

CHAPTER I.—PRICES.

Section 1.—Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—The information given in this chapter refers to Melbourne wholesale prices. An index of Sydney wholesale prices is compiled by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, and published in the *Year Book* and the *Monthly Bulletin of Business Statistics* of that State.

The scope of the wholesale price index can best be understood by an examination of the list of commodities included which is given on page 10. This list is, to a large extent, comparable with that used in the compilation of the "Economist" and "Statist" index numbers of Great Britain, but differs largely from that used for the wholesale price index numbers of the United States (Bureau of Labour) or Canada (Department of Labour).

The items for computing the Melbourne wholesale price index comprise chiefly basic materials which in the form of raw material, food, or as a source of power, enter into production for home consumption. The purpose of the index, therefore, is to measure the changes in the price of these particular materials rather than the changes in prices generally. As Australia does not, to any extent, manufacture from imported raw materials commodities for export, the local consumption appears to give the most appropriate weighting. Any lack of uniformity in the variations of the index-numbers for these wholesale prices and for retail prices would indicate broadly the changes in the relation of manufacturing and distributing charges to the cost of basic materials.

The index-number of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912, and has been continued on the same lines since that year. It was resolved, however, at the Conference of Statisticians at Brisbane in 1930 that the time had come to revise and extend the items included in order to bring the index into line with the changed conditions. An investigation to that end is now in progress, and it is hoped that the results will shortly be available.

2. **Commodities in Groups.**—The commodities are divided into eight groups, as set out on page 10. The descriptions of the groups are given below with the proportional cost of the consumption of each group in the middle of 1932. These proportions may be used with fair accuracy as "weights" to combine any group index-numbers at the present time, but would give unsatisfactory results if used for a time when prices were relatively much different, as in 1929.

Groups of Commodities.

Group.	Description.	Percentage of Aggregate Cost (1932)
I.	"Metals and Coal"	17
II.	"Cotton, Wool", also jute, leather, &c. ..	10
III.	"Agricultural Produce"	25
IV.	"Dairy Produce"	9
V.	"Groceries"	20
VI.	"Meat"	10
VII.	"Building materials" (mostly timber) ..	8
VIII.	"Chemicals" (excluding fertilizers) ..	1

It will be noticed that the group "Chemicals" is practically negligible.

The index relates chiefly to basic materials, but a certain proportion of Australian manufacturing costs enters into all groups. The amount is small in Meat (VI.), Agricultural Produce (III.), and Cotton, Wool (II.), and greater in others, but the difference is not sufficient to justify any inference

as to different changes of the price-level for manufactured goods and farm products. The number and weight of manufactured commodities included are too small to warrant deductions of this nature from any possible grouping.

Many of the commodities included are affected by the tariff. Cotton, Wool (II.), Agricultural Produce (III.) and Meat (VI.), are little affected, and Dairy Produce (IV.) not greatly, but in the other groups the tariff is a dominating influence.

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

Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.	Commodity.	Brand.	Unit.	Mass Unit.
GROUP I.				GROUP V.			
Iron—				Currants ..		lb.	1,400
Pig ..	Mxd. Nos.	ton	6½	Raisins ..	Sultanas	doz. "	1,400
Rod and Bar ..	Stafford	"	3½	Herrings ..	1-lb. fresh	doz. 1-lb.	50
Angles ..	"	"	3½	Salmon ..	1 lb. tall	tins	50
Plate ..	"	"	3	Alaska			
Hoop ..	"	"	½	Sardines ..	Halves	doz. halves	100
Galvanized ..	26 gauge	"	5	Coffee ..	Plantation	lb.	200
Tinned Plates ..	I.C. Coke	box	60	Cocoa ..	McKenzie's	lb.	100
Fencing Wire ..	No. 8	ton	6	Sugar ..	No. 1A	ton	22
Zinc sheet ..	"	"	1	Macaroni ..	"	lb.	200
Lead sheet ..	"	"	½	Tapioca ..	"	cwt.	7
" pipes ..	"	"	½	Rice ..	"	ton	2
Copper sheet ..	"	lb.	2,000	Salt ..	Australian	"	7
Quicksilver ..	"	"	12	fine			
Coal ..	Newcastle	ton	600	Rock ..		doz. 1-lb.	1
	on wharf			Mustard ..	Coleman's	tins	6
GROUP II.				Starch ..	Coleman's	lb.	100
Branbags ..	"	doz.	110	White			
Cornsacks ..	"	"	250	Blue ..	Keen's	"	50
Woolpacks ..	"	each	200	Matches ..	Australian	gross	90
Leather—				Candles ..	Rangoon	lb.	1,600
Chrome Box	"	ft.	1,200	Tobacco ..	"	"	1,300
Hide	"	"	600	Tea ..	"	"	3,000
Rough Tanned	"	lb.	600	Kerosene ..	"	gallon	1,700
—Split	"	"	600				
Sole Leather—				GROUP VI.			
Factory	"	"	600	Beef ..	Average quality	100 lb.	390
Sides	"	"	600	Mutton ..	"	lb.	33,000
Cotton ..	Raw	"	24,000	Veal ..	"	"	2,000
Wool ..	Greasy	"	12,200	Lamb ..	"	"	5,600
Twine ..	Reaper and Binder	"	150	Pork ..	"	"	3,700
Tallow ..	Mutton Prime	ton	1½	GROUP VII.			
GROUP III.				Timber—	Flooring—		
Wheat ..	"	bushel	500	6 x 1½	100 ft. lin.		30
Flour ..	"	ton	48	6 x ¾	"		30
Bran ..	"	"	14	6 x ¾	"		30
Pollard ..	"	"	14	6 x ¾	"		30
Oats ..	Milling	bushel	1,200	6 x ¾	"		30
Oatmeal ..	Colonial	ton	14	Weather-boards			200
Barley ..	English	bushel	150	Oregon	1,000 ft. sup.		20
" Cape		"	100	Cement ..	Shelving		10
Maize ..	"	"	1,000	Portland	cask		30
Hay ..	Best Mngr.	ton	135	White Lead ..	ton		½
Chaff ..	Prime	"	135	Slates ..	Welsh	2,000	½
Straw ..	Victorian	"	25				
Peas ..	"	bushel	55	GROUP VIII.			
Potatoes ..	"	ton	40	Cream of Tartar	In kegs	lb.	400
Malt ..	Victorian	bushel	140	Carbonate of Soda	"	ton	½
Onions ..	"	ton	3	Salt-petre ..	Refined	"	1-20
				Sulphur ..	"	"	½
GROUP IV.				Caustic Soda ..	"	cwt.	½
Ham ..	"	lb.	800	Alum ..	Lump	ton	½
Bacon ..	"	"	3,200	Cyanide of Potassium	"	lb.	570
Cheese ..	"	"	1,500				
Butter ..	Best Fresh	"	9,500				
Lard ..	Bulk	"	200				
Eggs ..	Ordinary	doz.	1,800				
Honey ..	"	lb.	600				
Beeswax ..	"	"	40				
Condensed Milk	Bacchus Marsh	doz. lb.	160				

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

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Index-Numbers 1861 to May, 1933, Computed with Year 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

YEAR.	I Metals and Coal.	II Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricul- tural Produce, &c.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Grocer- ies.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Com- modities combined.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,063	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,039	1,257	1,230	864	1,580	..	1,044	1,409	1,220
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,001	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	790	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,088
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,862
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	2,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,125	2,363	1,985	1,951	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,808	2,055
1920 ..	2,298	2,644	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,460
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,570	2,025	1,935	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,852	1,967	1,797	1,936	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,662	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,556	1,702	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930 ..	1,866	1,127	1,684	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,566
1931 ..	1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428
1932 ..	1,736	1,000	1,230	1,303	1,767	1,348	2,043	2,127	1,411
1931—									
Oct. ..	1,770	942	1,132	1,388	1,791	1,460	2,028	2,180	1,402
Nov. ..	1,770	1,040	1,199	1,334	1,795	1,431	2,008	2,180	1,428
Dec. ..	1,770	1,056	1,197	1,275	1,792	1,432	2,026	2,180	1,425
1932—									
Jan. ..	1,757	1,051	1,206	1,247	1,783	1,385	1,984	2,183	1,414
Feb. ..	1,743	1,079	1,280	1,317	1,788	1,413	1,998	2,183	1,449
March ..	1,742	1,038	1,245	1,344	1,767	1,477	2,009	2,183	1,438
April ..	1,742	963	1,233	1,414	1,762	1,504	2,019	2,120	1,431
May ..	1,734	893	1,228	1,370	1,765	1,429	2,076	2,120	1,408
June ..	1,737	842	1,231	1,297	1,764	1,387	2,083	2,120	1,390
July ..	1,734	885	1,252	1,337	1,760	1,329	2,049	2,120	1,397
Aug. ..	1,731	999	1,269	1,311	1,754	1,301	2,060	2,030	1,415
Sept. ..	1,727	1,120	1,270	1,319	1,764	1,314	2,067	2,117	1,441
Oct. ..	1,725	1,052	1,223	1,286	1,761	1,247	2,039	2,117	1,404
Nov. ..	1,729	1,038	1,183	1,221	1,766	1,199	2,066	2,117	1,382
Dec. ..	1,731	1,018	1,145	1,194	1,764	1,222	2,069	2,117	1,367
1933—									
Jan. ..	1,733	1,022	1,107	1,179	1,688	1,211	2,083	2,124	1,344
Feb. ..	1,736	1,066	1,084	1,153	1,692	1,179	2,078	2,124	1,330
March ..	1,732	997	1,101	1,143	1,694	1,190	2,064	2,121	1,333
April ..	1,731	1,010	1,152	1,187	1,692	1,248	2,056	2,110	1,358
May ..	1,703	1,085	1,230	1,247	1,700	1,344	2,068	2,118	1,406

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

4. **Variations since Outbreak of War.**—The variations in the index-numbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1932, and for each month from October, 1931, to May, 1933, 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.

