

CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—Information regarding variations in wholesale prices in Melbourne for 1927 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.* It is proposed to revise the present list with a view to increasing the number of commodities regarding which wholesale prices are collected. 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—				Chirants ..		lb.	1,400
Pig ..	Mxd. Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins ..	Sultanas	1-lb. fresh	1,400
Rod and Bar ..	Stafford	"	3½	Herrings ..		doz. "1-lb. tins	50
Angle and Tee ..	"	"	3	Salmon ..	1 lb. tall Alaska	"	50
Plate ..	"	"	3	Sardines ..	Halves	doz. halves	100
Hoop ..	"	"	5	Coffee ..	Plantation	lb.	200
Galvanized ..	26 gauge	"	5	Cocoa ..	McKenzie's	"	100
Tinned Plates ..	I.C. Coke	cwt.	60	Sugar ..	No. 1A	ton	22
Fencing Wire ..	No. 8 ..	ton	6	Macaroni ..		lb.	200
Zinc, sheet ..	"	"	1	Sago ..		cwt.	7
Lead, sheet ..	"	"	2	Rice ..		ton	2
" Pipes ..	"	"	2	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 ..	Koen's	"	50
Branbags ..	"	doz.	110	Mutches ..	Australian	gross	90
Cornsacks ..	"	"	250	Candles ..	Rangoon	lb.	1,600
Woolpacks ..	"	each	200	Tobacco ..	Two Seas	"	1,300
Leather—				Tea ..	Po'ket Pcs.	"	3,000
Waxed Kip ..	"	lb.	600	Kerosene ..	"	gallon	1,700
Waxed Split ..	"	"	600	GROUP VI.			
Light Crop ..	"	"	600	Beef ..	Average quality	100 lbs.	390
Cotton ..	Raw ..	"	24,000	Mutton ..	"	lb.	33,000
Wool ..	Greasy ..	"	12,200	Veal ..	"	"	2,000
Twine ..	Reaped ..	"	150	Lamb ..	"	"	5,600
	and Binder	"		Pork ..	"	"	3,700
Tallow ..	Mutton Prime	ton	1½	GROUP VII.			
GROUP III.				Timber—	Flooring—		
Wheat ..	"	bushel	500		6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.	30
Flour ..	"	ton	48		6 x 1	"	30
Bran ..	"	"	14		6 x ¾	"	30
Pollard ..	"	"	14		6 x ½	"	30
Oats ..	Milling	bushel	1,200		6 x ¼	"	200
Oatmeal ..	Colonial	ton	1½	Weather-boards ..		"	
Barley ..	English	bushel	150	Oregon ..	1,000 ft. sup.		20
	Cape ..	"	100	Cement ..	Shelving	"	10
Maize ..	"	"	1,000	White Lead ..	Portland	cask	30
Hay ..	Best Mngr.	ton	135	Slates ..	Welsh	1,000	
Chaff ..	Prime ..	"	135		20 x 10		
Straw ..	Victorian	"	25	GROUP VIII.			
Peas ..	"	bushel	55	Cream of Tartar ..	In kegs	lb.	400
Potatoes ..	"	ton	40	Carbonate of ..	"	ton	
Malt ..	Victorian	bushel	140	Soda ..	"	"	
Onions ..	"	ton	3	Saltpetre ..	Refined	"	sh
GROUP IV.				Sulphur ..	"	"	7
Ham ..	"	lb.	800	Caustic Soda ..	"	cwt.	7
Bacon ..	"	"	3,200	Alum ..	Lump ..	ton	½
Cheese ..	"	"	1,500	Cyanide of Potassium ..	"	lb.	570
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 March, 1928, 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	1,063	..	1,070	2,030	1,530
1871 ..	1,038	1,257	1,296	864	1,580	..	1,044	1,409	1,172
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,246	841	917	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	969	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913 ..	1,048	1,070	1,067	1,035	1,024	1,252	1,128	895	1,080
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,031	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,276	1,523	1,604
1916 ..	1,605	1,428	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,604
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,834	2,171	1,682
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,834
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,655
1920 ..	2,208	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,400
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	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	1,508	1,635
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,787	1,636	1,722	2,212	1,711	1,700	1,644
1926 ..	1,683	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,632
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,617
1927—									
Jan. ..	1,094	1,447	1,898	1,732	1,714	1,735	1,650	1,843	1,760
Feb. ..	1,082	1,507	1,821	1,746	1,704	1,698	1,613	1,843	1,741
March ..	1,077	1,542	1,667	1,748	1,690	1,775	1,618	1,860	1,710
April ..	1,078	1,537	1,652	1,806	1,711	1,753	1,643	1,840	1,720
May ..	1,060	1,580	1,674	1,872	1,724	1,823	1,645	1,810	1,738
June ..	1,056	1,547	1,728	1,927	1,722	2,013	1,660	1,840	1,772
July ..	1,070	1,637	1,789	1,931	1,730	2,243	1,663	1,872	1,833
Aug. ..	1,056	1,684	1,657	1,898	1,739	2,472	1,674	1,872	1,879
Sept. ..	1,058	1,833	1,930	1,833	1,729	2,455	1,578	1,872	1,938
Oct. ..	1,043	1,782	2,066	1,837	1,732	2,730	1,562	1,904	1,972
Nov. ..	1,043	1,932	1,928	1,786	1,745	2,346	1,548	1,904	1,892
Dec. ..	1,030	1,821	1,879	1,738	1,743	2,077	1,619	1,904	1,846
1928—									
Jan. ..	1,028	1,836	1,860	1,721	1,728	2,211	1,709	1,904	1,860
Feb. ..	1,022	1,849	1,774	1,683	1,710	2,197	1,718	1,916	1,823
March ..	1,017	1,912	1,710	1,651	1,716	2,289	1,739	1,946	1,830

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 group 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 1,817 in 1927. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871 or 1927, 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 1927 shows a decrease of 0.8 per cent. compared with that for 1926. The index-numbers computed from the annual average wholesale prices of commodities in the following groups showed an increase as compared with those during 1926:—Metals and Coal (I.), Jute, Leather, etc. (II.), Dairy Produce (IV.), Meat (VI.), and Chemicals (VIII.), while the index-numbers of prices of Agricultural Produce (III.), Groceries (V.), and Building Materials (VII.) declined. The main increases were—Meat, 9.3 per cent., and Jute, Leather, etc., 4.3 per cent. The average prices of agricultural produce showed a decline of 8.7 per cent. The variation in prices of commodities in the other groups during the two years was not sufficient to affect the index-numbers to any great extent.

The monthly index-numbers show the movement of prices from January, 1927, to March, 1928. Prices of jute, leather, etc., increased considerably during the period, while chemicals also showed a steady rise. Prices for building materials declined during the later months of the year 1927, but took an upward trend during the early months of 1928. The cost of agricultural produce and meat was highest in October, the former showing a steady decline from that date, but meat after declining in price had a tendency to rise during 1928. The index-numbers for all groups reached the peak in October and they show that prices in March, 1928, were 4 per cent. higher than in January, 1927.

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 1927 and the first quarter of 1928:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1927 and First Quarter, 1928
(Base 1911 = 1,000).

Group.	No. of Commodities.	Index Numbers.				
		Jan. to March, 1927.	April to June, 1927.	July to Sept., 1927.	Oct. to Dec., 1927.	Jan. to March, 1928.
I. Metals and Coal ..	14	1,084	1,065	1,061	1,039	1,022
II. Jute, Leather, &c. ..	10	1,498	1,571	1,718	1,812	1,860
III. Agricultural Produce ..	16	1,705	1,685	1,850	1,905	1,781
IV. Dairy Produce ..	9	1,742	1,860	1,903	1,780	1,685
V. Groceries ..	21	1,704	1,719	1,738	1,740	1,718
VI. Meat ..	5	1,736	1,863	2,400	2,385	2,232
VII. Building Materials ..	10	1,630	1,649	1,638	1,577	1,722
VIII. Chemicals ..	7	1,849	1,840	1,872	1,904	1,931
All Groups (a) ..	92	1,737	1,743	1,882	1,904	1,840

(a) Weighted average.

5. **Variations since Outbreak of War.**—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1927, and

for each month from January, 1927, to March, 1928, 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 1927, and Monthly January, 1927, to March, 1928. (Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, etc.	III. Agri-cultural Produce.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Groceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	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 1916 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,307	1,130	1,335	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,641	1,084	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,025	1,695
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,602	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,764	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,495	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,500	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,761	1,663
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,562	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,806
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,516	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
1927—									
January ..	1,811	1,329	1,777	1,440	1,661	1,070	1,514	1,798	1,543
February ..	1,800	1,383	1,704	1,451	1,651	1,047	1,473	1,798	1,626
March ..	1,796	1,415	1,560	1,453	1,644	1,095	1,477	1,814	1,499
April ..	1,796	1,457	1,646	1,502	1,658	1,081	1,500	1,794	1,508
May ..	1,751	1,450	1,567	1,556	1,670	1,125	1,501	1,794	1,524
June ..	1,776	1,420	1,617	1,602	1,660	1,242	1,515	1,794	1,563
July ..	1,789	1,503	1,674	1,606	1,677	1,390	1,518	1,826	1,607
August ..	1,776	1,546	1,738	1,374	1,635	1,525	1,628	1,820	1,647
September ..	1,779	1,683	1,807	1,666	1,675	1,683	1,440	1,826	1,697
October ..	1,764	1,636	1,953	1,527	1,679	1,663	1,426	1,857	1,729
November ..	1,764	1,682	1,804	1,468	1,691	1,443	1,413	1,857	1,653
December ..	1,753	1,672	1,759	1,445	1,689	1,281	1,478	1,857	1,620
1928—									
January ..	1,751	1,685	1,741	1,431	1,675	1,363	1,560	1,867	1,630
February ..	1,746	1,698	1,660	1,399	1,657	1,353	1,569	1,897	1,604
March ..	1,741	1,755	1,601	1,373	1,662	1,412	1,588	1,897	1,604

6. Seasonal Fluctuations.—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1927. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1927 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, 1927.

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)	1,737	1,743	1,822	1,904	1,817
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1927 as base (= 1,000)	956	950	1,026	1,048	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of House Rent) Index-Numbers with average for 1927 as base (= 1,000)	987	985	1,017	1,011	1,000

The results evidence a greater variation in wholesale prices than in retail prices, but in both instances the index-numbers show that the prices moved uniformly in an upward direction, with the exception of the last quarter, when retail prices slightly declined.

7. Prices, 1926 and 1927.—In Section 1, Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular brands of commodities used in

computing the index-numbers in the years 1926 and 1927. 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 have generally been 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."
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).			GROUP III.—MEAT.		
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	468	26. Beef, sirloin	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary .. .	25 lb. bags	11	27. Beef, rib	"	32
3. Tea	lb.	30	28. Beef, flank	"	12
4. Coffee	"	2	29. Beef, shin	"	14
5. Sugar	"	480	30. Beef, steak, rump .. .	"	24
6. Rice	"	50	31. Beef, steak, shoulder ..	"	53
7. Sage	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing ..	"	53
8. Jam	"	73	33. Beef, corned round ..	"	39
9. Oatmeal	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with		
10. Raisins	"	14	bone	"	11
11. Currants	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without		
12. Starch	"	1	bone	"	32
13. Blue	doz. sgs.	4	36. Mutton, leg	"	92
14. Candles	lb.	16	37. Mutton, shoulder .. .	"	62
15. Soap	"	64	38. Mutton, loin	"	30
16. Potatoes	14 lbs.	64	39. Mutton, neck	"	40
17. Onions	lb.	68	40. Mutton, chops, loin ..	"	62
18. Kerosene	gallon	17	41. Mutton, chops, leg ..	"	16
			42. Mutton, chops, neck ..	"	31
			43. Pork, leg	"	94
			44. Pork, loin	"	8
			45. Pork, belly	"	10
			46. Pork, chops	"	88
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.			GROUP IV.—HOUSING.		
19. Milk	quart	300	47. House Accommoda-		
20. Butter	lb.	95	tion	week	404
21. Cheese	"	15			
22. Eggs	dozen	18			
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.

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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) and special inquiries as to the cost of food, groceries, and housing in various towns and localities.

(ii.) *Price-Indexes for 200 Towns.*—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. 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 1926 have been published in various issues of the Report. The general agreement of the various results shows 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, 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 various 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 1927.**—(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 1927.

