

## CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

### § 1. Wholesale Prices

1. **General.**—Information regarding variations in wholesale prices in Melbourne for 1928 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.

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.

Since 1912 the wholesale prices of the commodities, included in the investigation, have been recorded monthly, and index-numbers have been computed from these price data for monthly, quarterly, and annual periods. The results have been published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics and in the Annual Labour Reports.

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 and Commodities Included.**—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 list which follows shows that the commodities included in this investigation embrace a large number of the staple articles of Australian consumption and production. The commodities have been distributed into eight groups, and index-numbers have been computed for each group separately, and for all groups combined.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of 80 commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to 92.\* The proposed revision of the present list with a view to increasing the number of commodities regarding which wholesale prices are collected was deferred on account of the transfer of the Bureau to Canberra. Preliminary inquiries have been made, but further investigation will be necessary before adopting an extended regimen. 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.

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\* 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.



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, 1881 to March, 1929, 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.
1881 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,588	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1891 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	985	1,032	..	888	780	845
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	..	1,346	841	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,179
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,129	995	1,088
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,183	2,435	1,276	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,203	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,780	1,804
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,408	1,884	2,171	1,862
1918 ..	2,416	2,300	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,223	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,888	2,055
1920 ..	2,299	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	1,883
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,768
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,679	2,025	1,933	1,884
1924 ..	1,685	2,418	1,647	1,855	1,721	2,223	1,816	1,806	1,868
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,707	1,686	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,958	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,950	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,924	1,866	1,917
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,016	1,744	1,923	1,792
1928—									
Jan. ..	1,928	1,836	1,860	1,721	1,728	2,211	1,700	1,904	1,860
Feb. ..	1,922	1,849	1,774	1,683	1,710	2,197	1,718	1,945	1,829
March ..	1,917	1,912	1,710	1,651	1,715	2,289	1,739	1,945	1,836
April ..	1,919	1,916	1,738	1,761	1,769	2,248	1,746	1,929	1,844
May ..	1,916	1,844	1,743	1,818	1,715	1,970	1,732	1,934	1,810
June ..	1,910	1,796	1,746	1,796	1,768	2,041	1,742	1,934	1,807
July ..	1,914	1,803	1,728	1,777	1,707	1,973	1,746	1,900	1,785
Aug. ..	1,914	1,985	1,682	1,745	1,700	1,902	1,750	1,909	1,751
Sept. ..	1,914	1,659	1,678	1,769	1,701	1,881	1,762	1,900	1,746
Oct. ..	1,910	1,651	1,684	1,751	1,693	1,822	1,763	1,909	1,737
Nov. ..	1,889	1,676	1,657	1,755	1,704	1,847	1,755	1,909	1,736
Dec. ..	1,889	1,742	1,717	1,791	1,695	1,797	1,762	1,942	1,760
1929—									
Jan. ..	1,880	1,728	1,786	1,878	1,682	1,903	1,741	1,942	1,793
Feb. ..	1,913	1,745	1,701	1,868	1,710	1,894	1,741	1,934	1,778
March ..	1,913	1,714	1,603	1,822	1,709	2,399	1,746	1,934	1,792

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical column, 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 1,792 in 1928. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871 or 1928, 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 1928 shows a decrease of 1.4 per cent. compared with that for 1927. The index-numbers computed from the annual average wholesale prices of commodities in the following groups showed an increase as compared with those during 1927:—Jute, Leather, etc. (II.), Building Materials (VII.), and Chemicals (VIII.), while the index-numbers of prices of Metals and Coal (I.), Agricultural Produce (III.), Dairy Produce (IV.), Groceries (V.), and Meat (VI.) declined. The main increases were—Jute, Leather, etc., 7.9 per cent., and Building Materials, 7.4 per cent. The average prices of Agricultural Produce showed a decline of 5.5 per cent., Meat, 4.5 per cent., and Dairy Produce, 4 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, 1928, to March, 1929. Prices of the commodities included in the following groups, Jute, Leather, etc., Agricultural Produce, Dairy Produce, and Meat fluctuated considerably during the period under review. Jute and leather prices reached their peak during April, while the lowest prices were recorded during October. Agricultural Produce was dearer in January, 1928, than during any other month. Prices declined gradually during the year, but recovered in January, 1929. The lower price of wheat caused a sharp decline in the next two months. Dairy Produce was highest in price during the last four months of the period. Meat prices were high during the early months of 1928, but declined during the succeeding months, reaching the lowest level in December. During March, 1929, meat prices rose rapidly and during that month peak prices were recorded.

Prices of metals and coal, groceries, building materials, and chemicals did not fluctuate greatly during the fifteen months under review.

4. **Quarterly Variations in Price Levels.**—The following table gives the index-numbers for the four quarters of 1928 and the first quarter of 1929:—

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1928 and First Quarter, 1929  
(Base 1911 = 1,000).

Group.	No. of Com- modities.	Index Numbers.				
		Jan. to March, 1928.	April to June, 1928.	July to Sept., 1928.	Oct. to Dec., 1928.	Jan. to March, 1929.
I. Metals and Coal .. ..	14	1,922	1,917	1,914	1,896	1,905
II. Jute, Leather, &c. .. ..	10	1,866	1,852	1,716	1,689	1,729
III. Agricultural Produce .. ..	16	1,781	1,742	1,696	1,686	1,696
IV. Dairy Produce .. ..	9	1,685	1,792	1,764	1,765	1,856
V. Groceries .. ..	21	1,718	1,710	1,703	1,608	1,709
VI. Meat .. ..	5	2,232	2,086	1,919	1,822	2,085
VII. Building Materials .. ..	10	1,722	1,740	1,754	1,760	1,743
VIII. Chemicals .. ..	7	1,931	1,932	1,909	1,920	1,936
All Groups (a) .. ..	92	1,840	1,820	1,764	1,744	1,738

(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 1928, and for each month from January, 1928, to March, 1929, 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 1928, and Monthly January, 1928, to March, 1929. (Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, etc.	III. Agrt-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 1915 ..	1,166	934	2,024	1,272	1,098	1,502	1,164	1,490	1,406
" 1916 ..	1,539	1,807	1,130	1,235	1,266	1,551	1,361	1,716	1,318
" 1917 ..	1,919	1,841	1,084	1,181	1,302	1,480	1,722	2,141	1,456
" 1918 ..	2,197	2,324	1,351	1,210	1,378	1,469	2,448	3,085	1,695
" 1919 ..	1,930	2,169	1,858	1,373	1,469	1,448	2,602	2,827	1,801
" 1920 ..	2,091	2,430	2,236	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 ..	1,783	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,102	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,327	1,603	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,543	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,761	1,633
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,304	1,562	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,463	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,732	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,610	1,466	1,654	1,242	1,502	1,876	1,571
1928—									
January ..	1,751	1,635	1,741	1,431	1,675	1,303	1,500	1,857	1,630
February ..	1,746	1,698	1,660	1,399	1,657	1,355	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
April ..	1,743	1,759	1,626	1,464	1,656	1,355	1,593	1,881	1,616
May ..	1,740	1,693	1,632	1,512	1,654	1,215	1,581	1,886	1,587
June ..	1,731	1,649	1,634	1,493	1,653	1,258	1,590	1,860	1,584
July ..	1,733	1,656	1,618	1,477	1,654	1,217	1,593	1,862	1,573
August ..	1,738	1,547	1,574	1,431	1,648	1,173	1,608	1,862	1,535
September ..	1,738	1,523	1,570	1,471	1,649	1,160	1,603	1,862	1,530
October ..	1,735	1,516	1,376	1,466	1,641	1,124	1,609	1,862	1,523
November ..	1,716	1,539	1,551	1,459	1,652	1,139	1,602	1,862	1,521
December ..	1,716	1,599	1,607	1,489	1,643	1,193	1,603	1,894	1,543
1929—									
January ..	1,716	1,587	1,671	1,561	1,630	1,174	1,589	1,894	1,572
February ..	1,737	1,602	1,592	1,563	1,667	1,193	1,590	1,836	1,558
March ..	1,737	1,573	1,504	1,515	1,656	1,479	1,594	1,886	1,571

6. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1928. These are given in the following table, first, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1928 as base. Corresponding figures for purchasing-power of money (retail prices of food, groceries and cost of housing) have been included for comparative purposes.

Melbourne Wholesale and Retail Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers, 1928.

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)	1,840	1,820	1,764	1,744	1,792
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1928 as base (= 1,000)	1,027	1,016	984	973	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of House Rent) Index-Numbers with average for 1928 as base (= 1,000)	1,013	1,003	990	988	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 a downward direction.

7. **Prices, 1927 and 1928.**—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 1927 and 1928. 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.**—Information regarding the methods adopted for the computation of retail price index-numbers showing variations in the purchasing power of money, and in the prices of separate groups of items of expenditure such as food, groceries, and housing has been furnished in various issues of the Labour Reports and Bulletins, and an analysis of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was given in Report No. 1. Complete understanding of the latter analysis was, perhaps, somewhat difficult for the ordinary reader, and it has been thought desirable to review briefly the methods adopted by the Bureau, not from a mathematical or technical standpoint, but from a popular point of view.

In the first place it is necessary to point out that expenditure on living depends on three elements, viz. :—

- (a) The particular series of commodities consumed.
- (b) The relative quantities consumed of the commodities.
- (c) The price of the commodities.

A change in any one of these elements may result in a variation in the expenditure on living. The first two of these elements, which constitute what is called the *standard of living*, are, of course, subject to individual control, so that the standard varies not only as between nation and nation, but as between localities and classes, and in the last analysis between individuals. The third element is not subject to individual control, and the price of any commodity measures or expresses the value in exchange between the unit of money, i.e., the sovereign, and the particular commodity in question. From period to period the prices of some commodities may increase, and of others decrease, though the variations in price are not usually of the same degree. The purchasing power of the sovereign expressed in relation to any particular commodity varies according to the rise and fall in the price of that commodity, and since the variations in price are not identical, a different result will be obtained, according to the particular commodity considered. For this reason recourse must be had, if it be desired to obtain a general result, to some suitable group of commodities, and as the figures obtained will be affected to some extent by the relative quantities used of each commodity included in the group, it becomes necessary, in order to obtain satisfactory returns, to determine approximately the relation between these quantities. In other words it is necessary to determine in some suitable manner the first two of the elements indicated above, viz. :—(a) the particular series of commodities consumed, and (b) the relative quantities consumed of the commodities. That is to say before any investigation can be made as to the effect on the cost of living of variations in prices, it is essential that some suitable and definite standard of living be determined. When this has been established it becomes possible to investigate the effect of variations in prices on the cost of living, i.e., on the amount necessary to purchase a composite unit, or group of commodities constituting the definite standard or regimen which serves as the basis for comparisons.

It cannot be too explicitly stated that the investigations of the Bureau are not directly concerned in any change in the standard of living, whether due to variation in prices or to other causes. The object of the investigations is to measure the variation in the average retail price levels, that is,

the variation in the cost of definite quantities of certain commodities, and the inquiries are not, in any way directly concerned with the question of how far people change their standard of living on account of change in these price levels.

2. **The Regimen or Composite Unit.**—The selection of the commodities to be included in the investigations was made only after an exhaustive inquiry as to the relative quantity or extent to which each item is on the average consumed. After due investigation it was decided to collect retail prices of 46 items of food and groceries. The items making up this "composite unit" were divided into three groups, viz. :—(i) groceries and bread, (ii) dairy produce, and (iii) meat. Particulars relating to cost of a fourth group, housing, are also collected. The cost of these four groups covers about 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of a normal family.

The relative extent to which the commodities included in the composite unit were consumed was ascertained by an investigation of the average production for Australia and the average export and import returns for a period of five years.

The constitution of the "composite unit" is shown hereunder. The "mass-units" represent the proportionate consumption by the Australian community of the articles included.

## Retail Prices.—Composite Unit.

Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."	Commodity or Service.	Unit of Quantity.	"Mass Unit."
<b>GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).</b>			<b>GROUP III.—MEAT.</b>		
1. Bread .. ..	2 lb. loaf	468	26. Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary ..	25 lb. bags	11	27. Beef, rib ..	"	82
3. Tea .. ..	lb.	30	28. Beef, flank ..	"	12
4. Coffee .. ..	"	2	29. Beef, shin ..	"	14
5. Sugar .. ..	"	460	30. Beef, steak, rump ..	"	24
6. Rice .. ..	"	50	31. Beef, steak, shoulder ..	"	53
7. Sago .. ..	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing ..	"	63
8. Jam .. ..	"	73	33. Beef, corned round ..	"	90
9. Oatmeal .. ..	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with bone ..	"	11
10. Raisins .. ..	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without bone ..	"	82
11. Currants .. ..	"	14	36. Mutton, leg ..	"	92
12. Starch .. ..	"	1	37. Mutton, shoulder ..	"	62
13. Blue .. ..	doz. sqs.	$\frac{1}{2}$	38. Mutton, loin ..	"	30
14. Candles .. ..	lb.	16	39. Mutton, neck ..	"	40
15. Soap .. ..	"	64	40. Mutton, chops, loin ..	"	62
16. Potatoes .. ..	14 lbs.	64	41. Mutton, chops, leg ..	"	16
17. Onions .. ..	lb.	68	42. Mutton, chops, neck ..	"	31
18. Kerosene .. ..	gallon	17	43. Pork, leg ..	"	94
<b>GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>			44. Pork, loin ..	"	84
19. Milk .. ..	quart	500	45. Pork, belly ..	"	104
20. Butter .. ..	lb.	95	46. Pork, chops ..	"	84
21. Cheese .. ..	"	15	<b>GROUP IV.—HOUSING.</b>		
22. Eggs .. ..	dozen	12	47. House Accommodation ..	week	404
23. Bacon, middle ..	lb.	16			
24. Bacon, shoulder ..	"	16			
25. Ham .. ..	"	8			



**3. Collection of Data.**—The retail prices of the commodities included in the "composite unit" are collected from representative retail establishments in each of the 30 towns. The registers of traders are forwarded to the Bureau by the State Statisticians. The prices are obtained from about ten tradespeople in each town in respect to the various items in the regimen. The prices are in all cases, except Group IV., Housing, the predominant prices, or the price at which the bulk of the particular article is sold. In the case of Group IV., average rentals are employed. The tradespeople and agents who supply the information are carefully selected to ensure accurate and representative figures for the district as a whole. It may here be pointed out that every care is exercised in the collection and computation of the price data. Returns are queried and referred for verification when there is any reason to doubt the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of the commodities is scrutinized as a check on marked increases or decreases in retail prices.

**4. Method of Computation.**—The method by which the "index-numbers" are compiled is briefly described hereunder:—

- (a) The prices of the various articles as supplied by the several tradespeople in each section are "averaged," and are known as the "average predominant retail prices ruling at the 15th of each month." The average rent is computed quarterly from returns received from representative house agents.
- (b) These "averaged" prices are then "weighted" by a number representing their relative importance in the household consumption. The "composite unit" shows not only the list of articles, but the relative "weight" given to each. These "weights" represent the approximate relative annual consumption of the commodities set forth. It follows, therefore, that a small rise in the heavily-weighted articles would be immediately reflected in the resultant total, while a comparatively big rise in the lower-weighted commodities has little effect.
- (c) The "weighted aggregate cost" at a particular point of time resulting from the above operations compared with the "weighted aggregate cost" of an exactly similar series of commodities for another point, represents the variation over the intervening period. For convenience of comparison the whole of the "aggregates" are related to the aggregate cost of the corresponding series in the six capital cities in 1911, which latter was made equal to 1,000. The fact that they are all related to the one base renders the resultant index-numbers comparable throughout.