(Base—July, 1914 = 1,000).

Period.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Cotton, Wool, Leather.	III. Agricul- tural Produce.	IV Dairy Pro- duce.	V. Gro- ceries.	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	1,307	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	2,288	1,840	1,860	2,022	2,944	2,764	2,178
" 1921 ..	1,974	1,250	1,653	1,663	1,916	1,331	2,495	2,246	1,668
" 1922 ..	1,763	1,543	1,523	1,370	1,811	1,702	1,830	1,917	1,541
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,972	1,664	1,527	1,693	1,590	1,848	1,885	1,704
" 1924 ..	1,667	2,220	1,541	1,376	1,668	1,371	1,656	1,761	1,653
" 1925 ..	1,682	1,806	1,681	1,360	1,670	1,364	1,562	1,746	1,617
" 1926 ..	1,760	1,453	1,873	1,483	1,677	1,191	1,519	1,771	1,606
" 1927 ..	1,782	1,515	1,709	1,516	1,671	1,302	1,482	1,820	1,593
" 1928 ..	1,737	1,635	1,661	1,456	1,654	1,242	1,590	1,756	1,571
" 1929 ..	1,737	1,428	1,677	1,540	1,638	1,385	1,601	1,895	1,581
" 1930 ..	1,695	1,035	1,389	1,353	1,614	1,249	1,712	1,933	1,399
" 1931 ..	1,659	954	1,049	1,163	1,738	930	1,849	2,112	1,232
" 1932 ..	1,577	918	1,152	1,083	1,712	831	1,865	2,074	1,237
1931—									
October ..	1,608	865	1,059	1,154	1,736	906	1,851	2,126	1,229
November ..	1,608	955	1,122	1,109	1,739	882	1,833	2,126	1,252
December ..	1,608	970	1,120	1,060	1,736	883	1,850	2,126	1,249
1932—									
January ..	1,595	965	1,128	1,037	1,728	854	1,811	2,129	1,239
February ..	1,583	991	1,198	1,095	1,733	871	1,823	2,129	1,270
March ..	1,583	953	1,165	1,118	1,712	911	1,834	2,131	1,261
April ..	1,583	884	1,154	1,176	1,708	927	1,843	2,068	1,254
May ..	1,575	820	1,149	1,139	1,710	882	1,895	2,068	1,234
June ..	1,578	773	1,152	1,078	1,710	855	1,901	2,068	1,218
July ..	1,575	812	1,172	1,107	1,706	820	1,870	2,068	1,225
August ..	1,572	917	1,188	1,090	1,699	802	1,880	1,980	1,241
September ..	1,568	1,028	1,189	1,097	1,710	810	1,887	2,064	1,263
October ..	1,567	966	1,145	1,069	1,707	769	1,861	2,064	1,231
November ..	1,571	953	1,107	1,015	1,712	740	1,886	2,064	1,211
December ..	1,572	935	1,071	993	1,710	754	1,889	2,064	1,199
1933—									
January ..	1,574	939	1,036	981	1,636	747	1,901	2,072	1,179
February ..	1,577	924	1,015	959	1,639	727	1,897	2,073	1,166
March ..	1,573	915	1,031	951	1,642	734	1,884	2,069	1,168
April ..	1,573	927	1,078	987	1,639	769	1,877	2,067	1,191
May ..	1,547	996	1,151	1,036	1,648	829	1,888	2,065	1,233

5. **Seasonal Fluctuations.**—To show seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1932. These are given in the following table, with the year 1911 as base, also with the average prices for the year 1932 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, 1932.

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) ..	1,434	1,410	1,418	1,384	1,411
Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with average for 1932 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,016	999	1,005	981	1,000
Retail Price (Food, Groceries and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1911 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,417	1,392	1,369	1,332	1,378
Retail Price (Food, Groceries, and Cost of Housing) Index-Numbers with average for 1932 as base (= 1,000) ..	1,028	1,010	993	967	1,000

The results evidence a greater variation in retail prices than in wholesale prices, but in both instances the index-numbers show that the prices moved uniformly in an upward direction during the first quarter of the year. In the second quarter prices moved uniformly downwards. In the third quarter wholesale prices rose slightly, while retail prices steadied with a further small downward movement. In the fourth quarter prices again moved uniformly downwards.

6. **Prices, 1931 and 1932.**—In Section I. of the Appendix, details are given of the average wholesale prices of the particular grades of commodities used in computing the index-numbers in the years 1931 and 1932. Corresponding information for previous years was given in the Appendices to previous Reports. In Report No. 1 (1912), prices are given for each year from 1871 to 1911.

§ 2. Retail Prices.

1. **General.**—The methods adopted for the computation of retail price index-numbers have been described in earlier issues of this Report. For the principles involved, the reader is recommended to consult the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9. A simple discussion of the retail price index for food and rent, and of its accuracy and adequacy, particularly in connexion with wage adjustment, was given in Labour Report, No. 21, Appendix VIII., which is printed also as a separate pamphlet entitled "Wages and Prices."

2. **The "Old" Composite Unit.**—The constitution of the "composite unit" used till the end of June, 1932, 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."
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD.)			GROUP III.—MEAT.		
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	468	26. Beef, sirloin	lb.	67
2. Flour, ordinary ..	25 lb. bag	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	"	33
7. Bago	"	8	32. Beef, steak, stewing	"	33
8. Jam	"	73	33. Beef, corned round	"	39
9. Oatmeal	"	35	34. Beef, brisket, with	"	
10. Raisins	"	14	bone	"	11
11. Currants	"	14	35. Beef, brisket, without	"	
12. Starch	"	1	bone	"	34
13. Blue	doz. sqs.	3	36. Mutton, leg	"	92
14. Candles	lb.	16	37. Mutton, shoulder ..	"	62
15. Soap	"	64	38. Mutton, loin	"	30
16. Potatoes	14 lb.	64	39. Mutton, neck	"	40
17. Onions	lb.	68	40. Mutton, chops, loin	"	62
18. Kerosene	gallon	17	41. Mutton, chops, leg	"	15
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCTS.			42. Mutton, chops, neck	"	51
19. Milk	quart	300	43. Pork, leg	"	94
20. Butter	lb.	95	44. Pork, loin	"	84
21. Cheese	"	15	45. Pork, belly	"	109
22. Eggs	dozen	18	46. Pork, chops	"	84
			GROUP IV.—HOUSING.		
23. Bacon, middle	lb.	16	47. House Accommoda-	week	464
24. Bacon, shoulder	"	16	tion		
25. Ham	"	8			

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

These "mass-units," which are the weights given to the commodities in the index, represent the estimated total consumption in millions of the unit of quantity for the whole of Australia in the years 1906-1910. In later years, however, the relative consumption of the various commodities changed considerably but the change makes very little difference to the index-number, which measures merely the variation in price-level. If prices had moved very differently for different commodities—some risen, some fallen—a marked change in weight might make an appreciable change in the index-number. But the prices of all the principal foods have increased substantially since 1910, so that a considerable change in weight would have little effect.

A uniform movement of the principal food prices, nevertheless, cannot be relied on in the future, particularly with the possibilities of control of individual prices by Governments or by trade combinations. The regimen has, therefore, been revised in order to bring it into harmony with the best available estimates of current consumption. The opportunity was also taken of adding certain items of moderate importance, and of deleting others of which the consumption was so small that the effect of including them was negligible. The new regimen, details of which are given below, was tried for the first six months of 1932, compared with the old regimen, and then brought into operation from July, 1932.

The effect of the change in weighting was tried by computing the change in the price level from 1911 to May, 1932, with both sets of weights. For the six capital cities, the new weights gave an index of 1,442, and the old weights an index of 1,445. It was expected that the difference would be small, but it proved quite negligible for Australia as a whole. The differences in the case of some individual towns were a little larger but they were still unimportant.

In accordance with the general principles of procedure in changing the regimen (*see* Labour Report No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paras. 14, 18) the index was taken as determined by the old regimen for the June quarter of 1932, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price-level after that date. The breach of continuity is very slight, and the index-number may be regarded as recording as accurately as possible the changes in retail prices through the whole period since 1911.

3. The New Composite Unit.—In the old regimen, the weights represent in millions the annual total consumption for Australia in the years 1906 to 1910. In the new regimen, the weights are, approximately, the annual average consumption per head for household purposes during the years 1927 to 1929. Small adjustments in the crude average consumption have been made in two ways. Consumption by factories, when the product did not go into household use in Australia, was deducted. On the other hand, the weights given to some foods, such as dried apricots and canned peaches, cover also the consumption of other similar foods. The following table gives the new regimen, and the weights of corresponding items of the old regimen, reduced for comparison to the same basis of annual consumption per head. In the last column, the approximate relative importance of the items making up the new regimen is shown for the third quarter of 1932. The relative importance will, of course, change slightly with variation of prices, and revised figures will be published from time to time as may be necessary.

Retail Prices—"New Composite Unit."

(COMPARISON OF "NEW" AND "OLD" MASS UNITS AND PERCENTAGE COST OF EACH ITEM.)

