

## CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

## § 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—Information regarding variations in wholesale prices in Melbourne for 1926 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 referred 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
Dig	Mxd. Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins	Sultanas	lb.	1,400
Rod and Bar	Stafford	”	3½	Herrings	1-lb. fresh	doz. 1-lb. tins	50
Angle and T	”	”	3½	Salmon	1 lb. tall Alaska	”	50
Plate	”	”	3	Sardines	Halves	doz. halves	100
Hoop	”	”	5 ½	Coffee	Plantation	lb.	200
Galvanized	26 gauge	”	5	Cocoa	McKenzie's	”	100
Tinned Plates	L.C. Coke	cwt.	00	Sugar	No. 1A	ton	22
Fencing Wire	No. 8	ton	6	Macaroni	”	lb.	200
Zinc, sheet	”	”	1	Sago	”	cwt.	7
Lead, sheet	”	”	½	Rice	”	ton	2
Pipes	”	”	½	Salt	Australian fine	”	7
Copper, sheet	”	lb.	2,000	Salt	Rock	”	1
Quicksilver	”	”	12	Mustard	Coleman's	doz. 1-lb. tins	6
Coal	Newcastle on wharf	ton	600	Starch	Coleman's White	lb.	100
GROUP II.				Blue Matches	Keen's Australian	gross	50
Branbags	”	doz.	110	Safety	”	”	90
Cornsacks	”	”	250	Candles	Rangoon	lb.	1,600
Woolpacks	”	each	200	Tobacco	Two Sena	”	1,300
Leather—				Tea	Po'ket Pcs.	”	3,000
Waxed Kip	”	lb.	600	Kerosene	”	gallon	1,700
Waxed Split	”	”	600				
Light Crop	”	”	600	GROUP VI.			
Cotton	Raw	”	24,000	Beef	Average quality	100 lbs.	390
Wool	Greasy	”	12,200	Mutton	”	lb.	33,000
Twine	Reaper and Binder	”	150	Veal	”	”	2,000
Tallow	Mutton Prime	ton	1½	Lamb	”	”	5,600
				Pork	”	”	3,700
GROUP III.				GROUP VII.			
Wheat	”	bushel	500	Timber—	Flooring—		
Flour	”	ton	43	6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.	”	30
Bran	”	”	14	6 x 2	”	”	30
Pollard	”	”	14	6 x 3	”	”	30
Oats	Milling	bushel	1,200	6 x 4	”	”	30
Oatmeal	Colonial	ton	1½	6 x 5	”	”	200
Barley	Mating	bushel	150	Weatherboards	Oregon	1,000 ft. sup.	20
	Feed	”	100	Shelving	Portland	cask	10
Malze	”	”	1,000	White Lead	”	ton	30
Hay	Best Mngr	ton	135	Slates	Welsh	1,000	½
Chaff	Prime	”	135	20 x 10	”	”	½
Straw	Victorian	”	25				
Peas	”	bushel	55	GROUP VIII.			
Potatoes	”	ton	40	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Malt	Victorian	bushel	140	Carbonate of Soda	”	ton	½
Onions	”	ton	3	Saltpetre	Refined	”	½
				Sulphur	”	”	½
				Caustic Soda	”	cwt.	7
				Alum	Lump	ton	½
				Cyanide of Potassium	”	lb.	570
GROUP IV.							
Ham	”	lb.	800				
Bacon	”	”	3,200				
Cheese	”	”	1,500				
Butter	Best Fresh	”	9,500				
Lard	Bulk	”	200				
Eggs	Ordinary	doz.	1,800				
Honey	”	lb.	600				
Beeswax	”	”	40				
Condensed Milk	Bacchus 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 1926, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

YEAR.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, &c.	III. Agricultural Produce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Commodities combined.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,944	1,409	1,229
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,991	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	845
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	874
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	1,068
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	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	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,780	1,594
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	1,834
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,965	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920 ..	2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,302	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,809	1,787	2,005	1,965	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	1,865
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,666	1,816	1,832

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 1,832 in 1926. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871 or 1926, 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 1926 shows a decrease of 0.7 per cent. compared with that for 1925. In Groups II., VI., and VII. decreases of 19.6, 12.7, and 2.7 per cent. respectively were recorded. All other groups showed increases ranging from 11.4 per cent. in the case of Group III. (Agricultural Produce) to 0.5 per cent. in Group V. (Groceries).

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 1926 and the first quarter of 1927:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1926 and First Quarter, 1927  
(Base 1911 = 1,000).

Group.	No. of Com- modities.	Index Numbers.				
		Jan. to March, 1926.	April to June, 1926.	July to Sept., 1926.	Oct. to Dec., 1926.	Jan. to March, 1927.
I. Metals and Coal	14	1,008	1,951	1,989	1,004	1,964
II. Jute, Leather, &c.	10	1,705	1,638	1,594	1,488	1,488
III. Agricultural Produce	10	1,992	1,978	2,015	2,029	1,705
IV. Dairy Produce	0	1,779	1,965	1,743	1,641	1,743
V. Groceries	21	1,730	1,739	1,787	1,725	1,704
VI. Beverages	5	1,803	2,349	1,872	1,610	1,786
VII. Building Materials	19	1,640	1,622	1,719	1,477	1,786
VIII. Grains	7	1,784	1,794	1,849	1,477	1,680
All Groups (a)	92	1,841	1,802	1,832	1,764	1,737

(a) Weighted averages.

5. Variations since Outbreak of War.—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1926, and for each month from January, 1926, to April, 1927, 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 1926, and Monthly January, 1926, to April, 1927. (Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, &c.	III. Agr. Produce.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meats.	VII. Building Material.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups.
July 1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Year 1915	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,344	1,490	1,406
" 1916	1,539	1,307	1,130	1,335	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917	1,910	1,841	1,084	1,161	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918	2,197	2,324	1,381	1,378	1,478	1,448	2,448	3,085	1,605
" 1919	1,930	2,109	1,868	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,602	2,827	1,801
" 1920	2,091	2,430	2,228	1,840	1,800	2,022	2,944	2,857	2,178
" 1921	1,974	1,550	1,083	1,663	1,910	1,331	2,405	2,346	1,668
" 1922	1,763	1,543	1,553	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,514
" 1923	1,058	1,072	1,064	1,527	1,693	1,500	1,895	1,704	1,541
" 1924	1,467	2,520	1,541	1,376	1,608	1,371	1,656	1,791	1,683
" 1925	1,082	1,809	1,081	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,522	1,702	1,017
" 1926	1,760	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,006
Jan. 1926	1,733	1,600	1,871	1,407	1,672	1,156	1,518	1,740	1,013
Feb. "	1,785	1,571	1,851	1,481	1,691	1,094	1,491	1,740	1,001
March "	1,732	1,525	1,873	1,548	1,678	1,249	1,481	1,732	1,027
April "	1,784	1,514	1,870	1,663	1,678	1,530	1,470	1,732	1,076
May "	1,848	1,508	1,889	1,686	1,679	1,450	1,471	1,732	1,089
June "	1,733	1,467	1,844	1,602	1,674	1,328	1,405	1,723	1,062
July "	1,741	1,466	1,800	1,452	1,686	1,150	1,577	1,708	1,015
August "	1,753	1,489	1,898	1,402	1,689	1,036	1,543	1,608	1,020
Sept. "	1,764	1,445	1,938	1,376	1,689	1,036	1,545	1,708	1,052
Oct. "	1,755	1,807	1,976	1,383	1,675	986	1,524	1,798	1,041
Nov. "	1,780	1,277	1,909	1,335	1,677	981	1,525	1,708	1,041
Dec. "	1,810	1,272	1,887	1,385	1,601	1,070	1,514	1,708	1,043
Jan. 1927	1,811	1,339	1,777	1,405	1,681	1,047	1,473	1,708	1,056
Feb. "	1,800	1,338	1,704	1,451	1,651	1,051	1,477	1,708	1,056
March "	1,796	1,415	1,560	1,458	1,644	1,051	1,477	1,814	1,490
April "	1,736	1,457	1,546	1,502	1,638	1,051	1,500	1,794	1,508

6. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1926. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1926 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, 1926.**

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)	1,841	1,802	1,832	1,704	1,832
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1926 as base (= 1,000)	1,005	1,033	1,000	968	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of House Rent) Index-Numbers with average for 1926 as base (= 1,000)	988	1,029	996	987	1,000

The results show a greater variation in wholesale prices than in retail prices, but in both instances the prices were lowest in the fourth quarter and highest in the second quarter.

7. **Prices, 1925 and 1926.**—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 1925 and 1926. 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. The "mass-units" represent, to the nearest 1,000,000, the proportionate consumption by the Australian community of the articles included.

**Retail Prices.—Composite Unit.**

Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."	Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."
<b>GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).</b>			<b>GROUP III.—MEAT.</b>		
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	"	58
7. Bago .. ..	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing	"	53
8. Jam .. ..	"	73	33. Beef, corned round	"	39
9. Oatmeal .. ..	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with bone .. ..	"	11
10. Raisins .. ..	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without bone .. ..	"	32
11. Currants .. ..	"	14	36. Mutton, leg .. ..	"	62
12. Starch .. ..	"	1	37. Mutton, shoulder ..	"	62
13. Blue .. ..	doz. sqs.	4	38. Mutton, loin .. ..	"	30
14. Candles .. ..	lb.	16	39. Mutton, neck .. ..	"	40
15. Soap .. ..	"	64	40. Mutton, chops, loin	"	62
16. Potatoes .. ..	14 lbs.	64	41. Mutton, chops, leg	"	15
17. Onions .. ..	lb.	68	42. Mutton, chops, neck	"	31
18. Kerosene .. ..	gallon	17	43. Pork, leg .. ..	"	9½
<b>GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>			44. Pork, loin .. ..	"	8½
19. Milk .. ..	quart	300	45. Pork, belly .. ..	"	10½
20. Butter .. ..	lb.	95	46. Pork, chops .. ..	"	8½
21. Cheese .. ..	"	15	<b>GROUP IV.—HOUSING.</b>		
22. Eggs .. ..	dozen	18	47. House Accommodation .. ..	week	46½
23. Bacon, middle ..	lb.	16			
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 and other particulars in regard to findings, etc., are given on page 28.

5. *Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1926.*—(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 1926.

The index-numbers given in the separate groups 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 cost for the six cities taken together in 1911 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<b>GROUP I.—GROCERIES.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	904	1,018	1,112	1,976	1,837	1,833	1,710	1,864	1,995
Melbourne .. .	817	924	990	1,897	1,705	1,708	1,575	1,727	1,787
Brisbane .. . .	960	1,087	1,070	1,968	1,841	1,832	1,685	1,836	1,933
Adelaide .. . .	903	953	1,061	1,907	1,760	1,744	1,643	1,770	1,814
Perth .. . . .	1,013	1,276	1,113	1,955	1,725	1,692	1,627	1,770	1,819
Hobart .. . . .	888	1,008	1,070	1,927	1,758	1,704	1,683	1,736	1,807
Weighted Average (a) ..	885	1,000	1,062	1,937	1,774	1,770	1,650	1,797	1,886
<b>GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>									
Sydney .. . . .	932	971	1,110	1,828	1,676	1,831	1,660	1,613	1,769
Melbourne .. .	867	950	1,075	1,840	1,696	1,745	1,604	1,583	1,680
Brisbane .. . .	837	983	995	1,664	1,562	1,670	1,553	1,540	1,651
Adelaide .. . .	928	1,103	1,104	1,723	1,578	1,654	1,626	1,622	1,691
Perth .. . . .	1,200	1,241	1,244	1,951	1,730	1,806	1,720	1,689	1,748
Hobart .. . . .	955	994	1,177	1,843	1,539	1,665	1,540	1,484	1,634
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,108	1,815	1,627	1,767	1,630	1,600	1,717
<b>GROUP III.—MEAT.</b>									
Sydney .. . . .	994	959	1,280	1,838	1,499	1,788	1,845	1,833	1,749
Melbourne .. .	1,067	929	1,270	1,972	1,591	2,026	1,956	1,959	1,852
Brisbane .. . .	1,024	935	1,169	1,719	1,256	1,468	1,838	1,765	1,633
Adelaide .. . .	1,059	1,037	1,502	2,097	1,816	2,106	2,222	2,193	2,151
Perth .. . . .	1,511	1,577	1,688	2,113	1,904	2,084	2,526	2,432	2,071
Hobart .. . . .	1,279	1,221	1,493	2,382	2,128	2,345	2,463	2,285	2,201
Weighted Average (a) ..	1,074	1,000	1,323	1,934	1,587	1,904	1,932	1,961	1,852
<b>GROUPS I, II, AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>									
Sydney .. . . .	936	989	1,156	1,898	1,703	1,820	1,732	1,735	1,867
Melbourne .. .	925	935	1,091	1,901	1,644	1,802	1,684	1,748	1,774
Brisbane .. . .	947	1,018	1,078	1,812	1,608	1,693	1,690	1,734	1,788
Adelaide .. . .	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,723	1,823	1,791	1,840	1,869
Perth .. . . .	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,776	1,828	1,891	1,988	1,866
Hobart .. . . .	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,025	1,794	1,863	1,849	1,910	1,868
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,684	1,805	1,732	1,785	1,829
<b>GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>									
Sydney .. . . .	909	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,680	1,739	1,831	1,870	1,826
Melbourne .. .	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,448	1,534	1,574	1,604	1,695
Brisbane .. . .	463	610	762	1,030	1,128	1,161	1,457	1,165	1,333
Adelaide .. . .	835	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,377	1,450	1,540	1,576	1,616
Perth .. . . .	749	857	963	1,200	1,256	1,294	1,311	1,340	1,469
Hobart .. . . .	661	739	847	1,441	1,359	1,503	1,592	1,649	1,628
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,410	1,486	1,553	1,615	1,647	1,677
<b>ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>									
Sydney .. . . .	948	1,048	1,188	1,793	1,694	1,790	1,769	1,817	1,852
Melbourne .. .	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,571	1,702	1,643	1,694	1,744
Brisbane .. . .	765	865	959	1,519	1,427	1,490	1,490	1,521	1,617
Adelaide .. . .	908	1,070	1,101	1,687	1,593	1,683	1,697	1,741	1,786
Perth .. . . .	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,700	1,581	1,627	1,673	1,714	1,717
Hobart .. . . .	879	938	1,073	1,806	1,631	1,728	1,753	1,750	1,778
Weighted Average (a) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,610	1,710	1,688	1,733	1,772

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 1926 than in 1925 in all the capital cities. The increase for all cities in 1926 compared with 1925 amounts to 5.0 per cent. ; compared with 1911 there has been an increase of 88.6 per cent. The average cost in 1926 of the commodities included was highest in Sydney and lowest in Melbourne.