The method outlined above by which the Bureau compiles its index-numbers was adopted after full and exhaustive investigations into the methods followed in various countries throughout the world. The system is mathematically sound, and has the endorsement of world-wide authorities as a simple and effective means of measuring price variations over a period of time. It should be noted that the prices being treated in the same way in respect of every date of collection, and the "composite unit" being kept constant, the method adopted provides a true index of the variations in prices as between any given dates.

The care taken by the Bureau to check the information received ensures that the prices and rentals are accurate, and represent those actually prevailing at the time when the returns are obtained.

A certain amount of misapprehension appears to exist in regard to the meaning and purpose of the retail price index-numbers issued by the Bureau. This is due in great measure to the fact that a more or less definite wage value has been attributed to them by industrial tribunals throughout Australia, and more particularly by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The wage value given to the index-numbers is, of course, a matter for which the Bureau is in no way responsible. The Bureau does not, by virtue of its index-numbers, determine either the "cost of living" or what a fair "basic wage" should be.

The purpose of the index-numbers is to provide a ready and effective means of measuring average retail price variations at stated periods of time.

**5. Investigations Concerning Retail Prices.**—(i) *General.*—Investigations concerning retail prices are made by the Bureau in respect of the following matters :—

- (a) Monthly variation in the cost of food and groceries in 30 towns.
- (b) Quarterly variations in retail prices and house rent in 30 towns.
- (c) Quarterly variations in retail prices of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure in 30 towns.
- (d) Annual variations in retail prices and house rent in 200 towns.
- (e) 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.

In the year 1912, the first series of index-numbers based on the methods described were published, covering the years 1901 to 1912. The publication of these index-numbers has since been continued quarterly for the 30 principal towns in the Commonwealth.

(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 1927 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 in this Report.

6. **Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1928.**—(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 1928.

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.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
<b>GROUP I.—GROCERIES.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	904	1,018	1,112	1,976	1,710	1,864	1,995	1,870	1,747
Melbourne .. ..	817	924	996	1,697	1,573	1,727	1,787	1,669	1,583
Brisbane .. .. .	959	1,087	1,076	1,958	1,685	1,836	1,933	1,737	1,689
Adelaide .. .. .	903	958	1,061	1,907	1,643	1,770	1,814	1,719	1,584
Perth .. .. .	1,013	1,276	1,118	1,955	1,627	1,770	1,819	1,684	1,703
Hobart .. .. .	838	1,003	1,070	1,927	1,668	1,736	1,807	1,602	1,642
Weighted Average (a) ..	885	1,000	1,062	1,937	1,650	1,797	1,866	1,760	1,665
<b>GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	932	971	1,110	1,829	1,660	1,819	1,760	1,818	1,807
Melbourne .. ..	907	950	1,076	1,840	1,604	1,583	1,680	1,717	1,669
Brisbane .. .. .	837	938	995	1,644	1,558	1,640	1,631	1,657	1,624
Adelaide .. .. .	928	1,109	1,194	1,723	1,626	1,622	1,691	1,716	1,663
Perth .. .. .	1,200	1,241	1,244	1,951	1,720	1,689	1,748	1,748	1,748
Hobart .. .. .	955	994	1,177	1,848	1,540	1,484	1,654	1,673	1,630
Weighted Average (a) ..	956	1,000	1,108	1,815	1,630	1,600	1,717	1,751	1,720
<b>GROUP III.—MEAT.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	904	950	1,280	1,838	1,845	1,833	1,740	1,832	1,982
Melbourne .. ..	1,007	929	1,270	1,972	1,958	1,950	1,852	1,855	1,878
Brisbane .. .. .	1,024	935	1,100	1,719	1,838	1,765	1,683	1,608	1,639
Adelaide .. .. .	1,059	1,037	1,502	2,097	2,222	2,193	2,161	2,185	2,225
Perth .. .. .	1,511	1,577	1,688	2,113	2,526	2,432	2,071	2,039	2,334
Hobart .. .. .	1,279	1,221	1,498	2,382	2,463	2,285	2,201	2,077	1,076
Weighted Average (a) ..	1,074	1,000	1,323	1,934	1,992	1,961	1,852	1,878	1,972
<b>GROUPS I., II., AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	936	989	1,156	1,898	1,732	1,785	1,867	1,846	1,826
Melbourne .. ..	825	936	1,001	1,901	1,684	1,748	1,774	1,732	1,634
Brisbane .. .. .	947	1,018	1,078	1,812	1,690	1,734	1,788	1,650	1,671
Adelaide .. .. .	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,791	1,840	1,869	1,841	1,775
Perth .. .. .	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,801	1,938	1,866	1,796	1,832
Hobart .. .. .	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,025	1,849	1,810	1,868	1,788	1,727
Weighted Average (a) ..	956	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,782	1,785	1,829	1,789	1,701
<b>GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	969	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,831	1,870	1,826	1,814	1,868
Melbourne .. ..	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,574	1,604	1,695	1,710	1,773
Brisbane .. .. .	463	610	762	1,030	1,167	1,185	1,333	1,361	1,372
Adelaide .. .. .	935	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,540	1,576	1,516	1,540	1,672
Perth .. .. .	749	857	903	1,209	1,311	1,340	1,409	1,507	1,539
Hobart .. .. .	601	739	847	1,441	1,592	1,649	1,628	1,579	1,635
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,410	1,615	1,647	1,677	1,694	1,748
<b>ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	948	1,048	1,188	1,793	1,769	1,817	1,852	1,834	1,842
Melbourne .. ..	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,643	1,604	1,744	1,724	1,719
Brisbane .. .. .	765	806	959	1,310	1,490	1,521	1,617	1,560	1,559
Adelaide .. .. .	903	1,070	1,161	1,387	1,697	1,741	1,736	1,728	1,736
Perth .. .. .	1,029	1,102	1,175	1,700	1,673	1,714	1,717	1,687	1,753
Hobart .. .. .	879	938	1,076	1,806	1,763	1,750	1,778	1,710	1,665
Weighted Average (a) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,688	1,733	1,772	1,740	1,766

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

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii.) *Groceries (18 Commodities)*.—The index-number for this group was lower in 1928 than in 1927 in all the capital cities with the exception of Perth. The decrease for all cities in 1928 compared with 1927 amounts to 5.4 per cent.; compared with 1911 there has been an increase of 66.5 per cent. The average cost in 1928 of the commodities included was highest in Sydney and lowest in Melbourne.

(iii.) *Dairy Produce (7 Commodities)*.—The index-numbers for this group were lower for 1928 than for 1927 in all the capitals with the exception of Perth, which remained unaltered. The index-number for all the cities in 1928 was 1.8 per cent. lower than in 1927, and 72.0 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost in 1928 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 in 1928 were higher than in 1927 in all capitals with the exception of Hobart. The index-number for all the cities in 1928 was 5 per cent. higher than in 1927, and 97.2 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost for 1928 of the commodities included was highest in Perth and lowest in Brisbane.

(v.) *Food and Groceries (Groups I., II.; and III. combined)*.—The index-numbers in this table show the aggregate effect of movements in prices of groceries, dairy produce, and meat. There was a decrease in 1928 as compared with 1927 in all the capital cities with the exception of Perth. Taking the weighted average for all the capitals, the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries were 1.6 per cent. lower in 1928 than in 1927, and 76.1 per cent. higher than in 1911. The average cost of these items for 1928 was highest in Perth and lowest in Brisbane.

(vi.) *Housing*.—The cost of housing increased in five capital cities during 1928, viz., Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth, and decreased in Hobart. The weighted average increase for the six capitals in 1928 compared with 1927 was 3.5 per cent. The increase in cost in 1928 compared with 1911 for the six capitals considered as a whole was 74.3 per cent. In 1928 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 six capitals considered as a whole for the combined expenditure upon these items show an increase of 0.3 per cent. in 1928 compared with 1927, and an increase of 75.5 per cent. compared with 1911. The cost of the combined items was higher in 1928 than in 1927 for Sydney, Adelaide, and Perth, and lower in Melbourne, Brisbane, and Hobart. The average cost was highest in Sydney and lowest in Brisbane.

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 1928 inclusive the index-number for Sydney was higher than for any other capital city.

**7. 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 that date the practice followed in computing the retail price index-number had 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 was, 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 had 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 which included rent of all houses have been replaced in Labour Reports issued since the date mentioned and in the present issue by those including rent of houses of four and five rooms, the computation of index-numbers for food, groceries, and rent of all houses in the 30 towns of the Commonwealth has been made, quarterly and annually, 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 have been published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics.

**8. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1924 to 1928.**—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. 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, 1924 to 1928: 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.	Warrnam-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.</b>												
1924 ..	1,732	1,749	1,954	1,767	1,647	1,739	1,684	1,704	1,729	1,673	1,723	1,687
1925 ..	1,785	1,801	2,105	1,785	1,720	1,794	1,748	1,783	1,779	1,730	1,721	1,746
1926 ..	1,807	1,860	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	2,154	1,841	1,730	1,852	1,732	1,769	1,771	1,726	1,697	1,734
1928 ..	1,826	1,819	2,156	1,850	1,768	1,834	1,684	1,726	1,726	1,703	1,690	1,687
1927 1st Qtr.	1,847	1,839	2,097	1,834	1,794	1,852	1,698	1,761	1,761	1,717	1,675	1,703
2nd "	1,810	1,798	2,113	1,809	1,754	1,816	1,692	1,736	1,738	1,704	1,676	1,696
3rd "	1,818	1,819	2,184	1,823	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	1,781
1928 1st Qtr.	1,833	1,823	2,204	1,852	1,769	1,842	1,715	1,741	1,738	1,710	1,692	1,717
2nd "	1,844	1,823	2,188	1,858	1,785	1,850	1,709	1,735	1,737	1,712	1,675	1,711
3rd "	1,810	1,814	2,129	1,849	1,771	1,819	1,658	1,723	1,724	1,687	1,631	1,663
4th "	1,816	1,811	2,131	1,840	1,749	1,824	1,633	1,704	1,706	1,704	1,642	1,656
<b>1928.</b>												
January ..	1,854	1,849	2,255	1,866	1,771	1,864	1,715	1,752	1,755	1,707	1,691	1,716
February ..	1,812	1,812	2,195	1,838	1,759	1,822	1,711	1,743	1,730	1,708	1,695	1,712
March ..	1,833	1,824	2,181	1,850	1,776	1,841	1,720	1,729	1,729	1,716	1,690	1,720
April ..	1,846	1,823	2,198	1,855	1,780	1,855	1,725	1,734	1,735	1,717	1,696	1,725
May ..	1,852	1,825	2,160	1,863	1,789	1,858	1,709	1,734	1,736	1,718	1,698	1,711
June ..	1,833	1,819	2,157	1,857	1,786	1,840	1,694	1,737	1,741	1,701	1,640	1,697
July ..	1,821	1,823	2,146	1,859	1,787	1,830	1,668	1,734	1,737	1,694	1,623	1,673
August ..	1,807	1,809	2,135	1,844	1,772	1,816	1,653	1,718	1,721	1,685	1,634	1,659
September ..	1,801	1,808	2,107	1,845	1,754	1,810	1,652	1,718	1,713	1,693	1,635	1,658
October ..	1,805	1,805	2,105	1,844	1,757	1,813	1,641	1,715	1,709	1,681	1,633	1,648
November ..	1,820	1,797	2,103	1,838	1,731	1,825	1,644	1,701	1,701	1,671	1,631	1,649
December ..	1,824	1,832	2,185	1,839	1,759	1,833	1,672	1,697	1,710	1,759	1,661	1,678

HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1924 ..	1,831	1,520	930	1,755	1,255	1,776	1,574	960	986	1,267	1,227	1,513
1925 ..	1,870	1,654	1,001	1,687	1,373	1,823	1,604	1,034	1,089	1,322	1,222	1,548
1926 ..	1,826	1,699	1,101	1,741	1,457	1,793	1,695	1,022	1,194	1,569	1,211	1,640
1927 ..	1,814	1,737	1,133	1,861	1,416	1,787	1,710	1,031	1,288	1,681	1,296	1,660
1928 ..	1,868	1,781	1,147	1,835	1,447	1,839	1,778	1,103	1,297	1,602	1,359	1,722
1927 1st Qtr.	1,812	1,721	1,105	1,803	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	1,448	1,794	1,699	1,032	1,249	1,636	1,258	1,649
3rd "	1,808	1,721	1,150	1,830	1,391	1,782	1,718	1,034	1,323	1,636	1,308	1,669
4th "	1,812	1,785	1,130	1,908	1,374	1,739	1,724	1,030	1,331	1,631	1,360	1,676
1928 1st Qtr.	1,867	1,779	1,146	1,971	1,431	1,839	1,779	1,085	1,290	1,617	1,357	1,723
2nd "	1,867	1,786	1,149	1,973	1,433	1,839	1,780	1,092	1,297	1,594	1,360	1,724
3rd "	1,868	1,788	1,147	1,885	1,463	1,840	1,776	1,103	1,305	1,597	1,360	1,721
4th "	1,869	1,779	1,147	1,910	1,463	1,840	1,775	1,132	1,294	1,597	1,360	1,721

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1924 ..	1,769	1,663	1,570	1,763	1,500	1,753	1,643	1,425	1,450	1,520	1,537	1,622
1925 ..	1,817	1,748	1,691	1,749	1,590	1,805	1,694	1,439	1,520	1,577	1,593	1,673
1926 ..	1,852	1,793	1,735	1,810	1,600	1,842	1,744	1,515	1,574	1,639	1,551	1,725
1927 ..	1,834	1,796	1,770	1,843	1,644	1,825	1,734	1,492	1,539	1,600	1,546	1,706
1928 ..	1,842	1,805	1,777	1,882	1,648	1,836	1,719	1,492	1,565	1,665	1,547	1,701
1927 1st Qtr.	1,834	1,795	1,724	1,822	1,666	1,826	1,693	1,486	1,567	1,672	1,518	1,682
2nd "	1,815	1,763	1,750	1,806	1,639	1,807	1,694	1,471	1,554	1,679	1,519	1,678
3rd "	1,815	1,782	1,795	1,867	1,625	1,810	1,765	1,511	1,625	1,702	1,567	1,737
4th "	1,871	1,845	1,812	1,898	1,646	1,866	1,747	1,499	1,611	1,706	1,532	1,729
1928 1st Qtr.	1,846	1,810	1,807	1,896	1,642	1,841	1,739	1,495	1,570	1,675	1,566	1,719
2nd "	1,853	1,805	1,779	1,901	1,653	1,846	1,736	1,494	1,572	1,668	1,557	1,716
3rd "	1,832	1,804	1,760	1,893	1,655	1,827	1,702	1,490	1,566	1,654	1,529	1,693
4th "	1,836	1,799	1,762	1,866	1,641	1,830	1,699	1,490	1,551	1,664	1,536	1,682

(a) See explanatory note at head of page 20.