Commodity.	Unit of Quantity.	"New" Regimen Mass Units.	(a) "Old" Regimen Mass Units.	(b) Cost of Items in "New" Regimen as percentage of Aggregate—Melbourne, 3rd Quarter, 1932.	
GROUP I.—GROCERIES (INCLUDING BREAD).					
1. Bread	2 lb. loaf	100	109.86	5.8	
2. Flour, ordinary	25 lb. bag	2	2.58	1.0	
3. Flour, self-raising	2 lb. pkt.	12	..	1.0	
4. Tea	lb.	8	7.04	2.9	
5. Sugar	"	100	107.98	6.5	
6. Rice	"	8	11.74	0.4	
7. Sago	"	1	1.88	0.1	
8. Jam, apricot	1½ lb. tin	8	17.14	1.2	
9. Golden Syrup	2 lb. tin	1	..	0.1	
10. Oatmeal	lb.	8	8.22	0.3	
11. Raisins, seeded	"	5	3.29	0.7	
12. Currants	"	2	3.29	0.2	
13. Apricots, dried	"	1	..	0.2	
14. Peaches, canned	2 lb. tin	3	..	0.5	
15. Pears, canned	"	1	..	0.2	
16. Salmon, in tins	lb. tin	3	..	0.7	
17. Potatoes	14 lb.	9	15.02	1.1	
18. Onions	lb.	14	15.96	0.9	
19. Soap, household, ordinary	"	16	15.02	1.2	
20. Candles	"	1	3.76	0.2	
21. Kerosene	gallon	1	3.99	0.3	
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.					
22. Milk, fresh	quart	72	70.42	6.3	
23. Butter, factory	lb.	30	22.30	7.6	
24. Cheese, mild	"	4	3.52	0.7	
25. Milk, condensed, sweetened	tin	5	..	0.7	
26. Eggs, fresh	dozen	6	4.23	1.3	
27. Bacon, rashers	lb.	10	7.51	2.1	
28. Ham, rashers, uncooked	"	2	1.88	0.4	
GROUP III.—MEAT.					
29. Beef, sirloin	lb.	18	107	90.85	10.2
30. Beef, ribs	"	22			
31. Beef, steak, rump	"	11			
32. Beef, steak, stewing	"	20			
33. Beef, sausages	"	7			
34. Beef, corned round	"	14	79	77.93	5.9
35. Beef, brisket with bone	"	15			
36. Mutton, leg	"	20			
37. Mutton, shoulder	"	15			
38. Mutton, loin	"	18			
39. Mutton, chops, loin	"	16	9	8.69	1.2
40. Mutton, chops, leg	"	10			
41. Pork, leg	"	2			
42. Pork, loin	"	2			
43. Pork, chops	"	2	3		
44. Pork, sausages	"	3			
GROUP IV.—HOUSING.					
45. House Accommodation	week	10	10.92	38.1	

(a) The mass units given for the "Old" regimen are obtained from those given in the previous table by dividing by the mean population of Australia for the years 1906 to 1910. (b) Relative importance of items, "New" regimen.

Foods of some importance, such as fresh fish, and fruit and vegetables other than potatoes and onions have not been included in the new regimen, owing to the fact that comparable prices for a standard grade for these items cannot be obtained, while a further difficulty arises from the seasonal character of the production and consumption thereof. The inclusion of such items, therefore, would impair the accuracy and stability of the index, and even if accurate information could be obtained, the index would probably not be materially affected by their inclusion. In the old regimen certain omissions were made partly on account of the difficulty of securing comparable prices. Some of the joints of meat, for example, are only insufficiently standardized, but anomalies in price were not uncommon. On this account, they have been deleted, and the total weight given to meat is distributed amongst the more standardized joints.

4. Collection of Data.—Retail prices of the commodities included in the "composite unit" are collected from representative retail establishments in each of the five principal towns in each State (30 towns in all). The addresses of traders are forwarded to the Bureau by the Government Statisticians of each State, and prices of foods included in the regimen are obtained monthly from about ten tradespeople in each town. A careful selection is made from the lists of tradespeople and agents to ensure the supply of representative figures for the district as a whole, and returns are sent back for verification if there is any doubt in regard to the accuracy of the information supplied. The movement in wholesale prices of commodities is used as a check when the indicated movement of retail prices appears to be abnormal.

Misunderstanding has occurred in connexion with the use of the word "predominant" in describing the grade of goods for which prices were quoted. When retailers first made a return of prices, they were asked to quote for the grade most in demand—the "predominant" price—and the prices have been usually so described. But there was no intention that the grade for which a price was quoted should be changed on account of a change in the demand. To change the grade in this way would be contrary to the first principles of making an index of prices, as was laid down very emphatically by Sir George Knibbs in the Appendix to the Labour Report, No. 9, 1918.

The grades and qualities quoted for by the individual retailers have in fact been kept practically constant. Any appreciable change would be detected in the tabulated prices, and the return would be sent back for explanation or amendment. In 1931, with the very sudden fall in real wages and real incomes of all kinds, there was a possibility of considerable changes in the predominant grade for some commodities. Retailers have therefore been requested to take special care not to change the grade or quality quoted for, and the word "predominant" has been abandoned, as liable to give rise to misunderstanding, except in the case of clothing and of miscellaneous items referred to later. A careful scrutiny of returns has made it certain that there has been no appreciable change of grade in the foods for which prices are recorded.

A return of rents is made at the middle of each quarter by ten or more house-agents in each capital city for brick and wooden houses respectively classified according to the number of rooms. The return shows the average rent paid for all occupied houses of an average standard. Houses with special advantages or disadvantages, are, therefore, not taken into account. Information on similar lines is collected quarterly in each of the country towns included in the investigation.

5. **Change of Base Period.**—In the issues of the Labour Report up to the year 1929, the retail prices of food and groceries and cost of housing (four and five rooms) were compared with the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in 1911 = 1,000, while the total household expenditure tabulations, (i.e., food and groceries, rent of four and five rooms, clothing and miscellaneous items) were computed to the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in November, 1914 = 1,000. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a post-war base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the average of the five-yearly period—1923-1927—be adopted as base for retail price indexes. Consequently, the index-numbers in the following tables, with the exception of those given in the table showing relative cost in the 200 towns of Australia, have been re-computed to the base specified.

The computation of the series of retail price index-numbers (food, groceries, and rent—all houses) used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the determination and adjustment of rates of wages has been continued on the original base, viz., the weighted average cost in the six capital cities in 1911 = 1,000. These index-numbers are published in Appendix VII. to this Report.

A further series of Index Numbers used by this Court and designated the "Harvester—All Items" Index ("D" Series) is included in Appendix VIII., and a full explanation of the method by which the figures were derived will be found on page 46.

6. **Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1907 to 1932.**—Index-numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, also the weighted average for all groups together, for the capital city of each State are shown in the next table. The index-numbers in the following tables, which have the period 1923-27 as base, can be converted to the old base 1911 by multiplying by 1,000 and dividing by the index-number for 1911.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities.

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 each group or combination has its own base, viz., the weighted average cost for the six cities taken together during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 for that group or combination

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
GROUP I.—GROCERIES									
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	986	1,106	952	912	923
Melbourne	461	521	562	1,070	893	989	858	775	791
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,105	953	1,021	877	854	831
Adelaide	510	541	598	1,076	894	972	846	753	754
Perth	522	720	628	1,103	961	1,014	908	844	825
Hobart	501	566	604	1,087	927	1,025	917	828	853
Weighted Average (a) ..	499	564	599	1,093	939	1,037	899	838	845
GROUP II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.									
Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	1,067	1,086	984	841	810
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,087	982	1,003	922	804	743
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	959	971	896	793	732
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	982	1,007	908	758	695
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	1,033	1,057	983	857	785
Hobart	564	587	695	1,091	993	993	921	768	695
Weighted Average (a) ..	563	591	654	1,072	1,016	1,036	946	815	764

(a) For all capital cities.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—Capital Cities—continued.

TOWN.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
GROUP III—MEAT									
Sydney	519	501	668	960	1,035	1,068	1,034	853	781
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	981	1,029	991	804	722
Brisbane	535	488	610	897	882	823	741	644	599
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,095	1,167	1,232	1,107	876	839
Perth	739	824	881	1,103	1,218	1,220	1,025	802	794
Hobart	668	638	780	1,244	1,032	1,056	1,036	842	809
Weighted Average (a) ..	558	522	691	1,010	1,029	1,061	1,001	817	753
GROUPS I, II, AND III. COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.									
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	1,021	1,090	984	876	852
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,004	913	791	758
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	935	951	844	778	738
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	993	1,055	937	789	761
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	1,053	1,084	961	836	804
Hobart	625	592	678	1,133	966	1,025	952	816	797
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	985	1,044	941	826	796
GROUP IV.—HOUSING (WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).									
Sydney	593	701	760	989	1,143	1,162	1,197	1,026	894
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	1,087	1,094	1,011	867	816
Brisbane	483	373	466	630	839	841	775	680	641
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	1,022	986	916	755	691
Perth	458	524	589	730	941	955	979	881	810
Hobart	495	452	518	881	939	932	914	901	868
Weighted Average (a) ..	497	612	662	862	1,066	1,073	1,047	901	817
ALL GROUPS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.									
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	1,064	1,115	1,059	929	867
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	993	1,036	948	818	778
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	901	912	819	743	704
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	1,003	1,030	929	777	736
Perth	594	672	679	982	1,013	1,038	968	852	805
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	956	992	939	846	822
Weighted Average (a) ..	520	578	648	992	1,014	1,054	978	852	803

(a) For all capital cities.

7. **Change of Basis for Rent Constituent.**—The preceding table takes into account in respect of rent, houses of four and five rooms only. Up till the end of 1924, the rent of "all houses" was the basis of the index. The "all-houses" index is still continued for the use of the Arbitration Court (Appendix VII). There is no appreciable difference in the movement of the rent index for any town, either as regards "all houses" or only four and five-roomed houses. There is, however, a substantial difference in the index-numbers of the various cities owing to their considerable variation from one another in the proportion of four and five-roomed houses to total houses.

8. **Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1928 to 1933.**—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 inserted showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927, as Base (a) (= 1,000).