(iii.) *Dairy Produce (7 Commodities)*.—The index-numbers for this group were higher for 1926 than for 1925 in all the capitals. The index-number for all the cities in 1926 was 7.3 per cent. higher than in 1925, and 71.7 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost in 1926 of the commodities was highest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

(iv.) *Meat (21 Cuts or Joints of Butcher's Meat)*.—The index-numbers for this group were lower in 1926 than in 1925 in all the capital cities. The index-number for all the cities in 1926 was 5.6 per cent. lower than in 1925 ; and 85.2 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost for 1926 of the commodities included was highest in Hobart 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 1926 as compared with 1925 in all the cities except Perth. Taking the weighted average for all the capitals, the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries specified on page 15 were 2.5 per cent. higher in 1926 than in 1925, and 82.9 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost of these items for 1926 was highest in Adelaide and lowest in Melbourne.

(vi.) *Housing*.—The cost of housing increased in three capital cities during 1926, viz., Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth, and decreased in Sydney, Adelaide, and Hobart. The weighted average increase for the six capitals in 1926 compared with 1925 was 1.8 per cent. The increase in cost in 1926 compared with 1911 for the six capitals considered as a whole was 67.7 per cent. In 1926 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 2.3 per cent. in 1926 compared with 1925, and an increase of 77.2 per cent. compared with 1911.

Compared with 1911, the base-year of the period, the weighted average price index-number showed an increase of 77.2 per cent. for 1926. 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 1926 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 Australian Statistics.

**7. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1921 to 1926.**—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, 1922 to 1926 : 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.	Geelong.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.

**FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.**

1922	1,708	1,706	1,776	1,691	1,692	1,705	1,644	1,654	1,649	1,642	1,591	1,444
1923	1,820	1,838	1,930	1,856	1,766	1,826	1,802	1,798	1,796	1,757	1,750	1,800
1924	1,782	1,749	1,954	1,787	1,764	1,759	1,694	1,729	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	1,779	1,730	1,721	1,749
1926	1,867	1,850	2,117	1,851	1,791	1,871	1,774	1,812	1,802	1,761	1,755	1,776
1925 1st Qtr.	1,749	1,681	1,740	1,678	1,736	1,692	1,715	1,719	1,719	1,670	1,661	1,693
2nd "	1,761	1,786	2,131	1,749	1,705	1,772	1,745	1,749	1,772	1,726	1,699	1,746
3rd "	1,813	1,850	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	2,180	1,858	1,777	1,848	1,767	1,793	1,810	1,760	1,755	1,789
1926 1st Qtr.	1,838	1,830	2,111	1,803	1,770	1,845	1,750	1,790	1,797	1,761	1,711	1,753
2nd "	1,861	1,884	2,224	1,881	1,805	1,910	1,800	1,852	1,863	1,820	1,824	1,858
3rd "	1,861	1,883	2,054	1,831	1,790	1,864	1,750	1,818	1,774	1,754	1,774	1,762
4th "	1,863	1,844	2,047	1,849	1,770	1,865	1,728	1,781	1,784	1,791	1,711	1,731
January	1,824	1,820	2,105	1,873	1,778	1,832	1,730	1,794	1,797	1,743	1,692	1,735
February	1,804	1,817	2,126	1,847	1,755	1,813	1,728	1,791	1,788	1,740	1,710	1,733
March	1,860	1,871	2,126	1,800	1,778	1,890	1,791	1,802	1,810	1,770	1,731	1,790
April	1,914	1,902	2,207	1,897	1,823	1,923	1,881	1,854	1,875	1,842	1,815	1,878
May	1,914	1,881	2,237	1,886	1,853	1,919	1,802	1,852	1,843	1,806	1,829	1,850
June	1,832	1,808	2,227	1,801	1,841	1,830	1,833	1,840	1,842	1,811	1,826	1,837
July	1,868	1,844	2,151	1,800	1,803	1,872	1,700	1,838	1,804	1,792	1,760	1,792
August	1,801	1,837	2,002	1,820	1,784	1,863	1,757	1,822	1,772	1,762	1,795	1,761
September	1,855	1,817	2,038	1,804	1,771	1,856	1,781	1,793	1,745	1,700	1,730	1,734
October	1,827	1,807	2,035	1,794	1,762	1,829	1,699	1,764	1,742	1,692	1,691	1,703
November	1,862	1,818	2,030	1,819	1,762	1,861	1,739	1,778	1,768	1,732	1,704	1,742
December	1,900	1,907	2,076	1,933	1,802	1,905	1,744	1,803	1,820	1,750	1,737	1,750

**HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).**

1922	1,660	1,449	914	1,449	1,015	1,617	1,448	819	942	1,258	1,140	1,265
1923	1,750	1,437	883	1,538	1,044	1,683	1,534	912	905	1,263	1,204	1,476
1924	1,831	1,520	930	1,625	1,255	1,776	1,574	900	986	1,267	1,227	1,513
1925	1,870	1,654	1,001	1,637	1,373	1,823	1,604	1,004	1,030	1,292	1,224	1,548
1926	1,926	1,689	1,101	1,741	1,457	1,793	1,685	1,022	1,194	1,369	1,211	1,640
1925 1st Qtr.	1,869	1,653	901	1,605	1,022	1,822	1,504	1,040	1,057	1,268	1,227	1,387
2nd "	1,869	1,601	908	1,704	1,050	1,813	1,600	1,040	1,042	1,277	1,220	1,542
3rd "	1,852	1,680	1,015	1,654	1,010	1,810	1,617	1,020	1,151	1,342	1,220	1,563
4th "	1,802	1,680	1,000	1,675	1,044	1,844	1,602	1,027	1,106	1,403	1,220	1,560
1926 1st Qtr.	1,850	1,694	1,075	1,689	1,061	1,786	1,680	1,081	1,150	1,503	1,207	1,620
2nd "	1,829	1,704	1,078	1,718	1,057	1,794	1,698	1,017	1,200	1,571	1,211	1,648
3rd "	1,829	1,764	1,125	1,775	1,057	1,796	1,698	1,017	1,200	1,571	1,211	1,648
4th "	1,820	1,693	1,125	1,781	1,052	1,795	1,704	1,022	1,200	1,571	1,212	1,649

**FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.**

1922	1,694	1,600	1,452	1,600	1,401	1,672	1,571	1,340	1,384	1,460	1,422	1,546
1923	1,796	1,687	1,870	1,738	1,405	1,773	1,703	1,462	1,496	1,571	1,549	1,678
1924	1,760	1,663	1,763	1,600	1,353	1,753	1,643	1,425	1,480	1,520	1,502	1,622
1925	1,817	1,740	1,941	1,749	1,600	1,805	1,694	1,481	1,520	1,572	1,533	1,673
1926	1,852	1,793	1,736	1,810	1,666	1,842	1,744	1,515	1,574	1,639	1,551	1,725
1925 1st Qtr.	1,781	1,716	1,609	1,733	1,556	1,765	1,636	1,401	1,470	1,519	1,498	1,635
2nd "	1,802	1,719	1,700	1,732	1,573	1,789	1,691	1,483	1,498	1,557	1,519	1,669
3rd "	1,828	1,768	1,741	1,760	1,604	1,817	1,723	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,502	1,702
4th "	1,859	1,780	1,766	1,789	1,634	1,840	1,705	1,500	1,540	1,632	1,554	1,687
1926 1st Qtr.	1,831	1,755	1,792	1,798	1,654	1,821	1,724	1,506	1,554	1,680	1,522	1,703
2nd "	1,870	1,816	1,794	1,800	1,683	1,847	1,729	1,548	1,611	1,726	1,594	1,777
3rd "	1,840	1,784	1,720	1,797	1,665	1,838	1,736	1,517	1,562	1,685	1,563	1,713
4th "	1,850	1,781	1,701	1,823	1,631	1,838	1,719	1,496	1,568	1,664	1,523	1,700

(a) See explanatory note at head of page 17.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1922 to 1926: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000)—continued.

	OBERLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonla, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
1922	1,608	1,539	1,616	1,638	1,579	1,690	1,723	1,710	1,723	1,626	1,762	1,720
1923	1,000	1,670	1,738	1,621	1,677	1,677	1,677	1,772	1,801	1,754	1,801	1,819
1924	1,090	1,600	1,679	1,841	1,625	1,680	1,720	1,766	1,820	1,682	1,817	1,819
1925	1,724	1,674	1,875	1,937	1,688	1,734	1,820	1,878	1,853	1,939	1,939	1,844
1926	1,726	1,770	1,874	2,030	1,796	1,803	1,839	1,926	1,830	1,932	1,982	1,876
1925 1st Qtr.	1,607	1,550	1,676	1,624	1,571	1,682	1,813	1,798	1,870	1,714	1,821	1,813
2nd "	1,726	1,648	1,721	1,831	1,647	1,721	1,888	1,862	1,843	1,843	1,921	1,898
3rd "	1,744	1,714	1,754	1,881	1,604	1,812	1,740	1,870	1,766	1,766	1,844	1,844
4th "	1,790	1,758	1,817	1,956	1,759	1,804	1,821	1,880	1,792	1,771	1,917	1,839
1926 1st Qtr.	1,773	1,730	1,834	1,967	1,726	1,781	1,861	1,802	1,908	1,778	1,924	1,867
2nd "	1,778	1,791	1,886	2,026	1,810	1,798	1,897	1,888	2,004	1,835	2,026	1,898
3rd "	1,796	1,782	1,892	2,041	1,807	1,812	1,830	1,908	1,970	1,853	2,085	1,878
4th "	1,805	1,772	1,885	2,089	1,839	1,821	1,898	2,005	1,939	1,904	2,073	1,918
1926.	1,799	1,740	1,855	1,994	1,728	1,806	1,854	1,803	1,909	1,766	1,933	1,861
January	1,753	1,710	1,809	1,936	1,722	1,792	1,853	1,801	1,925	1,748	1,910	1,858
February	1,766	1,732	1,836	1,951	1,728	1,775	1,837	1,813	1,909	1,821	1,908	1,882
March	1,768	1,790	1,880	1,990	1,788	1,780	1,847	1,908	1,873	1,823	1,921	1,851
April	1,760	1,779	1,801	2,043	1,825	1,786	1,870	1,908	1,875	1,829	2,011	1,883
May	1,805	1,779	1,886	2,034	1,818	1,818	1,877	1,954	1,891	1,891	2,017	1,878
June	1,803	1,773	1,898	2,042	1,807	1,810	1,887	1,954	1,906	1,866	2,031	1,866
July	1,809	1,791	1,907	2,042	1,810	1,824	1,883	1,965	1,861	1,861	2,031	1,866
August	1,803	1,784	1,907	2,042	1,810	1,824	1,883	1,965	1,861	1,861	2,031	1,866
September	1,774	1,784	1,878	1,990	1,804	1,792	1,796	1,888	1,933	1,832	1,955	1,850
October	1,774	1,784	1,878	1,990	1,804	1,792	1,796	1,888	1,933	1,832	1,955	1,850
November	1,708	1,736	1,858	2,022	1,804	1,800	1,840	1,902	1,830	1,803	1,951	1,804
December	1,858	1,836	1,953	2,136	1,887	1,875	1,840	1,955	1,970	1,806	2,022	1,880

HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGES 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1922	1,126	870	788	854	863	1,037	1,377	1,010	984	805	920	1,314
1923	1,151	983	774	893	881	1,092	1,450	1,064	890	805	1,028	1,425
1924	1,157	1,033	799	911	1,097	1,106	1,540	990	1,005	810	1,098	1,446
1925	1,605	1,139	1,027	921	1,087	1,141	1,578	861	1,040	821	1,270	1,574
1926	1,533	1,208	1,083	939	1,168	1,283	1,516	825	1,135	865	1,219	1,461
1925 1st Qtr.	1,164	1,140	984	888	1,064	1,134	1,566	880	1,026	824	1,268	1,505
2nd "	1,164	1,120	1,041	890	1,095	1,141	1,580	859	1,054	819	1,268	1,518
3rd "	1,165	1,130	1,041	896	1,095	1,142	1,580	859	1,057	820	1,268	1,518
4th "	1,108	1,157	1,041	896	1,095	1,146	1,576	850	1,059	820	1,275	1,514
1926 1st Qtr.	1,332	1,201	1,075	908	1,150	1,280	1,529	814	1,133	805	1,118	1,472
2nd "	1,332	1,208	1,078	906	1,150	1,287	1,529	814	1,133	806	1,118	1,472
3rd "	1,334	1,208	1,078	903	1,185	1,288	1,500	829	1,138	806	1,119	1,446
4th "	1,384	1,216	1,102	953	1,185	1,288	1,504	829	1,138	805	1,310	1,462

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1922	1,427	1,288	1,305	1,381	1,310	1,394	1,508	1,447	1,447	1,318	1,449	1,566
1923	1,490	1,418	1,376	1,475	1,416	1,472	1,638	1,509	1,502	1,397	1,508	1,604
1924	1,490	1,388	1,349	1,492	1,427	1,468	1,683	1,469	1,469	1,367	1,503	1,675
1925	1,521	1,473	1,478	1,517	1,450	1,511	1,741	1,484	1,602	1,408	1,602	1,758
1926	1,617	1,659	1,577	1,617	1,560	1,608	1,739	1,513	1,672	1,466	1,695	1,790
1925 1st Qtr.	1,478	1,396	1,416	1,473	1,381	1,464	1,457	1,355	1,390	1,318	1,449	1,608
2nd "	1,516	1,430	1,405	1,493	1,440	1,503	1,680	1,480	1,600	1,414	1,708	1,749
3rd "	1,527	1,496	1,505	1,528	1,469	1,521	1,741	1,480	1,622	1,406	1,690	1,751
4th "	1,562	1,561	1,525	1,573	1,510	1,557	1,729	1,500	1,623	1,414	1,676	1,711
1926 1st Qtr.	1,607	1,532	1,540	1,568	1,510	1,592	1,738	1,494	1,673	1,475	1,621	1,719
2nd "	1,610	1,532	1,540	1,568	1,510	1,592	1,738	1,494	1,673	1,475	1,621	1,719
3rd "	1,622	1,565	1,567	1,629	1,562	1,604	1,780	1,509	1,662	1,482	1,697	1,758
4th "	1,629	1,565	1,591	1,602	1,593	1,621	1,804	1,501	1,638	1,482	1,728	1,698

(a) See note at head of page 17.

Retail Price Index—Numbers 30 Towns 1923 to 1926: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (b) (= 1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam(a).	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie(b).	Devonport (c).	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).</b>														
1922	1,776	1,995	..	1,856	1,840	1,828	1,794	1,709	..	..	1,842	1,774	1,654	1,688
1923	1,828	2,101	1,962	1,840	1,918	1,861	1,863	1,820	1,883	1,855	1,953	1,834	1,805	1,808
1924	1,801	2,122	1,916	1,940	1,985	1,918	1,849	1,836	1,879	1,864	2,016	1,853	1,732	1,738
1925	1,938	2,144	2,013	2,000	2,067	1,965	1,810	1,795	1,821	1,849	2,046	1,817	1,785	1,791
1926	1,866	2,124	2,018	2,006	2,009	1,902	1,868	1,843	1,899	1,885	2,084	1,871	1,629	1,837
1925 1st Qtr.	1,905	2,166	1,950	2,004	2,043	1,987	1,786	1,774	1,744	1,833	1,906	1,791	1,737	1,742
2nd "	2,019	2,167	2,079	2,084	2,088	2,038	1,790	1,783	1,785	1,834	2,038	1,799	1,784	1,789
3rd "	1,940	2,149	2,039	2,001	2,094	1,969	1,821	1,801	1,859	1,864	2,071	1,828	1,810	1,816
4th "	1,828	2,114	1,935	1,945	2,003	1,868	1,845	1,823	1,895	1,863	2,078	1,850	1,810	1,818
1926 1st Qtr.	1,854	2,121	1,901	1,932	1,989	1,889	1,879	1,826	1,902	1,890	2,082	1,872	1,808	1,815
2nd "	1,940	2,182	2,095	2,057	2,053	1,973	1,911	1,895	1,946	1,915	2,118	1,916	1,888	1,893
3rd "	1,861	2,138	2,010	2,037	2,012	1,900	1,860	1,862	1,896	1,889	2,085	1,871	1,820	1,827
4th "	1,807	2,057	1,974	1,998	1,982	1,845	1,822	1,789	1,853	1,858	2,050	1,824	1,803	1,810
1926.														
January	1,802	2,090	1,949	1,881	1,959	1,840	1,884	1,819	1,910	1,868	2,087	1,873	1,794	1,803
February	1,879	2,124	2,007	1,927	1,999	1,910	1,870	1,816	1,905	1,881	2,076	1,864	1,780	1,795
March	1,881	2,150	2,018	1,987	2,010	1,917	1,881	1,842	1,892	1,891	2,084	1,878	1,842	1,847
April	1,943	2,174	2,092	2,030	2,063	1,975	1,919	1,901	1,937	1,911	2,109	1,921	1,897	1,902
May	1,962	2,191	2,102	2,069	2,060	1,993	1,913	1,904	1,932	1,918	2,127	1,920	1,893	1,898
June	1,914	2,181	2,091	2,072	2,036	1,951	1,901	1,880	1,939	1,916	2,119	1,905	1,873	1,880
July	1,897	2,182	2,032	2,062	2,028	1,936	1,882	1,873	1,921	1,899	2,101	1,890	1,841	1,849
August	1,868	2,139	2,009	2,043	2,013	1,906	1,854	1,864	1,889	1,891	2,088	1,868	1,810	1,827
September	1,818	2,092	1,990	2,005	1,996	1,858	1,843	1,848	1,878	1,876	2,064	1,855	1,798	1,805
October	1,812	2,048	1,975	2,003	1,986	1,848	1,814	1,810	1,862	1,847	2,027	1,824	1,775	1,783
November	1,803	2,063	1,974	1,998	1,983	1,842	1,811	1,774	1,832	1,838	2,026	1,810	1,801	1,807
December	1,807	2,060	1,974	1,994	1,977	1,845	1,842	1,784	1,865	1,889	2,096	1,838	1,832	1,841
<b>HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>														
1922	1,256	944	..	1,114	1,251	1,180	1,360	1,175	..	..	810	1,180	1,486	1,393
1923	1,294	943	1,121	1,154	1,349	1,252	1,503	1,247	1,230	1,226	810	1,384	1,553	1,491
1924	1,311	919	1,330	1,158	1,349	1,268	1,592	1,272	1,300	1,277	810	1,449	1,615	1,551
1925	1,340	898	1,405	1,167	1,398	1,293	1,649	1,319	1,339	1,247	810	1,495	1,647	1,580
1926	1,469	897	1,403	1,156	1,409	1,400	1,628	1,302	1,284	1,240	648	1,470	1,677	1,622
1926 1st Qtr.	1,335	915	1,394	1,167	1,344	1,289	1,746	1,335	1,311	1,296	810	1,559	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	1,577	1,310	1,268	1,208	810	1,448	1,644	1,585
4th "	1,339	881	1,408	1,167	1,421	1,291	1,556	1,310	1,308	1,181	810	1,435	1,653	1,590
1926 1st Qtr.	1,461	910	1,396	1,141	1,410	1,394	1,624	1,309	1,288	1,245	676	1,471	1,670	1,616
2nd "	1,472	891	1,391	1,102	1,408	1,402	1,595	1,309	1,285	1,232	676	1,462	1,679	1,624
3rd "	1,476	893	1,395	1,102	1,408	1,406	1,639	1,309	1,302	1,228	613	1,477	1,673	1,624
4th "	1,466	895	1,429	1,169	1,408	1,397	1,654	1,288	1,258	1,256	626	1,479	1,680	1,625
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>														
1922	1,581	1,000	..	1,577	1,919	1,585	1,631	1,509	..	..	1,454	1,551	1,610	1,577
1923	1,627	1,006	1,646	1,582	1,705	1,632	1,728	1,605	1,652	1,619	1,524	1,678	1,710	1,639
1924	1,673	1,070	1,696	1,646	1,746	1,674	1,753	1,625	1,662	1,643	1,564	1,701	1,688	1,608
1925	1,714	1,076	1,785	1,693	1,809	1,713	1,750	1,616	1,640	1,623	1,582	1,696	1,733	1,715
1926	1,717	1,064	1,787	1,687	1,784	1,713	1,778	1,649	1,668	1,643	1,545	1,720	1,772	1,756
1926 1st Qtr.	1,729	1,090	1,741	1,690	1,780	1,725	1,771	1,609	1,581	1,632	1,551	1,704	1,702	1,688
2nd "	1,762	1,085	1,828	1,740	1,836	1,757	1,768	1,610	1,607	1,635	1,577	1,701	1,733	1,718
3rd "	1,719	1,073	1,802	1,688	1,829	1,718	1,729	1,616	1,674	1,618	1,598	1,686	1,747	1,730
4th "	1,645	1,051	1,768	1,653	1,784	1,651	1,737	1,630	1,607	1,607	1,602	1,694	1,751	1,735
1926 1st Qtr.	1,706	1,066	1,785	1,635	1,772	1,703	1,783	1,632	1,671	1,642	1,554	1,721	1,756	1,740
2nd "	1,764	1,097	1,831	1,721	1,811	1,753	1,792	1,675	1,699	1,658	1,577	1,742	1,810	1,792
3rd "	1,716	1,070	1,779	1,708	1,785	1,714	1,777	1,654	1,672	1,641	1,582	1,723	1,700	1,751
4th "	1,679	1,021	1,770	1,683	1,767	1,677	1,759	1,599	1,630	1,632	1,515	1,695	1,757	1,741

(a) The Towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zoehau (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.).

(b) See note at head of page 17.

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.

New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		South Australia.		Western Australia.		Tasmania.	
Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.	Town.	Weight.
Sydney ..	899	Melbourne	766	Erisbane	210	Adelaide	255	Perth, etc.	155	Hobart	62
Newcastle	84	Ballarat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadina, etc.	13	Katg'lie, etc.	19	Launceston	24
Broken Hill	26	Bendigo ..	30	Rockham'n	24	Pt. Pirie	10	Northam	4	Burnie ..	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chrts 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, to the nearest 1,000, the actual populations at that date.

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 1924 to 1926 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.	1924.			1925.			1926.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney .. ..	1,082	687	1,709	1,115	702	1,817	1,166	686	1,852
Newcastle .. ..	1,092	571	1,663	1,125	621	1,746	1,155	638	1,793
Broken Hill .. ..	1,221	349	1,570	1,315	376	1,691	1,322	413	1,735
Goulburn .. ..	1,104	659	1,763	1,115	634	1,749	1,156	654	1,810
Bathurst .. ..	1,028	472	1,500	1,074	518	1,590	1,119	547	1,666
Weighted Average ..	1,086	667	1,753	1,120	685	1,805	1,168	674	1,842
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. ..	1,052	591	1,643	1,002	602	1,694	1,108	636	1,744
Ballaarat .. ..	1,004	301	1,425	1,101	388	1,489	1,131	384	1,515
Bendigo .. ..	1,080	370	1,450	1,111	409	1,520	1,125	449	1,574
Geelong .. ..	1,045	475	1,520	1,081	496	1,577	1,100	589	1,689
Warrnambool .. ..	1,076	461	1,537	1,074	459	1,593	1,096	455	1,551
Weighted Average ..	1,053	509	1,622	1,092	581	1,673	1,109	616	1,725
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. ..	1,055	435	1,490	1,083	438	1,521	1,116	501	1,617
Toowoomba .. ..	1,000	388	1,388	1,045	428	1,473	1,105	464	1,559
Rockhampton .. ..	1,040	300	1,340	1,092	386	1,478	1,170	407	1,577
Charters Towers ..	1,150	342	1,492	1,171	346	1,517	1,268	349	1,617
Warwick .. ..	1,014	413	1,427	1,042	408	1,450	1,121	439	1,560
Weighted Average ..	1,053	415	1,468	1,083	428	1,511	1,126	482	1,608
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. ..	1,119	578	1,697	1,140	692	1,741	1,167	569	1,736
Kadina, &c. .. ..	1,007	372	1,469	1,158	326	1,484	1,208	310	1,513
Port Pirie .. ..	1,137	377	1,514	1,208	394	1,602	1,246	426	1,672
Mount Gambier ..	1,057	304	1,361	1,095	308	1,403	1,143	325	1,468
Peterborough .. ..	1,135	460	1,595	1,211	477	1,638	1,238	457	1,605
Weighted Average ..	1,117	558	1,675	1,152	568	1,720	1,171	549	1,720
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth, &c. .. ..	1,181	492	1,673	1,210	504	1,714	1,165	552	1,717
Kalgoorlie, &c. ..	1,325	345	1,670	1,389	337	1,678	1,327	337	1,664
Northam .. ..	1,197	439	1,696	1,257	528	1,785	1,290	527	1,787
Bunbury .. ..	1,212	434	1,646	1,255	488	1,693	1,253	434	1,687
Geraldton .. ..	1,239	507	1,740	1,284	525	1,809	1,255	529	1,784
Weighted Average ..	1,198	476	1,674	1,228	485	1,713	1,188	525	1,718
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. ..	1,155	598	1,753	1,131	619	1,750	1,167	611	1,778
Launceston .. ..	1,147	478	1,625	1,121	495	1,616	1,151	489	1,640
Burnie .. ..	1,173	480	1,662	1,137	503	1,640	1,186	482	1,668
Devonport .. ..	1,163	480	1,643	1,165	486	1,623	1,177	466	1,643
Queenstown .. ..	1,259	305	1,564	1,278	304	1,582	1,301	244	1,545
Weighted Average ..	1,157	544	1,701	1,135	561	1,696	1,168	552	1,720
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. ..	1,085	583	1,668	1,118	597	1,715	1,147	609	1,756
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	1,082	606	1,688	1,114	619	1,733	1,142	630	1,772