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.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES.									
Sydney	904	1,018	1,112	1,976	1,833	1,710	1,864	1,995	1,870
Melbourne	817	924	990	1,597	1,708	1,575	1,727	1,787	1,669
Brisbane	969	1,067	1,070	1,958	1,832	1,685	1,836	1,933	1,737
Adelaide	903	958	1,061	1,907	1,744	1,643	1,770	1,814	1,719
Perth	1,013	1,276	1,113	1,955	1,692	1,627	1,770	1,819	1,684
Hobart	838	1,003	1,070	1,927	1,704	1,683	1,736	1,807	1,692
Weighted Average (a) ..	885	1,000	1,062	1,937	1,770	1,650	1,797	1,886	1,760
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.									
Sydney	932	971	1,110	1,828	1,831	1,660	1,818	1,769	1,818
Melbourne	907	959	1,076	1,840	1,745	1,604	1,553	1,680	1,717
Brisbane	837	953	995	1,564	1,070	1,553	1,540	1,651	1,657
Adelaide	928	1,103	1,104	1,723	1,684	1,626	1,622	1,691	1,716
Perth	1,260	1,241	1,244	1,951	1,806	1,720	1,658	1,748	1,748
Hobart	955	994	1,177	1,848	1,665	1,540	1,484	1,654	1,678
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,108	1,815	1,767	1,630	1,600	1,717	1,751
GROUP III.—MEAT.									
Sydney	994	959	1,280	1,838	1,788	1,845	1,833	1,740	1,833
Melbourne	1,067	929	1,270	1,972	2,026	1,958	1,959	1,852	1,855
Brisbane	1,024	935	1,169	1,719	1,468	1,838	1,765	1,683	1,698
Adelaide	1,059	1,037	1,502	2,097	2,106	2,222	2,193	2,151	2,185
Perth	1,511	1,577	1,668	2,113	2,064	2,526	2,432	2,071	2,039
Hobart	1,279	1,221	1,493	2,382	2,345	2,463	2,285	2,201	2,077
Weighted Average (a) ..	1,074	1,000	1,323	1,934	1,904	1,982	1,961	1,862	1,878
GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney	936	989	1,150	1,898	1,820	1,732	1,785	1,867	1,846
Melbourne	925	935	1,001	1,901	1,802	1,684	1,748	1,774	1,732
Brisbane	947	1,018	1,078	1,812	1,693	1,690	1,734	1,788	1,680
Adelaide	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,823	1,791	1,840	1,869	1,841
Perth	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,828	1,891	1,933	1,866	1,730
Hobart	1,010	1,068	1,212	2,025	1,863	1,849	1,810	1,868	1,788
Weighted Average (a) ..	955	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,805	1,732	1,785	1,829	1,759
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney	969	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,739	1,831	1,870	1,826	1,814
Melbourne	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,534	1,574	1,604	1,695	1,710
Brisbane	463	610	702	1,030	1,151	1,457	1,163	1,333	1,361
Adelaide	835	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,450	1,540	1,576	1,516	1,540
Perth	749	857	903	1,208	1,294	1,311	1,340	1,469	1,607
Hobart	661	730	847	1,441	1,503	1,592	1,640	1,628	1,579
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,062	1,410	1,553	1,615	1,647	1,677	1,684
ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney	948	1,049	1,189	1,793	1,700	1,709	1,817	1,852	1,834
Melbourne	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,702	1,643	1,694	1,744	1,724
Brisbane	765	865	959	1,519	1,490	1,490	1,521	1,617	1,560
Adelaide	968	1,070	1,161	1,687	1,683	1,697	1,741	1,738	1,728
Perth	1,029	1,162	1,175	1,700	1,627	1,673	1,714	1,717	1,687
Hobart	879	938	1,075	1,803	1,728	1,753	1,750	1,778	1,710
Weighted Average (a) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,710	1,688	1,733	1,772	1,740

Note.—As to basis of index-numbers, see remarks on pages 14 to 16.

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii.) *Groceries (18 Commodities)*.—The index-number for this group was lower in 1927 than in 1926 in all the capital cities. The decrease for all cities in 1927 compared with 1926 amounts to 6.7 per cent. ; compared with 1911 there has been an increase of 76.0 per cent. The average cost in 1927 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 1927 than for 1926 in all the capitals with the exception of Perth, which remained unaltered. The index-number for all the cities in 1927 was 2.0 per cent. higher than in 1926, and 75.1 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost in 1927 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 higher in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide and lower in Brisbane, Perth, and Hobart in 1927 than in 1926. The index-number for all the cities in 1927 was 1.4 per cent. higher than in 1926, and 87.8 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost for 1927 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 a decrease in 1927 as compared with 1926 in all the capital cities. Taking the weighted average for all the capitals, the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries specified on page 15 were 2.2 per cent. lower in 1927 than in 1926, and 78.9 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost of these items for 1927 was highest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

(vi.) *Housing*.—The cost of housing increased in four capital cities during 1927, viz., Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth, and decreased in Sydney and Hobart. The weighted average increase for the six capitals in 1927 compared with 1926 was 0.4 per cent. The increase in cost in 1927 compared with 1911 for the six capitals considered as a whole was 68.4 per cent. In 1927 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 a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in 1927 compared with 1926, and an increase of 74.9 per cent. compared with 1911.

In 1907 and 1911, the index-number for Perth for all groups combined 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 1927 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 four 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 of Awards made by that Court, and the results will be published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics.

7. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1923 to 1927.—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, 1923 to 1927 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.

FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.

1923	1,820	1,838	1,999	1,855	1,706	1,826	1,802	1,793	1,706	1,757	1,750	1,808
1924	1,732	1,749	1,954	1,767	1,647	1,739	1,683	1,704	1,729	1,673	1,723	1,887
1925	1,785	1,801	2,105	1,785	1,720	1,794	1,748	1,743	1,779	1,730	1,721	1,746
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
1927	1,846	1,832	2,164	1,841	1,780	1,852	1,732	1,768	1,771	1,726	1,697	1,734
1926 1st Qtr.	1,838	1,839	2,111	1,863	1,770	1,845	1,750	1,796	1,797	1,751	1,711	1,753
2nd "	1,905	1,884	2,224	1,881	1,835	1,910	1,800	1,852	1,863	1,820	1,824	1,858
3rd "	1,861	1,833	2,084	1,811	1,790	1,864	1,759	1,818	1,774	1,754	1,774	1,782
4th "	1,863	1,844	2,047	1,819	1,770	1,865	1,728	1,781	1,784	1,751	1,711	1,731
1927 1st Qtr.	1,847	1,839	2,007	1,834	1,794	1,852	1,698	1,761	1,761	1,717	1,675	1,703
2nd "	1,810	1,785	2,113	1,809	1,754	1,815	1,692	1,736	1,738	1,704	1,676	1,696
3rd "	1,818	1,816	2,184	1,828	1,765	1,828	1,777	1,798	1,804	1,741	1,722	1,777
4th "	1,907	1,880	2,222	1,892	1,810	1,912	1,761	1,780	1,780	1,740	1,715	1,761
1927.	1,920	1,898	2,131	1,906	1,854	1,927	1,724	1,791	1,797	1,725	1,681	1,729
January	1,835	1,837	2,081	1,813	1,773	1,841	1,695	1,755	1,750	1,716	1,680	1,700
February	1,751	1,738	2,079	1,784	1,750	1,780	1,674	1,737	1,734	1,711	1,684	1,680
March	1,804	1,777	2,119	1,781	1,776	1,809	1,690	1,730	1,734	1,698	1,675	1,685
April	1,813	1,795	2,103	1,853	1,742	1,818	1,634	1,739	1,733	1,704	1,678	1,689
May	1,813	1,785	2,117	1,812	1,743	1,819	1,712	1,785	1,746	1,711	1,675	1,714
June	1,768	1,782	2,109	1,807	1,719	1,778	1,740	1,735	1,746	1,717	1,670	1,742
July	1,827	1,826	2,163	1,822	1,768	1,835	1,820	1,820	1,811	1,743	1,733	1,700
August	1,863	1,850	2,200	1,856	1,807	1,870	1,800	1,814	1,815	1,762	1,733	1,800
September	1,928	1,894	2,207	1,890	1,837	1,932	1,708	1,812	1,809	1,761	1,732	1,795
October	1,916	1,873	2,207	1,880	1,794	1,916	1,759	1,766	1,781	1,743	1,710	1,759
November	1,877	1,874	2,252	1,893	1,798	1,886	1,728	1,764	1,750	1,714	1,703	1,729
December	1,877	1,874	2,252	1,893	1,798	1,886	1,728	1,764	1,750	1,714	1,703	1,729

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1923	1,739	1,437	888	1,437	1,044	1,683	1,524	918	905	1,632	1,204	1,476
1924	1,631	1,520	860	1,255	1,270	1,770	1,674	840	866	1,627	1,227	1,513
1925	1,820	1,634	1,001	1,437	1,375	1,823	1,634	894	1,086	1,622	1,211	1,648
1926	1,836	1,791	1,191	1,445	1,445	1,793	1,605	1,022	1,104	1,659	1,211	1,640
1927	1,814	1,737	1,133	1,661	1,416	1,781	1,710	1,031	1,268	1,631	1,266	1,660
1926 1st Qtr.	1,820	1,694	1,075	1,850	1,461	1,780	1,680	1,031	1,150	1,543	1,207	1,626
2nd "	1,876	1,704	1,078	1,718	1,457	1,794	1,638	1,017	1,200	1,571	1,211	1,643
3rd "	1,829	1,704	1,125	1,775	1,457	1,796	1,638	1,017	1,200	1,571	1,212	1,643
4th "	1,829	1,693	1,125	1,761	1,452	1,796	1,704	1,022	1,200	1,571	1,212	1,643
1927 1st Qtr.	1,812	1,731	1,105	1,893	1,452	1,783	1,698	1,029	1,244	1,598	1,258	1,646
2nd "	1,824	1,721	1,146	1,802	1,446	1,794	1,699	1,032	1,240	1,596	1,258	1,646
3rd "	1,868	1,731	1,150	1,930	1,391	1,782	1,718	1,034	1,248	1,593	1,308	1,669
4th "	1,812	1,765	1,130	1,908	1,374	1,730	1,724	1,030	1,231	1,551	1,300	1,676

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1923	1,700	1,687	1,580	1,736	1,495	1,773	1,702	1,462	1,495	1,571	1,546	1,678
1924	1,769	1,663	1,570	1,763	1,500	1,759	1,643	1,425	1,450	1,520	1,537	1,622
1925	1,817	1,749	1,691	1,749	1,500	1,805	1,694	1,439	1,450	1,577	1,533	1,673
1926	1,852	1,793	1,810	1,806	1,542	1,744	1,515	1,574	1,589	1,551	1,551	1,725
1927	1,834	1,796	1,776	1,848	1,544	1,823	1,724	1,492	1,559	1,630	1,546	1,706
1926 1st Qtr.	1,831	1,785	1,722	1,798	1,454	1,823	1,724	1,509	1,554	1,630	1,522	1,705
2nd "	1,876	1,816	1,704	1,820	1,693	1,867	1,780	1,538	1,611	1,726	1,594	1,777
3rd "	1,849	1,734	1,724	1,797	1,665	1,838	1,736	1,517	1,562	1,635	1,563	1,718
4th "	1,850	1,787	1,701	1,823	1,651	1,839	1,719	1,496	1,568	1,604	1,523	1,700
1927 1st Qtr.	1,834	1,765	1,724	1,822	1,666	1,826	1,698	1,496	1,567	1,672	1,518	1,692
2nd "	1,816	1,763	1,760	1,806	1,639	1,807	1,694	1,471	1,554	1,679	1,519	1,678
3rd "	1,815	1,762	1,795	1,867	1,625	1,810	1,755	1,451	1,625	1,702	1,567	1,737
4th "	1,871	1,845	1,812	1,898	1,646	1,868	1,747	1,499	1,611	1,706	1,562	1,729

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

Retail Price Index—Numbers 30 Towns 1923 to 1927: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (a) (= 1,000)—continued.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Renfrew, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).												
1923 ..	1,693	1,679	1,738	1,825	1,077	1,700	1,823	1,777	1,809	1,754	1,801	1,819
1924 ..	1,690	1,600	1,679	1,841	1,625	1,686	1,791	1,756	1,820	1,692	1,817	1,790
1925 ..	1,734	1,674	1,749	1,875	1,868	1,734	1,840	1,854	1,934	1,753	1,939	1,844
1926 ..	1,788	1,770	1,874	2,030	1,796	1,803	1,869	1,926	1,895	1,830	1,982	1,876
1927 ..	1,680	1,631	1,796	2,036	1,733	1,761	1,841	1,915	1,916	1,815	1,971	1,848
1926 1st Qtr.	1,773	1,730	1,834	1,967	1,726	1,781	1,861	1,902	1,998	1,778	1,924	1,867
2nd "	1,778	1,791	1,866	2,026	1,810	1,798	1,967	1,938	2,064	1,885	2,046	1,971
3rd "	1,796	1,782	1,892	2,041	1,807	1,812	1,839	1,908	1,979	1,953	1,985	1,848
4th "	1,805	1,775	1,885	2,088	1,830	1,821	1,808	1,905	1,939	1,804	1,973	1,818
1927 1st Qtr.	1,719	1,712	1,856	2,118	1,788	1,746	1,831	1,916	1,928	1,814	1,966	1,823
2nd "	1,642	1,585	1,707	2,008	1,695	1,662	1,822	1,915	1,903	1,795	1,952	1,830
3rd "	1,667	1,595	1,780	2,001	1,718	1,685	1,873	1,913	1,922	1,833	1,968	1,877
4th "	1,692	1,630	1,783	2,016	1,733	1,708	1,839	1,916	1,911	1,816	1,995	1,846
1927.												
January ..	1,762	1,782	1,912	2,186	1,860	1,794	1,828	1,937	1,951	1,830	1,991	1,839
February ..	1,705	1,697	1,849	2,160	1,772	1,735	1,820	1,898	1,916	1,812	1,960	1,836
March ..	1,691	1,657	1,808	2,103	1,730	1,714	1,834	1,912	1,917	1,801	1,946	1,841
April ..	1,630	1,592	1,753	2,012	1,690	1,653	1,800	1,912	1,906	1,792	1,942	1,810
May ..	1,648	1,589	1,771	2,004	1,687	1,668	1,812	1,917	1,898	1,791	1,951	1,821
June ..	1,649	1,573	1,775	2,009	1,707	1,668	1,853	1,916	1,905	1,803	1,962	1,858
July ..	1,640	1,566	1,764	1,999	1,695	1,659	1,856	1,910	1,898	1,799	1,950	1,859
August ..	1,667	1,587	1,765	1,987	1,719	1,682	1,890	1,928	1,941	1,854	1,983	1,902
September ..	1,690	1,632	1,811	2,018	1,741	1,713	1,866	1,899	1,927	1,846	1,971	1,870
October ..	1,709	1,647	1,818	2,021	1,749	1,718	1,896	1,900	1,919	1,817	1,995	1,843
November ..	1,704	1,644	1,798	2,028	1,742	1,720	1,833	1,895	1,883	1,805	1,967	1,838
December ..	1,672	1,600	1,750	1,988	1,709	1,685	1,848	1,950	1,930	1,825	2,025	1,857

HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1923 ..	1,151	983	774	893	981	1,092	1,450	1,064	990	805	1,008	1,405
1924 ..	1,157	1,083	799	911	1,097	1,106	1,540	990	905	810	1,225	1,485
1925 ..	1,165	1,139	1,027	921	1,087	1,141	1,576	869	1,049	821	1,270	1,514
1926 ..	1,333	1,208	1,083	929	1,168	1,283	1,516	825	1,135	865	1,219	1,461
1927 ..	1,361	1,215	1,141	922	1,219	1,312	1,540	831	1,145	835	1,309	1,484
1926 1st Qtr.	1,332	1,201	1,075	906	1,150	1,280	1,529	814	1,133	865	1,118	1,472
2nd "	1,332	1,208	1,078	906	1,150	1,281	1,629	814	1,133	865	1,118	1,472
3rd "	1,334	1,208	1,078	953	1,185	1,285	1,500	844	1,133	865	1,319	1,449
4th "	1,334	1,218	1,102	953	1,185	1,288	1,504	829	1,138	865	1,319	1,452
1927 1st Qtr.	1,334	1,212	1,155	922	1,150	1,290	1,520	843	1,133	821	1,375	1,406
2nd "	1,334	1,220	1,174	922	1,242	1,295	1,520	851	1,148	821	1,274	1,466
3rd "	1,386	1,213	1,121	922	1,242	1,329	1,561	825	1,147	821	1,279	1,502
4th "	1,389	1,217	1,113	922	1,242	1,352	1,559	803	1,143	878	1,300	1,500

FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.

1923 ..	1,490	1,418	1,376	1,475	1,416	1,472	1,683	1,509	1,502	1,397	1,503	1,664
1924 ..	1,490	1,385	1,349	1,492	1,427	1,468	1,697	1,499	1,514	1,361	1,595	1,675
1925 ..	1,521	1,478	1,478	1,517	1,450	1,511	1,741	1,484	1,602	1,409	1,688	1,720
1926 ..	1,617	1,569	1,577	1,617	1,560	1,608	1,738	1,513	1,672	1,468	1,695	1,720
1927 ..	1,560	1,475	1,550	1,617	1,546	1,554	1,728	1,508	1,627	1,447	1,722	1,711
1926 1st Qtr.	1,607	1,532	1,549	1,568	1,510	1,592	1,736	1,494	1,673	1,485	1,621	1,719
2nd "	1,610	1,572	1,583	1,605	1,562	1,604	1,803	1,547	1,715	1,502	1,697	1,783
3rd "	1,622	1,567	1,587	1,629	1,574	1,614	1,711	1,500	1,662	1,482	1,735	1,698
4th "	1,628	1,565	1,591	1,662	1,593	1,621	1,694	1,501	1,638	1,451	1,728	1,680
1927 1st Qtr.	1,575	1,524	1,593	1,669	1,548	1,575	1,714	1,513	1,630	1,441	1,744	1,699
2nd "	1,527	1,448	1,544	1,600	1,525	1,525	1,700	1,516	1,619	1,429	1,697	1,693
3rd "	1,562	1,452	1,532	1,586	1,539	1,551	1,756	1,504	1,635	1,453	1,709	1,736
4th "	1,578	1,475	1,531	1,605	1,540	1,566	1,734	1,497	1,622	1,464	1,738	1,716

(a) See note at head of page 17.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1923 to 1927: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1921 as Base (b) (= 1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam (a).	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie (c).	Devonport (c).	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).														
1923 ..	1,828	2,104	1,902	1,840	1,018	1,861	1,863	1,820	1,893	1,855	1,953	1,854	1,805	1,808
1924 ..	1,801	2,122	1,916	1,940	1,955	1,918	1,848	1,836	1,879	1,864	2,016	1,858	1,732	1,738
1925 ..	1,938	2,144	2,012	2,009	2,007	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	2,000	1,902	1,808	1,843	1,890	1,855	2,084	1,871	1,829	1,837
1927 ..	1,786	2,052	1,963	1,952	1,998	1,834	1,768	1,765	1,813	1,799	1,977	1,790	1,789	1,786
1926 1st Qtr.	1,854	2,121	1,991	1,932	1,989	1,879	1,879	1,824	1,902	1,890	2,082	1,872	1,809	1,816
2nd "	1,940	2,182	2,095	2,057	2,053	1,973	1,911	1,885	1,945	1,915	2,118	1,916	1,888	1,893
3rd "	1,861	2,135	2,010	2,037	2,012	1,900	1,860	1,862	1,895	1,899	2,085	1,871	1,820	1,827
4th "	1,807	2,057	1,974	1,995	1,982	1,845	1,822	1,789	1,853	1,858	2,090	1,824	1,803	1,810
1927 1st Qtr.	1,812	2,058	1,953	2,004	1,980	1,848	1,812	1,801	1,810	1,844	2,008	1,818	1,782	1,792
2nd "	1,828	2,086	2,000	1,983	1,960	1,865	1,787	1,770	1,824	1,796	1,963	1,790	1,758	1,766
3rd "	1,775	2,053	1,950	1,983	1,950	1,810	1,785	1,756	1,827	1,819	1,980	1,793	1,704	1,801
4th "	1,769	2,012	1,939	1,980	1,971	1,807	1,760	1,733	1,801	1,737	1,955	1,760	1,820	1,825
1927.														
January ..	1,814	2,053	1,966	1,906	1,986	1,850	1,835	1,814	1,847	1,865	2,051	1,830	1,825	1,894
February ..	1,805	2,065	1,940	2,003	1,987	1,843	1,806	1,806	1,822	1,845	2,010	1,816	1,774	1,784
March ..	1,816	2,057	1,945	2,013	1,966	1,851	1,795	1,784	1,785	1,824	1,956	1,799	1,740	1,757
April ..	1,822	2,073	1,998	2,009	1,979	1,853	1,779	1,796	1,796	1,805	1,940	1,791	1,748	1,757
May ..	1,839	2,050	2,010	1,976	1,981	1,874	1,790	1,781	1,839	1,764	1,959	1,788	1,757	1,766
June ..	1,823	2,095	1,982	1,969	1,959	1,860	1,791	1,753	1,830	1,830	1,960	1,791	1,720	1,777
July ..	1,777	2,072	1,948	1,960	1,956	1,819	1,791	1,751	1,803	1,818	1,963	1,788	1,757	1,766
August ..	1,771	2,053	1,950	1,953	1,959	1,812	1,792	1,757	1,835	1,845	1,988	1,794	1,804	1,810
September ..	1,777	2,038	1,969	1,976	1,955	1,816	1,801	1,759	1,839	1,794	1,989	1,797	1,821	1,826
October ..	1,780	2,026	1,965	1,986	1,974	1,826	1,791	1,746	1,837	1,775	1,980	1,780	1,842	1,846
November ..	1,786	2,018	1,965	2,001	1,900	1,823	1,741	1,717	1,788	1,724	1,953	1,742	1,824	1,828
December ..	1,734	1,900	1,887	1,953	1,945	1,773	1,749	1,736	1,780	1,711	1,932	1,751	1,794	1,801
HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).														
1923 ..	1,294	943	1,121	1,154	1,349	1,252	1,603	1,247	1,269	1,296	810	1,384	1,553	1,491
1924 ..	1,311	919	1,330	1,168	1,349	1,268	1,592	1,272	1,900	1,277	810	1,440	1,615	1,651
1925 ..	1,340	898	1,405	1,167	1,398	1,293	1,649	1,319	1,339	1,247	810	1,405	1,647	1,689
1926 ..	1,468	897	1,403	1,150	1,409	1,400	1,628	1,302	1,284	1,240	648	1,470	1,677	1,622
1927 ..	1,507	885	1,462	1,165	1,422	1,432	1,578	1,286	1,259	1,315	693	1,435	1,684	1,632
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	1,615
2nd "	1,472	891	1,391	1,102	1,408	1,402	1,595	1,309	1,283	1,232	676	1,452	1,679	1,624
3rd "	1,476	893	1,395	1,162	1,408	1,406	1,639	1,309	1,302	1,228	613	1,477	1,678	1,624
4th "	1,466	895	1,429	1,159	1,403	1,397	1,654	1,283	1,258	1,256	626	1,479	1,680	1,625
1927 1st Qtr.	1,482	884	1,429	1,185	1,408	1,411	1,599	1,267	1,265	1,253	626	1,442	1,673	1,622
2nd "	1,490	884	1,429	1,185	1,403	1,409	1,586	1,249	1,257	1,196	626	1,426	1,678	1,626
3rd "	1,527	886	1,475	1,153	1,435	1,449	1,574	1,306	1,257	1,223	724	1,439	1,690	1,638
4th "	1,538	886	1,516	1,138	1,435	1,459	1,556	1,324	1,257	1,187	798	1,435	1,694	1,644
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.														
1923 ..	1,627	1,666	1,646	1,582	1,705	1,632	1,728	1,605	1,652	1,619	1,524	1,078	1,710	1,689
1924 ..	1,673	1,670	1,696	1,646	1,746	1,674	1,753	1,625	1,662	1,643	1,564	1,701	1,698	1,669
1925 ..	1,714	1,676	1,785	1,693	1,809	1,713	1,750	1,616	1,640	1,623	1,582	1,606	1,793	1,715
1926 ..	1,717	1,664	1,787	1,687	1,784	1,713	1,778	1,640	1,668	1,643	1,645	1,720	1,722	1,756
1927 ..	1,667	1,614	1,775	1,675	1,763	1,683	1,710	1,585	1,608	1,580	1,695	1,657	1,749	1,734
1926 1st Qtr.	1,706	1,666	1,768	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	1,697	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	1,670	1,779	1,708	1,785	1,714	1,777	1,654	1,672	1,641	1,532	1,723	1,766	1,761
4th "	1,679	1,621	1,770	1,683	1,767	1,677	1,759	1,599	1,630	1,632	1,515	1,695	1,757	1,741
1927 1st Qtr.	1,688	1,617	1,750	1,697	1,765	1,684	1,732	1,600	1,611	1,622	1,489	1,676	1,741	1,728
2nd "	1,697	1,635	1,785	1,683	1,757	1,694	1,711	1,574	1,613	1,571	1,461	1,653	1,728	1,714
3rd "	1,682	1,615	1,777	1,658	1,761	1,678	1,712	1,587	1,613	1,595	1,508	1,690	1,755	1,740
4th "	1,682	1,589	1,780	1,664	1,770	1,676	1,684	1,579	1,597	1,530	1,520	1,638	1,773	1,757

(a) The Towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zeehan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). (b) See note at head of page 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 17 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	Brisbane	210	Adelaide	255	Perth, etc.	165	Hobart	52
Newcastle	84	Baharat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadlna, etc	13	Kalg'lie, etc	19	Launceston	24
Broken Hill	26	Bendigo ..	30	Rockham'n	24	Pt. Pirie	10	Northam	4	Burnie ..	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chrs. Twrs.	9	Mt. Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	5
Bathurst	9	W'nambo'l	8	Warwick	6	Peterbor'gh	2	Geraldton	4	Queenst'wn	3