	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.
FOOD AND GROCERIES—46 COMMODITIES.												
1928 ..	1,021	1,017	1,206	1,035	989	1,026	942	965	966	953	928	944
1929 ..	1,090	1,061	1,286	1,094	1,046	1,092	1,004	1,029	1,041	1,010	990	1,006
1930 ..	984	974	1,182	977	964	988	913	952	953	909	932	916
1931 ..	876	868	1,011	843	857	879	791	815	825	781	810	793
1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	801	760
1932 1st Qtr.	870	849	976	820	834	870	786	801	798	795	818	787
2nd ..	861	843	961	841	834	862	770	775	790	789	812	772
3rd ..	850	841	967	839	818	852	752	757	777	779	800	755
4th ..	828	812	909	816	786	828	722	734	749	747	775	725
1933 1st Qtr.	796	786	879	784	762	797	688	713	720	720	728	692
2nd ..	799	791	884	788	771	800	703	724	724	731	740	706
1932.												
January ..	860	835	970	813	834	860	778	790	796	790	804	780
February ..	874	859	984	821	829	874	795	814	803	798	829	797
March ..	875	854	974	826	840	875	784	799	796	797	820	786
April ..	872	851	975	846	848	873	782	794	802	803	830	784
May ..	859	843	949	842	832	860	769	777	788	786	806	771
June ..	852	835	960	836	823	853	761	755	781	779	800	762
July ..	853	839	969	842	828	855	758	747	776	781	804	760
August ..	851	838	967	840	814	852	751	762	777	782	795	754
September ..	845	845	964	836	811	848	747	761	779	774	800	750
October ..	847	827	942	828	795	847	739	746	762	759	787	741
November ..	822	809	891	813	784	822	716	730	746	743	772	719
December ..	815	799	892	806	779	815	712	727	739	739	766	715
1933.												
January ..	802	790	882	796	766	803	700	722	731	728	736	703
February ..	799	788	881	791	764	799	689	712	722	720	728	692
March ..	787	781	873	765	757	788	625	705	708	714	719	679
April ..	800	791	885	782	762	801	688	719	719	728	738	693
May ..	797	789	885	790	772	799	700	725	720	728	738	703
June ..	799	794	881	790	780	800	720	728	731	737	744	721
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1928 ..	1,143	1,089	702	1,183	885	1,125	1,087	675	793	980	831	1,053
1929 ..	1,162	1,082	701	1,240	880	1,142	1,094	704	817	941	849	1,060
1930 ..	1,167	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	696	750	883	865	982
1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	815	823	847
1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	804	799
1932 1st Qtr.	913	810	615	850	778	895	830	629	643	755	811	812
2nd ..	902	798	621	845	783	884	819	629	643	743	805	802
3rd ..	883	798	626	842	778	868	813	625	645	731	805	796
4th ..	876	788	625	828	784	860	802	624	640	722	796	786
1933 1st Qtr.	873	780	627	817	783	857	806	635	636	721	794	790
2nd ..	863	778	627	810	783	849	799	633	637	721	788	783
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.												
1928 ..	1,064	1,043	1,027	1,087	952	1,061	993	862	904	962	894	983
1929 ..	1,115	1,068	1,078	1,146	987	1,110	1,036	914	962	985	840	1,026
1930 ..	1,059	998	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	948	861	884	900	909	940
1931 ..	929	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	764	793	815	812
1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773
1932 1st Qtr.	885	835	848	831	814	879	801	740	743	781	815	796
2nd ..	876	827	841	843	816	870	783	723	738	773	810	783
3rd ..	862	826	845	840	804	858	773	710	730	762	801	769
4th ..	844	803	806	820	784	839	749	694	709	737	781	745
1933 1st Qtr.	822	783	787	795	767	817	727	683	688	719	748	723
2nd ..	821	786	790	795	774	817	735	690	691	726	755	731

(a) See explanatory note at centre of page 17

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-year period, 1923-27, as Base (a) (= 1,000)—continued.

	QUEENSLAND—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.					
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charlton Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.
FOOD AND GROCERIES—(46 COMMODITIES).												
1928 ..	935	891	970	1,087	939	940	993	1,059	1,048	997	1,110	999
1929 ..	951	929	1,011	1,102	971	961	1,055	1,137	1,111	1,034	1,166	1,061
1930 ..	844	846	912	966	877	855	937	1,076	1,019	924	1,044	944
1931 ..	778	764	843	902	798	788	789	866	853	774	864	795
1932 ..	738	729	808	876	770	749	761	848	818	772	816	761
1932 1st Qtr.	761	744	844	898	777	772	787	873	854	788	851	793
2nd ..	747	742	813	885	781	758	781	866	836	783	829	787
3rd ..	729	726	795	866	768	741	755	849	812	766	807	762
4th ..	716	701	779	856	753	726	721	809	768	750	776	727
1933 1st Qtr.	692	674	748	822	718	701	711	794	746	739	765	716
2nd ..	697	673	758	807	724	705	731	803	753	739	779	735
1932.												
January ..	765	739	847	900	787	775	769	854	843	781	841	776
February ..	764	742	843	894	767	774	798	889	866	790	864	805
March ..	754	751	841	900	778	767	793	876	852	792	849	799
April ..	752	750	826	893	785	764	795	872	855	786	847	801
May ..	748	743	818	884	784	760	780	856	833	789	826	786
June ..	739	733	802	879	772	750	769	853	820	775	814	775
July ..	731	731	801	869	774	743	766	852	817	768	817	772
August ..	728	724	791	861	763	739	755	851	812	766	810	761
September ..	729	722	793	867	767	740	746	846	808	764	795	753
October ..	728	715	791	867	767	739	733	829	789	759	788	740
November ..	710	697	775	855	748	721	716	798	762	743	768	722
December ..	708	692	771	848	744	718	714	801	754	747	773	720
1933.												
January ..	696	672	750	831	717	704	707	796	745	742	764	713
February ..	694	680	748	838	720	703	712	795	749	739	767	717
March ..	687	669	747	798	715	696	713	790	745	737	764	718
April ..	694	676	751	804	719	702	726	801	755	735	770	731
May ..	698	671	763	806	726	706	727	802	752	742	769	732
June ..	698	671	759	811	728	706	740	806	751	738	772	743
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).												
1928 ..	839	727	653	677	679	805	1,022	481	699	549	770	979
1929 ..	841	719	633	745	678	806	986	443	695	561	816	945
1930 ..	775	727	685	720	668	759	916	398	715	586	810	882
1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	402	675	586	715	734
1932 ..	641	649	582	642	617	633	691	378	624	610	700	675
1932 1st Qtr.	649	591	590	557	647	636	696	382	628	610	702	679
2nd ..	644	662	590	550	622	637	697	377	629	609	695	680
3rd ..	636	668	574	531	600	629	689	377	623	609	697	673
4th ..	636	674	575	531	600	629	683	377	617	610	706	667
1933 1st Qtr.	660	714	566	518	617	650	692	378	604	610	712	674
2nd ..	694	695	548	518	623	674	693	378	601	610	708	676
FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.												
1928 ..	901	833	858	942	841	892	1,003	854	925	838	990	994
1929 ..	912	855	877	975	867	906	1,030	891	963	866	1,042	1,020
1930 ..	819	804	832	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	961	924
1931 ..	743	716	765	804	745	745	777	703	790	707	811	774
1932 ..	704	699	728	758	716	708	736	681	749	714	774	734
1932 1st Qtr.	721	690	754	777	731	724	754	690	774	725	798	753
2nd ..	710	713	735	767	724	715	752	689	763	721	781	749
3rd ..	696	704	717	747	708	701	731	682	744	710	767	730
4th ..	687	690	707	741	699	691	706	655	713	699	749	705
1933 1st Qtr.	678	683	683	714	680	681	702	645	694	692	743	700
2nd ..	692	677	684	704	686	691	716	651	697	692	746	713

(a) See note at centre of page 17.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers 30 Towns : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927, as Base (b) (=1,000)—continued.