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 23. 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 1926, the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and housing being £1,756, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £1,147 (1st column), and the average rental £609, the sum of the two latter amounts being £1,756. 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 1926, commodities which would cost £1,166 in Sydney can be purchased for £1,108 in Melbourne, or £1,167 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent, an expenditure of £1,744 in Melbourne is equivalent to £1,852 in Sydney, £1,736 in Adelaide, £1,664 in Kalgoorlie, or £1,784 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 22s. 10d. 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;  $22s. 10d. \times \frac{449}{636} = 16s. 1d.$

(ii.) *Food and Groceries.*—The weighted average of the five towns was below the weighted average for all towns for 1926 in Victoria and Queensland, and above it in the other States.

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

(iv.) *Food and Groceries and Housing combined.*—The average cost of food, groceries, and housing in 1926 was greatest in Sydney, followed by Goulburn, Newcastle and Northam, and was least in Mt. Gambier and Kadina.

**9. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.**—In each section of 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, 21s. 0d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 17s. 4d. in Brisbane, or 18s. 9d. in Hobart, while 34s. 5d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1926 was equivalent to 15s. 4d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 23s. 3d. in Perth in 1911.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1926 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.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).</b>							
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1907 ..	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	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
1926 ..	37 4	35 6	35 9	37 5	37 4	37 4	36 7
1926 1st Qtr.	36 9	35 0	35 6	37 3	37 1	37 7	36 2
„ 2nd Qtr.	38 1	37 2	35 7	39 4	38 10	38 3	37 9
„ 3rd Qtr.	37 3	35 2	35 11	36 9	37 3	37 2	36 5
„ 4th Qtr.	37 3	34 7	36 1	36 2	36 2	36 5	36 1
<b>HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).</b>							
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 9	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
1926 ..	36 6	33 11	26 8	30 4	29 5	32 7	33 7
1926 1st Qtr.	36 5	33 7	26 8	30 7	29 3	32 6	33 5
„ 2nd Qtr.	36 7	34 0	26 8	30 7	29 5	31 11	33 7
„ 3rd Qtr.	36 7	34 0	26 8	30 0	29 6	32 9	33 7
„ 4th Qtr.	36 7	34 1	26 8	30 1	29 4	33 1	33 7
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.</b>							
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 9	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
1926 ..	37 1	34 11	32 4	34 9	34 4	35 7	35 5
1926 1st Qtr.	36 7	34 6	32 2	34 9	34 1	35 8	35 1
„ 2nd Qtr.	37 6	36 0	32 2	36 1	35 3	35 10	36 2
„ 3rd Qtr.	37 0	34 9	32 5	34 3	34 4	35 7	35 4
„ 4th Qtr.	37 0	34 5	32 7	33 11	33 7	35 2	35 2

(a) Base of each Section.

10. Price Details, 1926.—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 Australian 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; 1925, No. 16; and 1926 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 1926, 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 1926 compared with 1907 is 95.27 per cent., of which percentage 61.31 is due to increased cost of food and groceries, and 33.96 to increase in house rents.

Variation per cent. in Price Index-Numbers, Capital Cities, in 1926, 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	95.27	103.49	111.37	91.30	66.85	102.23	95.05
1911	76.70	86.85	88.99	62.21	47.69	89.55	75.60
1914	55.81	63.54	68.55	49.55	46.13	65.41	56.71
1921	3.30	3.19	6.48	2.91	0.97	-1.55	2.25
1922	9.30	11.07	13.28	8.95	8.60	9.04	8.83
1923	3.46	2.52	8.56	3.14	5.48	2.92	2.69
1924	4.67	6.17	8.53	2.30	2.60	1.44	4.03
1925	1.79	3.00	6.34	-0.23	0.18	1.61	1.31

VARIATION DUE TO PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1907	61.31	61.85	68.65	63.12	40.57	60.94	61.30
1911	52.29	56.11	55.60	49.54	27.93	53.94	52.24
1914	37.36	40.61	46.20	35.18	29.97	38.11	38.61
1921	-1.09	-4.69	-1.01	-1.38	-4.77	-5.44	-2.38
1922	6.05	5.17	7.87	5.69	3.56	2.84	5.75
1923	1.62	-1.04	3.98	1.69	1.45	0.18	1.16
1924	4.76	3.41	4.10	2.85	-0.94	0.68	3.86
1925	2.79	0.97	2.20	1.02	-2.65	2.06	1.85

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

1907	33.96	41.64	42.72	28.18	26.28	41.29	33.75
1911	24.41	30.74	31.39	12.67	19.76	35.61	23.36
1914	18.45	23.53	22.35	14.37	16.16	27.30	18.10
1921	4.39	7.88	7.49	4.29	5.74	3.89	4.63
1922	3.25	5.90	5.41	3.26	5.04	6.20	3.08
1923	1.84	3.56	4.58	1.45	4.03	2.72	1.53
1924	-0.09	2.76	4.43	0.55	3.54	0.76	0.17
1925	-1.00	2.03	4.14	-1.30	2.83	-0.45	-0.54

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.

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 0 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 hereafter.

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.

---

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

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, 1926.**—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.

**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.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	995	1,024	1,016	1,482	1,459	1,504	990	1,447	1,434	1,467	1,479	1,441
" 1921 ..	1,003	1,464	1,524	1,524	1,493	1,564	1,433	1,447	1,434	1,421	1,380	1,435
" 1922 ..	1,081	1,468	1,524	1,461	1,493	1,550	1,472	1,448	1,446	1,432	1,380	1,435
Year 1923 ..	1,088	1,468	1,703	1,618	1,474	1,577	1,476	1,487	1,468	1,459	1,403	1,471
" 1924 ..	1,011	1,505	1,708	1,612	1,500	1,585	1,502	1,488	1,465	1,469	1,403	1,425
" 1925 ..	1,057	1,614	1,836	1,687	1,500	1,585	1,502	1,488	1,472	1,501	1,401	1,425
" 1926 ..	1,028	1,614	1,846	1,616	1,563	1,602	1,543	1,580	1,572	1,538	1,531	1,449
1926 1st Qtr.	1,403	1,634	1,842	1,625	1,544	1,609	1,528	1,566	1,547	1,527	1,493	1,529
" 2nd "	1,641	1,599	1,819	1,641	1,601	1,606	1,623	1,616	1,617	1,587	1,491	1,529
" 3rd "	1,624	1,599	1,819	1,580	1,561	1,628	1,525	1,556	1,547	1,580	1,548	1,487
" 4th "	1,024	1,608	1,788	1,618	1,544	1,627	1,507	1,554	1,556	1,601	1,492	1,510

  

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.
Nov. 1914 ..	957	1,395	1,480	1,531	1,400	1,482	1,068	1,474	1,510	1,410	1,534	1,471
" 1921 ..	1,396	1,378	1,490	1,470	1,361	1,389	1,463	1,408	1,448	1,406	1,500	1,397
" 1922 ..	1,477	1,466	1,616	1,682	1,432	1,481	1,390	1,580	1,525	1,456	1,387	1,397
Year 1923 ..	1,474	1,396	1,606	1,606	1,417	1,441	1,688	1,562	1,587	1,489	1,388	1,408
" 1924 ..	1,613	1,460	1,624	1,686	1,408	1,513	1,600	1,617	1,657	1,529	1,401	1,398
" 1925 ..	1,659	1,544	1,636	1,686	1,368	1,573	1,600	1,617	1,640	1,597	1,729	1,398
" 1926 ..	1,540	1,508	1,699	1,716	1,506	1,553	1,623	1,650	1,743	1,551	1,678	1,399
1926 1st Qtr.	1,561	1,493	1,631	1,767	1,579	1,495	1,740	1,794	1,904	1,644	1,719	1,412
" 2nd "	1,606	1,585	1,631	1,776	1,578	1,495	1,670	1,768	1,793	1,616	1,732	1,412
" 3rd "	1,586	1,585	1,631	1,776	1,604	1,498	1,608	1,708	1,801	1,616	1,721	1,585
" 4th "	1,573	1,543	1,644	1,821	1,604	1,498	1,677	1,692	1,681	1,574	1,721	1,585

  

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.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,164	1,044	1,034	1,636	1,408	1,610	1,072	1,408	1,728	1,568	1,680	1,577
" 1921 ..	1,567	1,446	1,581	1,589	1,677	1,532	1,601	1,491	1,463	1,473	1,618	1,511
" 1922 ..	1,478	1,709	1,581	1,624	1,678	1,623	1,500	1,482	1,443	1,618	1,678	1,478
Year 1923 ..	1,694	1,833	1,711	1,805	1,678	1,623	1,623	1,687	1,642	1,618	1,678	1,517
" 1924 ..	1,640	1,861	1,672	1,692	1,752	1,613	1,613	1,602	1,639	1,626	1,709	1,617
" 1925 ..	1,621	1,870	1,750	1,750	1,794	1,514	1,579	1,666	1,639	1,613	1,768	1,583
" 1926 ..	1,627	1,858	1,760	1,720	1,753	1,650	1,630	1,608	1,657	1,646	1,632	1,592
1926 1st Qtr.	1,617	1,850	1,737	1,635	1,735	1,643	1,639	1,593	1,635	1,640	1,616	1,577
" 2nd "	1,692	1,803	1,827	1,794	1,791	1,721	1,667	1,653	1,697	1,688	1,671	1,587
" 3rd "	1,623	1,805	1,754	1,777	1,768	1,657	1,623	1,624	1,635	1,648	1,652	1,597
" 4th "	1,577	1,794	1,722	1,743	1,609	1,590	1,590	1,561	1,617	1,620	1,581	1,521