Retail Price Index—Numbers 30 Towns 1924 to 1928: 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, Moonla, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).												
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	1,668	1,734	1,840	1,854	1,934	1,753	1,939	1,844
1926 ..	1,788	1,770	1,874	2,030	1,798	1,803	1,869	1,926	1,995	1,830	1,932	1,876
1927 ..	1,690	1,631	1,796	2,030	1,733	1,701	1,841	1,915	1,916	1,815	1,971	1,848
1928 ..	1,671	1,593	1,735	1,944	1,664	1,680	1,775	1,894	1,875	1,783	1,985	1,788
1927 1st Qtr.	1,719	1,712	1,856	2,118	1,788	1,746	1,831	1,916	1,928	1,814	1,904	1,838
2nd ..	1,642	1,585	1,767	2,008	1,695	1,663	1,822	1,916	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	1,915	1,911	1,816	1,965	1,846
1928 1st Qtr.	1,669	1,575	1,727	1,963	1,651	1,677	1,810	1,920	1,903	1,806	2,006	1,820
2nd ..	1,669	1,584	1,735	1,919	1,655	1,677	1,828	1,905	1,905	1,799	1,993	1,835
3rd ..	1,650	1,507	1,715	1,908	1,655	1,661	1,751	1,869	1,849	1,785	1,955	1,761
4th ..	1,695	1,616	1,763	1,986	1,694	1,705	1,713	1,883	1,842	1,744	1,982	1,728
1928.												
January ..	1,674	1,589	1,724	1,975	1,666	1,683	1,822	1,940	1,917	1,819	2,015	1,832
February ..	1,666	1,564	1,723	1,965	1,648	1,674	1,807	1,915	1,902	1,814	2,008	1,817
March ..	1,667	1,573	1,734	1,946	1,643	1,675	1,802	1,906	1,889	1,784	1,996	1,811
April ..	1,659	1,569	1,724	1,910	1,641	1,666	1,820	1,904	1,902	1,786	1,999	1,827
May ..	1,677	1,583	1,746	1,922	1,665	1,684	1,830	1,901	1,902	1,804	1,998	1,837
June ..	1,672	1,599	1,785	1,928	1,659	1,681	1,832	1,900	1,910	1,807	1,996	1,839
July ..	1,661	1,605	1,729	1,917	1,663	1,672	1,800	1,889	1,888	1,792	1,980	1,808
August ..	1,645	1,599	1,713	1,906	1,655	1,657	1,741	1,857	1,841	1,785	1,946	1,752
September ..	1,644	1,585	1,703	1,900	1,647	1,654	1,711	1,861	1,819	1,778	1,938	1,724
October ..	1,692	1,603	1,754	1,936	1,653	1,698	1,898	1,852	1,813	1,743	1,926	1,707
November ..	1,694	1,609	1,777	1,975	1,694	1,704	1,893	1,865	1,823	1,737	1,971	1,708
December ..	1,699	1,635	1,760	2,048	1,733	1,712	1,754	1,934	1,889	1,743	2,048	1,769
HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1924 ..	1,157	1,033	799	911	1,097	1,106	1,540	990	1,005	810	1,225	1,465
1925 ..	1,165	1,139	1,027	921	1,087	1,141	1,576	969	1,049	821	1,270	1,514
1926 ..	1,333	1,208	1,083	929	1,163	1,283	1,516	925	1,135	865	1,219	1,461
1927 ..	1,361	1,215	1,141	922	1,219	1,312	1,540	831	1,146	835	1,309	1,484
1928 ..	1,372	1,189	1,068	1,106	1,110	1,316	1,672	786	1,143	898	1,259	1,601
1927 1st Qtr.	1,334	1,212	1,155	922	1,150	1,290	1,520	843	1,133	821	1,375	1,466
2nd ..	1,334	1,220	1,174	922	1,242	1,295	1,520	851	1,148	821	1,274	1,466
3rd ..	1,366	1,213	1,121	922	1,242	1,329	1,561	825	1,157	821	1,270	1,502
4th ..	1,389	1,217	1,113	922	1,242	1,332	1,559	803	1,143	878	1,309	1,500
1928 1st Qtr.	1,363	1,188	1,082	1,036	1,115	1,323	1,669	793	1,141	892	1,238	1,599
2nd ..	1,377	1,188	1,082	1,113	1,115	1,321	1,670	786	1,141	892	1,219	1,607
3rd ..	1,365	1,188	1,071	1,113	1,104	1,310	1,669	785	1,141	903	1,283	1,599
4th ..	1,364	1,100	1,037	1,163	1,104	1,309	1,668	779	1,151	903	1,308	1,508
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
1924 ..	1,490	1,388	1,349	1,492	1,427	1,468	1,697	1,469	1,514	1,361	1,595	1,675
1925 ..	1,621	1,479	1,478	1,517	1,450	1,511	1,741	1,484	1,602	1,403	1,688	1,720
1926 ..	1,617	1,559	1,577	1,617	1,500	1,608	1,736	1,513	1,672	1,408	1,695	1,720
1927 ..	1,590	1,475	1,550	1,617	1,540	1,554	1,728	1,508	1,627	1,447	1,722	1,711
1928 ..	1,559	1,441	1,484	1,629	1,455	1,543	1,736	1,478	1,600	1,451	1,713	1,718
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	1,709	1,516	1,619	1,429	1,697	1,693
3rd ..	1,562	1,452	1,532	1,596	1,539	1,561	1,756	1,504	1,635	1,453	1,709	1,736
4th ..	1,578	1,475	1,531	1,606	1,549	1,566	1,734	1,497	1,622	1,464	1,738	1,716
1928 1st Qtr.	1,561	1,430	1,485	1,614	1,450	1,544	1,767	1,497	1,617	1,463	1,714	1,737
2nd ..	1,559	1,435	1,490	1,617	1,462	1,543	1,772	1,485	1,618	1,458	1,705	1,749
3rd ..	1,543	1,443	1,491	1,609	1,448	1,529	1,720	1,462	1,583	1,454	1,703	1,700
4th ..	1,571	1,456	1,491	1,677	1,472	1,556	1,600	1,469	1,582	1,428	1,729	1,679

(a) See note at head of page 20.



Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1924 to 1928 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (b) (= 1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.						Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam (a).	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie (a).	Devonport (a).	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.		
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).</b>														
1924 ..	1,801	2,122	1,916	1,940	1,985	1,918	1,849	1,836	1,879	1,864	2,016	1,853	1,732	1,738
1925 ..	1,938	2,144	2,013	2,009	2,067	1,965	1,810	1,795	1,821	1,849	2,046	1,817	1,785	1,791
1926 ..	1,866	2,124	2,018	2,006	2,009	1,902	1,868	1,843	1,890	1,885	2,034	1,871	1,829	1,837
1927 ..	1,796	2,052	1,963	1,982	1,968	1,834	1,788	1,765	1,818	1,769	1,977	1,790	1,789	1,796
1928 ..	1,882	1,997	1,974	2,021	1,960	1,911	1,727	1,696	1,800	1,739	1,931	1,729	1,761	1,769
1927 1st Qtr.	1,612	2,058	1,953	2,004	1,980	1,848	1,812	1,801	1,819	1,844	2,008	1,818	1,782	1,792
2nd "	1,828	2,086	2,000	1,983	1,966	1,865	1,787	1,770	1,824	1,766	1,963	1,790	1,768	1,766
3rd "	1,775	2,053	1,959	1,983	1,956	1,816	1,795	1,756	1,827	1,819	1,930	1,793	1,794	1,801
4th "	1,769	2,012	1,939	1,980	1,971	1,807	1,760	1,733	1,801	1,787	1,955	1,760	1,820	1,825
1928 1st Qtr.	1,768	2,003	1,991	1,959	1,946	1,803	1,730	1,711	1,792	1,718	1,924	1,733	1,771	1,777
2nd "	1,908	2,090	1,999	2,017	1,955	1,924	1,736	1,715	1,825	1,770	1,929	1,743	1,784	1,789
3rd "	1,930	2,158	2,016	2,063	1,964	1,959	1,717	1,686	1,783	1,739	1,927	1,719	1,745	1,764
4th "	1,929	2,166	2,020	2,043	1,981	1,959	1,725	1,673	1,799	1,731	1,934	1,721	1,746	1,765
<b>1928.</b>														
January ..	1,758	2,007	1,876	1,946	1,955	1,795	1,743	1,721	1,781	1,709	1,934	1,743	1,780	1,787
February ..	1,768	2,001	1,886	1,965	1,932	1,803	1,724	1,709	1,795	1,712	1,915	1,729	1,760	1,768
March ..	1,778	2,001	1,907	1,965	1,953	1,810	1,725	1,702	1,800	1,732	1,923	1,729	1,772	1,777
April ..	1,825	2,007	1,905	1,966	1,951	1,851	1,740	1,718	1,817	1,775	1,937	1,746	1,783	1,788
May ..	1,885	2,090	1,964	1,997	1,980	1,909	1,744	1,717	1,831	1,782	1,943	1,749	1,787	1,791
June ..	2,000	2,113	2,047	2,099	1,956	2,014	1,726	1,708	1,827	1,754	1,938	1,734	1,782	1,787
July ..	1,952	2,126	2,032	2,075	1,961	1,975	1,725	1,699	1,795	1,756	1,936	1,729	1,761	1,769
August ..	1,939	2,174	2,043	2,096	1,962	1,969	1,713	1,682	1,783	1,737	1,928	1,716	1,741	1,751
September ..	1,900	2,173	1,974	2,019	1,946	1,934	1,712	1,678	1,770	1,723	1,917	1,713	1,733	1,742
October ..	1,966	2,162	2,045	2,067	1,999	1,991	1,712	1,670	1,778	1,724	1,911	1,711	1,738	1,747
November ..	1,912	2,159	2,030	2,039	1,973	1,944	1,724	1,668	1,777	1,725	1,919	1,717	1,741	1,749
December ..	1,906	2,178	1,985	2,024	1,970	1,942	1,740	1,681	1,841	1,744	1,972	1,736	1,759	1,769

HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).

1924 ..	1,311	919	1,330	1,158	1,340	1,268	1,592	1,272	1,300	1,277	910	1,446	1,616	1,651
1925 ..	1,340	898	1,405	1,167	1,398	1,293	1,649	1,319	1,339	1,247	810	1,495	1,647	1,589
1926 ..	1,469	897	1,403	1,156	1,409	1,400	1,628	1,302	1,284	1,240	648	1,470	1,677	1,622
1927 ..	1,507	886	1,462	1,165	1,422	1,432	1,579	1,286	1,259	1,215	693	1,435	1,684	1,632
1928 ..	1,639	886	1,469	1,097	1,564	1,461	1,535	1,382	1,273	1,163	752	1,436	1,743	1,687
1927 1st Qtr.	1,482	884	1,429	1,185	1,408	1,411	1,599	1,267	1,265	1,253	628	1,442	1,673	1,622
2nd "	1,480	884	1,429	1,185	1,408	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	1,636
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
1928 1st Qtr.	1,536	875	1,541	1,068	1,547	1,457	1,539	1,399	1,273	1,238	721	1,446	1,744	1,687
2nd "	1,540	875	1,488	1,068	1,547	1,459	1,537	1,399	1,273	1,170	772	1,442	1,745	1,688
3rd "	1,540	898	1,483	1,115	1,547	1,463	1,520	1,381	1,273	1,120	761	1,424	1,741	1,685
4th "	1,540	893	1,484	1,137	1,618	1,464	1,545	1,348	1,273	1,122	754	1,430	1,742	1,686

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.

1924 ..	1,678	1,670	1,696	1,646	1,746	1,674	1,753	1,625	1,662	1,643	1,564	1,701	1,688	1,666
1925 ..	1,714	1,676	1,785	1,693	1,809	1,713	1,750	1,616	1,640	1,623	1,582	1,696	1,733	1,715
1926 ..	1,717	1,694	1,787	1,687	1,784	1,713	1,778	1,640	1,668	1,643	1,545	1,720	1,772	1,756
1927 ..	1,687	1,614	1,775	1,675	1,763	1,683	1,710	1,585	1,608	1,580	1,495	1,657	1,749	1,734
1928 ..	1,753	1,642	1,796	1,674	1,811	1,742	1,655	1,578	1,662	1,623	1,488	1,619	1,755	1,738
1927 1st Qtr.	1,638	1,617	1,756	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	1,611	1,571	1,461	1,663	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	1,660	1,755	1,740
4th "	1,692	1,589	1,730	1,664	1,770	1,676	1,684	1,579	1,597	1,530	1,520	1,638	1,773	1,757
1928 1st Qtr.	1,681	1,579	1,759	1,624	1,796	1,673	1,659	1,594	1,597	1,538	1,472	1,625	1,761	1,744
2nd "	1,787	1,615	1,788	1,661	1,802	1,750	1,661	1,596	1,617	1,545	1,501	1,630	1,769	1,751
3rd "	1,784	1,685	1,816	1,707	1,802	1,773	1,643	1,572	1,591	1,506	1,489	1,609	1,744	1,728
4th "	1,783	1,688	1,819	1,708	1,845	1,773	1,658	1,551	1,601	1,502	1,491	1,612	1,744	1,729

(a) The Towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zeehan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1928 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.).  
 (b) See note at head of page 20.

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 20 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 two last columns in each of the tables above refer to the weighted average for the six capital cities and for the 30 towns. The population weights used in the computations of these weighted averages for 1923 and subsequent years are 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.	155	Hobart	52
Newcastle	84	Ballaarat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadina, 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	Chrts. Twrs.	9	Mt. Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	6
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.