	WESTERN AUSTRALIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.							TASMANIA—INDEX-NUMBERS.							Weighted Average 6 Capital Towns.	Weighted Average 30 Towns, Australia.
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.(a)	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.(a)	Devonport.	Queensdown.	Weighted Average, Tasmania.				
FOOD AND GROCERIES—(46 COMMODITIES).																
1928 ..	1,053	1,173	1,104	1,130	1,096	1,069	966	949	1,006	973	1,080	967	985	989		
1929 ..	1,084	1,267	1,137	1,173	1,149	1,103	1,025	995	1,078	1,038	1,140	1,024	1,044	1,047		
1930 ..	961	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,055	986	952	937	1,002	938	1,068	953	941	946		
1931 ..	836	994	883	886	918	856	816	812	844	827	934	821	826	830		
1932 ..	804	974	854	831	862	824	797	779	830	822	904	798	796	801		
1932 1st Qtr.	826	990	868	828	900	845	814	800	859	854	914	817	819	823		
2nd "	835	988	879	853	900	853	811	791	839	839	908	811	810	813		
3rd "	796	970	852	833	856	817	789	769	820	800	898	789	791	796		
4th "	760	949	815	811	790	782	774	754	800	796	895	775	765	770		
1933 1st Qtr.	738	930	791	768	746	759	737	727	766	763	868	742	736	741		
2nd "	776	943	824	801	761	794	750	735	773	769	877	752	748	752		
1932.																
January ..	820	982	870	810	889	839	804	796	852	852	910	810	811	814		
February ..	822	990	858	822	897	842	818	803	859	859	912	821	825	829		
March ..	836	998	877	852	914	855	821	799	804	852	920	822	822	825		
April ..	844	1,006	882	858	910	863	831	807	855	853	917	830	820	824		
May ..	834	988	885	857	902	853	812	780	835	835	908	810	808	812		
June ..	826	971	870	843	888	844	790	779	827	829	900	794	800	803		
July ..	803	970	861	835	864	823	788	772	825	806	900	790	796	800		
August ..	797	970	853	829	858	818	786	769	814	795	902	787	791	796		
September ..	788	970	842	835	847	810	797	707	820	799	893	790	787	792		
October ..	774	962	834	825	822	797	793	703	812	808	901	790	782	786		
November ..	759	947	809	809	796	781	768	749	800	791	894	770	760	764		
December ..	746	937	803	798	753	767	763	749	788	790	883	766	755	759		
1933.																
January ..	732	928	783	773	751	754	746	732	769	769	880	749	742	747		
February ..	733	929	789	762	743	755	739	726	768	765	865	742	738	742		
March ..	748	932	801	769	743	768	727	722	762	756	860	733	729	734		
April ..	763	938	815	793	756	783	741	730	771	772	872	746	742	746		
May ..	773	941	822	798	761	791	749	735	775	769	876	752	746	750		
June ..	791	949	835	813	765	808	759	740	772	765	884	759	756	759		
HOUSING—(WEIGHTED AVERAGE 4 AND 5 ROOMS).																
1928 ..	941	541	917	671	957	893	939	845	778	711	460	878	1,066	1,032		
1929 ..	955	543	917	675	985	906	932	831	781	733	520	873	1,073	1,037		
1930 ..	979	582	903	783	1,063	934	914	806	726	774	567	858	1,047	1,013		
1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840	901	878		
1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	702	684	673	816	817	800		
1932 1st Qtr.	818	669	823	743	987	805	862	766	715	699	662	814	831	811		
2nd "	811	765	810	740	981	808	878	757	702	698	676	821	822	805		
3rd "	808	768	794	772	975	807	869	757	701	693	682	816	811	795		
4th "	801	768	791	767	974	801	863	760	689	687	671	812	804	788		
1933 1st Qtr.	795	779	780	768	950	796	853	763	682	676	679	806	806	790		
2nd "	794	798	792	771	943	797	859	772	677	673	706	813	804	788		
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING																
1928 ..	1,013	949	1,038	967	1,047	1,007	956	912	926	880	860	935	1,014	1,004		
1929 ..	1,038	1,010	1,072	996	1,090	1,036	992	937	972	930	920	970	1,054	1,044		
1930 ..	968	941	992	968	1,058	967	939	891	904	880	890	919	978	976		
1931 ..	852	874	872	846	960	857	846	800	797	791	815	828	842	847		
1932 ..	805	892	836	804	902	817	822	772	784	777	822	804	803	800		
1932 1st Qtr.	823	876	852	798	931	831	831	788	808	799	824	816	823	819		
2nd "	826	909	854	813	929	837	835	779	790	789	826	815	814	810		
3rd "	799	898	831	810	807	812	816	764	777	761	821	798	793	796		
4th "	772	884	805	793	852	786	805	755	760	757	815	787	778	776		
1933 1st Qtr.	755	874	785	765	814	769	776	737	735	731	800	762	759	757		
2nd "	781	889	810	788	822	793	787	746	738	733	815	772	766	763		

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

(a) The towns of Midland Junction (W.A.), Zeehan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1923 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). (b) See note at centre of page 17.

In so far as they relate to the capital cities the index-numbers in these tables are comparable in every respect with those given on page 17 for the respective groups, and where they relate to the same period the numbers 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 during the five-yearly period, 1923-1927, is in each part made equal to 1,000.

The last two columns in each division of the table on the preceding page 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	Ballarat ..	36	T'woomba	21	Kadina, etc.	13	Kalg'he, etc.	19	Launceston	24
Broken Hill	26	Bendigo ..	30	Rockham'n	24	Pt. Pirie	10	Northam	4	Burnie ..	3
Goulburn	13	Geelong ..	32	Chrs. Twrs.	9	Mt. Gamb'r	4	Bunbury	4	Devonport	5
Bathurst	9	W'nambool	8	Warwick	6	Peterbor'gh	2	Geraldton	4	Queenst'wn	3
Total ..	1031	Total ..	872	Total ..	270	Total ..	284	Total ..	186	Total ..	87

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

9. **Retail Prices Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.**—In each section of the next table the average cost for the six capital cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 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 12s. 1d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 10s. in Brisbane, or 10s. 10d. in Hobart, while 15s. 9d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1932 was equivalent to 8s. 10d. in Brisbane in 1907, or 13s. 5d. in Perth in 1911.

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year specified from 1907 to 1933 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
1907 ..	s. d. 10 6	s. d. 10 4	s. d. 10 7	s. d. 10 8	s. d. 13 5	s. d. 11 4	s. d. 10 8
1911 ..	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1921 ..	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1927 ..	20 8	19 5	18 10	20 7	20 1	20 0	20 0
1928 ..	20 5	18 10	18 8	19 10	21 1	19 4	19 8
1929 ..	21 10	20 1	19 0	21 1	21 8	20 6	20 11
1930 ..	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	19 3	19 1	18 10
1931 ..	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1932 ..	17 1	15 2	14 9	15 3	16 7	15 11	15 11
1932 1st Qtr.	17 5	15 9	15 3	15 9	16 6	16 3	16 5
" 2nd "	17 3	15 5	14 11	15 7	16 8	16 3	16 2
" 3rd "	17 0	15 1	14 7	15 1	15 11	15 9	15 10
" 4th "	16 7	14 5	14 4	14 5	15 2	15 6	15 4
1933 1st "	15 11	13 9	13 10	14 3	14 9	14 9	14 9
" 2nd "	16 0	14 1	13 11	14 7	15 6	15 0	15 0

HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE, 4 AND 5 ROOMS COMBINED).							
1907 ..	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911 ..	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1921 ..	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1927 ..	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7
1928 ..	22 10	21 9	16 9	20 5	18 10	18 9	21 4
1929 ..	23 3	21 11	16 10	19 9	19 1	18 8	21 6
1930 ..	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931 ..	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1932 ..	17 11	16 4	12 10	13 10	16 2	17 4	16 4
1932 1st Qtr.	18 3	16 7	13 0	13 11	16 4	17 3	16 7
" 2nd "	18 1	16 5	12 11	13 11	16 3	17 7	16 5
" 3rd "	17 8	16 3	12 9	13 9	16 2	17 5	16 3
" 4th "	17 6	16 1	12 9	13 8	16 0	17 3	16 1
1933 1st "	17 6	16 1	13 2	13 10	15 11	17 1	16 1
" 2nd "	17 3	16 0	13 11	13 10	15 11	17 2	16 1

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSE RENT COMBINED.							
1907 ..	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911 ..	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1921 ..	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1927 ..	21 2	19 11	18 0	20 0	19 6	19 9	20 3
1928 ..	21 3	19 10	18 0	20 1	20 3	19 1	20 3
1929 ..	22 4	20 9	18 3	20 7	20 9	19 10	21 1
1930 ..	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931 ..	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1932 ..	17 4	15 7	14 1	14 9	16 1	16 5	16 1
1932 1st Qtr.	17 8	16 0	14 5	15 1	16 6	16 7	16 6
" 2nd "	17 6	15 9	14 2	15 1	16 6	16 8	16 3
" 3rd "	17 3	15 6	13 11	14 7	16 0	16 4	16 0
" 4th "	16 11	15 0	13 9	14 1	15 5	16 1	15 7
1933 1st "	16 5	14 7	13 7	14 1	15 1	15 6	15 2
" 2nd "	16 5	14 8	13 10	14 4	15 7	15 9	15 4

10. **Price Details, 1932.**—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 group during 1932 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, particulars were given of retail prices and house rents in the capital cities for the years 1901 to 1911. In Report No. 2 and subsequent issues detailed information will be found regarding retail prices and rents during each year.

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

1. **General.**—In the following Section, the results are included 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 following 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.

The 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 adopted regimen, which is described in the "Indicator List" contained in the Report. It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations by this Bureau would have been somewhat impaired if limited in the manner 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 with those given in the "Indicator Lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau covering 4 and 5-roomed houses, and 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 duration of articles, and this has been used in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

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

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.

In respect to clothing and a considerable amount of miscellaneous expenditure, it is impossible to ensure continuity of grade or quality, as is the case with food and groceries. It is therefore necessary in regard to many items to revert to the "predominant" price—the price of the grade or quality most in demand. The index-numbers for clothing and "miscellaneous expenditure" are therefore affected by changing standards and are not such exact measures of prices as the index-numbers for food and groceries. The complete "all-items" index is consequently less reliable than the food-and-rent index.

The change in the food regimen, beginning with the 3rd Quarter of 1932, had equal application to this series of index-numbers.

3. Base.—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some period as base. The new series of index-numbers, covering all items of household expenditure, were computed in the first instance from price data relating to the month of November, 1914. This period was adopted owing to the difficulty of securing information regarding prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier periods. 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 was taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November 1914 made equal to 1,000. The index-numbers were computed to this base up to and including the 4th Quarter 1929. In accordance with the decision of a Conference of Statisticians that a post-war period should be adopted as base, an alteration was made as from 1st January 1930, and the index-numbers in the following tables have been computed to a post-war base, viz., the weighted average cost in the six capital cities during the five-yearly period—1923–1927—the average annual aggregate expenditure in this period being made equal to 1,000.