The weights used are based on the 1921 Census populations, and represent, 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 1925 to 1927 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.	1925.			1926.			1927.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,115	702	1,817	1,166	686	1,852	1,153	681	1,834
Newcastle	1,325	621	1,746	1,155	638	1,793	1,144	652	1,796
Broken Hill	1,315	376	1,601	1,322	413	1,735	1,345	425	1,770
Goulburn	1,115	634	1,749	1,156	654	1,810	1,150	698	1,848
Bathurst	1,074	516	1,590	1,119	547	1,666	1,112	532	1,644
Weighted Average ..	1,120	685	1,805	1,168	674	1,842	1,157	671	1,829
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	1,092	602	1,694	1,108	636	1,744	1,082	642	1,724
Ballarat	1,101	388	1,489	1,131	384	1,515	1,105	387	1,492
Bendigo	1,111	409	1,520	1,125	449	1,574	1,106	483	1,539
Geelong	1,081	498	1,577	1,100	589	1,639	1,078	612	1,600
Warrnambool	1,074	459	1,533	1,096	455	1,551	1,000	486	1,546
Weighted Average ..	1,092	581	1,673	1,109	616	1,725	1,083	623	1,706
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	1,083	438	1,521	1,116	501	1,617	1,049	511	1,560
Toowoomba	1,045	428	1,473	1,105	454	1,559	1,018	457	1,475
Rockhampton	1,092	386	1,478	1,170	407	1,577	1,122	428	1,550
Charters Towers ..	1,171	346	1,517	1,268	349	1,617	1,271	346	1,617
Warwick	1,042	408	1,460	1,121	439	1,560	1,082	458	1,540
Weighted Average ..	1,083	428	1,511	1,126	482	1,608	1,062	492	1,554
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	1,149	592	1,741	1,167	569	1,736	1,150	578	1,728
Kadina, &c.	1,153	320	1,484	1,203	310	1,513	1,190	312	1,508
Port Pirie	1,203	391	1,602	1,246	426	1,672	1,196	481	1,627
Mount Gambier ..	1,095	368	1,403	1,143	325	1,468	1,133	314	1,447
Peterborough	1,211	477	1,638	1,238	457	1,695	1,231	491	1,722
Weighted Average ..	1,152	568	1,720	1,171	549	1,720	1,154	557	1,711
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth, &c.	1,210	504	1,714	1,165	552	1,717	1,122	565	1,687
Kalgoorlie, &c. ..	1,339	337	1,676	1,327	337	1,664	1,282	332	1,614
Northam	1,257	628	1,785	1,260	527	1,787	1,226	549	1,775
Runbury	1,255	438	1,693	1,253	434	1,687	1,238	437	1,675
Geraldton	1,284	525	1,809	1,255	529	1,784	1,229	534	1,703
Weighted Average ..	1,228	485	1,713	1,188	525	1,713	1,145	538	1,683
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,181	619	1,750	1,167	611	1,778	1,117	593	1,710
Launceston	1,121	495	1,616	1,151	489	1,640	1,102	483	1,585
Burnie	1,137	503	1,640	1,186	482	1,668	1,135	473	1,608
Devonport	1,155	463	1,623	1,177	466	1,643	1,123	457	1,580
Queenstown	1,278	304	1,632	1,301	244	1,545	1,234	261	1,495
Weighted Average ..	1,135	561	1,696	1,168	552	1,720	1,118	539	1,657
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	1,118	597	1,715	1,147	609	1,756	1,121	613	1,734
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	1,114	619	1,733	1,142	630	1,772	1,117	632	1,749

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 1927, the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and housing being £1,734, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £1,121 (1st column), and the average rental £613, the sum of the two latter amounts being £1,734. In addition to showing the relative cost of food and groceries and house rent 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 1927, commodities which would cost £1,153 in Sydney can be purchased for £1,082 in Melbourne, or £1,150 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent, an expenditure of £1,724 in Melbourne is equivalent to £1,834 in Sydney, £1,728 in Adelaide, £1,614 in Kalgoorlie, or £1,763 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 23s. 0d. 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; $23s. 0d. \times \frac{463}{642} = 17s. 4d.$

(ii.) *Food and Groceries.*—The weighted average of the five towns was below the weighted average for all towns for 1927 in Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania, and above it in the other States.

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

(iv.) *Food and Groceries and Housing combined.*—The average cost of food, groceries, and housing in 1927 was greatest in Goulburn, followed by Sydney, Newcastle, and Northam, and was least in Mt. Gambier and Toowoomba.

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. 11d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1927 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 1927 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 in 1911 in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
1907	s. d. 18 9	s. d. 18 6	s. d. 18 11	s. d. 19 0	s. d. 23 11	s. d. 20 2	s. d. 19 1
1911	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0a
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
1927	36 11	34 8	33 7	36 10	35 11	35 9	35 9
1927 1st Qtr.	36 11	34 0	34 5	36 7	36 3	36 3	35 8
„ 2nd Qtr.	36 2	33 10	32 10	36 5	36 7	35 9	35 2
„ 3rd Qtr.	36 4	35 7	33 4	37 6	35 6	35 11	35 11
„ 4th Qtr.	38 2	35 3	33 10	36 9	35 5	35 2	36 5
HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).							
1907	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 9	20 0a
1921	32 4	26 10	20 7	26 6	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
1927	38 3	34 2	27 3	30 10	30 2	31 7	33 8
1927 1st Qtr.	36 3	34 0	26 8	30 5	29 8	32 0	33 6
„ 2nd Qtr.	36 6	34 0	26 8	30 5	29 7	31 9	33 7
„ 3rd Qtr.	36 2	34 4	27 9	31 3	30 7	31 6	33 10
„ 4th Qtr.	36 3	34 6	27 9	31 2	30 9	31 1	33 11
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.							
1907	19 0	17 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0a
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
1927	36 8	34 6	31 2	34 7	33 9	34 2	35 0
1927 1st Qtr.	36 8	34 0	31 6	34 3	33 9	34 8	34 10
„ 2nd Qtr.	36 4	33 11	30 7	34 2	33 11	34 3	34 7
„ 3rd Qtr.	36 4	35 1	31 3	35 1	33 8	34 3	35 1
„ 4th Qtr.	37 5	34 11	31 7	34 8	33 8	33 8	35 6

(a) Base of each Section.

10. Price Details, 1927.—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; 1926, No. 17; and 1927 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 1927, 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 1927 compared with 1907 is 93.39 per cent., of which percentage 59.92 is due to increased cost of food and groceries, and 33.47 to increase in house rents.

Variation per cent. in Price Index-Numbers, Capital Cities, in 1927, compared with years specified.

Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average for 6 Capital Cities.
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VARIATION DUE TO FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).

1907	93.39	101.08	103.98	90.42	64.02	94.46	94.29
1911	75.00	84.63	80.45	61.47	45.18	82.26	74.91
1914	54.31	61.60	62.65	48.86	43.65	59.05	56.10
1922	8.25	9.75	9.31	8.45	6.76	4.85	8.68
1923	2.46	1.30	4.76	2.67	3.70	-1.04	2.29
1924	3.66	4.92	4.73	1.83	0.86	-2.45	3.62
1925	0.90	1.78	2.62	-0.73	-1.52	-2.30	0.91
1926	-0.96	-1.19	-3.50	-0.46	-1.70	-3.85	-1.30

VARIATION DUE TO PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.

1907	59.92	58.78	59.89	61.23	36.34	55.28	57.98
1911	51.04	53.29	47.85	47.95	24.19	48.63	49.24
1914	36.26	37.55	39.21	33.70	26.27	33.48	35.94
1922	5.28	3.49	3.18	4.61	0.80	-0.21	4.07
1923	0.89	-2.58	-0.52	0.67	-1.22	-2.69	-0.59
1924	4.02	1.81	-0.40	1.83	-3.53	-2.16	2.08
1925	2.05	-0.58	-2.20	0.03	-5.18	-0.79	0.12
1926	-0.70	-1.51	-4.15	-0.99	-2.54	-2.80	-1.44

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

1907	33.47	42.30	44.09	29.19	27.68	39.18	36.31
1911	23.96	31.34	32.60	13.52	20.99	33.63	25.67
1914	18.05	24.05	23.44	15.16	17.38	25.57	20.16
1922	2.97	6.26	6.13	3.84	5.96	5.06	4.61
1923	1.57	3.88	5.28	2.00	4.92	1.65	2.88
1924	-0.36	3.11	5.13	..	4.39	-0.29	1.54
1925	-1.15	2.36	4.82	-0.76	3.66	-1.51	0.79
1926	-0.26	0.32	0.65	-0.53	0.84	-1.05	0.14

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

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

1. **General.**—In the following Section the results are published of investigations into retail price variations of all items ordinarily entering into household expenditure classified into four main groups:—Food and Groceries; Rent; Clothing; and Miscellaneous.

The tabulation by the Bureau was undertaken as a result of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which was appointed in 1919, 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

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)." After consulting the Commonwealth Statistician as to methods of collection and tabulation, the Government decided that the recommendation would be met by widening the scope of inquiries of this nature already made by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

The results of the investigations by the Bureau into the variations in the cost of living since 1920 according to this standard are given hereafter.

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 (Miscellaneous).

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.

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

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

With regard to miscellaneous expenditure, inquiries were made regarding cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, and other items in the "Indicator Lists", and the aggregate expenditure thereon has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

The item "groceries (not food)" has been omitted from miscellaneous expenditure, though it was so described by the Commission, as the index-numbers already published by this Bureau cover the articles allowed for under this heading, such as soap, starch, blue, &c.

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

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

5. **Rental Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov., 1914, to 4th Quarter, 1927.**—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.															
	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mootna, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov 1914 ..	903	1,632	1,615	1,482	1,600	1,583	900	1,439	1,461	1,539	1,461	1,580	1,736	1,704	1,748	1,727	1,612	1,601	1,488	1,571	1,587	1,609	1,762	1,586	1,654	1,563
Year 1921 ..	1,003	1,003	1,743	1,618	1,341	1,593	1,572	1,464	1,506	1,487	1,583	1,422	1,642	1,618	1,703	1,618	1,612	1,601	1,587	1,642	1,618	1,687	1,712	1,592	1,482	1,487
Year 1923 ..	1,088	1,003	1,706	1,642	1,408	1,577	1,469	1,487	1,508	1,474	1,563	1,470	1,632	1,626	1,749	1,678	1,612	1,613	1,602	1,639	1,626	1,749	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,571
" 1924 ..	1,511	1,528	1,571	1,896	1,657	1,509	1,528	1,487	1,562	1,509	1,571	1,581	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
" 1925 ..	1,557	1,571	1,896	1,657	1,509	1,505	1,548	1,580	1,572	1,536	1,505	1,608	1,587	1,688	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
" 1926 ..	1,628	1,614	1,846	1,615	1,600	1,632	1,511	1,580	1,572	1,544	1,505	1,608	1,587	1,688	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
" 1927 ..	1,610	1,508	1,879	1,600	1,553	1,615	1,511	1,544	1,536	1,544	1,505	1,608	1,587	1,688	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
1927 1st Qtr.	1,610	1,605	1,829	1,600	1,583	1,616	1,481	1,536	1,539	1,539	1,493	1,461	1,580	1,609	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
" 2nd "	1,579	1,560	1,843	1,678	1,630	1,584	1,470	1,514	1,487	1,514	1,487	1,461	1,580	1,609	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
" 3rd "	1,586	1,587	1,905	1,598	1,579	1,583	1,481	1,470	1,474	1,474	1,487	1,461	1,580	1,609	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585
" 4th "	1,564	1,640	1,938	1,631	1,579	1,603	1,530	1,538	1,563	1,563	1,517	1,490	1,580	1,609	1,688	1,688	1,632	1,630	1,602	1,686	1,673	1,785	1,727	1,584	1,584	1,585

(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.	Warrambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,168	1,364	862	1,357	919	1,488	937	738	812	1,030	1,038	1,216
Year 1923 ..	1,452	1,355	838	1,450	984	1,587	1,303	808	828	1,080	1,158	1,392
" 1924 ..	1,726	1,433	878	1,655	1,183	1,674	1,446	806	838	1,180	1,188	1,427
" 1925 ..	1,783	1,559	944	1,691	1,293	1,719	1,464	809	850	1,184	1,186	1,459
" 1926 ..	1,782	1,602	1,038	1,641	1,275	1,719	1,512	818	878	1,247	1,192	1,469
" 1927 ..	1,710	1,638	1,063	1,754	1,375	1,609	1,595	803	1,026	1,479	1,441	1,546
1927 1st. Qtr.	1,709	1,622	1,042	1,700	1,368	1,631	1,601	870	1,173	1,506	1,166	1,452
" 2nd "	1,719	1,622	1,080	1,699	1,386	1,691	1,602	873	1,177	1,543	1,180	1,455
" 3rd "	1,705	1,622	1,084	1,819	1,312	1,689	1,629	872	1,232	1,543	1,234	1,474
" 4th "	1,708	1,683	1,035	1,799	1,296	1,687	1,626	871	1,253	1,587	1,282	1,589

Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moolta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	714	843	724	814	824	915	942	872	939	759	872	1,004
Year 1923 ..	1,085	927	730	842	925	1,029	1,262	1,003	934	750	960	1,325
" 1924 ..	1,091	974	764	869	1,034	1,043	1,367	935	947	774	1,165	1,427
" 1925 ..	1,096	1,074	968	868	1,025	1,076	1,452	819	989	774	1,107	1,400
" 1926 ..	1,257	1,139	1,021	876	1,101	1,210	1,429	1,070	815	815	1,149	1,377
" 1927 ..	1,283	1,139	1,073	800	1,149	1,236	1,452	783	1,080	787	1,234	1,399
1927 1st. Qtr.	1,258	1,143	1,089	869	1,084	1,217	1,433	795	1,099	774	1,206	1,392
" 2nd "	1,258	1,150	1,108	869	1,171	1,221	1,437	808	1,092	774	1,201	1,382
" 3rd "	1,306	1,144	1,056	809	1,171	1,253	1,472	778	1,091	774	1,206	1,416
" 4th "	1,300	1,147	1,049	869	1,171	1,255	1,470	757	1,077	828	1,234	1,415

Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Ave'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Lanceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	904	892	940	1,000	1,201	1,094	810	1,341	1,042	484	231	1,000.	1,068
Year 1923 ..	1,162	899	1,057	1,088	1,272	1,181	1,417	1,175	1,196	1,166	764	1,357	1,498
" 1924 ..	1,220	899	1,254	1,091	1,272	1,196	1,501	1,200	1,228	1,204	744	1,464	1,482
" 1925 ..	1,276	846	1,325	1,101	1,318	1,219	1,555	1,243	1,253	1,176	744	1,410	1,498
" 1926 ..	1,985	846	1,328	1,098	1,328	1,320	1,635	1,228	1,210	1,179	611	1,396	1,539
" 1927 ..	1,421	895	1,378	1,098	1,340	1,350	1,488	1,273	1,137	1,145	654	1,388	1,539
1927 1st. Qtr.	1,598	834	1,347	1,117	1,328	1,380	1,507	1,194	1,193	1,182	590	1,368	1,578
" 2nd "	1,396	834	1,347	1,117	1,328	1,495	1,495	1,178	1,185	1,128	590	1,344	1,582
" 3rd "	1,440	835	1,390	1,087	1,353	1,668	1,484	1,231	1,185	1,113	683	1,357	1,545
" 4th "	1,450	835	1,429	1,072	1,358	1,378	1,497	1,249	1,185	1,119	782	1,382	1,560

(d) Base.