(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.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.																				
Nov 1914	1,168	1,264	862	1,257	919	1,488	937	738	812	1,030	1,216	1,538	1,716	1,597	1,013	1,592	1,377	1,684																				
" 1921	1,618	1,366	862	1,381	957	1,552	1,303	771	957	1,146	1,080	1,538	1,724	1,607	1,017	1,650	1,373	1,724																				
Year 1922	1,639	1,355	833	1,450	984	1,587	1,400	890	938	1,135	1,319	1,540	1,697	1,060	1,060	1,673	1,360	1,724																				
" 1923	1,720	1,433	876	1,685	1,183	1,674	1,484	905	930	1,194	1,302	1,540	1,720	1,433	944	1,650	1,373	1,720																				
" 1924	1,768	1,550	944	1,591	1,294	1,719	1,512	976	1,027	1,152	1,450	1,540	1,768	1,550	1,038	1,641	1,373	1,768																				
" 1925	1,792	1,692	1,038	1,641	1,373	1,873	1,599	963	1,128	1,179	1,440	1,540	1,792	1,692	1,084	1,641	1,373	1,792																				
1926 1st Qtr.	1,716	1,597	1,013	1,592	1,377	1,834	1,584	972	1,084	1,174	1,438	1,538	1,716	1,597	1,013	1,592	1,377	1,716																				
" 2nd "	1,724	1,607	1,017	1,650	1,373	1,692	1,600	958	1,138	1,181	1,440	1,538	1,724	1,607	1,017	1,650	1,373	1,724																				
" 3rd "	1,724	1,607	1,060	1,673	1,373	1,693	1,400	948	1,139	1,148	1,440	1,540	1,724	1,607	1,060	1,673	1,373	1,724																				
" 4th "	1,724	1,596	1,087	1,679	1,360	1,693	1,407	904	1,139	1,148	1,440	1,540	1,724	1,596	1,087	1,679	1,360	1,724																				
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. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.															
Nov 1914	714	843	724	814	824	942	672	920	759	872	1,204	714	843	724	814	824	942	672	920	759	872	1,204																
" 1921	1,075	827	746	902	783	1,313	847	930	789	881	1,262	1,075	827	746	902	783	1,313	847	930	789	881	1,262																
Year 1922	1,086	927	730	842	783	1,307	847	930	789	881	1,262	1,086	927	730	842	783	1,307	847	930	789	881	1,262																
" 1923	1,091	974	764	833	804	1,325	1,307	925	834	934	1,300	1,091	974	764	833	804	1,325	1,307	925	834	934	1,300																
" 1924	1,099	1,074	808	868	808	1,326	1,432	947	794	947	1,300	1,099	1,074	808	868	808	1,326	1,432	947	794	947	1,300																
" 1925	1,099	1,139	1,021	876	1,101	1,329	1,439	978	818	1,107	1,377	1,099	1,139	1,021	876	1,101	1,329	1,439	978	818	1,107	1,377																
1926 1st Qtr.	1,256	1,132	1,014	854	1,084	1,307	1,442	703	815	1,064	1,385	1,256	1,132	1,014	854	1,084	1,307	1,442	703	815	1,064	1,385																
" 2nd "	1,256	1,139	1,017	854	1,084	1,207	1,442	703	815	1,064	1,385	1,256	1,139	1,017	854	1,084	1,307	1,442	703	815	1,064	1,385																
" 3rd "	1,256	1,139	1,017	839	1,118	1,212	1,414	796	815	1,064	1,385	1,256	1,139	1,017	839	1,118	1,212	1,414	796	815	1,064	1,385																
" 4th "	1,256	1,147	1,039	839	1,118	1,214	1,418	781	815	1,064	1,385	1,256	1,147	1,039	839	1,118	1,214	1,418	781	815	1,064	1,385																
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.																											
Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avege, W.A.	Ho bart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avege, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avege, W.A.	Ho bart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avege, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.											
Nov 1914	904	892	948	1,000	1,301	1,094	810	454	531	764	1,123	1,000	904	892	948	1,000	1,301	1,094	1,094	810	454	531	764	1,123	1,000	904	892	948	1,000	1,301	1,094	1,094	810	454	531	764	1,123	1,000
" 1921	1,192	1,008	1,050	1,160	1,122	1,282	1,042	488	223	764	1,127	1,366	1,192	1,008	1,050	1,160	1,122	1,282	1,042	488	223	764	1,127	1,366	1,192	1,008	1,050	1,160	1,122	1,282	1,042	488	223	764	1,127	1,366		
Year 1922	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462		
" 1923	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462		
" 1924	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462		
" 1925	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462		
" 1926	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462	1,250	1,057	1,083	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	519	156	764	1,305	1,462		
1926 1st Qtr.	1,377	1,316	1,076	1,329	1,314	1,531	1,234	1,214	1,174	637	1,387	1,575	1,377	1,316	1,076	1,329	1,314	1,531	1,234	1,214	1,174	637	1,387	1,575	1,377	1,316	1,076	1,329	1,314	1,531	1,234	1,214	1,174	637	1,387			
" 2nd "	1,388	1,311	1,090	1,328	1,321	1,503	1,234	1,214	1,162	637	1,390	1,583	1,388	1,311	1,090	1,328	1,321	1,503	1,234	1,214	1,162	637	1,390	1,583	1,388	1,311	1,090	1,328	1,321	1,503	1,234	1,214	1,162	637	1,390			
" 3rd "	1,382	1,311	1,066	1,328	1,325	1,500	1,234	1,214	1,157	637	1,390	1,583	1,382	1,311	1,066	1,328	1,325	1,500	1,234	1,214	1,157	637	1,390	1,583	1,382	1,311	1,066	1,328	1,325	1,500	1,234	1,214	1,157	637	1,390			
" 4th "	1,382	1,348	1,083	1,328	1,317	1,500	1,234	1,198	1,184	637	1,396	1,584	1,382	1,348	1,083	1,328	1,317	1,500	1,234	1,198	1,184	637	1,396	1,584	1,382	1,348	1,083	1,328	1,317	1,500	1,234	1,198	1,184	637	1,396			

(d) Base.



**Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 towns).—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.			
Nov. 1914 ..	1,067	1,407	1,282	1,433	1,206	1,409	982	1,184	1,212	1,311	1,328	1,361			
" 1921 ..	1,517	1,447	1,307	1,432	1,237	1,586	1,390	1,204	1,271	1,322	1,328	1,392			
" 1922 ..	1,562	1,447	1,418	1,433	1,342	1,691	1,424	1,204	1,271	1,322	1,328	1,392			
Year 1923 ..	1,408	1,514	1,418	1,533	1,342	1,581	1,527	1,312	1,342	1,410	1,327	1,406			
" 1924 ..	1,588	1,493	1,409	1,562	1,346	1,691	1,475	1,279	1,302	1,365	1,379	1,465			
" 1925 ..	1,631	1,507	1,517	1,669	1,427	1,630	1,520	1,330	1,364	1,415	1,376	1,502			
" 1926 ..	1,652	1,609	1,657	1,624	1,436	1,653	1,566	1,300	1,412	1,516	1,392	1,548			
1926 1st Qtr.	1,644	1,602	1,545	1,614	1,438	1,630	1,647	1,354	1,394	1,508	1,366	1,530			
" 2nd "	1,634	1,630	1,610	1,633	1,520	1,676	1,615	1,361	1,446	1,540	1,366	1,505			
" 3rd "	1,660	1,602	1,527	1,613	1,493	1,650	1,615	1,361	1,402	1,613	1,403	1,542			
" 4th "	1,650	1,594	1,526	1,637	1,462	1,630	1,533	1,343	1,407	1,404	1,367	1,556			
<b>QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>															
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.			
													Nov. 1914 ..	870	1,198
" 1921 ..	1,281	1,178	1,166	1,231	1,154 <sup>1</sup>	1,221	1,409	1,221	1,263	1,172	1,291	1,281	1,521	1,386	1,528
" 1922 ..	1,837	1,235	1,232	1,323	1,271 <sup>1</sup>	1,381	1,611	1,335	1,348	1,254	1,340	1,340	1,491	1,408	1,504
Year 1923 ..	1,317	1,243	1,311	1,339	1,280	1,318	1,533	1,318	1,358	1,224	1,259	1,259	1,419	1,504	1,543
" 1924 ..	1,366	1,352	1,327	1,361	1,301	1,357	1,522	1,352	1,358	1,438	1,458	1,458	1,515	1,543	1,543
" 1925 ..	1,451	1,399	1,416	1,451	1,400	1,443	1,558	1,368	1,431	1,501	1,317	1,522	1,544	1,544	1,544
1926 1st Qtr.	1,442	1,375	1,380	1,408	1,356	1,420	1,555	1,341	1,392	1,283	1,455	1,542	1,542	1,542	
" 2nd "	1,445	1,411	1,420	1,442	1,402	1,439	1,618	1,350	1,330	1,348	1,528	1,601	1,601	1,601	
" 3rd "	1,456	1,409	1,424	1,446	1,412	1,449	1,538	1,354	1,491	1,340	1,537	1,624	1,624	1,624	
" 4th "	1,461	1,405	1,428	1,491	1,410	1,454	1,520	1,347	1,470	1,303	1,550	1,634	1,634		
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>															
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.	
															Nov. 1914 ..
" 1921 ..	1,423	1,411	1,344	1,371	1,481	1,386	1,422	1,369	1,283	1,026	1,312	1,274	1,428	1,449	
" 1922 ..	1,570	1,477	1,420	1,530	1,465	1,478	1,551	1,449	1,463	1,158	1,397	1,360	1,487	1,487	
Year 1923 ..	1,600	1,499	1,522	1,477	1,567	1,503	1,573	1,450	1,491	1,476	1,409	1,527	1,515	1,516	
" 1924 ..	1,638	1,508	1,602	1,519	1,624	1,517	1,621	1,472	1,457	1,450	1,562	1,550	1,487	1,487	
" 1925 ..	1,541	1,468	1,604	1,514	1,601	1,538	1,599	1,477	1,407	1,475	1,386	1,544	1,591	1,576	
1926 1st Qtr.	1,631	1,493	1,586	1,467	1,590	1,529	1,600	1,464	1,500	1,478	1,395	1,545	1,576	1,562	
" 2nd "	1,599	1,523	1,643	1,546	1,625	1,578	1,609	1,464	1,521	1,415	1,395	1,545	1,576	1,562	
" 3rd "	1,540	1,499	1,597	1,539	1,602	1,539	1,592	1,489	1,501	1,472	1,376	1,537	1,524	1,488	
" 4th "	1,507	1,464	1,588	1,511	1,585	1,505	1,578	1,453	1,463	1,390	1,521	1,521	1,577	1,577	

(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.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,022	1,328	1,471	1,270	1,325	1,330	971	1,304	1,332	1,379	1,176	1,365
" 1921 ..	1,348	1,273	1,439	1,422	1,370	1,350	1,308	1,253	1,317	1,347	1,187	1,300
" 1922 ..	1,381	1,273	1,439	1,422	1,370	1,350	1,316	1,253	1,317	1,347	1,187	1,300
Year 1923 ..	1,364	1,242	1,438	1,423	1,364	1,338	1,316	1,253	1,317	1,347	1,178	1,303
" 1924 ..	1,368	1,233	1,432	1,423	1,364	1,338	1,312	1,250	1,313	1,342	1,182	1,302
" 1925 ..	1,383	1,249	1,426	1,398	1,382	1,350	1,324	1,250	1,312	1,341	1,192	1,329
" 1926 ..	1,362	1,240	1,434	1,399	1,380	1,350	1,324	1,250	1,312	1,341	1,189	1,315
1926 1st Qtr.	1,330	1,264	1,437	1,413	1,389	1,357	1,324	1,250	1,312	1,341	1,183	1,316
" 2nd ..	1,333	1,230	1,425	1,403	1,382	1,357	1,324	1,250	1,312	1,341	1,179	1,313
" 3rd ..	1,336	1,230	1,425	1,403	1,382	1,357	1,324	1,250	1,312	1,341	1,179	1,313
" 4th ..	1,338	1,240	1,426	1,400	1,383	1,374	1,324	1,250	1,312	1,341	1,178	1,314
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.												
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. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	971	1,278	1,398	1,347	1,320	1,279	1,028	1,329	1,322	1,378	1,336	1,383
" 1921 ..	1,201	1,244	1,275	1,281	1,250	1,238	1,379	1,329	1,369	1,310	1,306	1,353
" 1922 ..	1,232	1,244	1,275	1,281	1,250	1,238	1,385	1,329	1,369	1,310	1,306	1,353
Year 1923 ..	1,247	1,239	1,275	1,291	1,261	1,223	1,370	1,329	1,368	1,312	1,307	1,354
" 1924 ..	1,247	1,245	1,296	1,301	1,273	1,251	1,371	1,329	1,368	1,313	1,308	1,359
" 1925 ..	1,246	1,208	1,282	1,286	1,240	1,242	1,370	1,329	1,371	1,320	1,308	1,368
" 1926 ..	1,240	1,270	1,282	1,280	1,227	1,242	1,370	1,329	1,360	1,309	1,303	1,368
1926 1st Qtr.	1,246	1,278	1,278	1,287	1,214	1,243	1,368	1,327	1,364	1,312	1,307	1,366
" 2nd ..	1,239	1,277	1,287	1,289	1,242	1,242	1,372	1,327	1,368	1,309	1,309	1,369
" 3rd ..	1,235	1,247	1,283	1,284	1,241	1,236	1,370	1,326	1,368	1,308	1,307	1,366
" 4th ..	1,240	1,277	1,280	1,271	1,212	1,242	1,372	1,326	1,368	1,308	1,308	1,370
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.												
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted A'v'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted A'v'ge, Tas.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,041	1,372	1,357	1,304	1,471	1,374	934	1,315	1,257	1,292	1,290	1,000.
" 1921 ..	1,374	1,300	1,304	1,231	1,422	1,336	1,243	1,234	1,222	1,205	1,237	1,334
" 1922 ..	1,389	1,323	1,300	1,231	1,422	1,336	1,243	1,234	1,222	1,205	1,237	1,335
" 1923 ..	1,344	1,302	1,251	1,240	1,401	1,323	1,243	1,234	1,222	1,205	1,237	1,335
Year 1924 ..	1,324	1,300	1,273	1,240	1,385	1,323	1,240	1,248	1,147	1,143	1,238	1,340
" 1925 ..	1,318	1,304	1,251	1,246	1,380	1,310	1,241	1,240	1,132	1,133	1,231	1,335
" 1926 ..	1,308	1,296	1,246	1,250	1,396	1,304	1,208	1,223	1,123	1,096	1,201	1,332
1926 1st Qtr.	1,307	1,300	1,241	1,248	1,303	1,304	1,216	1,226	1,127	1,133	1,207	1,323
" 2nd ..	1,310	1,298	1,241	1,251	1,304	1,305	1,208	1,223	1,122	1,121	1,200	1,322
" 3rd ..	1,305	1,298	1,249	1,250	1,302	1,302	1,207	1,222	1,121	1,121	1,199	1,321
" 4th ..	1,310	1,293	1,247	1,249	1,304	1,304	1,205	1,222	1,121	1,121	1,108	1,324
(d) 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.	Warrambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	Queensland.—INDEX NUMBERS.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					Weighted Average, S.A.	
Nov. 1914	1,036	1,515	1,410	1,504	1,379	1,516	976	1,443	1,458	1,453	1,453	1,435	1,459	1,459	1,450	1,437	1,432	1,444	1,400	
" 1921	1,466	1,407	1,358	1,430	1,299	1,471	1,402	1,302	1,301	1,311	1,301	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,307	1,427	1,384	1,471	1,307	
Year 1923	1,458	1,444	1,394	1,490	1,345	1,481	1,400	1,344	1,304	1,312	1,304	1,405	1,405	1,391	1,450	1,427	1,384	1,471	1,450	
" 1924	1,478	1,408	1,364	1,511	1,334	1,450	1,450	1,304	1,312	1,308	1,308	1,353	1,353	1,397	1,409	1,427	1,384	1,471	1,450	
" 1925	1,478	1,485	1,414	1,498	1,361	1,472	1,432	1,330	1,328	1,357	1,357	1,381	1,381	1,371	1,422	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	
" 1926	1,508	1,470	1,438	1,527	1,433	1,498	1,453	1,355	1,357	1,381	1,381	1,431	1,431	1,377	1,444	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	
1926 1st Qtr.	1,488	1,462	1,437	1,497	1,417	1,484	1,444	1,355	1,350	1,357	1,357	1,429	1,429	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	
" 2nd "	1,518	1,470	1,472	1,535	1,443	1,509	1,481	1,368	1,374	1,381	1,381	1,431	1,431	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	
" 3rd "	1,507	1,470	1,424	1,518	1,420	1,501	1,460	1,357	1,351	1,351	1,351	1,431	1,431	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	
" 4th "	1,505	1,470	1,420	1,535	1,411	1,500	1,438	1,342	1,354	1,354	1,354	1,431	1,431	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	
Nov. 1914	860	1,381	1,115	1,504	1,447	1,370	1,018	1,462	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 1921	1,294	1,284	1,287	1,260	1,257	1,274	1,440	1,432	1,432	1,432	1,432	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
Year 1923	1,476	1,370	1,287	1,424	1,282	1,421	1,398	1,412	1,382	1,382	1,382	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 1924	1,382	1,298	1,280	1,314	1,232	1,334	1,407	1,395	1,362	1,362	1,362	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 1925	1,474	1,297	1,290	1,304	1,205	1,322	1,470	1,382	1,372	1,372	1,372	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 1926	1,393	1,375	1,378	1,340	1,314	1,381	1,463	1,362	1,351	1,351	1,351	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
1926 1st Qtr.	1,380	1,350	1,362	1,323	1,333	1,374	1,433	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 2nd "	1,370	1,352	1,340	1,340	1,338	1,370	1,433	1,375	1,370	1,370	1,370	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 3rd "	1,392	1,378	1,385	1,354	1,354	1,381	1,478	1,357	1,351	1,351	1,351	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
" 4th "	1,301	1,370	1,383	1,367	1,400	1,389	1,471	1,365	1,419	1,419	1,419	1,374	1,374	1,435	1,418	1,382	1,471	1,450	1,450	
Nov. 1914	1,029	1,526	1,460	1,520	1,537	1,484	1,656	1,552	1,449	1,310	1,501	1,538	1,474	1,474	1,474	1,474	1,474	1,474	1,474	
" 1921	1,355	1,403	1,394	1,400	1,412	1,370	1,577	1,338	1,161	1,378	1,404	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410	
Year 1923	1,422	1,464	1,454	1,460	1,478	1,427	1,610	1,448	1,321	1,409	1,438	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
" 1924	1,440	1,408	1,410	1,473	1,384	1,529	1,499	1,409	1,388	1,388	1,388	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
" 1925	1,449	1,468	1,467	1,433	1,384	1,496	1,408	1,385	1,360	1,360	1,360	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
" 1926	1,444	1,458	1,452	1,423	1,346	1,506	1,416	1,393	1,360	1,360	1,360	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
1926 1st Qtr.	1,433	1,460	1,444	1,407	1,459	1,441	1,412	1,393	1,388	1,403	1,403	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
" 2nd "	1,468	1,477	1,475	1,441	1,487	1,469	1,450	1,432	1,411	1,411	1,411	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
" 3rd "	1,443	1,452	1,441	1,436	1,445	1,505	1,422	1,404	1,376	1,376	1,376	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	
" 4th "	1,428	1,433	1,441	1,400	1,471	1,429	1,306	1,374	1,370	1,370	1,370	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	