4. Variations—Thirty Towns.—The investigations were extended to the five principal towns in each State for the months of November 1921, and May, August and November 1922, and quarterly for the year 1923 and subsequently. It was considered unnecessary to obtain information for previous years regarding prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals. While so far as the capitals were 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 2nd Quarter 1933.—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 Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as 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 ..	638	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	..	..	..	..			
" 1921 ..	604	977	972	950	915	904	623	928	919	911	918	924								
Year 1927 ..	1,032	1,025	1,205	1,030	996	1,036	969	989	992	965	949	970								
" 1928 ..	1,021	1,017	1,206	1,035	999	1,026	942	965	966	953	928	941								
" 1929 ..	1,090	1,001	1,286	1,094	1,046	1,092	1,004	1,029	1,010	990	1,006	1,005								
" 1930 ..	984	974	1,182	977	904	988	913	952	958	909	916	915								
" 1931 ..	876	808	1,011	977	857	879	791	815	825	781	810	793								
" 1932 ..	852	836	953	829	818	853	758	767	779	778	801	760								
1932 1st Qtr.	870	849	976	820	834	870	786	801	798	795	818	787								
" 2nd "	861	843	961	841	834	862	770	775	790	799	812	772								
" 3rd "	850	841	967	839	818	852	752	757	777	779	800	755								
" 4th "	828	816	909	816	786	828	722	734	749	747	775	725								
1933 1st Qtr.	796	782	879	784	762	797	688	713	720	720	740	692								
" 2nd "	799	791	884	788	771	800	703	721	721	740	740	700								
QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																				
Period.	Brisbane.					Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.					Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.							
	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Adelaide.		Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.											
Nov. 1914 ..	614	..	..	..	..	683	..	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	955	895	949	981	936	941	945	968	923	997	..	943								
Year 1927 ..	940	912	1,005	1,139	969	951	1,030	1,071	1,015	1,012	1,033	1,033								
" 1928 ..	935	891	970	1,087	930	940	993	1,059	1,048	997	1,110	999								
" 1929 ..	954	929	1,011	1,102	971	861	1,055	1,137	1,111	1,054	1,106	1,061								
" 1930 ..	844	849	912	966	877	855	937	1,036	1,019	944	1,044	944								
" 1931 ..	778	764	843	902	798	788	799	869	853	774	864	795								
" 1932 ..	738	729	808	876	770	749	761	848	818	772	816	767								
1932 1st Qtr.	761	744	844	898	777	772	787	873	854	788	831	793								
" 2nd "	747	742	815	885	781	758	791	860	836	793	829	787								
" 3rd "	729	726	795	866	768	741	785	849	812	766	807	762								
" 4th "	716	701	779	856	753	726	721	809	768	750	776	727								
1933 1st "	692	674	748	822	718	701	711	794	746	739	765	716								
" 2nd "	697	673	758	807	724	705	731	803	753	739	770	735								
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.																				
Period.	Perth.					Weighted Average, W.A.	Tasmania.—INDEX-NUMBERS.													
	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Hobart.		Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.									
Nov. 1914 ..	746	..	..	..	..	687	..	..	..	..	..	..		
" 1921 ..	1,001	1,054	1,049	1,031	1,033	1,027	958	1,108	996	1,077	1,011	940								
Year 1927 ..	1,004	1,148	1,098	1,109	1,101	1,026	1,000	1,017	1,006	1,105	1,001	1,000								
" 1928 ..	1,053	1,173	1,104	1,130	1,096	1,069	966	1,006	973	1,089	967	995								
" 1929 ..	1,084	1,267	1,157	1,173	1,149	1,108	1,025	1,078	1,038	1,140	1,024	1,044								
" 1930 ..	961	1,138	1,041	1,070	1,035	986	952	937	1,002	938	953	946								
" 1931 ..	836	994	883	886	918	816	812	844	827	934	821	826								
" 1932 ..	804	974	854	831	862	834	797	779	830	904	798	801								
1932 1st Qtr.	826	990	868	828	900	845	814	859	854	914	817	823								
" 2nd "	835	988	879	853	900	833	811	839	839	908	811	813								
" 3rd Qtr.	796	970	852	833	856	817	789	820	800	891	791	810								
" 4th "	760	949	815	811	790	782	774	800	796	789	765	770								
1933 1st "	738	930	791	768	761	759	727	766	763	868	742	736								
" 2nd "	776	943	824	801	761	794	737	769	769	877	751	741								

Housing (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as 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 ..	758	..	..	..	..	..	608	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,000	885	559	881	596	966	845	479	517	668	685	789		
Year 1927 ..	1,109	1,062	693	1,138	866	1,093	1,046	631	788	997	793	1,615		
" 1928 ..	1,143	1,089	702	1,183	885	1,125	1,087	675	793	980	831	1,053		
" 1929 ..	1,162	1,082	761	1,240	880	1,142	1,094	704	817	941	849	1,060		
" 1930 ..	1,197	1,044	727	1,181	978	1,170	1,011	696	750	883	865	982		
" 1931 ..	1,026	895	700	953	892	1,005	867	620	653	815	823	847		
" 1932 ..	894	799	622	841	781	877	816	627	643	738	804	799		
1932 1st Qtr.	913	810	615	850	778	895	830	629	643	755	811	812		
" 2nd "	902	798	621	845	783	884	819	629	643	743	805	802		
" 3rd "	883	798	626	842	778	868	813	625	645	731	805	796		
" 4th "	876	788	625	828	784	860	802	624	640	722	796	786		
1933 1st Qtr.	873	780	627	817	783	857	806	635	636	721	794	790		
" 2nd "	863	778	627	810	783	849	799	633	637	721	788	783		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charter Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Monita, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	463	..	..	..	..	..	611	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	629	547	470	528	535	594	819	566	603	492	566	781		
Year 1927 ..	811	743	608	564	745	802	942	508	701	511	801	905		
" 1928 ..	839	727	653	677	679	805	1,022	481	699	549	770	979		
" 1929 ..	841	719	633	745	678	806	986	443	695	561	816	1,045		
" 1930 ..	775	727	685	720	668	759	916	398	715	586	810	882		
" 1931 ..	680	628	624	628	648	668	755	402	675	586	715	734		
" 1932 ..	641	649	582	542	617	633	691	378	624	610	700	675		
1932 1st Qtr.	649	591	590	557	647	636	696	382	628	610	702	679		
" 2nd "	644	662	590	550	622	637	697	377	629	609	695	685		
" 3rd "	636	668	574	531	600	629	689	377	623	609	697	673		
" 4th "	636	674	575	531	600	629	683	377	617	610	706	667		
1933 1st Qtr.	660	714	566	518	617	650	693	378	604	610	712	674		
" 2nd "	694	693	548	518	623	674	693	378	601	610	708	676		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Average, W.A.	Hobart.	Lanceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Average, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	586	525	649
" 1921 ..	754	578	616	649	779	709	870	676	294	150	495	729	877	823
Year 1927 ..	922	541	894	713	870	876	966	787	770	743	424	878	1,030	998
" 1928 ..	941	541	917	671	957	893	939	845	778	711	460	878	1,068	1,032
" 1929 ..	955	543	917	675	985	906	932	831	781	733	520	873	1,073	1,037
" 1930 ..	979	582	903	783	1,063	934	914	806	726	774	567	858	1,047	1,013
" 1931 ..	881	657	851	771	1,035	858	901	778	712	726	598	840	901	878
" 1932 ..	810	743	805	756	979	805	868	760	702	694	673	816	817	800
1932 1st Qtr.	818	669	823	743	987	805	862	766	715	699	662	814	831	811
" 2nd "	811	765	810	740	981	808	878	757	702	698	676	821	822	805
" 3rd "	808	768	794	772	975	807	869	757	701	693	682	816	811	795
" 4th "	801	768	791	767	974	801	863	760	689	687	671	812	804	788
1933 1st Qtr.	795	779	782	768	950	796	853	763	682	676	679	806	808	790
" 2nd "	794	798	790	771	943	797	859	772	677	673	706	813	804	788

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined (4 and 5 rooms).—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927, as base (= 1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average, N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	680	..	..	..	..	..	613	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	977	944	825	926	815	965	895	769	780	844	855	876		
Year 1927 ..	1,060	1,038	1,023	1,068	950	1,056	996	862	918	976	894	986		
" 1928 ..	1,064	1,043	1,027	1,087	952	1,061	993	862	904	962	894	983		
" 1929 ..	1,115	1,068	1,078	1,146	987	1,110	1,036	914	962	985	940	1,026		
" 1930 ..	1,059	998	1,021	1,050	969	1,052	948	861	884	900	909	940		
" 1931 ..	929	877	901	882	869	923	818	746	764	793	815	812		
" 1932 ..	867	823	835	834	805	862	778	717	730	763	802	773		
1932 1st Qtr.	885	835	848	831	814	879	801	740	743	781	815	796		
" 2nd "	876	827	841	843	816	870	788	723	738	773	810	783		
" 3rd "	862	826	845	840	804	858	773	710	730	762	801	769		
" 4th "	844	803	806	820	784	839	749	694	709	737	781	745		
1933 1st Qtr.	822	783	787	795	767	817	727	683	688	719	748	723		
" 2nd "	821	786	790	795	774	817	735	690	691	726	755	731		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonla, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	560	..	..	..	..	..	658	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	840	771	779	820	794	824	898	811	839	770	844	885		
Year 1927 ..	902	852	896	935	890	898	999	871	940	836	995	989		
" 1928 ..	901	833	858	942	841	892	1,003	854	925	838	990	992		
" 1929 ..	912	855	877	975	867	906	1,030	891	953	866	1,042	1,020		
" 1930 ..	819	804	832	879	803	821	929	810	911	804	901	922		
" 1931 ..	743	716	765	805	745	745	777	703	790	707	811	774		
" 1932 ..	704	699	728	758	716	708	736	681	749	714	774	734		
1932 1st Qtr.	721	690	754	777	731	724	754	699	774	725	798	753		
" 2nd "	710	713	735	767	724	715	752	689	763	721	781	749		
" 3rd "	696	704	717	747	708	701	731	682	744	710	767	730		
" 4th "	687	690	707	741	699	691	706	655	713	699	749	705		
1933 1st Qtr.	678	683	683	714	680	681	702	645	694	692	743	700		
" 2nd "	692	677	684	704	686	691	716	651	697	692	746	713		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	689	630
" 1921 ..	916	928	898	907	942	918	974	858	819	696	871	911	924	907
Year 1927 ..	975	933	1,026	968	1,019	973	988	916	929	913	864	957	1,011	1,002
" 1928 ..	1,013	949	1,038	967	1,047	1,007	956	912	926	880	866	935	1,014	1,034
" 1929 ..	1,038	1,010	1,072	996	1,090	1,036	992	937	972	930	920	970	1,054	1,044
" 1930 ..	968	941	992	968	1,058	967	939	891	904	880	890	919	978	970
" 1931 ..	852	827	872	846	960	857	846	800	797	791	815	828	852	847
" 1932 ..	805	892	836	804	902	817	822	772	784	777	822	804	803	800
1932 1st Qtr.	823	876	852	798	931	831	831	788	808	799	824	816	823	819
" 2nd "	826	909	854	813	929	837	835	779	790	789	826	815	814	810
" 3rd "	799	898	831	810	897	812	816	764	777	761	821	793	798	796
" 4th "	772	884	805	793	852	786	805	755	760	757	815	787	778	778
1933 1st Qtr.	753	874	785	765	814	769	776	737	735	731	800	762	759	757
" 2nd "	781	889	810	788	822	793	787	746	738	733	815	772	766	763

Clothing.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as base (=1,000).

