1,491	1,537	1,144	1,467	1,575
York	1,126	1,487	1,540	1,176	1,522	1,574	1,213	1,568	1,637
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	1,078	1,466	1,555	1,138	1,636	1,624	1,103	1,499	1,590
Tasmania—									
Hobart	1,114	1,574	1,762	1,051	1,579	1,724	1,077	1,554	1,718
Launceston	1,112	1,490	1,657	1,057	1,444	1,610	1,064	1,439	1,619
Burnie	1,170	1,583	1,746	1,042	1,485	1,621	1,110	1,575	1,689
Devonport	1,146	1,506	1,663	1,080	1,524	1,611	1,098	1,501	1,651
Queenstown	1,214	1,478	1,550	1,186	1,443	1,527	1,225	1,498	1,567
Beaconsfield	1,113	1,205	1,225	1,099	1,213	1,267	1,069	1,174	1,201
Campbelltown	1,052	1,260	1,303	1,045	1,259	1,323	1,094	1,298	1,349
Deloraine	1,019	1,197	1,257	1,014	1,363	1,396	1,023	1,352	1,418
Franklin	1,082	1,314	1,451	1,061	1,298	1,325	1,093	1,300	1,326
New Norfolk	1,043	1,272	1,405	1,052	1,301	1,400	1,057	1,393	1,449
Scottsdale	1,129	1,392	1,458	1,039	1,336	1,418	1,090	1,367	1,429
Ulverstone	1,123	1,450	1,558	1,030	1,350	1,477	1,082	1,411	1,510
Zeehan	1,251	1,415	1,468	1,154	1,364	1,430	1,156	1,454	1,519
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,120	1,526	1,689	1,050	1,500	1,647	1,083	1,506	1,652
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns)	1,083	1,526	1,642	1,012	1,472	1,597	1,077	1,549	1,675

(a) Figures not available.

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in columns B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing is ascertained. Thus for November, 1925, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1,053. Subtracting this from 1,556 (column B) gives a difference of 503, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,691 (column C) gives a difference of 638, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. The relative cost of housing can be ascertained similarly for each of the towns included.

3. **Comparisons with Quarterly Results.**—To determine the accuracy of the figures relating to variations in prices prior to 1912 for the capital cities only, and those since the beginning of 1912 for the 30 towns, the comparisons of the results have been made annually.

In the following table, the first line in each division shows the index-numbers derived from the special inquiry covering 200 towns; the second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1925, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received; and the last line gives the results obtained from the November returns for the capital cities only. The capital cities 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":—

Retail Price Index-Numbers—States, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Weighted Average.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns (a) ..	1,005	985	1,008	997	1,024	1,005	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,007	985	1,000	1,002	1,018	1,011	1,000
Capital Cities only ..	1,007	989	1,004	1,002	1,001	1,012	1,000

RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (a) ..	1,095	1,021	762	981	815	953	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,102	1,013	729	979	806	982	1,000
Capital Cities only ..	1,091	1,013	722	986	800	1,018	1,000

FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.

All Towns (a) ..	1,037	998	920	992	949	987	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,042	996	902	994	941	1,000	1,000
Capital Cities only ..	1,038	998	899	996	926	1,014	1,000

(a) For list of towns included, see Tables on pages 38 to 41.

The index-numbers for November, 1919 to 1925, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above with 1913 as base (=1,000), are shown in the following table:—

Retail Price Index-Numbers—Australia, 1919 to 1925.

Particulars.	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
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FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns (a)	1,000	1,706	2,002	1,578	1,558	1,689	1,581	1,683
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,701	2,007	1,577	1,564	1,688	1,581	1,679
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,715	2,021	1,588	1,580	1,699	1,594	1,680

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (a)	1,000	1,103	1,228	1,268	1,347	1,433	1,494	1,526
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,110	1,235	1,271	1,347	1,421	1,484	1,509
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,099	1,225	1,261	1,336	1,374	1,439	1,455

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (a)	1,000	1,477	1,709	1,461	1,478	1,592	1,548	1,623
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,471	1,706	1,458	1,480	1,584	1,543	1,613
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,464	1,697	1,455	1,480	1,566	1,531	1,594

The figures in the vertical columns 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 Cities only" respectively.