(27) 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, 1926.**

Town.	November, 1914.		November, 1920.		4th Quarter, 1926.	
	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.	Actual Finding.	Index-Number.	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.
Sydney .. .. .	1,036	£ s. d. 3 9 10	5 17 1	1,736	1,505	£ s. d. 5 1 6
Melbourne .. .. .	876	3 6 18	5 16 6	1,706	1,438	4 18 2
Brisbane .. .. .	889	3 1 6	5 6 2	1,534	1,391	4 18 3
Adelaide .. .. .	1,018	3 9 10	5 16 1	1,693	1,471	5 0 10
Perth .. .. .	1,029	3 12 6	5 13 11	1,617	1,423	5 0 7
Hobart .. .. .	999	3 6 2	5 15 11	1,745	1,492	4 18 0
Weighted Average ..	1,000	3 8 2	5 15 8	1,697	1,464	4 18 9

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, 1926, 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 28 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—1924 to 1926.**—The results of the investigation in November, 1926, 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 1,687 (see page 41), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,556 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1926. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,072 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1926. 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 1,687, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,714; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,550 compared with an expenditure of 1,556 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, 1924, 1925, and 1926, 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.	1924. November.			1925. November.			1926. 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.
<b>New South Wales—</b>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Sydney .. .. .	1,022	1,559	1,600	1,072	1,623	1,750	1,066	1,640	1,760
Newcastle .. .. .	1,006	1,447	1,590	1,090	1,603	1,738	1,071	1,576	1,724
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,145	1,467	1,525	1,244	1,570	1,648	1,196	1,503	1,651
Goulburn .. .. .	1,020	1,521	1,694	1,086	1,607	1,696	1,072	1,636	1,713
Bathurst .. .. .	941	1,264	1,376	1,043	1,418	1,488	1,038	1,423	1,506
Albury .. .. .	900	1,348	1,785	1,082	1,512	1,454	1,083	1,617	1,662
Armidale .. .. .	986	1,371	1,469	1,095	1,464	1,742	1,052	1,421	1,631
Ballina .. .. .	1,052	1,546	1,678	1,117	1,644	1,674	1,191	1,639	1,685
Bega .. .. .	1,020	1,322	1,437	1,114	1,432	1,561	1,080	1,331	1,440
Berry .. .. .	1,068	1,331	1,496	1,151	1,464	1,595	1,133	1,445	1,577

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

State and Town.	1924.			1925.			1926.		
	November.			November.			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.
<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>	<b>A.</b>	<b>B.</b>	<b>C.</b>	<b>A.</b>	<b>B.</b>	<b>C.</b>	<b>A.</b>	<b>B.</b>	<b>C.</b>
Blackheath .. .. .	1,130	1,623	1,728	1,203	1,677	1,779	1,235	1,676	1,771
Bourke .. .. .	1,065	1,266	1,292	1,201	1,382	1,474	1,176	1,407	1,505
Bowral .. .. .	1,060	1,530	1,672	1,118	1,684	1,790	1,182	1,741	1,820
Casino .. .. .	1,063	1,400	1,611	1,157	1,617	1,708	1,163	1,681	1,772
Cesenock .. .. .	1,014	1,529	1,683	1,084	1,684	1,774	1,108	1,651	1,749
Cobar .. .. .	1,073	1,162	1,298	1,156	1,245	1,291	1,174	1,283	1,309
Cooma .. .. .	1,083	1,425	1,537	1,133	1,474	1,615	1,118	1,422	1,611
Coonamble .. .. .	1,077	1,406	1,472	1,143	1,459	1,569	1,105	1,447	1,572
Cootamundra .. .. .	976	1,447	1,549	1,100	1,569	1,607	1,100	1,594	1,791
Corrimal .. .. .	975	1,304	1,370	1,077	1,471	1,498	1,112	1,507	1,533
Covva .. .. .	1,017	1,438	1,511	1,102	1,536	1,618	1,153	1,559	1,631
Cronulla .. .. .	1,071	1,713	1,845	1,099	1,740	1,878	1,105	1,672	1,832
Cudgegong .. .. .	1,053	1,289	1,355	a	a	a	a	a	a
Deniliquin .. .. .	1,092	1,356	1,429	1,078	1,412	1,629	1,072	1,391	1,540
Dubbo .. .. .	1,085	1,537	1,641	1,141	1,630	1,741	1,113	1,645	1,733
Forbes .. .. .	1,000	1,491	1,651	1,098	1,609	1,756	1,133	1,609	1,727
Gilgandra .. .. .	1,016	1,268	1,321	1,148	1,308	1,556	1,176	1,505	1,584
Glen Innes .. .. .	925	1,254	1,401	1,000	1,337	1,505	1,098	1,344	1,532
Grafton .. .. .	1,035	1,324	1,430	1,093	1,511	1,734	1,079	1,588	1,737
Greenfield .. .. .	1,038	1,498	1,630	1,129	1,571	1,696	1,092	1,533	1,678
Griffith .. .. .	1,008	1,796	1,882	1,166	1,577	2,138	1,151	1,973	2,203
Guilford .. .. .	995	1,201	1,354	1,093	1,297	1,350	1,084	1,341	1,440
Gunnedah .. .. .	962	1,333	1,439	1,051	1,437	1,545	1,027	1,417	1,507
Hay .. .. .	1,035	1,392	1,531	1,175	1,513	1,653	1,151	1,488	1,654
Inverell .. .. .	971	1,373	1,451	1,103	1,513	1,607	1,111	1,500	1,654
Junee .. .. .	1,012	1,564	1,606	1,068	1,499	1,788	1,077	1,756	1,806
Katoomba .. .. .	1,129	1,619	1,737	1,147	1,663	1,779	1,136	1,710	1,840
Kempsey .. .. .	1,004	1,398	1,484	1,046	1,472	1,547	1,080	1,527	1,607
Kimba .. .. .	a	a	a	1,144	1,491	1,651	1,145	1,507	1,606
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	1,068	1,424	1,406	1,148	1,570	1,658	1,156	1,545	1,605
Lecton .. .. .	1,007	1,667	1,886	1,172	1,896	1,932	1,176	1,854	1,861
Liamore .. .. .	1,049	1,404	1,566	1,088	1,490	1,680	1,167	1,696	1,879
Lithgow .. .. .	1,023	1,422	1,502	1,087	1,489	1,631	1,116	1,535	1,626
Maitland .. .. .	952	1,409	1,491	1,018	1,578	1,700	1,078	1,560	1,717
Morree .. .. .	1,104	1,556	1,602	1,183	1,657	1,782	1,194	1,734	1,800
Moss Vale .. .. .	1,034	1,516	1,670	1,121	1,648	1,779	1,075	1,662	1,680
Mudgee .. .. .	982	1,308	1,435	1,086	1,503	1,601	1,084	1,486	1,611
Narrabri .. .. .	960	1,300	1,436	1,096	1,403	1,518	1,066	1,434	1,579
Narrandera .. .. .	1,069	1,516	1,604	1,104	1,592	1,727	1,189	1,682	1,820
Nowra .. .. .	1,036	1,481	1,595	1,105	1,553	1,681	1,159	1,650	1,729
Orange .. .. .	992	1,447	1,565	1,057	1,476	1,561	1,045	1,615	1,760
Parkes .. .. .	1,020	1,480	1,595	1,110	1,587	1,693	1,096	1,570	1,732
Penrith .. .. .	1,025	1,340	1,436	1,090	1,491	1,666	1,047	1,448	1,546
Port Kembla .. .. .	1,057	1,380	1,450	1,120	1,442	1,537	1,109	1,484	1,548
Portland .. .. .	1,042	1,423	1,535	1,122	1,583	1,623	1,122	1,510	1,635
Queanbeyan .. .. .	1,067	1,551	1,704	1,136	1,682	1,815	1,135	1,747	1,879
Quirindi .. .. .	1,034	1,350	1,507	1,134	1,446	1,647	1,092	1,401	1,593
Richmond .. .. .	1,075	1,493	1,569	1,135	1,547	1,645	1,069	1,460	1,605
Sooke .. .. .	965	1,335	1,491	1,058	1,475	1,607	1,057	1,489	1,606
Singleton .. .. .	988	1,353	1,442	1,080	1,443	1,534	1,098	1,460	1,592
Tamworth .. .. .	947	1,380	1,465	1,047	1,519	1,610	1,012	1,427	1,596
Taree .. .. .	970	1,538	1,686	1,076	1,586	1,750	1,059	1,562	1,708
Temora .. .. .	1,057	1,584	1,692	1,100	1,708	1,801	1,128	1,622	1,787
Tenterfield .. .. .	1,010	1,383	1,436	1,079	1,473	1,546	1,139	1,553	1,610
Tumut .. .. .	1,039	1,533	1,632	1,158	1,619	1,783	1,048	1,498	1,607
Ulmara .. .. .	1,075	1,470	1,602	1,101	1,549	1,601	1,054	1,448	1,527
Wagga Wagga .. .. .	1,016	1,740	1,838	1,068	1,776	1,989	1,065	1,707	1,822
Walcha .. .. .	994	1,257	1,405	1,111	1,471	1,572	1,093	1,379	1,628
Wellington .. .. .	1,018	1,308	1,421	1,109	1,404	1,486	1,101	1,373	1,512
Weston .. .. .	1,066	1,356	1,395	1,153	1,519	1,583	1,134	1,476	1,562
Windoor .. .. .	1,052	1,488	1,562	1,143	1,554	1,653	1,098	1,559	1,625
Wollongong .. .. .	1,045	1,508	1,595	1,092	1,599	1,678	1,126	1,718	1,789
Wyalong .. .. .	1,009	1,494	1,626	1,125	1,520	1,619	1,072	1,522	1,598
Yass .. .. .	1,080	1,458	1,524	1,121	1,658	1,737	1,172	1,595	1,681
Young .. .. .	942	1,376	1,475	1,085	1,671	1,727	1,052	1,585	1,676
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	1,023	1,527	1,653	1,083	1,607	1,737	1,097	1,626	1,747