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

Period.	N. S. W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N. S. W.	Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	1,037	1,407	1,236	1,138	1,266	1,409	952	1,154	1,112	1,311	1,329	1,301		
Year 1913 ..	1,617	1,416	1,418	1,458	1,348	1,573	1,367	1,312	1,232	1,310	1,397	1,309		
" 1912 ..	1,606	1,428	1,410	1,483	1,340	1,572	1,427	1,312	1,302	1,300	1,377	1,309		
" 1911 ..	1,631	1,482	1,517	1,482	1,457	1,623	1,420	1,338	1,304	1,415	1,378	1,405		
" 1910 ..	1,692	1,509	1,547	1,524	1,479	1,692	1,466	1,360	1,412	1,415	1,378	1,402		
" 1909 ..	1,930	1,892	1,850	1,669	1,473	1,930	1,606	1,359	1,430	1,517	1,392	1,346		
1927 1st Qtr.	1,646	1,611	1,643	1,636	1,495	1,639	1,524	1,334	1,406	1,501	1,369	1,509		
" 2nd "	1,623	1,582	1,611	1,675	1,455	1,625	1,367	1,356	1,439	1,527	1,303	1,509		
" 3rd "	1,620	1,600	1,611	1,675	1,455	1,625	1,375	1,354	1,439	1,527	1,303	1,509		
" 4th "	1,650	1,656	1,626	1,704	1,478	1,675	1,568	1,345	1,446	1,532	1,420	1,532		
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 ..	870	1,198	1,210	1,274	1,223	1,279	1,021	1,259	1,312	1,196	1,311	1,315		
Year 1913 ..	1,394	1,272	1,235	1,323	1,271	1,321	1,304	1,355	1,348	1,254	1,449	1,448		
" 1912 ..	1,387	1,245	1,211	1,339	1,250	1,318	1,623	1,318	1,358	1,221	1,451	1,448		
" 1911 ..	1,366	1,322	1,277	1,301	1,301	1,357	1,562	1,352	1,468	1,259	1,515	1,543		
" 1910 ..	1,451	1,369	1,410	1,451	1,400	1,443	1,558	1,358	1,501	1,317	1,522	1,544		
" 1909 ..	1,400	1,324	1,391	1,452	1,352	1,395	1,561	1,353	1,460	1,298	1,546	1,536		
1927 1st Qtr.	1,418	1,368	1,430	1,498	1,389	1,414	1,536	1,365	1,453	1,303	1,506	1,525		
" 2nd "	1,370	1,339	1,386	1,436	1,368	1,368	1,533	1,390	1,453	1,283	1,523	1,520		
" 3rd "	1,402	1,303	1,376	1,432	1,381	1,392	1,570	1,350	1,467	1,304	1,534	1,508		
" 4th "	1,416	1,324	1,374	1,440	1,300	1,406	1,556	1,344	1,456	1,314	1,500	1,540		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avge, Tas.	Weighted Average of Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,071	1,441	1,395	1,409	1,463	1,426	978	1,333	1,273	1,031	1,352	1,415	1,004	1,437
Year 1913 ..	1,423	1,480	1,477	1,450	1,530	1,405	1,551	1,440	1,483	1,453	1,397	1,506	1,516	1,437
" 1912 ..	1,400	1,491	1,522	1,471	1,567	1,503	1,573	1,458	1,491	1,475	1,408	1,527	1,516	1,437
" 1911 ..	1,568	1,504	1,602	1,519	1,624	1,537	1,571	1,450	1,472	1,457	1,450	1,522	1,556	1,487
" 1910 ..	1,541	1,493	1,604	1,514	1,601	1,538	1,566	1,422	1,497	1,475	1,386	1,534	1,591	1,487
" 1909 ..	1,534	1,440	1,598	1,504	1,582	1,510	1,534	1,433	1,443	1,418	1,341	1,467	1,570	1,557
1927 1st Qtr.	1,515	1,452	1,576	1,538	1,584	1,511	1,534	1,436	1,446	1,456	1,337	1,508	1,563	1,551
" 2nd "	1,453	1,449	1,502	1,511	1,577	1,520	1,536	1,413	1,410	1,311	1,434	1,538	1,538	1,538
" 3rd "	1,509	1,439	1,535	1,483	1,580	1,506	1,537	1,454	1,448	1,432	1,354	1,480	1,575	1,551
" 4th "	1,510	1,426	1,537	1,493	1,593	1,504	1,511	1,417	1,433	1,376	1,365	1,470	1,591	1,577

(a) Base.

Shopping.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns : Weighted Average Six Capital Cities Nov., 1924, 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 ..	1,000	1,700	1,083	1,522	1,072	1,070	1,035	2,130	2,082	1,940	2,138	1,758
Year 1923 ..	1,317	1,436	1,309	1,681	1,410	1,330	1,483	1,489	1,409	1,481	1,656	1,458
" 1924 ..	1,241	1,631	1,178	1,667	1,361	1,282	1,357	1,334	1,571	1,403	1,602	1,363
" 1925 ..	1,240	1,803	1,176	1,669	1,309	1,268	1,514	1,377	1,266	1,388	1,611	1,350
" 1926 ..	1,256	1,830	1,170	1,647	1,401	1,264	1,208	1,430	1,306	1,305	1,609	1,308
" 1927 ..	1,242	1,828	1,170	1,641	1,297	1,251	1,203	1,418	1,310	1,376	1,511	1,304
1927 1st Qtr.	1,227	1,308	1,158	1,540	1,308	1,237	1,201	1,415	1,316	1,376	1,500	1,302
" 2nd "	1,230	1,354	1,187	1,641	1,308	1,242	1,204	1,417	1,350	1,372	1,612	1,305
" 3rd "	1,250	1,344	1,176	1,541	1,300	1,260	1,204	1,416	1,319	1,374	1,508	1,307
" 4th "	1,258	1,398	1,194	1,641	1,270	1,266	1,200	1,423	1,319	1,378	1,529	1,311

Period	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov 1914 ..	872	1,207	1,226	2,079	2,016	1,638	1,092	1,903	3,251	1,666	1,666	1,641
Year 1923 ..	1,426	1,483	1,483	1,344	1,402	1,427	1,441	1,470	3,308	1,604	1,417	1,443
" 1924 ..	1,378	1,445	1,421	1,269	1,413	1,386	1,451	1,421	3,408	1,657	1,364	1,440
" 1925 ..	1,369	1,422	1,377	1,190	1,395	1,368	1,442	1,409	3,390	1,626	1,471	1,442
" 1926 ..	1,337	1,308	1,410	1,193	1,464	1,345	1,440	1,375	3,350	1,617	1,471	1,442
" 1927 ..	1,280	1,368	1,410	1,102	1,405	1,293	1,415	1,383	3,347	1,600	1,462	1,444
1927 1st Qtr.	1,305	1,388	1,394	1,129	1,405	1,309	1,443	1,363	3,392	1,481	1,458	1,439
" 2nd "	1,205	1,390	1,386	1,065	1,407	1,304	1,408	1,387	3,341	1,608	1,478	1,408
" 3rd "	1,270	1,384	1,344	1,089	1,407	1,284	1,398	1,384	3,341	1,468	1,448	1,408
" 4th "	1,261	1,410	1,380	1,086	1,400	1,277	1,412	1,398	3,372	1,488	1,448	1,413

Period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av ge, Tas.	Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov 1914 ..	920	1,634	1,634	1,634	1,634	1,634	1,004	2,214	2,022	1,863	1,904	2,000	1,000	1,110
Year 1923 ..	1,506	1,512	1,353	1,470	1,419	1,404	1,663	1,548	1,467	1,437	1,629	1,636	1,288	1,387
" 1924 ..	1,346	1,517	1,248	1,376	1,310	1,366	1,406	1,513	1,417	1,372	1,679	1,330	1,387	1,330
" 1925 ..	1,341	1,500	1,323	1,376	1,311	1,352	1,620	1,438	1,378	1,340	1,604	1,443	1,330	1,330
" 1926 ..	1,330	1,502	1,268	1,347	1,309	1,347	1,623	1,430	1,365	1,332	1,487	1,308	1,308	1,317
" 1927 ..	1,344	1,381	1,282	1,386	1,386	1,366	1,464	1,429	1,392	1,394	1,442	1,302	1,302	1,302
1927 1st Qtr.	1,330	1,403	1,233	1,279	1,319	1,344	1,430	1,431	1,371	1,386	1,570	1,443	1,300	1,300
" 2nd "	1,341	1,498	1,262	1,282	1,324	1,354	1,474	1,421	1,369	1,368	1,590	1,443	1,286	1,286
" 3rd "	1,350	1,493	1,238	1,291	1,343	1,352	1,462	1,433	1,364	1,361	1,604	1,443	1,291	1,291
" 4th "	1,304	1,498	1,229	1,287	1,360	1,373	1,430	1,439	1,363	1,382	1,597	1,430	1,300	1,300

(a) Base.

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

Period	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warman-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,022	1,628	1,471	1,270	1,321	1,350	971	1,277	1,352	1,379	1,176	1,355
" 1921 ..	1,348	1,642	1,438	1,226	1,264	1,353	1,394	1,253	1,359	1,285	1,178	1,308
Year 1923 ..	1,364	1,628	1,432	1,221	1,262	1,349	1,342	1,256	1,279	1,178	1,332	1,329
" 1924 ..	1,358	1,628	1,432	1,198	1,238	1,334	1,359	1,246	1,262	1,162	1,320	1,325
" 1925 ..	1,358	1,649	1,432	1,209	1,236	1,350	1,354	1,246	1,267	1,159	1,315	1,325
" 1926 ..	1,400	1,649	1,432	1,210	1,236	1,350	1,354	1,246	1,267	1,159	1,315	1,325
" 1927 ..	1,400	1,674	1,427	1,210	1,234	1,356	1,351	1,246	1,261	1,156	1,312	1,312
1927 1st Qtr.	1,366	1,620	1,423	1,216	1,237	1,325	1,321	1,246	1,263	1,155	1,312	1,312
" 2nd "	1,360	1,620	1,428	1,209	1,227	1,338	1,320	1,244	1,265	1,156	1,312	1,312
" 3rd "	1,403	1,620	1,428	1,208	1,227	1,330	1,320	1,244	1,261	1,156	1,311	1,311
" 4th "	1,404	1,670	1,428	1,208	1,227	1,330	1,323	1,244	1,261	1,156	1,311	1,311

Period	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Hadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	971	1,273	1,338	1,347	1,320	1,279	1,038	1,423	1,422	1,378	1,336	1,338
" 1921 ..	1,237	1,539	1,347	1,236	1,261	1,240	1,370	1,361	1,368	1,314	1,314	1,368
Year 1923 ..	1,222	1,545	1,338	1,201	1,234	1,251	1,371	1,359	1,366	1,335	1,335	1,369
" 1924 ..	1,246	1,508	1,322	1,226	1,240	1,247	1,370	1,348	1,371	1,320	1,340	1,339
" 1925 ..	1,240	1,570	1,322	1,226	1,227	1,242	1,370	1,348	1,371	1,320	1,340	1,339
" 1926 ..	1,250	1,569	1,327	1,204	1,238	1,251	1,366	1,359	1,369	1,333	1,338	1,338
" 1927 ..	1,250	1,569	1,327	1,204	1,238	1,251	1,366	1,359	1,367	1,332	1,332	1,332
1927 1st Qtr.	1,250	1,571	1,329	1,202	1,214	1,252	1,369	1,341	1,355	1,306	1,335	1,337
" 2nd "	1,253	1,568	1,329	1,203	1,254	1,254	1,363	1,328	1,354	1,304	1,335	1,336
" 3rd "	1,246	1,568	1,327	1,203	1,242	1,247	1,363	1,328	1,354	1,304	1,332	1,336
" 4th "	1,251	1,570	1,327	1,207	1,241	1,251	1,363	1,322	1,361	1,303	1,331	1,336

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.	Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,041	1,376	1,557	1,304	1,471	1,374	984	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 1921 ..	1,374	1,592	1,421	1,290	1,401	1,368	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
Year 1923 ..	1,364	1,592	1,421	1,290	1,401	1,373	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 1924 ..	1,398	1,590	1,421	1,290	1,384	1,373	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 1925 ..	1,318	1,594	1,421	1,290	1,370	1,368	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 1926 ..	1,308	1,594	1,421	1,290	1,366	1,368	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 1927 ..	1,300	1,598	1,429	1,292	1,360	1,362	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
1927 1st Qtr.	1,306	1,587	1,423	1,291	1,348	1,362	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 2nd "	1,305	1,589	1,421	1,291	1,367	1,361	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 3rd "	1,308	1,570	1,424	1,292	1,363	1,361	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334
" 4th "	1,308	1,569	1,423	1,292	1,361	1,365	1,248	1,248	1,228	1,120	1,093	1,200	1,345	1,334

(a) Base.