### 9. 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 1926 to 1928 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.	1926.			1927.			1928.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Rydney .. .. .	1,166	686	1,852	1,153	681	1,834	1,140	702	1,842
Newcastle .. .. .	1,155	638	1,793	1,144	652	1,796	1,136	689	1,805
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,322	413	1,735	1,345	425	1,770	1,346	431	1,777
Goulburn .. .. .	1,156	654	1,810	1,150	698	1,848	1,155	727	1,882
Bathurst .. .. .	1,119	547	1,666	1,112	532	1,644	1,104	544	1,648
Weighted Average ..	1,163	674	1,842	1,157	671	1,828	1,146	691	1,836
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. .. .	1,103	636	1,744	1,082	642	1,724	1,051	663	1,719
Ballarat .. .. .	1,131	384	1,515	1,105	387	1,492	1,078	414	1,492
Rendgo .. .. .	1,125	449	1,574	1,106	483	1,539	1,078	487	1,565
Geelong .. .. .	1,100	589	1,639	1,078	612	1,690	1,064	601	1,665
Warrnambool .. .. .	1,096	455	1,551	1,060	486	1,546	1,037	510	1,547
Weighted Average ..	1,109	616	1,725	1,083	623	1,706	1,054	647	1,701
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	1,116	501	1,617	1,049	511	1,560	1,044	515	1,559
Toowoomba .. .. .	1,105	454	1,559	1,018	457	1,475	995	446	1,441
Rockhampton .. .. .	1,170	407	1,577	1,122	428	1,550	1,083	401	1,484
Charters Towers .. .. .	1,268	349	1,617	1,271	346	1,617	1,214	415	1,629
Warwick .. .. .	1,121	439	1,580	1,032	458	1,540	1,039	416	1,455
Weighted Average ..	1,126	482	1,608	1,062	492	1,554	1,049	494	1,543
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,167	569	1,736	1,150	578	1,728	1,109	627	1,736
Kadina, &c. .. .. .	1,203	310	1,513	1,106	312	1,508	1,188	295	1,478
Port Pirie .. .. .	1,246	426	1,672	1,196	431	1,627	1,171	429	1,600
Mount Gambler .. .. .	1,143	325	1,468	1,133	314	1,447	1,114	337	1,451
Peterborough .. .. .	1,238	457	1,695	1,231	491	1,722	1,240	473	1,713
Weighted Average ..	1,171	549	1,720	1,154	557	1,711	1,115	601	1,716
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth, &c. .. .. .	1,165	552	1,717	1,122	565	1,687	1,175	578	1,763
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. .. .	1,327	337	1,664	1,282	332	1,614	1,309	333	1,642
Northam .. .. .	1,260	627	1,737	1,226	549	1,775	1,233	563	1,796
Bunbury .. .. .	1,253	434	1,687	1,238	437	1,675	1,262	412	1,674
Geraldton .. .. .	1,255	529	1,784	1,229	534	1,763	1,224	587	1,811
Weighted Average ..	1,188	525	1,713	1,145	538	1,683	1,194	548	1,742
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. .. .	1,167	611	1,778	1,117	593	1,710	1,078	577	1,655
Lancaster .. .. .	1,151	439	1,640	1,102	483	1,585	1,059	519	1,578
Burnie .. .. .	1,186	482	1,668	1,135	473	1,608	1,124	478	1,602
Devonport .. .. .	1,177	466	1,643	1,123	457	1,580	1,086	437	1,523
Queenstown .. .. .	1,301	244	1,545	1,234	261	1,495	1,206	282	1,488
Weighted Average ..	1,168	552	1,720	1,118	539	1,657	1,080	539	1,619
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. .. .	1,147	609	1,756	1,121	613	1,734	1,105	633	1,738
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. .. .	1,142	630	1,772	1,117	632	1,749	1,100	655	1,755

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 population weights used are given on page 26. 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 1928, the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and housing being £1,738, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £1,105 (1st column), and the average rental £633, the sum of the two latter amounts being £1,738. 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 1928, commodities which would cost £1,140 in Sydney can be purchased for £1,051 in Melbourne, or £1,109 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent, an expenditure of £1,719 in Melbourne is equivalent to £1,842 in Sydney, £1,736 in Adelaide, £1,642 in Kalgoorlie, or £1,811 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;  $23s. 0d. \times \frac{487}{668} = 16s. 9d.$

(ii.) *Food and Groceries.*—The weighted average of the five towns was below the weighted average for all towns for 1928 in Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania, and above it in the other States.

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

(iv.) *Food and Groceries and Housing combined.*—The average cost of food, groceries, and housing in 1928 was greatest in Goulburn, followed by Sydney, Geraldton, Newcastle, and Northam, and was least in Toowoomba and Mt. Gambier.

10. *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:—(a) food and groceries; (b) house rent; and (c) food, groceries, and house rent combined 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, by referring to the section of the table relating to food, groceries, and house rent combined it will be seen that 21s. in

Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 17s. 4d. in Brisbane, or 18s. 9d. in Hobart, while 34s. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1928 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 1928 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 in 1911 in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne..	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).</b>							
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	33 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 <sup>3</sup>	36 10	35 11	35 9	35 9
1928 ..	36 6	33 8	33 5 <sup>3</sup>	35 6	37 8	34 6	35 3
1928 1st Qtr.	36 8	34 4	33 5	36 2	35 4	34 7	35 5
.. 2nd Qtr.	36 11	34 2	33 5 <sup>1</sup>	36 7	38 1	34 9	35 8
.. 3rd Qtr.	36 2	33 2	33 0 <sup>2</sup>	35 0	38 7	34 4	34 11
.. 4th Qtr.	36 4	33 1	33 11	34 3	38 7	34 6	34 11

**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	28 10	20 7	26 5	24 2	28 10	28 2
1922 ..	33 7	28 10	22 7	27 6	25 1	27 2	28 9
1923 ..	34 9	30 8	23 0	29 0	25 11	30 1	31 1
1924 ..	36 7	31 6	23 2	30 10	26 3	31 10	32 4
1925 ..	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1926 ..	36 6	33 11	26 8	30 4	29 5	32 7	33 7
1927 ..	36 3	34 2	27 3	30 10	30 2	31 7	33 8
1928 ..	37 4	35 7	27 5	33 5	30 9	30 8	34 10
1928 1st Qtr.	37 4	35 7	27 8	33 5	30 9	30 9	34 11
.. 2nd Qtr.	37 4	35 7	27 7	33 7	30 10	30 9	34 11
.. 3rd Qtr.	37 4	35 6	27 4	33 5	30 10	30 5	34 10
.. 4th Qtr.	37 5	35 6	27 3	33 4	30 10	30 11	34 10

**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
1928 ..	36 10	34 5	31 2	34 9	35 1	33 1	35 1
1928 1st Qtr.	36 11	34 9	31 3	35 2	33 7	33 2	35 3
.. 2nd Qtr.	37 1	34 9	31 2	35 5	35 4	33 3	35 5
.. 3rd Qtr.	36 8	34 0	30 10	34 5	35 8	32 10	34 11
.. 4th Qtr.	36 9	34 0	31 5	33 11	35 8	33 2	34 11

(a) Base of each Section.

11. **Price Details, 1928.**—The summarized results of price-movements are published quarterly, and the average retail prices of food and groceries for each month are published in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics. In Section II. of the Appendix to this Report the average retail price of each item of the food and groceries regimen during 1928 is given for the 30 towns included in the investigation. Information with regard to house rents is published quarterly in the Summary, and annually in the Labour Reports. In appendixes to Labour Report, No. 1, detailed particulars were given of retail prices and house rents in the capital cities for each year, 1901 to 1911. In Report, No. 2, and subsequent issues information in detail regarding retail prices and rents during each year has been published.

### § 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

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.

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

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

5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the cost of clothing and miscellaneous items. 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. **Retail Prices—Thirty Towns—Nov., 1914, to 4th Quarter, 1928.**—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.



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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.								
Nov. 1914 ..	995	1,624	1,515	1,432	1,450	1,604	980	1,447	1,434	1,467	1,470	1,441								
" 1921 ..	1,508	1,743	1,743	1,618	1,541	1,692	1,439	1,404	1,396	1,455	1,508	1,470								
" 1922 ..	1,588	1,693	1,703	1,642	1,486	1,517	1,472	1,404	1,396	1,455	1,508	1,470								
Year 1923 ..	1,511	1,626	1,708	1,642	1,486	1,517	1,469	1,404	1,396	1,455	1,508	1,470								
" 1924 ..	1,557	1,671	1,838	1,657	1,509	1,595	1,423	1,358	1,352	1,408	1,461	1,422								
" 1925 ..	1,628	1,614	1,846	1,616	1,563	1,632	1,343	1,368	1,372	1,368	1,361	1,343								
" 1926 ..	1,610	1,579	1,879	1,606	1,583	1,613	1,311	1,343	1,374	1,350	1,349	1,312								
" 1927 ..	1,593	1,587	1,850	1,614	1,583	1,600	1,469	1,300	1,306	1,366	1,443	1,412								
1928 1st Qtr.	1,609	1,595	1,922	1,615	1,583	1,607	1,496	1,319	1,316	1,402	1,476	1,408								
" 2nd "	1,609	1,590	1,883	1,615	1,577	1,614	1,491	1,314	1,316	1,408	1,482	1,448								
" 3rd "	1,579	1,582	1,857	1,615	1,543	1,587	1,446	1,314	1,304	1,402	1,452	1,441								
" 4th "	1,584	1,580	1,850	1,603	1,526	1,591	1,441	1,307	1,308	1,408	1,480	1,432								
<b>QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>																				
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, B.A.								
	Nov. 1914 ..	987	1,395	1,480	1,531	1,460	1,432	1,046	1,474	1,510	1,440	1,554	1,471							
" 1921 ..	1,490	1,405	1,516	1,592	1,443	1,483	1,190	1,550	1,578	1,539	1,571	1,587								
Year 1922 ..	1,477	1,405	1,516	1,592	1,443	1,483	1,190	1,550	1,578	1,539	1,571	1,587								
" 1923 ..	1,474	1,396	1,466	1,606	1,417	1,471	1,163	1,532	1,587	1,476	1,592	1,561								
" 1924 ..	1,513	1,460	1,524	1,635	1,425	1,513	1,005	1,617	1,687	1,569	1,691	1,608								
" 1925 ..	1,559	1,544	1,635	1,771	1,566	1,573	1,040	1,680	1,740	1,597	1,729	1,635								
" 1926 ..	1,468	1,492	1,567	1,778	1,512	1,483	1,006	1,670	1,671	1,583	1,719	1,612								
" 1927 ..	1,458	1,389	1,518	1,698	1,481	1,465	1,049	1,632	1,635	1,556	1,712	1,568								
1928 1st Qtr.	1,450	1,374	1,507	1,711	1,440	1,463	1,579	1,675	1,660	1,575	1,750	1,587								
" 2nd "	1,456	1,381	1,517	1,674	1,444	1,463	1,584	1,661	1,663	1,569	1,743	1,609								
" 3rd "	1,439	1,393	1,496	1,664	1,443	1,469	1,557	1,630	1,613	1,557	1,705	1,609								
" 4th "	1,473	1,409	1,588	1,733	1,477	1,487	1,405	1,643	1,609	1,531	1,729	1,507								
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>																				
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average & Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.							
	Nov. 1914 ..	1,184	1,740	1,644	1,636	1,608	1,610	1,001	1,446	1,553	1,630	1,577	1,000	1,487						
" 1921 ..	1,567	1,833	1,711	1,605	1,673	1,623	1,026	1,587	1,642	1,618	1,703	1,618	1,574							
Year 1922 ..	1,594	1,831	1,711	1,605	1,673	1,623	1,013	1,587	1,642	1,618	1,703	1,618	1,574							
" 1923 ..	1,640	1,851	1,673	1,692	1,732	1,613	1,013	1,602	1,639	1,626	1,733	1,617	1,514							
" 1924 ..	1,601	1,870	1,756	1,752	1,794	1,614	1,014	1,570	1,598	1,613	1,785	1,585	1,557							
" 1925 ..	1,627	1,853	1,760	1,750	1,753	1,629	1,000	1,608	1,637	1,645	1,818	1,592	1,596							
" 1926 ..	1,587	1,790	1,712	1,720	1,717	1,600	1,000	1,581	1,591	1,724	1,662	1,560	1,602							
" 1927 ..	1,643	1,830	1,722	1,783	1,709	1,607	1,007	1,490	1,570	1,517	1,684	1,508	1,543							
1928 1st Qtr.	1,543	1,747	1,640	1,709	1,698	1,573	1,009	1,492	1,563	1,498	1,678	1,512	1,545							
" 2nd "	1,660	1,757	1,717	1,790	1,708	1,610	1,000	1,490	1,592	1,644	1,692	1,566	1,580							
" 3rd "	1,684	1,832	1,759	1,800	1,709	1,610	1,497	1,471	1,555	1,517	1,831	1,500	1,530							
" 4th "	1,633	1,800	1,762	1,782	1,729	1,591	1,459	1,509	1,510	1,607	1,692	1,523	1,531							

(d) 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.	Goulbura.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulbura.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,168	1,304	892	1,357	919	1,438	937	738	812	1,030	1,050	1,216	1,168	1,304	892	1,357	919	1,438	937	738	812	1,030	1,050	1,216
Year 1913 ..	1,639	1,885	833	1,450	984	1,637	1,303	800	935	1,190	1,135	1,392	1,639	1,885	833	1,450	984	1,637	1,303	800	935	1,190	1,135	1,392
" 1914 ..	1,726	1,433	876	1,691	1,294	1,674	1,434	905	1,027	1,104	1,156	1,457	1,726	1,433	876	1,691	1,294	1,674	1,434	905	1,027	1,104	1,156	1,457
" 1925 ..	1,753	1,559	944	1,691	1,294	1,719	1,512	975	1,027	1,247	1,152	1,459	1,753	1,559	944	1,691	1,294	1,719	1,512	975	1,027	1,247	1,152	1,459
" 1926 ..	1,722	1,602	1,038	1,641	1,373	1,690	1,598	938	1,126	1,479	1,141	1,456	1,722	1,602	1,038	1,641	1,373	1,690	1,598	938	1,126	1,479	1,141	1,456
" 1927 ..	1,710	1,638	1,083	1,754	1,335	1,685	1,612	1,214	1,126	1,637	1,232	1,565	1,710	1,638	1,083	1,754	1,335	1,685	1,612	1,214	1,126	1,637	1,232	1,565
" 1928 ..	1,761	1,679	1,082	1,823	1,305	1,734	1,676	972	1,222	1,510	1,281	1,634	1,761	1,679	1,082	1,823	1,305	1,734	1,676	972	1,222	1,510	1,281	1,634
1929 1st Qtr.	1,761	1,677	1,080	1,858	1,349	1,734	1,678	1,023	1,217	1,525	1,290	1,656	1,761	1,677	1,080	1,858	1,349	1,734	1,678	1,023	1,217	1,525	1,290	1,656
" 2nd "	1,762	1,675	1,083	1,860	1,351	1,733	1,678	1,029	1,223	1,503	1,282	1,665	1,762	1,675	1,083	1,860	1,351	1,733	1,678	1,029	1,223	1,503	1,282	1,665
" 3rd "	1,762	1,686	1,081	1,777	1,379	1,731	1,674	1,040	1,230	1,506	1,282	1,652	1,762	1,686	1,081	1,777	1,379	1,731	1,674	1,040	1,230	1,506	1,282	1,652
" 4th "	1,762	1,673	1,081	1,801	1,379	1,735	1,674	1,067	1,220	1,506	1,282	1,652	1,762	1,673	1,081	1,801	1,379	1,735	1,674	1,067	1,220	1,506	1,282	1,652
<b>QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>																								
Period.	Erisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	Erisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
Nov. 1914 ..	714	643	752	814	624	915	945	812	629	739	812	1,204	714	643	752	814	624	915	945	812	629	739	812	1,204
Year 1913 ..	1,083	927	739	812	823	1,023	1,262	1,003	634	789	739	890	1,083	927	739	812	823	1,023	1,262	1,003	634	789	739	890
" 1914 ..	1,081	974	788	869	1,023	1,048	1,367	936	647	794	744	1,156	1,081	974	788	869	1,023	1,048	1,367	936	647	794	744	1,156
" 1925 ..	1,091	1,078	908	868	1,023	1,076	1,432	819	689	841	794	1,400	1,091	1,078	908	868	1,023	1,076	1,432	819	689	841	794	1,400
" 1926 ..	1,257	1,139	1,021	876	1,101	1,210	1,452	778	783	816	1,130	1,377	1,257	1,139	1,021	876	1,101	1,210	1,452	778	783	816	1,130	1,377
" 1927 ..	1,258	1,146	1,047	869	1,140	1,238	1,462	783	1,060	757	1,140	1,377	1,258	1,146	1,047	869	1,140	1,238	1,462	783	1,060	757	1,140	1,377
" 1928 ..	1,294	1,121	1,007	1,043	1,040	1,241	1,576	741	1,078	846	1,187	1,609	1,294	1,121	1,007	1,043	1,040	1,241	1,576	741	1,078	846	1,187	1,609
1928 1st Qtr.	1,294	1,120	1,020	977	1,051	1,247	1,574	749	1,076	841	1,187	1,607	1,294	1,120	1,020	977	1,051	1,247	1,574	749	1,076	841	1,187	1,607
" 2nd "	1,288	1,120	1,020	1,049	1,041	1,245	1,583	741	1,076	852	1,210	1,607	1,288	1,120	1,020	1,049	1,041	1,245	1,583	741	1,076	852	1,210	1,607
" 3rd "	1,287	1,120	1,009	1,049	1,041	1,233	1,573	740	1,085	851	1,210	1,607	1,287	1,120	1,009	1,049	1,041	1,233	1,573	740	1,085	851	1,210	1,607
" 4th "	1,286	1,122	978	1,080	1,041	1,233	1,573	734	1,085	851	1,210	1,607	1,286	1,122	978	1,080	1,041	1,233	1,573	734	1,085	851	1,210	1,607
<b>TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>																								
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burke.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burke.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.
Nov. 1914 ..	904	892	949	1,000	1,201	1,084	819	1,042	454	231	764	1,000	904	892	949	1,000	1,201	1,084	819	1,042	454	231	764	1,000
Year 1913 ..	1,162	1,057	1,088	1,272	1,315	1,315	1,341	1,172	1,166	1,156	1,282	1,369	1,162	1,057	1,088	1,272	1,315	1,315	1,341	1,172	1,166	1,156	1,282	1,369
" 1914 ..	1,290	880	1,254	1,091	1,272	1,196	1,417	1,200	1,226	1,204	1,484	1,484	1,290	880	1,254	1,091	1,272	1,196	1,417	1,200	1,226	1,204	1,484	1,484
" 1925 ..	1,285	846	1,325	1,141	1,819	1,212	1,555	1,244	1,268	1,176	1,764	1,764	1,285	846	1,325	1,141	1,819	1,212	1,555	1,244	1,268	1,176	1,764	1,764
" 1926 ..	1,385	846	1,323	1,080	1,898	1,350	1,538	1,229	1,210	1,179	1,709	1,709	1,385	846	1,323	1,080	1,898	1,350	1,538	1,229	1,210	1,179	1,709	1,709
" 1927 ..	1,421	835	1,378	1,098	1,940	1,350	1,498	1,229	1,157	1,145	1,838	1,838	1,421	835	1,378	1,098	1,940	1,350	1,498	1,229	1,157	1,145	1,838	1,838
" 1928 ..	1,451	835	1,413	1,035	1,475	1,377	1,447	1,303	1,200	1,090	1,833	1,833	1,451	835	1,413	1,035	1,475	1,377	1,447	1,303	1,200	1,090	1,833	1,833
1928 1st Qtr.	1,448	825	1,453	1,007	1,458	1,374	1,431	1,318	1,200	1,158	1,803	1,803	1,448	825	1,453	1,007	1,458	1,374	1,431	1,318	1,200	1,158	1,803	1,803
" 2nd "	1,452	825	1,453	1,007	1,458	1,379	1,440	1,318	1,200	1,194	1,728	1,728	1,452	825	1,453	1,007	1,458	1,379	1,440	1,318	1,200	1,194	1,717	1,717
" 3rd "	1,451	847	1,399	1,052	1,459	1,379	1,438	1,318	1,200	1,056	1,717	1,717	1,451	847	1,399	1,052	1,459	1,379	1,438	1,318	1,200	1,056	1,717	1,717
" 4th "	1,451	842	1,399	1,072	1,459	1,380	1,457	1,380	1,200	1,059	1,711	1,711	1,451	842	1,399	1,072	1,459	1,380	1,457	1,380	1,200	1,059	1,711	1,711