(a) See note to preceding table.

The index-numbers in the first line of each division of the table just given refer to 100 towns for November, 1913; to 150 towns for November, 1919 to 1922; and to 200 towns for November, 1923, November, 1924, and November, 1925. The general closeness of the results is remarkable, and indicates that the index-numbers for the capital cities only for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years reflect with a substantial degree of accuracy the variations in retail prices for Australia. During the period November, 1913, to November, 1925, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 68.3 per cent.; house rents increased 52.6 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of approximately 62.3 per cent.

§ 5. International Comparison of Price Index-Numbers.

1. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices for the years 1913 to 1925 in Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913, the year before the war, being taken as base (= 1,000). These figures are obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations. It must be understood that the figures do not show the relative prices in the various countries, but the fluctuations in prices in each country separately.

Index-Numbers, Wholesale Prices, Various Countries 1913 to 1925 (Prices in 1913 as Base = 1,000).

YEAR.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	CZECHOSLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	FINLAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist."	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	"Financede.".	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000						λ			1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,340	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,020	1,000	1,060
1915	1,271	1,231	1,231	1,271	1,271	1,280	1,280	1,400	1,280	1,280	1,280	1,398	1,337	1,420
1916	1,595	1,605	1,605	1,595	1,595	1,470	1,470	2,060	2,060	1,280	1,882	1,882	1,507	1,520
1917	2,061	2,041	2,041	2,061	2,061	1,800	1,800	2,840	2,840	1,760	2,616	2,616	1,790	1,790
1918	2,285	2,249	2,249	2,285	2,285	1,980	1,980	2,920	2,920	2,110	3,392	3,392	2,170	2,170
1919	2,419	2,351	2,351	2,419	2,419	2,040	2,040	3,400	3,400	2,310	3,562	3,562	2,450	2,450
1920	3,073	2,953	2,953	3,073	3,073	2,400	2,400	3,410	3,410	3,160	5,094	5,094	11,830	14,890
1921	1,973	1,824	1,810	1,973	1,973	1,810	1,502	1,780	1,820	1,730	3,450	12,030	10,710	10,710
1922	1,582	1,541	1,595	1,582	1,582	3,270	1,800	1,455	13,340	1,810	1,700	3,280	12,100	841,620
1923	1,583	1,518	1,621	1,583	1,583	1,760	1,504	9,770	2,100	1,730	1,320	4,189	10,960	4108,198,737
1924	1,662	1,646	1,739	1,662	1,662	11,360	5,720	1,770	1,530	9,970	1,430	4,885	11,000	11,000
1925	1,507	1,595	1,665	1,507	1,507	1,640	1,594	10,010	1,570	1,740	1,620	5,507	11,290	11,304

YEAR.	ITALY.		JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
	"Bacchi."	Camera di Commercio di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	"Lorenz."	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.	Offcial.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	951	951	951	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	980	1,050	1,023	1,044	966
1914	1,327	1,327	969	1,460	1,460	1,410	1,190	1,190	1,008	1,474	1,099	1,230	1,070	1,070
1915	1,997	1,997	1,171	2,260	2,260	1,660	1,410	1,410	1,268	1,382	1,316	1,337	1,226	1,226
1916	3,063	3,063	1,485	2,700	2,700	2,070	1,660	1,660	1,772	1,528	1,785	1,507	1,407	1,407
1917	4,091	4,091	1,958	3,730	3,730	2,070	1,660	1,660	1,943	1,778	1,900	1,753	1,631	1,631
1918	3,038	3,038	2,359	3,040	3,040	2,040	1,660	1,660	2,064	1,889	2,092	1,777	1,648	1,648
1919	6,244	6,244	2,594	2,920	2,920	2,210	3,590	2,210	2,262	2,270	2,485	2,117	2,233	2,233
1920	5,775	5,775	2,904	1,820	1,820	1,900	2,220	1,912	1,469	1,749	1,718	2,007	1,604	1,604
1921	5,623	5,623	1,958	1,600	1,600	725	1,760	1,730	1,075	1,488	1,616	1,520	1,775	1,284
1922	5,746	5,300	1,991	1,510	2,320	854	1,720	1,630	1,800	1,537	1,787	1,530	1,747	1,266
1923	5,850	5,540	2,065	1,500	2,070	1,097	1,830	1,621	1,746	1,497	1,733	1,551	1,708	1,237
1924	6,898	6,480	2,016	1,550	2,530	1,257	1,880	1,616	1,616	1,585	1,695	1,601	1,752	1,276