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.								VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Baillarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.				
Nov. 1914 ..	1,036	1,315	1,419	1,604	1,379	1,516	970	1,413	1,438	1,433	1,604	1,500				
" 1921 ..	1,623	1,514	1,394	1,490	1,345	1,481	1,460	1,443	1,504	1,408	1,301	1,450				
Year 1923 ..	1,468	1,468	1,334	1,311	1,334	1,450	1,420	1,304	1,312	1,358	1,307	1,409				
" 1924 ..	1,458	1,435	1,414	1,408	1,361	1,472	1,432	1,380	1,328	1,358	1,371	1,422				
" 1925 ..	1,478	1,435	1,414	1,408	1,361	1,472	1,432	1,325	1,357	1,431	1,377	1,444				
" 1926 ..	1,603	1,478	1,458	1,527	1,433	1,498	1,453	1,355	1,367	1,431	1,377	1,444				
" 1927 ..	1,493	1,478	1,455	1,546	1,385	1,495	1,441	1,341	1,308	1,433	1,376	1,433				
1927 1st Qtr.	1,494	1,469	1,426	1,534	1,399	1,490	1,457	1,338	1,357	1,425	1,358	1,420				
" 2nd "	1,485	1,460	1,447	1,524	1,396	1,482	1,456	1,331	1,351	1,423	1,362	1,419				
" 3rd "	1,491	1,470	1,467	1,554	1,375	1,480	1,455	1,361	1,384	1,438	1,386	1,447				
" 4th "	1,522	1,505	1,480	1,571	1,391	1,519	1,455	1,347	1,370	1,441	1,397	1,447				
Nov. 1914 ..	869	1,391	1,415	1,491	1,447	1,370	1,018	1,452	1,492	1,497	1,379	1,444				
Year 1923 ..	1,343	1,809	1,297	1,394	1,325	1,514	1,440	1,385	1,392	1,368	1,660	1,457				
" 1924 ..	1,322	1,296	1,314	1,308	1,322	1,478	1,382	1,372	1,330	1,410	1,486	1,465				
" 1925 ..	1,334	1,387	1,320	1,304	1,314	1,339	1,476	1,363	1,411	1,372	1,475	1,485				
" 1926 ..	1,383	1,375	1,378	1,346	1,384	1,381	1,493	1,391	1,438	1,392	1,479	1,485				
" 1927 ..	1,392	1,380	1,352	1,339	1,376	1,343	1,482	1,366	1,412	1,370	1,469	1,473				
1927 1st Qtr.	1,383	1,365	1,383	1,371	1,376	1,357	1,483	1,369	1,410	1,374	1,505	1,473				
" 2nd "	1,320	1,314	1,351	1,325	1,372	1,391	1,470	1,361	1,407	1,366	1,480	1,462				
" 3rd "	1,339	1,317	1,340	1,324	1,377	1,388	1,491	1,354	1,415	1,390	1,479	1,481				
" 4th "	1,346	1,336	1,325	1,324	1,380	1,345	1,494	1,364	1,417	1,394	1,490	1,474				
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charter Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wailaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.				
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average Tas.	Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.		
Nov. 1914 ..	1,029	1,596	1,409	1,620	1,537	1,434	993	1,563	1,459	1,310	1,501	1,531	1,000	1,174		
Year 1923 ..	1,627	1,464	1,464	1,460	1,478	1,497	1,517	1,522	1,413	1,391	1,404	1,473	1,466	1,480		
" 1924 ..	1,430	1,468	1,470	1,480	1,478	1,445	1,520	1,433	1,446	1,382	1,398	1,453	1,469	1,460		
" 1925 ..	1,443	1,468	1,467	1,483	1,461	1,480	1,508	1,408	1,389	1,380	1,391	1,458	1,469	1,462		
" 1926 ..	1,444	1,458	1,452	1,482	1,472	1,446	1,508	1,416	1,369	1,380	1,392	1,471	1,468	1,463		
" 1927 ..	1,433	1,432	1,437	1,401	1,403	1,433	1,533	1,387	1,362	1,340	1,372	1,462	1,468	1,481		
1927 1st Qtr.	1,429	1,432	1,438	1,410	1,467	1,430	1,463	1,394	1,396	1,368	1,351	1,432	1,443	1,447		
" 2nd "	1,437	1,441	1,440	1,403	1,468	1,437	1,458	1,382	1,393	1,345	1,340	1,428	1,440	1,445		
" 3rd "	1,420	1,435	1,437	1,392	1,479	1,430	1,453	1,387	1,389	1,351	1,370	1,429	1,446	1,449		
" 4th "	1,435	1,428	1,435	1,396	1,470	1,431	1,482	1,387	1,357	1,320	1,375	1,400	1,447	1,466		

(a) 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, 1927.

Town.	November, 1914.		November, 1920.		4th Quarter, 1927.	
	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.	Actual Finding.	Index-Number.	Index-Number.	Relative Cost.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Sydney	1,036	3 9 10	5 17 1	1,736	1,522	5 2 8
Melbourne	976	3 6 8	5 16 6	1,706	1,455	4 19 4
Brisbane	880	3 1 6	5 6 2	1,534	1,340	4 13 2
Adelaide	1,018	3 9 10	5 16 1	1,693	1,484	5 1 9
Perth	1,629	3 12 6	5 13 11	1,617	1,435	5 1 1
Hobart	999	3 6 2	5 16 11	1,766	1,482	4 14 10
Weighted Average	1,000	3 8 2	5 15 8	1,697	1,472	5 0 4

The table shows, in the third column, the amount determined by the Basic Wage Commission as the cost of living according to the standard fixed by the Commission in November, 1920. Applying the index-numbers for 4th quarter, 1927, 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—1925 to 1927.**—The results of the investigation in November, 1927, are set out in the tables on the following pages, compared with the particulars recorded during the two previous years. 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 1,703 (see page 41), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,570 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1927. Similarly, in column A; the index-number 1,082 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1927. 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 1,703, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,728; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,573, compared with an expenditure of 1,570 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, 1925, 1926, and 1927, 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.	1925. November.			1926. November.			1927. 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.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New South Wales—									
Sydney	1,072	1,623	1,759	1,096	1,649	1,769	1,129	1,673	1,700
Newcastle	3,060	1,608	1,735	1,071	1,576	1,724	1,108	1,637	1,703
Broken Hill	1,244	1,570	1,643	1,196	1,563	1,651	1,300	1,603	1,775
Goulburn	1,086	1,607	1,605	1,072	1,636	1,713	1,111	1,650	1,827
Bathurst	1,043	1,418	1,458	1,035	1,423	1,506	1,057	1,440	1,518
Albury	1,082	1,312	1,354	1,083	1,317	1,362	1,087	1,304	1,372
Armidale	1,035	1,454	1,674	1,052	1,421	1,631	1,056	1,622	1,624
Bathna	1,117	1,644	1,742	1,191	1,639	1,685	1,118	1,604	1,669
Bega	1,114	1,432	1,551	1,089	1,331	1,449	1,122	1,461	1,536
Berry	1,151	1,464	1,595	1,133	1,445	1,577	1,182	1,537	1,650

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

State and Town.	1925. November.			1926. November.			1927. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Blackheath	1,203	1,677	1,779	1,235	1,676	1,771	1,232	1,657	1,795
Bourke	1,201	1,382	1,474	1,176	1,407	1,505	1,229	1,533	1,590
Burrall	1,118	1,484	1,790	1,182	1,741	1,820	1,119	1,765	1,931
Chaino	1,157	1,617	1,708	1,163	1,681	1,772	1,106	1,550	1,750
Casnock	1,094	1,524	1,774	1,108	1,651	1,749	1,109	1,652	1,718
Cobar	1,156	1,245	1,291	1,174	1,223	1,200	1,229	1,438	1,427
Cooma	1,131	1,474	1,615	1,118	1,422	1,611	1,233	1,542	1,741
Conamble	1,143	1,450	1,569	1,105	1,447	1,572	1,214	1,558	1,682
Cootamundra	1,100	1,669	1,807	1,100	1,594	1,791	1,130	1,624	1,821
Corrala	1,077	1,471	1,498	1,112	1,507	1,533	1,106	1,455	1,547
Cowra	1,102	1,536	1,668	1,159	1,559	1,631	1,106	1,633	1,657
Cronulla	1,099	1,740	1,878	1,105	1,872	1,832	1,144	1,675	1,844
Deniliquin	1,078	1,412	1,529	1,072	1,391	1,549	1,080	1,471	1,583
Dubbo	1,141	1,630	1,741	1,119	1,645	1,733	1,158	1,709	1,791
Forbes	1,098	1,609	1,756	1,133	1,609	1,727	1,123	1,694	1,822
Gilgandra	1,146	1,398	1,556	1,176	1,505	1,584	1,203	1,532	1,611
Glen Innes	1,000	1,337	1,505	1,008	1,344	1,532	1,029	1,431	1,569
Grafton	1,093	1,611	1,734	1,079	1,568	1,737	1,060	1,561	1,718
Grenfell	1,129	1,571	1,696	1,092	1,533	1,678	1,076	1,400	1,648
Griffith	1,106	1,377	2,186	1,151	1,973	2,203	1,254	2,175	2,406
Gulgong	1,093	1,297	1,350	1,084	1,341	1,440	1,162	1,432	1,527
Gunnedah	1,051	1,437	1,545	1,027	1,417	1,507	1,127	1,512	1,658
Hay	1,175	1,513	1,683	1,151	1,488	1,684	1,136	1,514	1,704
Inverell	1,103	1,513	1,607	1,111	1,590	1,696	1,122	1,561	1,639
Jumea	1,068	1,699	1,788	1,077	1,756	1,800	1,123	1,781	1,787
Katoomba	1,147	1,663	1,779	1,136	1,719	1,840	1,159	1,797	1,938
Kempsey	1,046	1,472	1,547	1,086	1,527	1,607	1,106	1,599	1,691
Kiama	1,144	1,491	1,651	1,145	1,507	1,606	1,145	1,507	1,606
Kurri Kurri	1,148	1,578	1,668	1,156	1,545	1,645	1,150	1,619	1,673
Leeton	1,172	1,596	1,932	1,176	1,554	1,881	1,216	1,800	1,972
Lismore	1,083	1,490	1,680	1,167	1,696	1,879	1,101	1,581	1,703
Lithgow	1,087	1,489	1,581	1,116	1,535	1,626	1,093	1,643	1,628
Maitland	1,073	1,578	1,700	1,076	1,560	1,717	1,090	1,587	1,690
Moroce	1,183	1,657	1,782	1,194	1,734	1,869	1,155	1,666	1,917
Moss Vale	1,121	1,648	1,779	1,075	1,562	1,680	1,126	1,701	1,797
Mudgee	1,086	1,503	1,601	1,084	1,486	1,611	1,143	1,532	1,680
Narrabri	1,000	1,403	1,518	1,066	1,434	1,579	1,163	1,557	1,712
Parrandera	1,164	1,592	1,727	1,189	1,682	1,830	1,123	1,627	1,855
Nowra	1,105	1,553	1,681	1,159	1,650	1,729	1,180	1,628	1,703
Orange	1,057	1,476	1,581	1,045	1,615	1,760	1,082	1,619	1,746
Parkes	1,110	1,587	1,693	1,098	1,570	1,732	1,132	1,686	1,855
Penrith	1,090	1,491	1,666	1,047	1,448	1,570	1,069	1,509	1,634
Port Kembla	1,120	1,442	1,537	1,109	1,484	1,548	1,106	1,655	1,764
Portland	1,122	1,583	1,623	1,122	1,510	1,635	1,151	1,602	1,714
Queanbeyan	1,180	1,682	1,815	1,135	1,747	1,879	1,160	1,827	1,956
Quirindi	1,134	1,446	1,647	1,092	1,401	1,593	1,103	1,458	1,649
Richmond	1,135	1,547	1,645	1,089	1,460	1,608	1,116	1,521	1,669
Scone	1,058	1,475	1,607	1,057	1,489	1,606	1,064	1,497	1,574
Singleton	1,080	1,445	1,534	1,098	1,460	1,592	1,177	1,533	1,621
Tamworth	1,047	1,519	1,610	1,012	1,427	1,506	1,053	1,464	1,633
Taree	1,076	1,586	1,750	1,059	1,522	1,706	1,134	1,610	1,827
Temora	1,160	1,703	1,861	1,128	1,662	1,737	1,136	1,712	1,843
Tenterfeld	1,079	1,473	1,546	1,130	1,553	1,610	1,157	1,544	1,682
Tumut	1,158	1,619	1,783	1,048	1,498	1,607	1,133	1,626	1,725
Ullmarra	1,101	1,549	1,601	1,054	1,448	1,527	1,088	1,450	1,549
Wagga Wagga	1,088	1,776	1,989	1,065	1,707	1,822	1,066	1,750	1,800
Witcha	1,111	1,471	1,572	1,093	1,379	1,626	1,078	1,440	1,621
Wellington	1,109	1,404	1,486	1,101	1,373	1,512	1,111	1,492	1,645
Weston	1,155	1,519	1,583	1,134	1,476	1,562	1,196	1,603	1,656
Windsor	1,143	1,554	1,653	1,098	1,550	1,625	1,141	1,602	1,766
Wollongong	1,092	1,599	1,678	1,126	1,718	1,789	1,147	1,706	1,762
Wyalong	1,125	1,520	1,619	1,072	1,522	1,598	1,171	1,615	1,654
Yass	1,211	1,658	1,737	1,172	1,595	1,681	1,149	1,593	1,724
Young	1,085	1,671	1,727	1,052	1,583	1,676	1,057	1,582	1,643
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns)	1,083	1,607	1,737	1,097	1,626	1,747	1,120	1,656	1,776