(a) Base.

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (9 and 5 rooms)—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ;  
Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.													
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,067	1,467	1,292	1,438	1,206	1,499	952	1,194	1,212	1,311	1,328	1,301	1,067	1,467	1,292	1,438	1,206	1,499	952	1,194	1,212	1,311	1,328	1,301
Year 1923 ..	1,600	1,514	1,418	1,558	1,342	1,561	1,390	1,312	1,342	1,410	1,467	1,410	1,600	1,514	1,418	1,558	1,342	1,561	1,390	1,312	1,342	1,410	1,467	1,410
" 1924 ..	1,388	1,493	1,409	1,482	1,348	1,573	1,475	1,279	1,302	1,385	1,425	1,385	1,388	1,493	1,409	1,482	1,348	1,573	1,475	1,279	1,302	1,385	1,425	1,385
" 1925 ..	1,681	1,567	1,517	1,568	1,427	1,490	1,580	1,428	1,450	1,517	1,582	1,428	1,681	1,567	1,517	1,568	1,427	1,490	1,580	1,428	1,450	1,517	1,582	1,428
" 1926 ..	1,462	1,609	1,557	1,624	1,495	1,653	1,566	1,388	1,412	1,415	1,492	1,517	1,462	1,609	1,557	1,624	1,495	1,653	1,566	1,388	1,412	1,415	1,492	1,517
" 1927 ..	1,346	1,612	1,589	1,650	1,475	1,640	1,547	1,339	1,438	1,517	1,582	1,517	1,346	1,612	1,589	1,650	1,475	1,640	1,547	1,339	1,438	1,517	1,582	1,517
" 1928 ..	1,653	1,620	1,595	1,680	1,479	1,649	1,543	1,390	1,405	1,404	1,398	1,508	1,653	1,620	1,595	1,680	1,479	1,649	1,543	1,390	1,405	1,404	1,398	1,508
1928 1st Qtr.	1,667	1,624	1,621	1,702	1,474	1,652	1,591	1,342	1,409	1,504	1,406	1,504	1,667	1,624	1,621	1,702	1,474	1,652	1,591	1,342	1,409	1,504	1,406	1,504
" 2nd "	1,003	1,620	1,597	1,706	1,484	1,657	1,568	1,340	1,411	1,407	1,397	1,407	1,003	1,620	1,597	1,706	1,484	1,657	1,568	1,340	1,411	1,407	1,397	1,407
" 3rd "	1,644	1,619	1,580	1,672	1,485	1,650	1,527	1,328	1,406	1,484	1,484	1,484	1,644	1,619	1,580	1,672	1,485	1,650	1,527	1,328	1,406	1,484	1,484	1,484
" 4th "	1,643	1,615	1,581	1,675	1,479	1,642	1,524	1,327	1,392	1,483	1,483	1,483	1,643	1,615	1,581	1,675	1,479	1,642	1,524	1,327	1,392	1,483	1,483	1,483
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																								
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.	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 ..	870	1,198	1,510	1,571	1,223	1,579	1,021	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	870	1,198	1,510	1,571	1,223	1,579	1,021	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302
Year 1923 ..	1,327	1,272	1,295	1,399	1,271	1,521	1,081	1,359	1,359	1,359	1,359	1,359	1,327	1,272	1,295	1,399	1,271	1,521	1,081	1,359	1,359	1,359	1,359	1,359
" 1924 ..	1,227	1,245	1,511	1,520	1,280	1,518	1,084	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,227	1,245	1,511	1,520	1,280	1,521	1,084	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318
" 1925 ..	1,365	1,322	1,521	1,521	1,301	1,537	1,082	1,323	1,323	1,323	1,323	1,323	1,365	1,322	1,521	1,521	1,301	1,537	1,082	1,323	1,323	1,323	1,323	1,323
" 1926 ..	1,453	1,390	1,416	1,481	1,409	1,443	1,086	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,453	1,390	1,416	1,481	1,409	1,443	1,086	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328
" 1927 ..	1,400	1,324	1,393	1,452	1,382	1,505	1,091	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,400	1,324	1,393	1,452	1,382	1,505	1,091	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,353
" 1928 ..	1,399	1,298	1,392	1,492	1,309	1,383	1,083	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,399	1,298	1,392	1,492	1,309	1,383	1,083	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320
1928 1st Qtr.	1,402	1,284	1,335	1,440	1,301	1,386	1,071	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,402	1,284	1,335	1,440	1,301	1,386	1,071	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345
" 2nd "	1,400	1,288	1,327	1,441	1,304	1,385	1,080	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,400	1,288	1,327	1,441	1,304	1,385	1,080	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,344
" 3rd "	1,385	1,295	1,329	1,443	1,297	1,387	1,084	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,385	1,295	1,329	1,443	1,297	1,387	1,084	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343
" 4th "	1,410	1,308	1,338	1,453	1,291	1,397	1,081	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,410	1,308	1,338	1,453	1,291	1,397	1,081	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342	1,342
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																								
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.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,071	1,441	1,396	1,409	1,468	1,426	878	1,333	1,273	1,081	1,082	1,415	1,071	1,441	1,396	1,409	1,468	1,426	878	1,333	1,273	1,081	1,082	1,415
Year 1923 ..	1,423	1,406	1,477	1,420	1,477	1,465	1,551	1,440	1,483	1,468	1,987	1,506	1,423	1,406	1,477	1,420	1,477	1,465	1,551	1,440	1,483	1,468	1,987	1,506
" 1924 ..	1,502	1,499	1,522	1,477	1,522	1,503	1,573	1,491	1,475	1,499	1,527	1,451	1,502	1,499	1,522	1,477	1,522	1,503	1,573	1,491	1,475	1,499	1,527	1,451
" 1925 ..	1,538	1,504	1,602	1,518	1,624	1,527	1,571	1,450	1,472	1,467	1,480	1,527	1,538	1,504	1,602	1,518	1,624	1,527	1,571	1,450	1,472	1,467	1,480	1,527
" 1926 ..	1,541	1,483	1,604	1,514	1,601	1,539	1,556	1,472	1,497	1,473	1,520	1,527	1,541	1,483	1,604	1,514	1,601	1,539	1,556	1,472	1,497	1,473	1,520	1,527
" 1927 ..	1,514	1,449	1,503	1,504	1,582	1,510	1,495	1,443	1,418	1,381	1,457	1,457	1,514	1,449	1,503	1,504	1,582	1,510	1,495	1,443	1,418	1,381	1,457	1,457
" 1928 ..	1,574	1,474	1,611	1,503	1,626	1,564	1,495	1,416	1,438	1,367	1,463	1,463	1,574	1,474	1,611	1,503	1,626	1,564	1,495	1,443	1,418	1,381	1,457	1,457
1928 1st Qtr.	1,508	1,417	1,579	1,456	1,612	1,502	1,489	1,430	1,433	1,380	1,371	1,459	1,508	1,417	1,579	1,456	1,612	1,502	1,489	1,430	1,433	1,380	1,371	1,459
" 2nd "	1,638	1,449	1,605	1,491	1,617	1,570	1,489	1,430	1,432	1,382	1,382	1,475	1,638	1,449	1,605	1,491	1,617	1,570	1,489	1,430	1,432	1,382	1,382	1,475
" 3rd "	1,601	1,512	1,638	1,523	1,618	1,591	1,475	1,411	1,428	1,382	1,382	1,475	1,601	1,512	1,638	1,523	1,618	1,591	1,475	1,411	1,428	1,382	1,382	1,475
" 4th "	1,600	1,515	1,632	1,529	1,620	1,591	1,489	1,439	1,437	1,389	1,389	1,475	1,600	1,515	1,632	1,529	1,620	1,591	1,475	1,439	1,437	1,389	1,389	1,475
(a) Inse.																								
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities.												Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.												
1,552												1,552												

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

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.	Adelaide.	Ka dlna, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mc. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov 1914 ..	1,002	1,736	1,083	1,922	1,672	1,676	1,095	2,120	2,082	1,940	1,356	1,487	1,002	1,908	1,963	2,251	1,665	1,641		
" 1921 ..	1,605	1,456	1,083	1,531	1,410	1,390	1,685	1,419	1,490	1,481	1,565	1,428	1,492	1,441	1,388	1,604	1,417	1,443		
Year 1923 ..	1,317	1,456	1,809	1,531	1,381	1,242	1,327	1,304	1,377	1,387	1,403	1,482	1,461	1,421	1,580	1,657	1,394	1,440		
" 1924 ..	1,241	1,331	1,173	1,567	1,381	1,283	1,287	1,377	1,396	1,403	1,482	1,403	1,409	1,350	1,505	1,616	1,471	1,442		
" 1925 ..	1,246	1,303	1,175	1,559	1,306	1,283	1,314	1,327	1,388	1,411	1,320	1,429	1,410	1,375	1,356	1,617	1,470	1,437		
" 1926 ..	1,275	1,380	1,176	1,544	1,401	1,284	1,298	1,426	1,377	1,396	1,385	1,406	1,383	1,347	1,617	1,470	1,437	1,437		
" 1927 ..	1,242	1,328	1,179	1,541	1,407	1,251	1,293	1,418	1,316	1,375	1,311	1,304	1,415	1,383	1,342	1,503	1,462	1,441		
" 1928 ..	1,297	1,305	1,164	1,547	1,355	1,298	1,313	1,458	1,344	1,375	1,356	1,324	1,414	1,412	1,503	1,464	1,441	1,441		
1928 1st Qtr.	1,286	1,298	1,187	1,548	1,358	1,287	1,304	1,447	1,340	1,358	1,315	1,324	1,245	1,407	1,388	1,500	1,451	1,425		
" 2nd "	1,300	1,302	1,187	1,539	1,350	1,300	1,318	1,459	1,352	1,385	1,320	1,320	1,245	1,400	1,364	1,508	1,454	1,429		
" 3rd "	1,299	1,318	1,182	1,552	1,344	1,301	1,320	1,470	1,388	1,382	1,380	1,320	1,244	1,400	1,364	1,508	1,458	1,459		
" 4th "	1,305	1,302	1,151	1,551	1,354	1,304	1,311	1,455	1,343	1,347	1,347	1,347	1,244	1,400	1,341	1,508	1,458	1,460		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland	Adelaide.	Ka dlna, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mc. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.	Adelaide.	Ka dlna, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mc. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov 1914 ..	872	1,087	1,026	2,079	2,016	1,639	1,002	1,908	1,963	2,251	1,665	1,641	1,492	1,441	1,388	1,604	1,417	1,443		
" 1921 ..	1,423	1,441	1,433	1,344	1,482	1,427	1,441	1,470	1,388	1,604	1,417	1,443	1,492	1,441	1,388	1,604	1,417	1,443		
Year 1923 ..	1,378	1,445	1,421	1,160	1,413	1,386	1,441	1,421	1,386	1,481	1,440	1,440	1,421	1,386	1,505	1,616	1,471	1,442		
" 1924 ..	1,369	1,422	1,477	1,150	1,386	1,369	1,442	1,421	1,386	1,481	1,440	1,440	1,421	1,386	1,505	1,616	1,471	1,442		
" 1925 ..	1,387	1,338	1,410	1,162	1,464	1,345	1,449	1,375	1,356	1,617	1,470	1,437	1,410	1,375	1,356	1,617	1,470	1,437		
" 1926 ..	1,280	1,390	1,380	1,102	1,465	1,293	1,415	1,383	1,347	1,617	1,470	1,437	1,410	1,375	1,356	1,617	1,470	1,437		
" 1927 ..	1,263	1,414	1,340	1,123	1,464	1,273	1,433	1,412	1,342	1,503	1,464	1,441	1,414	1,412	1,503	1,464	1,441	1,441		
1928 1st Qtr.	1,245	1,407	1,339	1,107	1,430	1,263	1,427	1,400	1,358	1,500	1,451	1,425	1,245	1,407	1,388	1,500	1,451	1,425		
" 2nd "	1,243	1,409	1,331	1,133	1,434	1,270	1,430	1,400	1,364	1,508	1,451	1,429	1,244	1,410	1,364	1,508	1,458	1,459		
" 3rd "	1,264	1,410	1,343	1,133	1,463	1,282	1,468	1,420	1,341	1,508	1,458	1,459	1,244	1,400	1,341	1,508	1,458	1,459		
" 4th "	1,259	1,429	1,327	1,123	1,459	1,257	1,454	1,425	1,341	1,508	1,458	1,460	1,244	1,400	1,341	1,508	1,458	1,460		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.										TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.									
	Perth.	Katgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avege, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Perth.	Katgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.	
Nov 1914 ..	926	1,834	1,832	1,922	1,751	1,693	1,694	2,214	2,022	1,868	2,066	1,663	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311		
" 1921 ..	1,634	1,834	1,832	1,922	1,410	1,409	1,693	1,543	1,457	1,487	1,628	1,598	1,386	1,397	1,397	1,397	1,397	1,397		
Year 1923 ..	1,390	1,517	1,258	1,451	1,319	1,364	1,639	1,513	1,417	1,372	1,570	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339		
" 1924 ..	1,346	1,517	1,258	1,451	1,319	1,364	1,639	1,513	1,417	1,372	1,570	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339		
" 1925 ..	1,341	1,509	1,235	1,476	1,311	1,355	1,529	1,438	1,378	1,349	1,609	1,449	1,313	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320		
" 1926 ..	1,330	1,502	1,253	1,247	1,309	1,347	1,523	1,436	1,381	1,357	1,622	1,447	1,308	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317	1,317		
" 1927 ..	1,341	1,495	1,239	1,289	1,336	1,356	1,456	1,426	1,382	1,384	1,482	1,447	1,292	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302	1,302		
" 1928 ..	1,392	1,498	1,235	1,291	1,352	1,372	1,452	1,470	1,403	1,350	1,602	1,450	1,322	1,322	1,322	1,322	1,322	1,322		
1928 1st Qtr.	1,350	1,493	1,233	1,291	1,357	1,363	1,450	1,470	1,300	1,317	1,543	1,450	1,311	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319	1,319		
" 2nd "	1,370	1,501	1,209	1,298	1,368	1,350	1,458	1,471	1,340	1,324	1,556	1,448	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320		
" 3rd "	1,363	1,499	1,272	1,292	1,355	1,373	1,452	1,471	1,409	1,386	1,602	1,456	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320		
" 4th "	1,361	1,493	1,235	1,290	1,326	1,378	1,449	1,472	1,400	1,404	1,611	1,458	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328	1,328		