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

State and Town.	1924.			1925.			1926.		
	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.
<b>Victoria—</b>									
Melbourne	963	1,456	1,600	1,063	1,506	1,650	1,093	1,531	1,686
Bairath	987	1,298	1,384	1,066	1,300	1,391	1,041	1,411	1,560
Bendigo	998	1,293	1,373	1,066	1,403	1,501	1,092	1,462	1,601
Geelong	945	1,318	1,448	1,049	1,475	1,580	1,004	1,366	1,521
Warrnambool	987	1,370	1,497	1,040	1,454	1,560	1,013	1,377	1,517
Ararat	1,049	1,372	1,455	1,174	1,518	1,608	1,043	1,346	1,498
Bacchus Marsh	961	1,389	1,520	1,150	1,498	1,642	1,032	1,493	1,611
Bairnsdale	1,062	1,414	1,578	1,151	1,545	1,677	1,047	1,473	1,611
Beechworth	1,040	1,303	1,369	1,116	1,373	1,440	1,079	1,407	1,473
Benalla	993	1,325	1,421	1,086	1,448	1,500	1,041	1,441	1,583
Camperdown	1,001	1,404	1,527	1,008	1,515	1,647	1,097	1,420	1,557
Casterton	1,000	1,300	1,425	1,111	1,454	1,517	1,081	1,420	1,521
Castlemaine	1,056	1,389	1,505	1,111	1,427	1,550	1,081	1,440	1,485
Colac	1,042	1,574	1,697	1,070	1,561	1,728	1,046	1,568	1,700
Creswick	962	1,217	1,426	1,072	1,380	1,529	1,048	1,180	1,240
Daylesford	980	1,016	1,262	1,064	1,327	1,426	1,008	1,310	1,390
Dunolly	996	1,147	1,380	1,056	1,214	1,267	1,060	1,218	1,271
Echuca	1,026	1,355	1,470	1,116	1,438	1,570	1,084	1,436	1,584
Euron	1,070	1,389	1,465	1,143	1,470	1,604	1,071	1,404	1,542
Hamilton	1,068	1,500	1,744	1,141	1,603	1,744	1,000	1,586	1,706
Hensleyville	1,016	1,430	1,542	1,075	1,469	1,607	1,070	1,498	1,563
Horsham	1,065	1,608	1,805	1,117	1,732	1,908	1,000	1,644	1,808
Kerang	1,061	1,620	1,752	1,118	1,688	1,797	1,003	1,610	1,773
Koroit	988	1,251	1,357	1,075	1,345	1,404	1,040	1,323	1,382
Korumburra	1,037	1,497	1,620	1,084	1,545	1,660	1,029	1,475	1,605
Kyneton	980	1,316	1,410	1,062	1,397	1,532	1,060	1,429	1,521
Laydon	1,012	1,420	1,572	1,128	1,582	1,747	1,034	1,642	1,708
Mildura	1,019	1,422	1,732	1,123	1,615	1,747	1,042	1,700	1,837
Shandon	1,000	1,155	1,300	1,061	1,337	1,456	1,082	1,175	1,228
Mildura	1,084	1,603	1,805	1,152	1,764	1,926	1,131	1,774	1,873
Murrough	1,124	1,560	1,800	1,129	1,700	1,853	1,067	1,650	1,746
Nhill	1,041	1,764	1,830	1,129	1,700	1,853	1,067	1,650	1,746
Orbost	1,047	1,442	1,573	1,127	1,522	1,650	1,101	1,601	1,724
Portland	1,007	1,367	1,495	1,087	1,325	1,458	1,005	1,444	1,533
Port Fairy	1,016	1,292	1,432	1,080	1,391	1,458	1,072	1,362	1,480
Port Melbourne	1,040	1,483	1,614	1,193	1,632	1,762	1,141	1,602	1,750
Salem	967	1,432	1,582	1,074	1,537	1,677	1,046	1,515	1,677
Seymour	1,002	1,400	1,400	1,145	1,478	1,585	1,123	1,454	1,533
Shepparton	1,007	1,460	1,600	1,080	1,433	1,760	1,071	1,637	1,782
Skewville	1,065	1,472	1,431	1,179	1,500	1,505	1,188	1,508	1,616
Swan Hill	1,042	1,440	1,608	1,090	1,490	1,822	1,009	1,690	1,822
Terang	1,024	1,386	1,485	1,116	1,461	1,612	1,117	1,512	1,651
Traralgon	1,031	1,458	1,563	1,119	1,690	1,720	1,137	1,670	1,898
Wangaratta	1,001	1,458	1,563	1,119	1,690	1,720	1,137	1,670	1,898
Warrackbeal	1,030	1,536	1,645	1,131	1,657	1,746	1,139	1,630	1,742
Warragul	960	1,429	1,561	1,080	1,361	1,410	1,079	1,409	1,507
Wonthaggi	1,040	1,474	1,560	1,146	1,623	1,693	1,118	1,519	1,655
Weighted Average for State (46 Towns)	973	1,437	1,574	1,062	1,539	1,671	1,093	1,531	1,686
<b>Queensland—</b>									
Brisbane	970	1,303	1,423	1,068	1,405	1,528	1,041	1,411	1,560
Toowoomba	905	1,223	1,324	1,051	1,389	1,505	1,032	1,392	1,501
Rockhampton	972	1,211	1,278	1,075	1,373	1,474	1,004	1,366	1,484
Charter Towers	1,015	1,322	1,411	1,158	1,422	1,510	1,217	1,465	1,570
Warwick	931	1,291	1,352	1,039	1,377	1,450	1,075	1,384	1,530
Ayr	1,125	1,510	1,691	1,224	1,685	1,840	1,160	1,584	1,711
Enterprise	1,116	1,477	1,600	1,184	1,579	1,737	1,232	1,587	1,744
Bowen	1,079	1,507	1,655	1,184	1,579	1,645	1,170	1,607	1,708
Bundaberg	947	1,252	1,327	1,044	1,304	1,439	1,040	1,371	1,497
Calra	1,139	1,506	1,710	1,238	1,780	1,913	1,205	1,707	1,825
Charleville	1,077	1,506	1,702	1,183	1,571	1,676	1,214	1,658	1,825
Chillagoe	1,063	1,326	1,362	1,277	1,618	1,540	1,231	1,560	1,610
Cloncurry	1,178	1,540	1,636	1,212	1,502	1,708	1,238	1,603	1,700
Cooktown	1,072	1,473	1,521	1,141	1,275	1,390	1,153	1,284	1,363
Cunnamulla	1,074	1,403	1,468	1,166	1,515	1,581	1,127	1,454	1,587
Dalby	981	1,310	1,375	1,051	1,413	1,495	1,063	1,431	1,534
Gayndah	952	1,245	1,310	1,063	1,368	1,455	1,114	1,411	1,476
Gladstone	1,020	1,283	1,415	1,109	1,356	1,487	1,097	1,352	1,468
Goondiwindi	1,033	1,262	1,471	1,130	1,356	1,487	1,118	1,352	1,468
Gympie	990	1,286	1,352	1,057	1,300	1,495	1,090	1,307	1,513



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

State and Town.	1924. November.			1925. November.			1926. 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.
<b>Queensland—continued.</b>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Hughenden .. .. .	1,101	1,583	1,682	1,197	1,734	1,866	1,276	1,723	1,830
Innisfail .. .. .	1,211	1,649	1,803	1,316	1,842	1,974	1,293	1,825	1,956
Ipwich .. .. .	963	1,246	1,331	1,044	1,373	1,439	1,096	1,454	1,524
Longreach .. .. .	1,078	1,446	1,591	1,177	1,561	1,646	1,260	1,654	1,760
Mackay .. .. .	987	1,407	1,511	1,087	1,436	1,671	1,094	1,576	1,730
Maryborough .. .. .	953	1,233	1,351	1,051	1,347	1,449	1,041	1,337	1,463
Mount Morgan .. .. .	1,023	1,300	1,346	1,071	1,282	1,321	1,117	1,325	1,347
Nambour .. .. .	994	1,410	1,498	1,085	1,458	1,541	1,103	1,520	1,623
Roma .. .. .	1,010	1,326	1,434	1,109	1,468	1,545	1,135	1,534	1,644
Stanthorpe .. .. .	1,075	1,431	1,503	1,153	1,548	1,614	1,155	1,484	1,637
Townsville .. .. .	1,085	1,569	1,719	1,176	1,655	1,797	1,216	1,733	1,894
Winton .. .. .	1,108	1,656	1,722	1,199	1,802	1,912	1,288	1,808	1,902
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	987	1,320	1,430	1,085	1,430	1,540	1,080	1,448	1,586
<b>South Australia—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,020	1,516	1,645	1,067	1,567	1,688	1,056	1,544	1,641
Kadina, etc. .. .. .	1,014	1,281	1,373	1,110	1,369	1,450	1,120	1,370	1,453
Port Pirie .. .. .	1,080	1,399	1,479	1,154	1,500	1,596	1,137	1,515	1,615
Mount Gambier .. .. .	994	1,233	1,316	1,040	1,261	1,362	1,062	1,322	1,369
Peterborough .. .. .	1,103	1,502	1,584	1,116	1,520	1,596	1,149	1,566	1,647
Freeling .. .. .	1,083	1,379	1,445	1,105	1,473	1,539	1,073	1,497	1,586
Gawler .. .. .	1,016	1,398	1,457	1,050	1,386	1,458	1,065	1,425	1,504
Kapunda .. .. .	1,004	1,215	1,327	1,073	1,284	1,349	1,030	1,208	1,324
Korinna .. .. .	1,053	1,448	1,514	1,101	1,298	1,386	1,074	1,272	1,380
Millicent .. .. .	986	1,427	1,440	986	1,299	1,388	996	1,323	1,414
Murray Bridge .. .. .	1,023	1,474	1,662	1,070	1,491	1,543	1,099	1,543	1,645
Port Augusta .. .. .	1,123	1,448	1,551	1,209	1,585	1,648	1,136	1,580	1,625
Quorn .. .. .	1,028	1,518	1,620	1,100	1,536	1,643	1,089	1,496	1,544
Victor Harbour .. .. .	1,050	1,642	1,774	1,102	1,635	1,777	1,035	1,592	1,750
Ronmark .. .. .	1,116	1,613	1,749	1,231	1,708	1,840	1,206	1,654	1,763
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	1,024	1,404	1,616	1,074	1,545	1,661	1,065	1,524	1,623
<b>Western Australia—</b>									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,114	1,527	1,618	1,065	1,497	1,569	1,062	1,510	1,620
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,258	1,590	1,651	1,235	1,556	1,611	1,215	1,530	1,600
Northam .. .. .	1,074	1,496	1,612	1,161	1,556	1,732	1,163	1,577	1,730
Bunbury .. .. .	1,137	1,507	1,601	1,134	1,504	1,598	1,177	1,521	1,679
Geraldton .. .. .	1,102	1,632	1,701	1,172	1,619	1,751	1,168	1,609	1,745
Albany .. .. .	1,204	1,498	1,609	1,230	1,532	1,626	1,188	1,505	1,602
Beverly .. .. .	1,132	1,366	1,423	1,119	1,384	1,472	1,137	1,435	1,519
Bridgetown .. .. .	1,193	1,533	1,604	1,232	1,643	1,709	1,247	1,603	1,641
Brooms .. .. .	1,330	1,988	2,053	1,322	1,980	2,045	1,428	2,020	2,102
Carnarvon .. .. .	1,134	1,710	1,776	1,320	1,823	1,921	1,301	1,795	1,920
Collie .. .. .	1,172	1,567	1,632	1,236	1,593	1,664	1,205	1,596	1,639
Greenbushes .. .. .	1,242	1,440	1,466	1,251	1,435	1,474	1,257	1,464	1,507
Katanning .. .. .	1,077	1,459	1,577	1,089	1,473	1,553	1,114	1,466	1,574
Leonora and Gwalla ..	1,399	1,557	1,597	1,354	1,512	1,551	1,379	1,560	1,643
Meekatharra .. .. .	1,394	1,627	1,693	1,430	1,693	1,759	1,409	1,672	1,738
Narrogin .. .. .	1,154	1,628	1,812	1,160	1,643	1,792	1,156	1,639	1,788
Wagin .. .. .	1,185	1,401	1,537	1,144	1,467	1,575	1,133	1,479	1,528
York .. .. .	1,176	1,522	1,574	1,218	1,558	1,637	1,127	1,479	1,527
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	1,138	1,536	1,624	1,108	1,499	1,590	1,098	1,522	1,627
<b>Tasmania—</b>									
Hobart .. .. .	1,051	1,570	1,724	1,077	1,554	1,718	1,086	1,574	1,750
Launceston .. .. .	1,057	1,444	1,610	1,064	1,445	1,619	1,045	1,427	1,605
Burnie .. .. .	1,042	1,485	1,621	1,110	1,575	1,689	1,079	1,529	1,595
Devonport .. .. .	1,080	1,524	1,644	1,098	1,501	1,651	1,053	1,512	1,592
Queenstown .. .. .	1,186	1,448	1,527	1,225	1,485	1,567	1,193	1,493	1,443
Beaconsfield .. .. .	1,099	1,213	1,257	1,009	1,174	1,201	1,060	1,139	1,165
Campbelltown .. .. .	1,045	1,259	1,333	1,094	1,298	1,340	1,031	1,296	1,316
Deloraine .. .. .	1,014	1,363	1,396	1,023	1,352	1,418	1,014	1,389	1,428
Franklin .. .. .	1,061	1,298	1,325	1,063	1,300	1,326	1,072	1,300	1,335
New Norfolk .. .. .	1,032	1,361	1,460	1,057	1,393	1,449	1,045	1,367	1,436
Scottsdale .. .. .	1,039	1,336	1,418	1,060	1,367	1,429	1,059	1,357	1,432
Ulverstone .. .. .	1,030	1,380	1,477	1,082	1,411	1,510	1,057	1,321	1,452
Zeehan .. .. .	1,154	1,364	1,430	1,256	1,454	1,619	1,232	1,450	1,515
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,059	1,509	1,647	1,083	1,506	1,652	1,069	1,502	1,654
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns)	1,012	1,472	1,597	1,077	1,449	1,575	1,072	1,553	1,687