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

State and Town.	1925. November.			1926. November			1927. 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.										
										A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
Victoria—																			
Melbourne ..	1,053	1,556	1,601	1,024	1,550	1,714	1,036	1,573	1,728										
Ballaarat ..	1,068	1,366	1,506	1,047	1,321	1,489	1,040	1,310	1,486										
Bendigo ..	1,070	1,403	1,524	1,053	1,302	1,549	1,040	1,426	1,574										
Geelong ..	1,049	1,476	1,690	1,013	1,521	1,612	1,027	1,560	1,665										
Warrnambool ..	1,040	1,424	1,645	1,004	1,377	1,517	1,007	1,424	1,594										
Ararat ..	1,174	1,518	1,613	1,143	1,546	1,608	1,176	1,543	1,674										
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,150	1,498	1,642	1,032	1,493	1,611	1,013	1,467	1,573										
Balmndale ..	1,151	1,545	1,677	1,149	1,561	1,681	1,091	1,488	1,651										
Beechworth ..	1,116	1,373	1,440	1,111	1,407	1,473	1,102	1,407	1,447										
Benalla ..	1,086	1,448	1,580	1,070	1,441	1,583	1,076	1,427	1,498										
Camperdown ..	1,098	1,516	1,647	1,081	1,520	1,621	1,072	1,445	1,587										
Casterton ..	1,111	1,424	1,517	1,097	1,426	1,557	1,064	1,453	1,605										
Castlemaine ..	1,111	1,427	1,550	1,081	1,340	1,485	1,070	1,334	1,481										
Daylesford ..	1,070	1,391	1,728	1,046	1,588	1,709	1,025	1,553	1,683										
Creswick ..	1,072	1,280	1,289	1,048	1,180	1,200	1,055	1,186	1,249										
Drysdale ..	1,064	1,327	1,426	998	1,310	1,389	1,040	1,366	1,432										
Dunolly ..	1,056	1,214	1,267	1,060	1,218	1,271	1,055	1,206	1,275										
Echuca ..	1,116	1,458	1,570	1,084	1,436	1,504	1,091	1,423	1,584										
Euroa ..	1,143	1,479	1,604	1,071	1,404	1,542	1,103	1,422	1,586										
Hamilton ..	1,141	1,623	1,744	1,090	1,586	1,706	1,082	1,523	1,680										
Healesville ..	1,075	1,409	1,668	1,070	1,408	1,569	1,054	1,423	1,482										
Horsham ..	1,117	1,732	1,907	1,096	1,644	1,908	1,139	1,637	1,848										
Kerang ..	1,118	1,688	1,797	1,093	1,619	1,773	1,096	1,629	1,820										
Koroit ..	1,075	1,345	1,404	1,040	1,323	1,382	1,038	1,321	1,377										
Korumburra ..	1,084	1,545	1,660	1,029	1,473	1,605	1,118	1,579	1,677										
Kyneton ..	1,062	1,397	1,632	1,060	1,429	1,521	1,057	1,425	1,501										
Lilydale ..	1,188	1,532	1,747	1,094	1,506	1,637	1,088	1,450	1,648										
Maffra ..	1,023	1,615	1,747	1,042	1,700	1,793	1,031	1,632	1,722										
Maldon ..	1,061	1,214	1,278	1,037	1,175	1,223	1,066	1,222	1,284										
Maryborough ..	1,104	1,337	1,468	1,082	1,336	1,465	1,097	1,369	1,477										
Mildura ..	1,152	1,784	1,926	1,131	1,774	1,873	1,136	1,757	1,906										
Morwell ..	1,129	1,700	1,853	1,067	1,659	1,746	1,120	1,698	1,783										
Nhill ..	1,174	1,700	1,832	1,110	1,636	1,733	1,116	1,589	1,688										
Orbost ..	1,127	1,622	1,785	1,101	1,501	1,624	1,093	1,476	1,571										
Portland ..	1,187	1,525	1,690	1,105	1,444	1,533	1,091	1,394	1,522										
Port Fairy ..	1,096	1,391	1,458	1,072	1,362	1,436	1,062	1,391	1,470										
St. Arnaud ..	1,193	1,632	1,762	1,141	1,602	1,759	1,188	1,586	1,819										
Sale ..	1,074	1,637	1,677	1,045	1,515	1,677	1,021	1,409	1,568										
Seymour ..	1,145	1,476	1,555	1,123	1,454	1,533	1,135	1,497	1,543										
Shepparton ..	1,080	1,683	1,760	1,071	1,697	1,782	1,082	1,615	1,789										
Stawell ..	1,179	1,600	1,595	1,185	1,505	1,615	1,169	1,485	1,632										
Swan Hill ..	1,098	1,690	1,822	1,098	1,690	1,822	1,125	1,757	1,880										
Terang ..	1,125	1,548	1,651	1,117	1,512	1,651	1,090	1,459	1,581										
Traralgon ..	1,115	1,641	1,612	1,050	1,407	1,573	1,037	1,454	1,604										
Wangaratta ..	1,149	1,500	1,729	1,137	1,579	1,695	1,120	1,585	1,699										
Warracknabeal ..	1,131	1,057	1,745	1,139	1,630	1,742	1,076	1,630	1,907										
Warragul ..	1,080	1,551	1,710	1,079	1,609	1,767	1,062	1,603	1,743										
Wonthaggi ..	1,145	1,623	1,693	1,072	1,497	1,585	1,105	1,488	1,611										
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	1,062	1,539	1,671	1,033	1,531	1,686	1,043	1,550	1,700										
Queensland—																			
Brisbane ..	1,068	1,405	1,523	1,041	1,411	1,569	1,004	1,389	1,553										
Toowoomba ..	1,051	1,359	1,505	1,022	1,362	1,491	968	1,291	1,444										
Rockhampton ..	1,076	1,372	1,474	1,094	1,399	1,521	1,032	1,362	1,482										
Charters Towers ..	1,156	1,422	1,610	1,217	1,484	1,579	1,200	1,481	1,542										
Warwick ..	1,039	1,377	1,450	1,078	1,405	1,536	1,020	1,370	1,509										
Ayr ..	1,224	1,686	1,849	1,160	1,584	1,711	1,170	1,631	1,762										
Barcaldine ..	1,184	1,579	1,727	1,232	1,587	1,646	1,249	1,545	1,663										
Bowen ..	1,184	1,579	1,645	1,179	1,607	1,706	1,139	1,528	1,656										
Bundaberg ..	1,044	1,364	1,439	1,040	1,371	1,496	1,032	1,393	1,416										
Caipns ..	1,238	1,786	1,913	1,205	1,797	1,907	1,174	1,731	1,876										
Charleville ..	1,183	1,571	1,676	1,214	1,658	1,828	1,154	1,631	1,771										
Chillagoe ..	1,277	1,613	1,540	1,281	1,560	1,610	1,225	1,499	1,541										
Cloncurry ..	1,212	1,692	1,708	1,238	1,603	1,709	1,231	1,618	1,729										
Cooktown ..	1,141	1,273	1,330	1,153	1,284	1,368	1,147	1,239	1,323										
Cunnamulla ..	1,186	1,615	1,581	1,227	1,654	1,687	1,235	1,695	1,761										
Dalby ..	1,051	1,412	1,495	1,063	1,431	1,524	1,011	1,350	1,449										
Gayndah ..	1,093	1,393	1,455	1,114	1,411	1,476	1,059	1,323	1,454										
Gladstone ..	1,109	1,385	1,437	1,097	1,352	1,492	1,040	1,303	1,435										
Goondiwindi ..	1,139	1,554	1,643	1,113	1,519	1,607	1,092	1,473	1,566										
Gympie ..	1,087	1,399	1,493	1,090	1,397	1,518	1,044	1,373	1,480										

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

State and Town.	1925. November.			1926. November.			1927. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
Queensland—<i>continued.</i>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Hughenden	1,197	1,734	1,800	1,276	1,723	1,830	1,245	1,738	1,870
Innisfail	1,316	1,842	1,974	1,298	1,825	1,956	1,266	1,835	2,040
Ipswich	1,044	1,373	1,439	1,096	1,454	1,524	1,033	1,339	1,487
Longreach	1,177	1,561	1,646	1,260	1,654	1,760	1,252	1,613	1,772
Mackay	1,087	1,536	1,671	1,094	1,576	1,730	1,086	1,590	1,694
Maryborough	1,051	1,347	1,449	1,041	1,377	1,462	1,009	1,285	1,437
Mount Morgan	1,071	1,282	1,321	1,117	1,323	1,367	1,100	1,258	1,284
Nambour	1,085	1,458	1,541	1,103	1,520	1,623	1,080	1,441	1,586
Roma	1,109	1,468	1,545	1,135	1,534	1,644	1,053	1,416	1,571
Stanthorpe	1,153	1,548	1,614	1,155	1,494	1,537	1,015	1,337	1,528
Townsville	1,176	1,655	1,797	1,216	1,733	1,894	1,186	1,672	1,771
Winton	1,199	1,802	1,912	1,288	1,803	1,902	1,236	1,719	1,796
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	1,085	1,430	1,540	1,080	1,448	1,586	1,042	1,412	1,555
South Australia—									
Adelaide	1,067	1,567	1,688	1,056	1,541	1,641	1,079	1,567	1,702
Kadina, etc.	1,110	1,369	1,460	1,120	1,370	1,458	1,116	1,370	1,462
Port Pirie	1,154	1,500	1,606	1,137	1,515	1,615	1,109	1,490	1,594
Mount Gambler	1,040	1,264	1,362	1,062	1,322	1,369	1,063	1,310	1,419
Peterborough	1,116	1,520	1,606	1,149	1,566	1,647	1,158	1,568	1,665
Freeling	1,105	1,473	1,539	1,073	1,487	1,586	1,063	1,424	1,490
Gawler	1,050	1,366	1,458	1,065	1,425	1,504	1,052	1,395	1,480
Kapunda	1,073	1,284	1,349	1,030	1,298	1,327	1,062	1,266	1,320
Korinna	1,101	1,298	1,386	1,074	1,272	1,360	1,090	1,419	1,485
Millicent	988	1,299	1,388	996	1,323	1,414	991	1,317	1,402
Murray Bridge	1,070	1,491	1,543	1,099	1,543	1,645	1,113	1,508	1,661
Port Augusta	1,209	1,565	1,648	1,186	1,560	1,625	1,210	1,536	1,642
Quorn	1,100	1,536	1,643	1,080	1,496	1,544	1,115	1,480	1,593
Victor Harbour	1,102	1,635	1,777	1,085	1,592	1,750	1,078	1,604	1,802
Renmark	1,231	1,708	1,840	1,206	1,654	1,763	1,191	1,651	1,748
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	1,074	1,545	1,661	1,065	1,524	1,623	1,083	1,545	1,673
Western Australia—									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,085	1,467	1,569	1,062	1,510	1,620	1,052	1,516	1,649
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,235	1,556	1,611	1,215	1,530	1,600	1,188	1,495	1,564
Northam	1,161	1,550	1,732	1,163	1,577	1,739	1,157	1,626	1,760
Bunbury	1,134	1,504	1,698	1,177	1,521	1,679	1,179	1,535	1,636
Geraldton	1,172	1,619	1,751	1,168	1,609	1,745	1,172	1,610	1,777
Albany	1,230	1,582	1,626	1,183	1,505	1,602	1,193	1,518	1,697
Beverley	1,119	1,384	1,472	1,137	1,436	1,519	1,174	1,453	1,536
Bridgetown	1,232	1,643	1,709	1,247	1,603	1,641	1,220	1,592	1,647
Broome	1,322	1,980	2,045	1,428	2,020	2,152	1,380	1,963	2,104
Carnarvon	1,320	1,823	1,921	1,301	1,795	1,926	1,327	1,821	1,985
Collie	1,236	1,508	1,664	1,205	1,596	1,639	1,237	1,723	1,784
Greenbushes	1,251	1,435	1,474	1,257	1,454	1,507	1,247	1,445	1,497
Katanning	1,089	1,473	1,553	1,114	1,466	1,574	1,088	1,444	1,548
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,354	1,512	1,551	1,379	1,560	1,643	1,336	1,546	1,577
Mookatharra	1,430	1,693	1,759	1,409	1,672	1,738	1,385	1,648	1,714
Narrogin	1,160	1,643	1,792	1,156	1,639	1,788	1,131	1,671	1,789
Waglan	1,144	1,467	1,576	1,133	1,479	1,528	1,093	1,428	1,537
York	1,213	1,558	1,637	1,127	1,479	1,527	1,061	1,427	1,529
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,103	1,499	1,590	1,098	1,522	1,627	1,057	1,525	1,648
Tasmania—									
Hobart	1,077	1,554	1,713	1,066	1,574	1,750	1,025	1,500	1,666
Launceston	1,064	1,459	1,619	1,045	1,427	1,605	1,011	1,417	1,574
Burnie	1,110	1,575	1,689	1,079	1,529	1,595	1,052	1,473	1,600
Devonport	1,098	1,501	1,651	1,083	1,512	1,592	1,015	1,455	1,527
Queenstown	1,225	1,438	1,567	1,193	1,403	1,443	1,150	1,430	1,449
Beaconsfield	1,069	1,174	1,201	1,000	1,139	1,165	1,009	1,114	1,140
Campbelltown	1,094	1,298	1,349	1,081	1,296	1,316	1,045	1,236	1,281
Deloraine	1,023	1,362	1,418	1,014	1,389	1,428	978	1,320	1,378
Franklin	1,063	1,300	1,326	1,072	1,309	1,335	1,021	1,231	1,284
New Norfolk	1,057	1,393	1,449	1,045	1,367	1,436	998	1,333	1,406
Scottsdale	1,080	1,367	1,429	1,059	1,432	1,492	986	1,284	1,359
Ulverstone	1,082	1,411	1,510	1,057	1,321	1,452	1,026	1,335	1,460
Zeehan	1,256	1,454	1,619	1,252	1,450	1,515	1,193	1,382	1,427
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,083	1,506	1,652	1,069	1,502	1,654	1,028	1,455	1,594
Weighted Average for Australia (206 Towns)	1,077	1,549	1,675	1,072	1,556	1,687	1,082	1,570	1,703

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, 1927, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1,036. Subtracting this from 1,573 (column B) gives a difference of 537, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,728 (column C) gives a difference of 692, 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, 1927, 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, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Weighted Average
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns (a) ..	1,043	964	983	1,001	1,005	950	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,050	963	941	1,006	997	954	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,051	965	935	1,005	980	954	1,000

RENT; 5-ROOMED HOUSES..