a April. b Average for the last five months. c First six months. d July. e February.
 f Gold unit prices. g For "Ekonomisk Revue" series from 1913 to 1923 see Labour Report No. 14, p. 138.
 h End of the year. i 000,000 omitted. j Average for the last eight months. k January. l Gold index.

2. Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of retail prices, (a) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (b) food only for the month of July in each year from

1914 to 1925, and where available, for January, 1926, the prices for July, 1914 being taken as base (= 1,000). It must be understood, however, that the figures which have been obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each individual country, and are not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries for the Month of July, 1914 to 1925, and January, 1926, with Prices in July, 1914 as Base (= 1,000).

(a) COST OF LIVING.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BULGARIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.		ITALY.	LUXEMBURG.
	630	Vienna.	59	12	100	21	Paris.	71	Berlin.	Milan.	L'x'm-bourg.
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,250	1,600	..	1,220	1,160	51,060	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,480	3,400	..	..	1,360	61,430	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,800	6,700	..	..	1,550	62,510	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	2,100	11,600	..	..	1,820	65,880	..	..	..	2,860	..
" 1919	2,150	25,000	..	12,340	2,110	69,040	12,380	..	..	2,800	..
" 1920	2,550	51,000	..	18,650	2,620	9,310	3,410	9,350	11,250	4,410	..
" 1921	2,220	99,720	1,000	19,100	2,370	12,140	3,070	11,240	11,250	4,940	3,840
" 1922	1,810	2,637,000	900	26,430	2,190	11,420	23,020	553,920	61,220	4,880	3,590
" 1923	1,710	7760	1,090	24,640	2,040	11,110	23,340	27,651,000	32,886,100	4,870	4,520
" 1924	1,710	860	1,250	28,120	2,140	11,540	23,600	21,160	21,017	5,120	4,980
" 1925	1,730	970	1,330	29,890	2,190	12,180	23,900	21,433	21,208	5,990	5,190
Jan. 1926	1,730	7950	1,390	527,840	2,1940	11,660	24,210	21,398	..	6,650	5,330

No. of Towns and Localities.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.
	30	Warsaw.	40	23	Bombay.	9	60	32	30	25
July 1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,170	..	1,150	1,190	..	1,050	970	1,050	1,180	1,082
" 1916	1,400	..	1,300	1,400	..	1,120	1,020	1,180	1,151	1,169
" 1917	1,900	..	1,590	1,800	..	1,220	1,300	1,420	1,157	1,282
" 1918	2,530	..	2,190	2,290	1,400	1,310	1,400	1,740	1,179	1,440
" 1919	2,750	..	2,570	2,610	1,860	1,450	1,550	1,990	1,317	1,573
" 1920	3,020	111,730	2,760	2,530	1,900	1,790	1,900	2,000	1,651	1,815
" 1921	3,020	257,090	2,360	2,090	1,770	1,620	1,520	1,740	1,448	1,782
" 1922	2,550	787,970	1,900	1,580	1,650	1,350	1,460	1,700	1,416	1,590
" 1923	2,390	632	1,740	1,670	1,530	1,310	1,400	1,730	1,544	1,584
" 1924	2,310	1,272	1,710	1,660	1,570	1,330	1,430	1,730	1,466	1,602
" 1925	2,010	1,456	1,760	1,650	1,570	1,330	1,460	1,780	1,524	1,631
Jan. 1926	2,360	1,700	2,1740	2,020	1,550	1,310	1,550	2,1780	1,555	2,124