(7) 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	Coulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,022	1,328	1,471	1,570	1,321	1,350	971	1,277	1,352	1,378	1,175	1,335
Year 1923 ..	1,343	1,345	1,492	1,528	1,261	1,303	1,309	1,533	1,529	1,528	1,153	1,305
Year 1924 ..	1,324	1,352	1,492	1,423	1,282	1,334	1,319	1,533	1,529	1,528	1,153	1,305
" 1925 ..	1,333	1,510	1,492	1,423	1,282	1,334	1,365	1,533	1,529	1,528	1,153	1,305
" 1926 ..	1,392	1,249	1,443	1,408	1,298	1,339	1,324	1,533	1,529	1,528	1,153	1,305
" 1927 ..	1,400	1,274	1,447	1,200	1,233	1,339	1,351	1,533	1,529	1,528	1,153	1,305
" 1928 ..	1,389	1,272	1,457	1,457	1,230	1,355	1,351	1,533	1,529	1,528	1,153	1,305
1928 1st Qtr.	1,400	1,373	1,438	1,390	1,248	1,336	1,395	1,547	1,526	1,525	1,153	1,315
" 2nd "	1,389	1,272	1,438	1,201	1,238	1,336	1,324	1,526	1,526	1,521	1,149	1,315
" 3rd "	1,390	1,272	1,385	1,192	1,237	1,335	1,395	1,526	1,521	1,520	1,151	1,315
" 4th "	1,389	1,270	1,394	1,202	1,235	1,334	1,392	1,520	1,522	1,520	1,146	1,312
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.												
Period.	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadima, Mounts, and Wallaroo.	Fort Pfrle.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
	Nov. 1914 ..	971	1,273	1,338	1,347	1,320	1,028	1,423	1,422	1,378	1,316	1,363
Year 1923 ..	1,291	1,239	1,247	1,290	1,219	1,279	1,379	1,361	1,368	1,312	1,314	1,368
Year 1924 ..	1,232	1,245	1,238	1,301	1,223	1,251	1,371	1,371	1,365	1,335	1,309	1,368
" 1925 ..	1,246	1,268	1,222	1,286	1,240	1,247	1,370	1,343	1,371	1,330	1,308	1,368
" 1926 ..	1,240	1,270	1,222	1,304	1,227	1,237	1,370	1,362	1,350	1,309	1,303	1,368
" 1927 ..	1,250	1,269	1,227	1,304	1,238	1,231	1,365	1,329	1,357	1,304	1,302	1,368
" 1928 ..	1,249	1,268	1,224	1,297	1,237	1,230	1,371	1,330	1,356	1,321	1,342	1,368
1928 1st Qtr.	1,254	1,207	1,223	1,298	1,238	1,234	1,372	1,330	1,368	1,323	1,343	1,369
" 2nd "	1,247	1,270	1,224	1,296	1,238	1,248	1,348	1,330	1,348	1,320	1,342	1,369
" 3rd "	1,248	1,207	1,223	1,298	1,238	1,249	1,371	1,330	1,348	1,320	1,342	1,367
" 4th "	1,248	1,207	1,223	1,296	1,238	1,249	1,370	1,329	1,340	1,322	1,342	1,366
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.												
Period.	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Nov. 1914 ..	1,041	1,375	1,357	1,004	1,471	934	1,245	1,157	1,092	1,280	1,271
Year 1923 ..	1,344	1,302	1,251	1,246	1,401	1,336	1,243	1,156	1,141	1,286	1,227	1,334
Year 1924 ..	1,326	1,300	1,278	1,249	1,395	1,323	1,243	1,147	1,121	1,281	1,227	1,334
" 1925 ..	1,313	1,304	1,251	1,249	1,380	1,310	1,241	1,140	1,132	1,283	1,215	1,334
" 1926 ..	1,308	1,295	1,245	1,250	1,396	1,304	1,209	1,223	1,223	1,224	1,204	1,332
" 1927 ..	1,300	1,298	1,238	1,252	1,370	1,303	1,200	1,222	1,218	1,244	1,206	1,332
" 1928 ..	1,317	1,306	1,240	1,246	1,310	1,313	1,208	1,215	1,215	1,243	1,202	1,336
1928 1st Qtr.	1,311	1,304	1,238	1,247	1,301	1,308	1,206	1,216	1,216	1,244	1,201	1,336
" 2nd "	1,310	1,307	1,241	1,246	1,309	1,308	1,206	1,217	1,216	1,242	1,201	1,336
" 3rd "	1,325	1,306	1,241	1,247	1,310	1,319	1,208	1,215	1,216	1,242	1,202	1,337
" 4th "	1,323	1,307	1,241	1,243	1,312	1,318	1,208	1,214	1,214	1,246	1,206	1,335
(a) Base.												
						<b>Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.</b>						
						<b>Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.</b>						

**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.	Geelong.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Bairat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnam-bool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	1,036	..	..	..	..	1,516	976	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,523	1,515	1,440	1,504	1,379	1,516	1,400	1,443	1,458	1,453	1,504	1,460		
Year 1923 ..	1,488	1,444	1,394	1,490	1,345	1,451	1,400	1,344	1,364	1,405	1,391	1,460		
" 1924 ..	1,458	1,408	1,354	1,511	1,334	1,450	1,420	1,304	1,312	1,358	1,397	1,409		
" 1925 ..	1,478	1,435	1,414	1,498	1,361	1,472	1,432	1,330	1,328	1,383	1,371	1,422		
" 1926 ..	1,503	1,470	1,438	1,627	1,423	1,498	1,453	1,355	1,357	1,431	1,377	1,444		
" 1927 ..	1,498	1,478	1,455	1,546	1,385	1,495	1,441	1,341	1,368	1,433	1,370	1,433		
" 1928 ..	1,516	1,475	1,452	1,563	1,403	1,510	1,444	1,352	1,363	1,415	1,369	1,436		
1928 1st Qtr.	1,515	1,476	1,476	1,570	1,401	1,511	1,452	1,351	1,364	1,421	1,392	1,443		
" 2nd ..	1,522	1,475	1,457	1,570	1,404	1,518	1,454	1,353	1,368	1,410	1,379	1,445		
" 3rd ..	1,511	1,470	1,455	1,555	1,409	1,508	1,437	1,354	1,362	1,409	1,353	1,429		
" 4th ..	1,515	1,472	1,438	1,556	1,399	1,509	1,433	1,349	1,356	1,413	1,352	1,425		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounts, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peter-borough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	859	..	..	..	..	1,370	1,018	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,344	1,381	1,415	1,491	1,447	1,370	1,440	1,462	1,402	1,407	1,379	1,444		
Year 1923 ..	1,343	1,309	1,287	1,324	1,325	1,334	1,447	1,385	1,362	1,358	1,360	1,457		
" 1924 ..	1,332	1,296	1,289	1,314	1,303	1,323	1,476	1,362	1,372	1,380	1,410	1,486		
" 1925 ..	1,344	1,337	1,320	1,304	1,314	1,339	1,496	1,353	1,411	1,363	1,476	1,485		
" 1926 ..	1,363	1,375	1,378	1,346	1,384	1,381	1,493	1,361	1,438	1,392	1,479	1,484		
" 1927 ..	1,342	1,330	1,352	1,336	1,376	1,343	1,482	1,350	1,412	1,376	1,480	1,473		
" 1928 ..	1,334	1,319	1,314	1,346	1,331	1,332	1,495	1,349	1,397	1,379	1,480	1,483		
1928 1st Qtr.	1,334	1,312	1,315	1,335	1,324	1,330	1,501	1,355	1,407	1,386	1,480	1,490		
" 2nd ..	1,333	1,315	1,320	1,340	1,329	1,331	1,509	1,350	1,411	1,387	1,476	1,497		
" 3rd ..	1,329	1,319	1,309	1,339	1,330	1,327	1,491	1,348	1,387	1,378	1,476	1,480		
" 4th ..	1,341	1,330	1,314	1,370	1,340	1,339	1,477	1,347	1,385	1,360	1,487	1,407		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geratton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burns.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	1,029	..	..	..	..	1,484	899	..	..	..	..	1,000	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,407	1,526	1,499	1,520	1,537	1,484	1,559	1,552	1,459	1,316	1,501	1,538	1,474	1,474
Year 1923 ..	1,422	1,464	1,404	1,490	1,478	1,427	1,517	1,433	1,413	1,391	1,409	1,479	1,460	1,450
" 1924 ..	1,430	1,468	1,410	1,430	1,473	1,434	1,529	1,433	1,409	1,383	1,388	1,455	1,436	1,426
" 1925 ..	1,448	1,468	1,467	1,433	1,494	1,450	1,496	1,408	1,385	1,369	1,422	1,453	1,451	1,442
" 1926 ..	1,444	1,458	1,452	1,423	1,472	1,446	1,508	1,410	1,393	1,380	1,392	1,466	1,471	1,463
" 1927 ..	1,433	1,433	1,437	1,401	1,469	1,433	1,453	1,387	1,362	1,346	1,357	1,422	1,453	1,451
" 1928 ..	1,472	1,440	1,400	1,401	1,498	1,469	1,425	1,393	1,369	1,323	1,360	1,407	1,469	1,469
1928 1st Qtr.	1,432	1,447	1,441	1,377	1,401	1,431	1,426	1,400	1,363	1,320	1,342	1,408	1,468	1,460
" 2nd ..	1,430	1,436	1,460	1,395	1,497	1,473	1,430	1,402	1,378	1,331	1,362	1,413	1,477	1,467
" 3rd ..	1,439	1,471	1,467	1,419	1,494	1,485	1,419	1,389	1,364	1,317	1,360	1,401	1,465	1,456
" 4th ..	1,489	1,471	1,472	1,415	1,508	1,455	1,426	1,376	1,370	1,325	1,369	1,404	1,465	1,456

(a) Basis of Table.

#### § 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). The results of succeeding investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. **Results—1926 to 1928.**—The results of the investigation in November, 1928, 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 1,683 (see page 42), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,536 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1928. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,040 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1928. 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 1,683, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,684; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,518, compared with an expenditure of 1,536 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, 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, 1926, 1927, and 1928, 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.	1926. November.			1927. November.			1928. 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
<b>New South Wales—</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	1,096	1,649	1,769	1,129	1,678	1,790	1,072	1,630	1,776
Newcastle .. .. .	1,071	1,576	1,724	1,103	1,637	1,793	1,058	1,542	1,767
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,196	1,563	1,651	1,300	1,663	1,775	1,239	1,906	1,724
Goulburn .. .. .	1,072	1,636	1,713	1,111	1,650	1,827	1,082	1,648	1,778
Bathurst .. .. .	1,088	1,423	1,506	1,057	1,440	1,518	1,016	1,401	1,505
Albury .. .. .	1,083	1,817	1,962	1,087	1,804	1,975	1,063	1,754	1,914
Armidale .. .. .	1,052	1,421	1,431	1,058	1,522	1,624	1,031	1,513	1,590
Ballina .. .. .	1,191	1,639	1,685	1,118	1,604	1,699	1,113	1,607	1,733
Bega .. .. .	1,089	1,331	1,449	1,122	1,461	1,636	1,097	1,419	1,530
Derry .. .. .	1,133	1,445	1,577	1,182	1,537	1,656	1,090	1,445	1,550