All Towns (a) ..	1,042	1,058	826	950	903	911	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,035	1,058	824	945	890	939	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,012	1,060	841	954	914	982	1,000

FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.

All Towns (a) ..	1,043	998	913	982	968	936	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,044	998	898	983	961	948	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,036	1,001	899	986	955	965	1,000

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

The index-numbers for November, 1921 to 1927, 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, 1921 to 1927.

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
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FOOD AND GROCERIES.

All Towns (a)	1,000	1,578	1,558	1,689	1,581	1,683	1,675	1,691
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,564	1,688	1,581	1,679	1,670	1,690
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,588	1,580	1,699	1,594	1,689	1,683	1,705

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (a)	1,000	1,268	1,347	1,433	1,494	1,526	1,571	1,586
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,347	1,421	1,484	1,509	1,554	1,570
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,264	1,336	1,374	1,439	1,455	1,496	1,507

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (a)	1,000	1,461	1,478	1,592	1,548	1,623	1,636	1,651
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,480	1,584	1,543	1,613	1,625	1,643
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,455	1,480	1,566	1,531	1,594	1,607	1,624

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, 1921 to 1922; and to 200 towns for November in each of the subsequent years, 1923 to 1927. 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, 1927, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 69.1 per cent.; house rents increased 58.6 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of approximately 65.1 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 1927 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 1927 (Prices in 1913 as Base = 1,000).

YEAR.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	FINLAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	"Phosphor-dende."	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.					m	1,000		h				n	
1913	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	..	1,000	987	..	1,000	1,340	..	1,340	..	1,000	1,020	..	1,000
1915	..	1,271	1,231	..	1,120	1,490	..	1,490	..	1,030	1,308	..	1,420
1916	..	1,595	1,605	..	1,280	1,600	..	1,600	..	1,280	1,682	..	1,520
1917	..	2,061	2,041	..	1,450	1,840	..	1,840	..	1,760	2,016	..	1,790
1918	..	2,265	2,249	..	1,780	2,020	..	2,020	..	2,110	3,392	..	2,170
1919	..	2,419	2,351	..	1,960	2,400	..	2,400	..	2,810	3,562	..	4,100
1920	3,073	2,953	2,832	..	2,010	3,410	..	3,410	..	3,160	5,094	11,830	14,860
1921	1,972	1,824	1,810	..	1,780	1,502	..	1,780	1,820	1,780	3,450	12,630	19,110
1922	1,588	1,641	1,595	..	1,760	1,455	13,340	1,810	1,700	1,460	3,266	12,190	341,820
1923	1,589	1,518	1,621	..	1,720	1,564	9,770	2,100	1,730	1,320	4,189	10,950	6166,198,737
1924	1,662	1,646	1,739	..	1,360	1,730	1,539	9,970	1,785	1,430	4,885	11,000	1,377
1925	1,591	1,595	1,665	..	1,360	1,590	10,080	1,570	1,000	1,520	5,499	11,290	1,413
1926	1,481	1,498	1,523	..	1,230	1,480	6,641	6,540	1,590	1,320	7,026	1,420	1,334
1927	1,414	1,442	1,479	..	1,330	1,480	1,704	9,700	1,450	1,200	6,172	1,450	1,376

YEAR.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
	Camera di Commercio di Milano.	Bank of Japan.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	"Lorenz."	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.			m	g	m							n	
1913	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	..	955	1,090	..	..	1,010	..	1,000	950	1,050	1,023	1,041	956
1915	..	906	1,455	..	..	1,190	..	..	1,008	1,474	1,096	1,171	1,070
1916	..	1,485	2,798	..	..	1,410	..	..	1,366	1,882	1,316	1,250	1,226
1917	..	1,958	3,964	..	..	1,660	..	..	1,772	1,928	1,785	1,432	1,407
1918	..	1,958	3,016	..	..	2,070	..	..	1,945	1,778	1,900	1,685	1,581
1919	..	2,359	2,845	..	..	2,040	..	..	2,064	1,889	2,082	1,701	1,648
1920	..	2,534	2,845	..	..	2,310	3,590	..	2,282	2,279	2,435	2,067	2,235
1921	1,170	2,004	1,777	..	..	1,900	2,220	1,912	1,469	1,749	1,718	2,014	1,594
1922	5,290	1,938	1,554	..	723	1,760	1,730	1,675	1,483	1,616	1,520	1,646	1,294
1923	5,360	1,991	1,478	2,320	859	1,720	1,630	1,806	1,537	1,787	1,530	1,579	1,266
1924	5,546	2,065	1,527	2,670	1,098	1,630	1,620	1,746	1,497	1,733	1,602	1,648	1,287
1925	6,460	2,016	1,543	2,830	1,254	1,880	1,610	1,616	1,587	1,695	1,608	1,608	1,276
1926	6,540	1,789	1,446	1,980	61,812	1,810	1,400	1,474	1,511	1,684	1,582	1,630	1,233
1927	5,270	1,093	1,430	1,670	1,180	1,730	1,460	1,375	1,407	1,670	1,516	1,467	1,242

a Average for the last eleven months. b Since January, 1920, new series. c First six months. d July. e February. f Since 1924 new series. g For "Ekonomisk Revue" series from 1913 to 1923 see Labour Report No. 14, p. 132. h End of the year. i 1,000,000 omitted. j Average for the last eight months. k January. l Gold index. m Series revised during 1926. n Since 1926 gold index.

2. Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of retail prices, (a) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (b) food only for the month of July in each year from 1914 to 1927, and where available, for December, 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 1927, and December, 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.	LUXEMBURG.
	630	Vienna.	59	12	100	21	Paris.	71	Milan.	Lu'xemb.-bourg.
July 1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,250	1,600	1,300	1,320	1,180	81,060	1,180	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1916	1,480	3,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	21,430	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1917	2,300	6,700	1,500	1,500	1,500	62,510	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1918	2,300	11,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	65,860	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1919	2,150	23,000	1,500	19,340	12,580	69,640	2,380	10,650	2,800	2,800
" 1920	2,556	51,000	1,500	12,650	2,620	9,310	3,410	12,500	2,900	2,900
" 1921	2,220	99,720	1,000	19,190	2,370	12,140	3,070	10,650	4,410	4,410
" 1922	1,810	2,437,000	900	26,190	1,990	11,420	3,020	12,500	4,880	4,880
" 1923	1,710	776	1,090	26,770	2,040	11,110	3,340	43,820	4,880	3,570
" 1924	1,710	860	1,250	28,430	2,140	11,540	3,560	37,651,000	4,880	4,620
" 1925	1,730	970	1,330	30,140	2,190	12,180	3,900	41,264	5,120	5,120
" 1926	1,700	1,030	1,740	28,860	1,840	11,540	4,350	1,433	5,980	5,190
" 1927	1,640	1,060	2,040	27,280	2,170	1,670	4,250	1,424	5,480	3,800
Dec. 1927	1,680	1,070	2,070	27,280	2,170	1,620	4,980	1,513	5,910	3,840

No. of Towns and Localities.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.
	31	Warsaw.	49	33	Bombay	9	60	32	30	25
July 1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,170	1,000	1,150	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,030	1,050	1,180	1,032
" 1916	1,490	1,000	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,120	1,110	1,180	1,151	1,168
" 1917	1,900	1,000	1,690	1,000	1,000	1,220	1,340	1,420	1,157	1,282
" 1918	2,530	1,000	2,190	1,040	1,490	1,310	1,500	1,740	1,179	1,440
" 1919	2,750	1,000	2,570	1,220	1,560	1,450	1,600	1,990	1,317	1,573
" 1920	3,070	1,117,730	2,700	1,240	1,900	1,790	1,980	2,000	1,651	1,815
" 1921	2,940	257,090	2,800	1,600	1,770	1,620	1,630	1,740	1,448	1,732
" 1922	2,510	517	1,900	1,640	1,650	1,350	1,520	1,700	1,416	1,590
" 1923	2,380	632	1,740	1,640	1,530	1,310	1,520	1,730	1,544	1,534
" 1924	2,490	1,272	1,710	1,690	1,570	1,390	1,490	1,730	1,466	1,602
" 1925	2,590	1,456	1,760	1,680	1,570	1,390	1,510	1,780	1,624	1,631
" 1926	2,260	1,772	1,720	1,620	1,570	1,310	1,540	1,700	1,564	1,633
" 1927	2,090	1,153	2,690	1,600	1,560	1,310	1,560	1,720	1,568	1,610
Dec. 1927	1,950	1,210	2,170	1,620	1,510	1,320	1,540	1,720	1,571	1,610

(b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
	630	Vienna.	59	Whole Country.	100	21	Paris.	72	6
July 1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,320	1,000	1,290	1,000	1,290	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,000
" 1916	1,610	1,000	1,460	1,000	1,460	1,000	1,290	1,000	1,000
" 1917	2,040	1,000	1,680	1,000	1,680	1,000	1,830	1,000	1,000
" 1918	2,100	1,000	1,870	1,000	1,870	1,000	2,060	1,000	1,000
" 1919	2,170	1,000	2,120	1,000	2,120	1,000	2,610	1,000	1,000
" 1920	2,620	1,000	2,530	1,000	2,530	1,000	3,790	12,620	1,000
" 1921	2,200	579,000	2,360	13,030	2,360	1,000	3,060	14,910	1,790
" 1922	1,750	3,282,380	2,040	14,300	2,040	1,000	2,970	68,360	1,570
" 1923	1,650	12,911,000	1,850	9,210	1,850	1,000	3,210	46,510,000	1,450
" 1924	1,640	14,382,000	1,240	9,090	1,240	1,000	3,600	21,316	1,520
" 1925	1,680	1,330	9,160	1,330	9,160	1,000	4,210	21,638	1,520
" 1926	1,610	2,150	8,760	1,590	8,760	1,000	5,740	1,453	1,460
" 1927	1,560	2,120	9,020	1,530	9,020	1,000	5,670	1,668	1,440
Dec. 1927	1,620	1,180	2,110	9,180	1,620	1,630	5,230	1,528	1,480

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

(b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS—continued.

	ITALY.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZER- LAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
No. of Towns and Localities.	Milan.	81	Warsaw.	49	33	Bom- bay.	9	60	51	30	25	Madrid.
July 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915 ..	..	at 230	..	1,230	..	..	1,070	1,040	990	1,308	1,124	1,080
" 1916 ..	1,510	at 530	..	1,360	..	..	1,160	1,120	1,090	1,302	1,193	1,160
" 1917 ..	2,100	at 030	..	1,750	..	..	1,290	1,530	1,430	1,263	1,280	1,260
" 1918 ..	3,250	at 710	..	2,610	..	..	1,340	1,730	1,660	1,303	1,393	1,540
" 1919 ..	3,100	at 900	..	3,100	..	..	1,300	1,840	1,660	1,473	1,459	1,740
" 1920 ..	4,450	3,100	..	2,970	..	..	1,970	2,240	2,150	1,942	1,677	1,900
" 1921 ..	5,060	2,920	456,550	2,320	2,110	1,740	1,390	1,490	1,450	1,612	1,641	1,890
" 1922 ..	4,920	2,330	744	1,790	1,570	1,600	1,100	1,360	1,390	1,482	1,421	1,810
" 1923 ..	4,960	2,180	714	1,600	1,600	1,490	1,160	1,350	1,440	1,644	1,430	1,770
" 1924 ..	5,080	2,480	1,391	1,590	1,700	1,610	1,170	1,310	1,400	1,485	1,493	1,840
" 1925 ..	6,020	2,600	1,739	1,600	1,690	1,620	1,200	1,350	1,560	1,559	1,509	1,890
" 1926 ..	6,540	1,980	2,070	1,560	1,590	1,550	1,170	1,510	1,530	1,588	1,498	1,870
" 1927 ..	5,240	1,750	1,431	1,510	1,570	1,540	1,190	1,480	1,500	1,517	1,447	2,040
Dec. 1927 ..	5,130	1,710	1,465	1,540	1,600	1,490	1,190	1,500	1,520	1,547	1,460	2,290

a Last quarter. 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 Including fuel and soap. j Average of selected week in the middle of the year. k 1st June. l October, 1927. m Since 1922 "Zloty" prices; recalculated base, October, 1926. n Third quarter of each year specified. o Since 1923 gold prices. p Since 1926 new series. q Base 1913 = 1,000. r Since 1926 gold index.

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, 1927.

*Information as to the main provisions of the various Acts in force may be found in the Official Year Book No. 16, pages 548 to 571.