(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, 1926, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1,024. Subtracting this from 1,550 (column B) gives a difference of 526, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,714 (column C) gives a difference of 690, 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, 1926, 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, 1926.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Weighted Average
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>							
All Towns (a) ..	1,023	964	1,007	993	1,024	997	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,030	964	988	998	1,020	1,002	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,034	966	982	993	1,002	1,006	1,000
<b>RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.</b>							
All Towns (a) ..	1,057	1,062	823	907	860	951	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,054	1,060	804	901	857	984	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,038	1,064	814	903	861	1,056	1,000
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.</b>							
All Towns (a) ..	1,036	999	940	962	964	980	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,039	1,000	920	962	959	995	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,036	1,004	919	961	948	1,025	1,000

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

The index-numbers for November, 1920 to 1926, 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, 1920 to 1926.

Particulars.	1913.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns (a) .. ..	1,000	2,002	1,578	1,558	1,689	1,581	1,683	1,675
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	2,007	1,577	1,564	1,688	1,581	1,679	1,670
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	2,021	1,588	1,580	1,699	1,594	1,689	1,683

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (a) .. ..	1,000	1,228	1,268	1,347	1,433	1,494	1,526	1,571
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,235	1,271	1,347	1,421	1,484	1,509	1,554
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,225	1,261	1,336	1,374	1,439	1,455	1,496

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (a) .. ..	1,000	1,709	1,461	1,478	1,592	1,548	1,623	1,636
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,706	1,458	1,480	1,584	1,543	1,613	1,625
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,697	1,455	1,480	1,566	1,531	1,594	1,607

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, 1920 to 1922; and to 200 towns for November, 1923, November, 1924, November, 1925, and November, 1926. 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, 1926, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 67.5 per cent.; house rents increased 57.1 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of, approximately 63.6 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 1926 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 1926 (Prices in 1913 as Base = 1,000).

YEAR.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	DUCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT. (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	FINLAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Ekononist."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	"Finansel deinde."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	..	m	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	1,000	1,000	987	..	..	..	..	..	1,340	1,020	..	1,020	1,020	1,060
1914	1,271	1,231	1,231	..	..	..	..	..	1,490	1,395	..	1,395	1,395	1,420
1915	1,595	1,805	1,805	..	..	..	..	..	2,060	1,280	..	1,882	1,882	1,520
1916	2,061	2,041	2,041	..	..	..	..	..	2,840	1,760	..	2,016	2,016	1,790
1917	2,265	2,249	2,249	..	..	..	..	..	2,920	2,110	..	3,392	3,392	2,170
1918	2,419	2,351	2,351	..	..	..	..	..	3,400	2,810	..	3,502	3,502	4,150
1919	3,073	2,953	2,953	..	..	..	..	..	3,410	3,160	..	5,094	11,830	14,860
1920	1,972	1,824	1,810	..	53,600	1,780	1,502	..	1,750	1,730	3,450	12,630	12,630	19,110
1921	1,558	1,541	1,595	..	3,670	1,760	1,455	13,340	1,810	1,700	1,460	3,266	12,190	341,820
1922	1,589	1,518	1,621	11,240	4,970	1,720	1,564	9,770	2,100	1,730	1,320	4,189	10,950	1166,198,737
1923	1,662	1,640	1,739	11,360	5,750	1,730	1,531	9,970	2,340	1,730	1,430	4,385	11,000	1,1225
1924	1,597	1,595	1,665	11,360	5,580	1,590	1,594	10,180	1,570	1,660	1,520	5,499	11,290	1,1304
1925	1,481	1,400	1,523	11,230	..	1,480	1,641	9,540	1,410	1,590	1,320	7,026	10,880	1,251

  

YEAR.	ITALY.		JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
	"Bachli."	Camera di Commercio di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	"Lorenz."	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000	m	g	..	..	..	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	951	955	955	1,000	1,000	..	..	..	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,327	960	1,090	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,008	1,474	1,099	1,041	1,070
1915	1,997	1,171	2,268	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,265	1,382	1,316	1,250	1,226
1916	3,063	1,455	2,786	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,772	1,528	1,785	1,432	1,407
1917	4,091	1,958	3,964	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,943	1,778	2,900	1,625	1,531
1918	3,658	2,359	3,016	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,064	1,889	2,092	1,761	1,648
1919	6,244	2,594	2,548	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,262	2,279	2,435	2,067	2,233
1920	5,775	3,170	2,004	1,777	..	..	..	3,500	..	2,262	2,279	2,435	2,014	1,604
1921	5,623	5,290	1,958	1,654	..	728	1,760	1,730	1,912	1,469	1,749	1,718	1,620	1,284
1922	6,746	5,380	1,991	1,473	2,320	869	1,720	1,630	1,675	1,458	1,616	1,530	1,648	1,266
1923	5,850	5,540	2,065	1,627	2,670	1,098	1,630	1,620	1,740	1,497	1,733	1,652	1,648	1,267
1924	6,896	6,460	2,016	1,545	2,530	1,254	1,880	1,610	1,616	1,587	1,696	1,609	1,609	1,276
1925	7,084	6,540	1,789	1,446	1,980	1,812	1,810	1,490	1,474	1,511	1,654	1,562	1,535	1,239

a April. b Average for the last five months. c First six months. d July. e February.  
 f Gold mark prices. g For "Ekononisk Revue" series from 1913 to 1923 see Labour Report No. 14, p. 138.  
 h End of the year. i 100,000 omitted. j Average for the last eight months. k January. l Gold index.  
 m Series revised during 1926.

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 1926, and where available, for January, 1927, 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 1926, and January, 1927, 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.	LUXEMBOURG.
	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	c1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,250	1,600	..	1,220	1,160	51,060	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,480	3,400	..	..	1,300	21,430	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,800	6,700	..	..	1,550	22,510	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1918	2,100	11,600	..	..	1,820	55,880	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1919	2,150	25,000	..	12,840	2,110	69,640	22,380	..	..	..	2,500	..
" 1920	2,550	51,000	..	18,580	2,620	9,310	3,410	10,650	11,250	4,410	..	..
" 1921	2,220	99,720	1,000	19,190	2,370	12,140	3,070	12,500	11,250	4,940	..	3,880
" 1922	1,810	2,637,000	900	26,190	a1,990	11,420	a3,020	a53,920	61,220	4,880	4,870	3,570
" 1923	1,710	7760	1,090	24,770	a2,040	11,110	a3,340	a37,651,000	82,886,100	4,870	4,520	..
" 1924	1,710	890	1,250	28,330	a2,140	11,540	a3,660	41,160	a1,017	5,120	4,980	..
" 1925	1,730	970	1,530	30,140	a2,190	12,180	a3,900	a1,433	a1,208	5,980	5,190	..
" 1926	1,700	1,030	1,740	28,860	a1,840	11,830	a4,260	1,424	..	6,490	6,860	..
Jan. 1927	1,720	1,050	2,020	28,720	1,810	11,870	p5,450	1,446	..	6,550	7,560	..

  

No. of Towns and Localities.	NORWAY.	POLAND.		SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.
	31	Warsaw.	40	33	Bombay.	9	60	32	30	25	
July 1914	a	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	..	..	1,050	970	1,050	1,186	1,082	..
" 1916	1,460	..	1,300	..	..	1,120	1,020	1,180	1,151	1,168	..
" 1917	1,900	..	1,500	..	..	1,220	1,300	1,420	1,157	1,282	..
" 1918	2,530	..	2,190	2,040	1,490	1,310	1,460	1,740	1,179	1,440	..
" 1919	2,750	..	2,570	2,220	1,860	1,450	1,550	1,990	1,317	1,573	..
" 1920	3,070	111,730	2,700	2,240	1,900	1,790	1,900	2,600	1,651	1,815	..
" 1921	2,940	257,090	2,369	2,000	1,770	1,620	1,520	1,740	1,448	1,752	..
" 1922	2,510	817	1,900	1,640	1,650	1,350	1,460	1,700	1,416	1,590	..
" 1923	2,380	632	1,740	1,640	1,530	1,310	1,460	1,730	1,544	1,584	..
" 1924	2,490	1,272	1,710	1,690	1,570	1,330	1,430	1,730	1,466	1,602	..
" 1925	2,590	1,456	1,760	1,680	1,570	1,330	1,460	1,730	1,524	1,631	..
" 1926	2,200	1,772	1,720	1,620	1,570	1,310	1,500	1,760	1,584	1,633	..
Jan. 1927	2,100	2,018	2,170	1,600	1,560	1,300	1,520	1,760	1,545	1,624	..

(b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.		BELGIUM.	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.		GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
	630	Vienna.	59	Whole Country	100	21	Paris.	320	72	6	
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,320	..	..	..	1,280	..	..	1,200	1,230	..	..
" 1916	1,610	..	..	..	1,460	..	..	1,290	1,420	..	..
" 1917	2,040	..	..	..	1,660	..	..	1,830	1,840	..	..
" 1918	2,100	..	..	..	1,870	..	..	2,060	2,440	..	..
" 1919	2,170	..	..	..	2,120	..	..	2,610	2,890	..	..
" 1920	2,620	..	..	..	2,530	10,130	3,730	3,880	12,520	..	..
" 1921	2,260	579,000	1,000	13,030	2,360	15,230	3,060	3,730	14,910	1,790	..
" 1922	1,750	3,282,360	870	14,300	a1,840	11,440	2,970	a3,150	68,360	1,570	..
" 1923	1,650	12,911,000	1,050	9,210	a1,880	10,920	3,210	a3,370	46,510,000	1,450	..
" 1924	1,640	14,362,000	1,240	9,090	a2,900	10,520	3,600	r4,010	a1,316	1,620	..
" 1925	1,880	x	1,330	9,160	a2,100	11,450	4,210	r4,510	a1,533	1,520	..
" 1926	1,610	x	1,850	8,760	1,590	11,050	5,740	r6,100	1,453	1,460	..
Jan. 1927	1,640	x	2,080	9,140	1,560	10,920	6,920	a6,470	1,507	1,470	..

## Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries, &amp;c.—continued.

## (b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS—continued.

	ITALY.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
No. of Towns and Localities.	Milan.	31	Warsaw.	49	33	Bombay.	9	80	51	30	25	Madrid.
			1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
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 ..	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230
" 1916 ..	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510
" 1917 ..	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
" 1918 ..	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
" 1919 ..	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
" 1920 ..	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450
" 1921 ..	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060
" 1922 ..	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,920
" 1923 ..	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960
" 1924 ..	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080
" 1925 ..	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,020
" 1926 ..	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540	6,540
Jan. 1927 ..	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250

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 Since 1922 "Zloty" prices. u Third Quarter of each year specified excepting 1927 which is the first quarter figure. v Since 1923 gold prices. w Excluding clothing from 1925. x This index number is no longer published. y Base 1913 = 1,000.

## CHAPTER II.—WAGES.

## § 1. Operations Under Arbitration and Wages Board Acts and Industrial Legislation.

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, 1926.

\* 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.