Period.	N.S.W.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						VICTORIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Sydney.	Newcastle.	Broken Hill.	Goulbur.	Bathurst.	Weighted Average N.S.W.	Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Warrnambool.	Weighted Average, Victoria.		
Nov. 1914 ..	755	..	..	..	..	..	780	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,255	1,327	1,269	1,374	1,261	1,264	1,271	1,599	1,573	1,463	1,612	1,326		
Year 1927 ..	936	1,002	889	1,162	978	944	975	1,069	992	1,037	1,139	984		
" 1928 ..	978	984	878	1,167	1,022	979	991	1,099	1,013	1,022	1,121	998		
" 1929 ..	983	982	837	1,162	1,000	981	992	1,093	1,069	993	1,086	998		
" 1930 ..	931	1,012	801	1,106	957	937	964	1,023	1,027	949	1,080	970		
" 1931 ..	835	903	727	1,042	829	840	848	906	952	841	990	855		
" 1932 ..	769	841	722	983	798	777	819	851	931	804	935	825		
1932 1st Qtr.	786	857	737	998	819	794	830	865	934	814	954	835		
" 2nd "	777	863	720	986	819	785	818	853	934	808	939	824		
" 3rd "	770	829	713	975	782	776	815	843	926	794	917	821		
" 4th "	744	814	717	974	773	752	812	842	930	799	928	818		
1933 1st Qtr.	745	825	711	967	791	754	809	843	934	795	926	815		
" 2nd "	745	820	712	942	798	753	817	841	935	797	930	822		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounts, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	M.L. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	657	..	..	..	..	..	756	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,125	1,408	1,452	1,568	1,519	1,235	1,195	1,435	1,480	1,697	1,180	1,238		
Year 1927 ..	965	1,049	1,024	831	1,105	975	1,067	1,043	1,016	1,207	1,102	1,066		
" 1928 ..	945	1,066	1,011	847	1,096	960	1,089	1,065	1,012	1,201	1,096	1,086		
" 1929 ..	944	1,050	972	822	1,102	954	1,062	1,044	1,000	1,199	1,084	1,061		
" 1930 ..	910	1,052	934	826	1,066	923	960	1,094	923	1,174	1,037	965		
" 1931 ..	847	990	849	774	935	858	876	931	861	1,054	1,015	882		
" 1932 ..	813	921	835	759	850	822	834	877	792	969	956	838		
1932 1st Qtr.	824	944	824	757	874	832	849	888	804	988	963	852		
" 2nd "	810	932	836	755	850	820	832	882	793	974	957	836		
" 3rd "	810	904	842	764	838	819	827	873	785	955	953	830		
" 4th "	809	903	836	760	836	817	820	864	786	960	951	832		
1933 1st Qtr.	805	906	828	766	844	814	830	854	800	961	953	833		
" 2nd "	790	916	835	763	844	804	820	850	796	960	951	832		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Banbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av. Ge. W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av. Ge. Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	698	825	754	..
" 1921 ..	1,232	1,376	1,382	1,454	1,320	1,277	1,427	1,670	1,525	1,405	1,504	1,513	1,246	1,290
Year 1927 ..	1,013	1,127	934	967	1,008	1,022	1,098	1,077	1,027	1,006	1,188	1,088	975	982
" 1928 ..	1,027	1,130	969	974	1,019	1,035	1,095	1,109	1,058	1,025	1,208	1,098	997	1,002
" 1929 ..	1,023	1,135	961	966	977	1,031	1,093	1,090	1,045	1,066	1,212	1,093	996	999
" 1930 ..	1,002	1,117	938	988	972	1,012	1,044	1,138	1,020	1,072	1,206	1,076	951	958
" 1931 ..	911	1,079	938	944	909	928	950	1,015	937	924	1,108	972	853	861
" 1932 ..	843	1,045	825	901	858	866	886	964	867	840	1,067	911	804	813
1932 1st Qtr.	853	1,043	828	912	875	874	897	974	881	850	1,072	921	818	826
" 2nd "	853	1,050	828	905	869	875	890	967	867	845	1,063	914	807	817
" 3rd "	841	1,042	824	896	847	863	830	961	858	831	1,064	905	802	810
" 4th "	826	1,043	820	892	839	850	878	954	863	833	1,070	903	790	799
1933 1st Qtr.	825	1,038	826	888	848	849	883	962	861	831	1,064	907	789	799
" 2nd "	818	1,036	789	873	833	842	880	966	857	833	1,067	907	790	799

Miscellaneous.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns ; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as 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 ..	766	..	..	..	..	..	728	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,009	995	1,102	951	989	1,011	1,021	956	1,012	1,033	880	1,015		
Year 1927 ..	1,048	954	1,069	906	925	1,038	989	933	945	944	865	983		
" 1928 ..	1,048	953	1,055	900	928	1,037	991	932	945	942	861	984		
" 1929 ..	1,046	947	1,050	901	925	1,035	986	927	944	942	859	980		
" 1930 ..	1,040	935	1,041	909	924	1,029	973	922	935	928	853	987		
" 1931 ..	1,013	908	1,025	902	910	1,003	939	893	915	898	843	934		
" 1932 ..	996	901	934	883	898	986	925	882	910	886	832	921		
1932 1st Qtr.	1,005	908	1,019	886	906	995	928	884	914	887	834	923		
" 2nd "	999	900	980	885	905	988	926	882	911	886	833	921		
" 3rd "	992	896	968	882	897	981	924	884	908	884	832	919		
" 4th "	988	899	969	879	884	978	923	879	907	886	828	919		
1933 1st Qtr.	987	913	956	879	878	978	918	875	901	886	828	913		
" 2nd "	990	913	994	878	882	981	915	874	906	885	827	911		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane.	Toowoomba.	Rockhampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average, Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie.	Mt. Gambler.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average, S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	728	..	..	..	..	..	770	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	944	953	1,002	1,009	988	958	1,033	1,065	1,063	1,032	1,000	1,036		
Year 1927 ..	936	951	919	977	927	937	1,022	996	1,017	977	1,013	1,020		
" 1928 ..	936	949	917	972	927	936	1,027	996	1,016	990	1,005	1,024		
" 1929 ..	935	949	911	971	922	935	1,028	993	1,009	983	995	1,025		
" 1930 ..	931	943	906	972	912	931	1,019	991	999	973	970	1,016		
" 1931 ..	923	933	892	974	898	922	997	969	953	962	964	993		
" 1932 ..	907	917	884	969	898	908	987	948	939	966	957	983		
1932 1st Qtr.	911	922	890	972	897	912	987	955	940	968	958	984		
" 2nd "	907	921	883	969	898	908	988	947	939	969	957	984		
" 3rd "	905	914	881	967	899	906	987	946	939	965	956	983		
" 4th "	904	911	881	967	898	905	984	944	939	963	956	980		
1933 1st Qtr.	901	909	878	966	898	902	984	943	944	962	956	981		
" 2nd "	899	910	885	975	897	901	983	942	944	961	956	979		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Buabury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Av'ge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Av'ge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	780	699	749
" 1921 ..	1,029	1,030	1,016	977	1,102	1,029	932	985	941	960	959	952	1,010	1,009
Year 1927 ..	978	972	927	937	981	976	899	918	837	857	828	897	1,008	1,000
" 1928 ..	987	978	929	935	981	983	904	910	835	856	826	898	1,010	1,001
" 1929 ..	987	969	930	931	1,011	984	904	908	834	855	820	898	1,007	998
" 1930 ..	979	976	929	930	1,002	976	900	899	830	855	828	891	999	990
" 1931 ..	966	967	905	896	976	963	873	893	842	848	805	874	973	965
" 1932 ..	954	967	899	895	970	953	866	863	829	829	804	860	958	950
1932 1st Qtr.	955	958	896	894	972	954	865	863	823	828	802	859	963	955
" 2nd "	955	968	897	894	971	953	869	865	828	820	802	862	957	959
" 3rd "	954	967	898	896	969	953	866	864	831	828	804	860	956	948
" 4th "	951	966	904	895	969	951	862	861	830	831	805	857	954	946
1933 1st Qtr.	945	963	899	894	966	945	862	863	826	830	802	857	951	944
" 2nd "	948	964	895	894	966	948	862	863	826	825	801	857	951	945