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

State and Town.	1926. November.			1927. November.			1928. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
<b>New South Wales—contd.</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Blackheath .. .. .	1,235	1,676	1,771	1,232	1,657	1,796	1,230	1,676	1,800
Bourke .. .. .	1,176	1,407	1,505	1,289	1,533	1,500	1,287	1,550	1,613
Bowral .. .. .	1,182	1,741	1,820	1,119	1,765	1,831	1,090	1,723	1,814
Casino .. .. .	1,163	1,681	1,772	1,106	1,550	1,759	1,086	1,532	1,771
Cessnock .. .. .	1,108	1,651	1,749	1,109	1,652	1,718	1,075	1,568	1,634
Cobar .. .. .	1,174	1,283	1,309	1,329	1,438	1,487	1,281	1,363	1,428
Cooma .. .. .	1,118	1,422	1,611	1,233	1,542	1,741	1,133	1,463	1,672
Cootamundra .. .. .	1,105	1,447	1,572	1,214	1,558	1,682	1,121	1,485	1,611
Corrimal .. .. .	1,100	1,594	1,791	1,130	1,624	1,821	1,049	1,546	1,782
Cowra .. .. .	1,112	1,507	1,633	1,106	1,455	1,567	1,096	1,539	1,671
Cronulla .. .. .	1,159	1,559	1,631	1,106	1,633	1,657	1,081	1,610	1,687
Deniliquin .. .. .	1,105	1,672	1,832	1,144	1,675	1,844	1,128	1,644	1,817
Dubbo .. .. .	1,072	1,391	1,549	1,030	1,471	1,583	1,098	1,480	1,625
Forbes .. .. .	1,119	1,645	1,733	1,158	1,709	1,791	1,139	1,760	1,834
Gilgandra .. .. .	1,183	1,609	1,727	1,123	1,684	1,822	1,055	1,601	1,800
Glan Innes .. .. .	1,176	1,505	1,684	1,203	1,532	1,611	1,184	1,477	1,546
Grafton .. .. .	1,098	1,344	1,582	1,029	1,431	1,569	1,007	1,414	1,575
Greenell .. .. .	1,079	1,588	1,787	1,060	1,561	1,718	993	1,407	1,649
Griffith .. .. .	1,092	1,533	1,678	1,076	1,499	1,668	1,065	1,473	1,674
Gulgong .. .. .	1,151	1,973	2,203	1,254	2,175	2,406	1,161	2,083	2,313
Gunnedah .. .. .	1,084	1,341	1,440	1,162	1,432	1,527	1,121	1,417	1,490
Hay .. .. .	1,027	1,417	1,507	1,127	1,512	1,658	1,046	1,446	1,593
Inverell .. .. .	1,151	1,488	1,684	1,130	1,614	1,704	1,164	1,545	1,765
Junee .. .. .	1,111	1,590	1,696	1,122	1,561	1,639	1,108	1,560	1,645
Katoomba .. .. .	1,077	1,756	1,800	1,123	1,781	1,787	1,095	1,770	1,806
Kempsey .. .. .	1,136	1,719	1,840	1,159	1,797	1,938	1,160	1,752	1,904
Kiama .. .. .	1,086	1,527	1,607	1,106	1,599	1,691	1,068	1,539	1,630
Kurri Kurri .. .. .	1,145	1,507	1,606	1,145	1,507	1,606	1,152	1,514	1,614
Leeton .. .. .	1,156	1,545	1,605	1,150	1,619	1,673	1,108	1,497	1,588
Lismore .. .. .	1,176	1,854	1,861	1,216	1,890	1,972	1,190	1,908	1,980
Lithgow .. .. .	1,167	1,696	1,879	1,101	1,561	1,703	1,085	1,694	1,766
Maitland .. .. .	1,116	1,535	1,626	1,093	1,543	1,627	1,094	1,531	1,610
Moree .. .. .	1,076	1,560	1,717	1,090	1,567	1,890	1,026	1,450	1,567
Moss Vale .. .. .	1,194	1,734	1,869	1,155	1,666	1,917	1,149	1,617	1,872
Mudgee .. .. .	1,075	1,562	1,680	1,126	1,701	1,797	1,086	1,652	1,751
Narrabri .. .. .	1,084	1,496	1,611	1,143	1,582	1,680	1,108	1,626	1,720
Narrandera .. .. .	1,066	1,434	1,579	1,163	1,557	1,712	1,089	1,519	1,666
Nowra .. .. .	1,189	1,682	1,880	1,123	1,627	1,855	1,122	1,677	1,908
Orange .. .. .	1,159	1,660	1,729	1,180	1,628	1,703	1,135	1,586	1,661
Parkes .. .. .	1,045	1,615	1,760	1,082	1,619	1,746	1,007	1,643	1,771
Penrith .. .. .	1,096	1,570	1,732	1,132	1,685	1,855	1,077	1,630	1,766
Port Kembla .. .. .	1,047	1,448	1,570	1,069	1,509	1,634	1,098	1,545	1,624
Portland .. .. .	1,109	1,484	1,549	1,166	1,655	1,764	1,137	1,600	1,821
Queanbeyan .. .. .	1,122	1,510	1,635	1,151	1,602	1,714	1,112	1,550	1,658
Quirindi .. .. .	1,135	1,747	1,879	1,160	1,827	1,956	1,141	1,600	1,700
Richmond .. .. .	1,092	1,401	1,593	1,103	1,458	1,649	1,075	1,420	1,599
Scots .. .. .	1,069	1,460	1,608	1,116	1,521	1,669	1,034	1,478	1,626
Singleton .. .. .	1,057	1,489	1,606	1,084	1,497	1,574	1,050	1,488	1,636
Tamworth .. .. .	1,098	1,460	1,592	1,177	1,639	1,621	1,090	1,608	1,611
Taree .. .. .	1,012	1,427	1,506	1,053	1,464	1,633	1,006	1,430	1,614
Temora .. .. .	1,059	1,562	1,706	1,134	1,610	1,827	1,103	1,621	1,772
Tenterfield .. .. .	1,128	1,622	1,737	1,136	1,712	1,843	1,120	1,604	1,827
Tumut .. .. .	1,139	1,553	1,610	1,157	1,544	1,582	1,132	1,548	1,591
Ulmarra .. .. .	1,048	1,493	1,607	1,133	1,626	1,725	1,046	1,526	1,671
Wagga Wagga .. .. .	1,054	1,448	1,527	1,083	1,450	1,549	1,045	1,407	1,538
Walcha .. .. .	1,065	1,707	1,822	1,066	1,770	1,800	1,056	1,786	1,794
Wellington .. .. .	1,093	1,379	1,626	1,078	1,440	1,621	1,048	1,463	1,618
Weston .. .. .	1,101	1,373	1,512	1,111	1,492	1,645	1,058	1,416	1,577
Windsor .. .. .	1,134	1,476	1,562	1,196	1,603	1,656	1,077	1,538	1,682
Wollongong .. .. .	1,098	1,559	1,625	1,141	1,602	1,766	1,077	1,558	1,703
Wyong .. .. .	1,126	1,718	1,789	1,147	1,706	1,782	1,117	1,655	1,698
Yass .. .. .	1,072	1,522	1,698	1,171	1,615	1,654	1,135	1,530	1,595
Young .. .. .	1,172	1,595	1,681	1,149	1,593	1,724	1,127	1,593	1,749
Young .. .. .	1,052	1,585	1,676	1,057	1,582	1,643	1,056	1,632	1,701
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	1,097	1,626	1,747	1,129	1,656	1,776	1,078	1,613	1,757



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

State and Town.	1926, November			1927, November.			1928, 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
<b>Victoria—</b>									
Melbourne ..	1,024	1,550	1,714	1,036	1,573	1,728	963	1,518	1,684
Ballarat ..	1,047	1,321	1,489	1,040	1,316	1,485	1,002	1,207	1,491
Bendigo ..	1,053	1,392	1,549	1,049	1,426	1,574	1,002	1,375	1,507
Geelong ..	1,013	1,621	1,612	1,027	1,560	1,655	984	1,495	1,610
Warrnambool ..	1,004	1,377	1,517	1,007	1,424	1,584	981	1,377	1,538
Ararat ..	1,143	1,546	1,608	1,175	1,543	1,674	1,088	1,494	1,614
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,032	1,493	1,611	1,013	1,467	1,573	1,033	1,494	1,573
Bairnsdale ..	1,149	1,561	1,631	1,091	1,486	1,651	1,049	1,427	1,600
Beechworth ..	1,111	1,407	1,473	1,102	1,407	1,447	1,047	1,333	1,382
Benalla ..	1,079	1,441	1,583	1,076	1,427	1,488	1,057	1,438	1,504
Camperdown ..	1,081	1,520	1,621	1,072	1,445	1,587	1,056	1,411	1,575
Casterton ..	1,097	1,426	1,557	1,064	1,453	1,565	1,032	1,438	1,541
Castlemaine ..	1,081	1,340	1,485	1,079	1,334	1,481	1,002	1,282	1,425
Colac ..	1,046	1,688	1,709	1,025	1,558	1,685	1,009	1,568	1,696
Creswick ..	1,048	1,180	1,200	1,055	1,186	1,249	1,006	1,181	1,190
Daylesford ..	998	1,310	1,369	1,040	1,369	1,455	1,034	1,363	1,429
Dunolly ..	1,060	1,218	1,271	1,055	1,206	1,272	1,023	1,194	1,234
Echuca ..	1,084	1,436	1,594	1,091	1,483	1,634	1,017	1,433	1,593
Euroa ..	1,071	1,404	1,542	1,103	1,422	1,586	1,083	1,427	1,600
Hemilton ..	1,090	1,586	1,706	1,082	1,523	1,630	1,033	1,455	1,646
Healesville ..	1,070	1,498	1,583	1,054	1,423	1,482	1,039	1,377	1,503
Horsham ..	1,096	1,644	1,908	1,139	1,687	1,846	1,117	1,644	1,882
Kerang ..	1,093	1,619	1,773	1,096	1,629	1,820	1,001	1,582	1,714
Koroit ..	1,040	1,323	1,382	1,038	1,321	1,377	1,008	1,295	1,368
Korumburra ..	1,029	1,478	1,605	1,118	1,579	1,677	1,038	1,476	1,580
Kyneton ..	1,080	1,429	1,621	1,057	1,425	1,501	1,019	1,387	1,468
Lilydale ..	1,094	1,506	1,637	1,098	1,450	1,648	1,025	1,404	1,563
Maffra ..	1,042	1,700	1,798	1,031	1,632	1,722	981	1,559	1,690
Maldon ..	1,037	1,175	1,228	1,006	1,222	1,284	1,040	1,185	1,238
Maryborough ..	1,082	1,386	1,455	1,097	1,369	1,477	1,055	1,350	1,472
Mildura ..	1,131	1,774	1,873	1,136	1,757	1,906	1,106	1,698	1,873
Morwell ..	1,067	1,659	1,746	1,120	1,638	1,783	1,045	1,554	1,686
Nhill ..	1,110	1,636	1,733	1,116	1,589	1,688	1,089	1,582	1,697
Orbost ..	1,101	1,501	1,624	1,093	1,476	1,561	1,088	1,494	1,733
Portland ..	1,105	1,444	1,533	1,081	1,394	1,522	1,047	1,376	1,474
Port Fairy ..	1,072	1,362	1,486	1,082	1,391	1,470	1,035	1,347	1,424
St. Arnaud ..	1,141	1,602	1,759	1,188	1,586	1,813	1,107	1,462	1,699
Sale ..	1,045	1,515	1,677	1,021	1,409	1,588	984	1,342	1,545
Seymour ..	1,123	1,454	1,593	1,135	1,497	1,643	1,105	1,433	1,582
Shepparton ..	1,071	1,637	1,782	1,082	1,615	1,789	1,022	1,582	1,756
Stawell ..	1,195	1,505	1,615	1,169	1,485	1,632	1,132	1,459	1,602
Swan Hill ..	1,098	1,690	1,822	1,125	1,757	1,889	1,074	1,732	1,837
Terang ..	1,117	1,512	1,651	1,086	1,459	1,581	1,023	1,417	1,536
Traralgon ..	1,050	1,407	1,578	1,037	1,454	1,604	1,011	1,450	1,597
Wangaratta ..	1,137	1,579	1,698	1,120	1,585	1,697	1,087	1,511	1,630
Warracknabeal ..	1,139	1,639	1,742	1,076	1,636	1,699	1,067	1,587	1,743
Warragul ..	1,079	1,609	1,767	1,062	1,608	1,743	994	1,496	1,672
Wonthaggi ..	1,072	1,497	1,585	1,105	1,488	1,611	1,028	1,404	1,568
<b>Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>1,658</b>
<b>Queensland—</b>									
Brisbane ..	1,041	1,411	1,569	1,004	1,389	1,553	997	1,392	1,523
Toowoomba ..	1,022	1,362	1,491	968	1,291	1,444	948	1,252	1,419
Rockhampton ..	1,094	1,399	1,521	1,052	1,362	1,482	1,046	1,381	1,449
Charters Towers ..	1,217	1,484	1,579	1,200	1,481	1,542	1,163	1,510	1,598
Warwick ..	1,076	1,405	1,536	1,026	1,370	1,509	998	1,344	1,409
Ayr ..	1,160	1,584	1,711	1,170	1,631	1,762	1,183	1,643	1,775
Barcaldine ..	1,232	1,587	1,640	1,249	1,513	1,663	1,253	1,582	1,678
Bowen ..	1,179	1,607	1,706	1,139	1,528	1,656	1,136	1,531	1,697
Bundaberg ..	1,040	1,371	1,496	1,032	1,363	1,418	1,030	1,329	1,441
Caïrns ..	1,205	1,797	1,907	1,174	1,731	1,876	1,115	1,656	1,773
Charleville ..	1,214	1,658	1,828	1,154	1,631	1,771	1,139	1,578	1,812
Chillagoe ..	1,281	1,550	1,610	1,225	1,489	1,541	1,236	1,499	1,552
Cloncurry ..	1,238	1,603	1,709	1,231	1,616	1,729	1,253	1,648	1,779
Cooktown ..	1,153	1,284	1,363	1,147	1,239	1,323	1,193	1,286	1,351
Cunnamulla ..	1,227	1,654	1,687	1,235	1,695	1,781	1,186	1,647	1,706
Dalby ..	1,093	1,431	1,524	1,011	1,350	1,449	1,009	1,362	1,454
Gayndah ..	1,114	1,411	1,476	1,059	1,323	1,454	1,142	1,438	1,537
Gladstone ..	1,097	1,352	1,492	1,040	1,303	1,435	1,062	1,341	1,440
Goodwindi ..	1,113	1,519	1,607	1,092	1,473	1,566	1,094	1,501	1,574
Gympie ..	1,090	1,397	1,518	1,044	1,373	1,489	1,074	1,412	1,528