(b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.		GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
	630	Vienna.	50	Whole Country	100	21	Paris.	320	71	Amsterdam.
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,320	..	..	..	1,250	..	1,200	1,290	..	1,145
" 1916	1,610	..	..	..	1,460	..	1,290	1,420	..	1,170
" 1917	2,046	..	..	..	1,660	..	1,530	1,840	..	1,460
" 1918	2,300	..	..	..	1,870	..	2,060	2,440	..	1,750
" 1919	2,170	..	..	..	2,120	..	2,610	2,890	..	1,960
" 1920	2,620	..	..	..	2,550	10,130	3,730	3,880	12,520	2,100
" 1921	2,200	7579,000	1,000	13,460	2,860	13,230	3,060	3,730	14,010	1,900
" 1922	1,750	9,282,390	870	14,300	2,840	11,440	2,970	3,150	68,360	1,410
" 1923	1,650	12,911,000	1,050	9,210	2,180	10,020	3,210	3,370	46,510,000	1,300
" 1924	1,640	14,362,000	1,240	9,090	2,090	10,520	3,600	4,010	21,260	1,800
" 1925	1,680	..	1,330	9,100	2,100	11,450	4,210	4,510	21,538	1,440
Jan. 1926	1,680	..	1,420	8,540	2,170	10,900	4,800	4,710	21,433	2,140

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries, &c.—*continued.*(b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS—*continued.*

	ITALY.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZER- LAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
No. of Towns and Localities.	Milan.	30	Warsaw.	49	23	Dom- bay.	9	60	51	30	25	Madrid
July 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915 ..	..	a1,230	..	1,230	1,190	..	1,070	1,040	930	1,308	1,121	1,080
" 1916 ..	1,510	a1,530	..	1,340	1,410	..	1,160	1,140	1,090	1,302	1,193	1,160
" 1917 ..	2,100	a2,070	..	1,770	1,730	..	1,280	1,570	1,470	1,267	1,268	1,240
" 1918 ..	3,230	a2,710	..	2,380	2,220	..	1,340	1,750	1,650	1,308	1,393	1,540
" 1919 ..	3,100	a2,300	..	3,180	2,500	..	1,850	1,800	1,880	1,473	1,438	1,740
" 1920 ..	4,450	3,150	..	2,870	2,390	..	1,970	2,270	2,150	1,942	1,074	1,900
" 1921 ..	5,060	2,920	458,550	2,310	2,070	1,740	1,390	1,480	1,450	1,612	1,637	1,890
" 1922 ..	4,920	2,330	1,298,120	1,780	1,570	1,690	1,160	1,380	1,390	1,482	1,430	1,810
" 1923 ..	4,900	2,180	714	1,580	1,620	1,490	1,160	1,370	1,440	1,644	1,421	1,770
" 1924 ..	5,080	2,480	1,391	1,550	1,840	1,510	1,170	1,340	1,310	1,485	1,483	1,840
" 1925 ..	6,020	2,500	1,739	1,600	1,610	1,520	1,200	1,460	1,560	1,559	1,507	1,800
Jan. 1926 ..	6,810	2,109	1,911	1,620	p1,610	1,510	1,160	p1,570	1,600	1,549	1,544	p1,830

a June. b January. c First half of the year. d Gold mark prices. e Since January, 1922, including clothing. f December. g Averages for years specified. h From 1915 for month of August. i Figure for the whole country. j Average for 1913. k May. l Including fuel and soap. m Average of selected week in the middle of the year. n Quarterly indexes, from 1914 to 1919, third quarter of each year. o 1st June. p December, 1925. q February. r August. s November, 1925. t From 1923 "Zloty" prices. u Third Quarter of each year specified excepting 1920 which is the first quarter figure. v Since 1925 gold prices. w Excluding clothing from 1925. x This index number is no longer published.

CHAPTER II.—WAGES.

§ 1. Operations Under Arbitration and Wages Board Acts.

1. **General.**—Particulars regarding operations under the Commonwealth Arbitration Acts and the various State Acts for the regulation of wages and hours and conditions of labour, showing the number of boards authorized and constituted, also those which had and which had not made any award or determination in each State, the number and territorial scope of awards or determinations, and the number of industrial agreements in force, were first compiled to the 31st December, 1913.*

These particulars have from time to time been revised, and reviews to the end of approximately quarterly periods have been published in the periodical Labour Bulletins and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1925.

*Information as to the main provisions of the various Acts in force may be found in the Official Year Book No. 16, pages 568 to 571.