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

State and Town.	1926. November.			1927. November.			1928. 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
<b>Queensland—continued.</b>									
Hughenden .. .. .	1,276	1,723	1,830	1,245	1,738	1,870	1,239	1,719	1,844
Innisfail .. .. .	1,298	1,825	1,956	1,266	1,885	2,046	1,255	1,848	2,064
Ipswich .. .. .	1,096	1,454	1,524	1,033	1,339	1,467	1,099	1,394	1,624
Longreach .. .. .	1,260	1,654	1,760	1,252	1,613	1,772	1,228	1,561	1,762
Mackay .. .. .	1,094	1,576	1,730	1,036	1,590	1,694	1,103	1,637	1,730
Maryborough .. .. .	1,041	1,337	1,462	1,009	1,285	1,437	1,050	1,319	1,481
Mount Morgan .. .. .	1,117	1,328	1,367	1,100	1,258	1,284	1,111	1,243	1,295
Nambour .. .. .	1,103	1,520	1,623	1,080	1,441	1,586	1,098	1,470	1,572
Roma .. .. .	1,135	1,534	1,644	1,053	1,416	1,571	1,091	1,459	1,610
Stanthorpe .. .. .	1,155	1,484	1,537	1,015	1,387	1,528	1,036	1,395	1,517
Townsville .. .. .	1,216	1,733	1,894	1,186	1,672	1,771	1,101	1,677	1,763
Winton .. .. .	1,288	1,803	1,902	1,236	1,719	1,796	1,205	1,725	1,822
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) ..	1,060	1,448	1,586	1,042	1,412	1,555	1,040	1,415	1,542
<b>South Australia—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,056	1,541	1,641	1,079	1,567	1,702	997	1,509	1,673
Kadina, etc. .. .. .	1,120	1,370	1,458	1,116	1,370	1,462	1,098	1,326	1,422
Port Pirie .. .. .	1,137	1,515	1,615	1,109	1,490	1,594	1,073	1,452	1,564
Mount Gambler .. .. .	1,062	1,322	1,369	1,063	1,310	1,413	1,023	1,279	1,381
Peterborough .. .. .	1,149	1,560	1,647	1,153	1,568	1,655	1,161	1,572	1,656
Freeling .. .. .	1,078	1,487	1,586	1,063	1,424	1,490	1,003	1,392	1,497
Gawler .. .. .	1,065	1,425	1,504	1,052	1,395	1,480	1,040	1,364	1,471
Kapunda .. .. .	1,030	1,208	1,327	1,062	1,266	1,326	1,007	1,204	1,277
Koranga .. .. .	1,074	1,272	1,360	1,090	1,419	1,485	1,000	1,380	1,456
Millicent .. .. .	998	1,323	1,414	961	1,317	1,402	965	1,340	1,402
Murray Bridge .. .. .	1,099	1,543	1,645	1,113	1,503	1,661	1,036	1,456	1,590
Port Augusta .. .. .	1,186	1,560	1,625	1,210	1,686	1,642	1,243	1,630	1,710
Quorn .. .. .	1,089	1,490	1,544	1,115	1,480	1,503	1,000	1,391	1,446
Victor Harbour .. .. .	1,085	1,592	1,750	1,078	1,604	1,802	1,034	1,561	1,758
Benmark .. .. .	1,206	1,654	1,763	1,101	1,651	1,743	1,207	1,657	1,800
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) ..	1,065	1,524	1,623	1,083	1,545	1,673	1,011	1,492	1,646
<b>Western Australia—</b>									
Perth and Fremantle ..	1,062	1,510	1,620	1,052	1,516	1,649	1,126	1,593	1,718
Kalgoorlie and Boulder ..	1,215	1,530	1,600	1,188	1,495	1,564	1,271	1,582	1,652
Northam .. .. .	1,163	1,577	1,739	1,167	1,626	1,750	1,196	1,642	1,795
Bunbury .. .. .	1,177	1,521	1,679	1,179	1,535	1,636	1,201	1,541	1,665
Geraldton .. .. .	1,168	1,609	1,745	1,172	1,610	1,777	1,162	1,659	1,889
Albany .. .. .	1,183	1,595	1,662	1,193	1,518	1,597	1,232	1,611	1,693
Beaverley .. .. .	1,137	1,435	1,519	1,174	1,453	1,536	1,199	1,489	1,548
Hartleytown .. .. .	1,247	1,603	1,641	1,220	1,592	1,647	1,272	1,622	1,667
Broome .. .. .	1,428	2,020	2,152	1,380	1,963	2,104	1,300	1,926	2,015
Carnarvon .. .. .	1,301	1,795	1,920	1,327	1,821	1,935	1,321	1,795	1,963
Collie .. .. .	1,205	1,590	1,630	1,237	1,723	1,764	1,244	1,704	1,784
Greenbushes .. .. .	1,257	1,454	1,567	1,247	1,445	1,497	1,266	1,477	1,539
Katanning .. .. .	1,114	1,466	1,574	1,088	1,444	1,548	1,154	1,502	1,614
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,379	1,560	1,643	1,336	1,546	1,577	1,369	1,566	1,632
Meekatharra .. .. .	1,409	1,672	1,738	1,385	1,648	1,714	1,367	1,630	1,715
Murray .. .. .	1,156	1,639	1,788	1,131	1,671	1,789	1,185	1,759	1,843
Wagin .. .. .	1,133	1,479	1,628	1,093	1,428	1,537	1,162	1,544	1,636
York .. .. .	1,127	1,470	1,627	1,061	1,427	1,529	1,124	1,460	1,662
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	1,008	1,522	1,627	1,087	1,525	1,648	1,165	1,596	1,718
<b>Tasmania—</b>									
Hobart .. .. .	1,066	1,574	1,750	1,025	1,506	1,666	1,016	1,487	1,658
Launceston .. .. .	1,045	1,427	1,605	1,011	1,417	1,574	982	1,380	1,573
Burule .. .. .	1,079	1,529	1,595	1,052	1,473	1,600	1,047	1,496	1,596
Devonport .. .. .	1,083	1,512	1,592	1,015	1,455	1,527	1,016	1,430	1,490
Queenstown .. .. .	1,193	1,493	1,443	1,150	1,430	1,440	1,130	1,394	1,407
Beaconsfield .. .. .	1,060	1,439	1,465	1,009	1,414	1,440	989	1,094	1,129
Campbelltown .. .. .	1,081	1,296	1,316	1,045	1,236	1,281	975	1,163	1,212
Dekrairie .. .. .	1,014	1,380	1,428	978	1,320	1,373	953	1,295	1,348
Franklin .. .. .	1,072	1,309	1,335	1,021	1,231	1,284	1,024	1,235	1,238
New Norfolk .. .. .	1,045	1,367	1,430	995	1,333	1,406	995	1,317	1,403
Scottsdale .. .. .	1,059	1,357	1,432	986	1,284	1,359	980	1,266	1,379
Ulverstone .. .. .	1,067	1,321	1,442	1,026	1,335	1,460	1,000	1,315	1,421
Zeehan .. .. .	1,252	1,450	1,515	1,193	1,382	1,427	1,189	1,387	1,430
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	1,069	1,502	1,654	1,023	1,455	1,594	1,013	1,434	1,538
<b>Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns)</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,683</b>

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, 1928, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 968. Subtracting this from 1,518 (column B) gives a difference of 550, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,684 (column C) gives a difference of 716, 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, 1928, 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, 1928.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Weighted Average.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>							
All Towns (a) ..	1,037	943	1,000	972	1,111	974	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,044	943	975	977	1,112	983	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,046	944	973	973	1,099	991	1,000
<b>RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES</b>							
All Towns (a) ..	1,056	1,053	781	936	868	886	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,053	1,050	769	930	861	909	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,034	1,051	780	993	869	943	1,000
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.</b>							
All Towns (a) ..	1,044	985	916	977	1,018	941	1,000
Five Towns in each State ..	1,047	985	894	978	1,014	954	1,000
Capital Cities only	1,041	987	896	981	1,007	972	1,000

(a) For list of towns included, see previous tables.

The index-numbers for November, 1922 to 1928, 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, 1922 to 1928.**

Particulars.	1913.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>								
All Towns (a) .. ..	1,000	1,558	1,689	1,581	1,683	1,675	1,691	1,625
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,564	1,688	1,581	1,679	1,670	1,690	1,618
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,580	1,699	1,594	1,689	1,683	1,705	1,627
<b>RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.</b>								
All Towns (a) .. ..	1,000	1,347	1,433	1,494	1,526	1,571	1,586	1,641
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,347	1,421	1,484	1,509	1,554	1,570	1,632
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,336	1,374	1,439	1,455	1,496	1,507	1,571
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.</b>								
All Towns (a) .. ..	1,000	1,478	1,592	1,548	1,623	1,636	1,651	1,632
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,480	1,534	1,543	1,613	1,625	1,643	1,623
Capital Cities only ..	1,000	1,480	1,566	1,531	1,594	1,607	1,624	1,604

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 1928. 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, 1928, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 62.5 per cent.; house rents increased 64.1 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of approximately 63.2 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 1928 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 1923 (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."										
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1915	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1916	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1917	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1918	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1919	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1920	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1921	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1922	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1923	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1924	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1925	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1926	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1927	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1928	1,000	1,000	987	1,000	1,340	1,340	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

  

YEAR.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
Average.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1913	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1915	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1916	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1917	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1918	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1919	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1920	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1921	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1922	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1923	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1924	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1925	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1926	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1927	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1928	1,000	955	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,010	1,000	1,000	880	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

<sup>a</sup> June, 1914. <sup>b</sup> Gold Index. <sup>c</sup> February. <sup>d</sup> July. <sup>e</sup> May.  
<sup>f</sup> 000,000 omitted. <sup>g</sup> New series. <sup>h</sup> Average of eight months. <sup>i</sup> "Economic Barometer."  
 series from 1913 to 1923; see Labour Report No. 14, p. 138. <sup>j</sup> Until end 1925. <sup>k</sup> Lorenz.

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 1928, and where available, for December, 1928, 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 country, and are not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries for the Month of July, 1914 to 1923, and December, 1923, 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.	72	Milan.	Luxemb.-bourg.
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,250	1,600	..	1,250	1,100	1,060	..	..	..	..
" 1916	1,480	3,400	..	..	1,360	1,430	..	..	..	..
" 1917	1,800	6,700	..	..	1,550	2,510	..	..	..	..
" 1918	2,100	11,600	..	..	1,820	3,880	..	..	2,860	..
" 1919	2,150	25,000	..	12,340	2,110	39,640	12,380	..	2,800	..
" 1920	2,550	61,000	..	18,550	2,620	9,310	3,410	10,650	4,410	..
" 1921	2,220	99,720	1,000	19,190	2,370	12,140	3,070	12,500	4,940	3,830
" 1922	1,810	2,637,000	900	28,190	1,990	11,420	3,020	53,920	4,880	3,670
" 1923	1,710	2700	1,090	24,770	2,040	11,110	3,340	37,651,000	4,870	4,520
" 1924	1,710	860	1,250	28,330	2,140	11,540	3,660	61,264	5,120	4,980
" 1925	1,730	970	1,330	30,140	2,190	12,180	3,960	1,423	5,930	5,190
" 1926	1,700	61,030	1,740	28,860	1,840	11,640	4,850	1,424	6,400	6,660
" 1927	1,640	1,060	2,040	27,830	1,760	1,670	6,250	1,600	5,480	11,130
" 1928	1,650	1,080	2,050	28,010	1,760	1,610	11,060	1,520	1,430	1,172
Dec. 1928	1,670	1,090	2,160	28,160	1,730	1,040	1,080	1,527	1,470	1,218

  

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	80	32	30	25
July 1914	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,170	..	1,150	..	..	1,050	1,030	1,051	1,188	1,082
" 1916	1,490	..	1,300	..	..	1,120	1,110	1,163	1,151	1,168
" 1917	1,900	..	1,590	..	..	1,220	1,340	1,424	1,157	1,232
" 1918	2,530	..	2,190	..	..	1,310	1,529	1,744	1,179	1,446
" 1919	2,750	..	2,570	..	..	1,860	1,450	1,600	1,993	1,573
" 1920	3,070	1,111,730	2,700	2,240	1,900	1,790	2,000	2,004	1,951	1,815
" 1921	2,940	267,090	2,360	2,000	1,770	1,620	1,650	1,743	1,448	1,732
" 1922	2,510	517	1,900	1,640	1,650	1,350	1,560	1,695	1,416	1,590
" 1923	2,380	432	1,740	1,640	1,530	1,310	1,560	1,732	1,544	1,584
" 1924	2,490	1,272	1,600	1,670	1,330	1,530	1,530	1,725	1,466	1,602
" 1925	2,590	1,456	1,760	1,680	1,770	1,390	1,650	1,759	1,524	1,631
" 1926	2,200	1,781	1,720	1,620	1,770	1,310	1,670	1,766	1,564	1,693
" 1927	2,030	1,153	1,690	1,600	1,760	1,310	1,650	1,720	1,568	1,610
" 1928	1,930	1,226	1,730	1,610	1,650	1,310	1,650	1,713	1,537	1,610
Dec. 1928	1,830	1,250	1,700	1,620	1,670	1,310	1,680	1,713	1,538	1,620

## (b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

No. of Towns and Localities.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	NETHERLANDS.
	630	Vienna.	59	Whole Country.	100	21	Paris.	72	10
July 1914	1,000	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1915	1,320	..	..	..	1,280	..	1,200	..	..
" 1916	1,630	..	..	..	1,400	..	1,290	..	..
" 1917	2,040	..	..	..	1,660	..	1,630	..	..
" 1918	2,100	..	..	..	1,870	..	2,080	..	..
" 1919	2,170	..	..	..	2,120	..	2,610	..	..
" 1920	2,620	..	..	..	2,530	10,130	3,730	12,520	..
" 1921	3,200	3,573,000	1,000	13,030	2,860	13,280	3,060	14,910	1,700
" 1922	1,750	3,232,360	870	14,300	1,840	11,440	2,970	68,360	1,670
" 1923	1,050	12,911,000	1,050	9,210	1,860	10,020	3,210	46,510,000	1,460
" 1924	1,640	14,362,000	1,240	9,090	2,000	10,520	3,600	61,318	1,520
" 1925	1,680	..	1,330	9,160	2,100	11,450	4,210	1,588	1,520
" 1926	1,610	61,150	1,850	8,760	1,590	11,440	5,740	1,453	1,460
" 1927	1,560	1,220	2,100	9,820	1,530	1,440	6,670	1,668	1,440
" 1928	1,560	1,190	2,040	9,430	1,580	1,810	41,110	1,641	1,500
Dec. 1928	1,500	1,190	2,180	9,050	1,530	1,650	1,210	1,527	1,480

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

## (b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS—continued.

No. of Towns and Localities.	ITALY.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	BRITISH INDIA.	SOUTH AFRICA.	CANADA.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SPAIN.
	Milan.	31	Warsaw.	49	33	Bombay.	9	80	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 ..	1,230	1,230	..	1,230	..	..	1,079	1,040	980	1,308	1,124	1,080
" 1916 ..	1,510	1,530	..	1,360	..	..	1,160	1,120	1,090	1,302	1,198	1,160
" 1917 ..	2,100	2,030	..	1,750	..	..	1,280	1,530	1,430	1,263	1,280	1,260
" 1918 ..	3,250	2,710	..	2,610	..	..	1,340	1,730	1,650	1,308	1,398	1,540
" 1919 ..	3,100	2,900	..	3,100	..	..	1,300	1,940	1,660	1,473	1,459	1,740
" 1920 ..	4,450	3,190	..	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	1,700	1,570	1,800	1,180	1,360	1,390	1,482	1,421	1,810
" 1923 ..	4,960	2,186	714	1,600	1,660	1,480	1,160	1,350	1,440	1,644	1,430	1,770
" 1924 ..	5,080	2,480	1,391	1,590	1,700	1,510	1,170	1,310	1,400	1,485	1,463	1,840
" 1925 ..	6,020	2,600	1,738	1,690	1,690	1,710	1,200	1,380	1,560	1,550	1,509	1,890
" 1926 ..	6,540	1,080	2,070	1,560	1,590	1,740	1,170	1,510	1,530	1,568	1,498	1,870
" 1927 ..	5,240	1,750	1,431	1,510	1,570	1,730	1,190	1,480	1,500	1,517	1,447	1,850
" 1928 ..	41,400	1,730	1,441	1,570	1,570	1,610	1,160	1,460	1,490	1,547	1,470	1,770
Dec. 1928 ..	41,450	1,610	1,473	1,516	1,560	1,630	1,150	1,540	1,520	1,520	1,520	1,870

a Gold index. b New series. c Yearly average. d January. e Average of second quarter. f New series, November, 1927. g Since 1924 "Reichsmark" prices. A New series, November, 1927. h Since 1923 "Zloty" prices recalculated—base October, 1928. j December. k Third quarter of year. l From 1915, for month of August. m For 1921-24, includes fuel and soap, since 1925 exclusive of those items. n Base 1921-25=1,000. o 1st June.

## 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, 1928.

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