Total Household Expenditure.—Index-Numbers—30 Towns; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period 1923-1927 as 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 ..	712	..	..	..	..	..	671	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	1,046	1,041	975	1,033	947	1,042	1,003	992	1,002	1,019	1,034	1,003		
Year 1927 ..	1,029	1,015	1,000	1,062	952	1,027	990	922	940	985	945	985		
" 1928 ..	1,042	1,014	997	1,074	964	1,038	992	929	936	973	941	987		
" 1929 ..	1,073	1,028	1,018	1,108	979	1,067	1,017	957	969	980	966	1,011		
" 1930 ..	1,026	991	973	1,039	959	1,022	956	909	926	917	939	951		
" 1931 ..	922	888	882	932	867	918	846	808	833	822	860	843		
" 1932 ..	867	840	834	877	820	863	813	776	808	794	838	811		
1932 1st Qtr.	883	853	851	879	831	879	820	793	816	807	851	817		
" 2nd "	874	848	836	853	832	870	818	780	813	800	843	826		
" 3rd "	863	838	836	878	815	860	809	770	806	791	833	807		
" 4th "	846	822	814	866	800	843	794	761	795	777	824	792		
1933 1st Qtr.	833	816	801	849	793	831	780	754	782	766	805	779		
" 2nd "	835	816	808	843	799	830	786	757	785	770	809	784		
Period.	QUEENSLAND.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Brisbane	Toowoomba	Rock-hampton.	Charters Towers.	Warwick.	Weighted Average Queensland.	Adelaide.	Kadina, Mounta, and Wallaroo.	Port Pirie	Mt. Gambier.	Peterborough.	Weighted Average S.A.		
Nov. 1914 ..	811	..	..	..	..	..	699	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 ..	923	949	972	1,025	994	941	989	998	1,025	1,029	948	992		
Year 1927 ..	922	914	929	918	946	923	1,018	932	970	945	1,023	1,012		
" 1928 ..	917	906	903	925	914	915	1,027	927	960	948	1,017	1,010		
" 1929 ..	923	916	904	939	931	922	1,037	943	980	963	1,043	1,030		
" 1930 ..	859	885	868	883	882	863	952	885	927	918	980	948		
" 1931 ..	798	816	806	827	815	801	837	801	834	831	884	836		
" 1932 ..	764	788	779	794	777	768	802	772	791	816	848	801		
1932 1st Qtr.	777	788	793	805	792	781	816	786	809	827	864	815		
" 2nd "	767	799	784	798	783	772	810	777	800	822	852	809		
" 3rd "	758	787	773	788	770	763	797	771	787	810	843	796		
" 4th "	752	778	766	784	764	757	783	753	769	805	832	782		
1933 1st Qtr.	747	776	750	769	756	750	781	745	762	801	830	779		
" 2nd "	752	774	753	764	760	754	789	747	763	800	830	786		
Period.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.						TASMANIA.—INDEX-NUMBERS.							
	Perth.	Kalgoorlie.	Northam.	Bunbury.	Geraldton.	Weighted Avge, W.A.	Hobart.	Launceston.	Burnie.	Devonport.	Queenstown.	Weighted Avge, Tas.	Weighted Average, Six Capital Cities.	Weighted Average, 30 Towns, Australia.
Nov. 1914 ..	707	687
" 1921 ..	1,008	1,048	1,030	1,045	1,056	1,020	1,070	1,067	1,005	904	1,031	1,05	1,013	1,013
Year 1927 ..	984	984	988	963	1,010	985	998	953	936	925	932	977	1,002	997
" 1928 ..	1,012	995	1,003	963	1,029	1,009	980	957	941	909	934	966	1,009	1,003
" 1929 ..	1,026	1,032	1,022	978	1,051	1,026	1,000	967	966	948	972	986	1,033	1,026
" 1930 ..	977	986	969	966	1,029	979	956	949	918	920	949	951	975	971
" 1931 ..	885	937	878	877	951	891	875	865	837	831	881	869	873	870
" 1932 ..	840	910	844	842	904	852	844	832	811	800	875	838	830	829
1933 1st Qtr.	853	930	854	840	925	862	852	843	827	816	878	848	846	844
" 2nd "	854	952	856	848	922	866	853	837	815	809	876	846	837	835
" 3rd "	836	943	841	845	899	849	840	827	805	750	874	833	825	825
" 4th "	816	935	826	835	871	830	832	820	796	787	872	826	811	811
1933 1st Qtr.	805	928	815	817	850	819	817	812	780	772	861	813	800	799
" 2nd "	819	937	821	827	851	832	822	818	781	773	871	813	804	803

§ 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 relates, therefore, to 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), and details respecting succeeding investigations are incorporated in the Labour Bulletins and Reports issued by this Bureau.

2. Results—1930 to 1932.—The base of the following table is the cost of food and housing (All Houses) in the six capitals in 1911, and is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the element of rent in the base itself differs from that contained in this table, but the Index Numbers are comparable throughout.

Column A shows the relative cost of food in the various towns; Column B the relative cost of food and rent of 4-roomed houses; and Column C the relative cost of food and rent of 5-roomed houses. The difference between Columns B and A, and C and A, represents in each case the relative costs of 4-roomed and 5-roomed houses for each town. In comparing rents for various towns therefore, these differences must first be ascertained in order to make the necessary allowance for the differences due to food, as between towns. The last mentioned factor may be ascertained from Column A.

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns for November, 1930, 1931, and 1932, 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.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New South Wales—									
Albury	930	1,536	1,653	873	1,343	1,461	811	1,290	1,340
Armidale	937	1,375	1,463	885	1,290	1,363	854	1,212	1,295
Ballina	1,000	1,395	1,527	880	1,226	1,364	870	1,227	1,339
Bathurst	930	1,339	1,446	879	1,213	1,300	826	1,174	1,234
Bega	957	1,313	1,431	954	1,322	1,427	890	1,241	1,311
Berry	973	1,302	1,394	899	1,215	1,288	893	1,209	1,282
Blackheath	1,036	1,463	1,582	943	1,321	1,425	869	1,233	1,340
Bourke	1,089	1,418	1,484	1,018	1,386	1,478	878	1,236	1,338
Bowral	991	1,478	1,636	938	1,320	1,431	872	1,247	1,333
Broken Hill	1,169	1,551	1,671	1,031	1,339	1,459	938	1,257	1,385
Casino	916	1,443	1,574	888	1,327	1,414	832	1,240	1,358
Cessnock	935	1,307	1,420	874	1,179	1,254	817	1,120	1,202
Cobar	1,119	1,333	1,386	1,008	1,224	1,293	944	1,166	1,229
Cooma	1,053	1,382	1,571	1,026	1,335	1,473	957	1,230	1,401
Coomamble	1,033	1,388	1,523	984	1,302	1,408	895	1,175	1,269

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New South Wales—contd.									
Cootamundra	942	1,446	1,615	900	1,383	1,510	846	1,289	1,369
Corrimal	974	1,459	1,510	929	1,350	1,447	863	1,262	1,324
Cowra	899	1,347	1,504	889	1,262	1,362	851	1,191	1,306
Cronulla	1,060	1,601	1,740	934	1,390	1,480	896	1,327	1,422
Deniliquin	1,053	1,516	1,607	893	1,274	1,380	846	1,181	1,278
Dubbo	913	1,604	1,673	868	1,441	1,549	752	1,258	1,360
Forbes	918	1,512	1,632	879	1,391	1,459	851	1,309	1,393
Gilgandra	979	1,321	1,436	912	1,223	1,295	838	1,134	1,200
Glen Innes	881	1,302	1,427	877	1,243	1,366	814	1,176	1,274
Goulburn	944	1,491	1,582	852	1,288	1,355	856	1,297	1,344
Grafton	876	1,404	1,574	873	1,294	1,461	806	1,234	1,378
Groffell	961	1,395	1,553	918	1,326	1,428	848	1,234	1,336
Griffith	1,083	2,021	2,251	1,011	1,807	1,998	866	1,662	1,883
Gulgong	882	1,344	1,434	893	1,160	1,241	836	1,134	1,225
Gunnedah	897	1,349	1,401	861	1,246	1,336	799	1,159	1,283
Hay	1,026	1,420	1,618	966	1,297	1,489	938	1,270	1,416
Inverell	930	1,445	1,522	943	1,351	1,463	871	1,309	1,400
Juno	963	1,587	1,687	943	1,495	1,584	832	1,316	1,441
Katoomba	1,048	1,691	1,778	984	1,537	1,641	873	1,429	1,512
Kempsey	837	1,226	1,403	866	1,227	1,361	829	1,182	1,306
Klarna	1,027	1,373	1,601	983	1,279	1,509	892	1,182	1,333
Kurri Kurri	978	1,372	1,442	884	1,176	1,273	811	1,102	1,177
Leeton	1,018	1,724	1,788	965	1,571	1,656	909	1,496	1,593
Lismore	959	1,485	1,691	877	1,282	1,481	831	1,247	1,393
Lithgow	981	1,412	1,566	898	1,237	1,289	858	1,186	1,225
Maitland	919	1,331	1,441	870	1,201	1,315	808	1,141	1,240
Morces	1,004	1,596	1,793	977	1,515	1,573	941	1,467	1,521
Moss Vale	959	1,439	1,584	894	1,250	1,399	844	1,187	1,323
Mudgee	898	1,424	1,490	888	1,305	1,415	803	1,197	1,329
Narrabri	1,009	1,486	1,607	920	1,309	1,395	866	1,238	1,324
Narrandera	1,053	1,580	1,744	1,010	1,486	1,598	916	1,376	1,486
Newcastle	950	1,453	1,602	889	1,277	1,388	852	1,230	1,348
Nowra	1,019	1,446	1,571	972	1,323	1,410	917	1,246	1,391
Orange	960	1,503	1,656	892	1,303	1,407	792	1,192	1,297
Parkes	916	1,436	1,549	903	1,284	1,386	855	1,239	1,323
Penrith	926	1,334	1,456	851	1,179	1,269	820	1,119	1,251
Port Kembla	1,023	1,549	1,689	952	1,355	1,478	850	1,267	1,340
Portland	1,024	1,418	1,484	941	1,204	1,270	850	1,114	1,179
Queanbeyan	986	1,432	1,525	950	1,363	1,476	883	1,155	1,242
Quirindi	1,046	1,352	1,596	984	1,258	1,450	883	1,157	1,283
Richmond	944	1,372	1,519	847	1,233	1,329	844	1,239	1,305
Scene	941	1,415	1,533	843	1,371	1,466	846	1,274	1,350
Singleton	976	1,419	1,508	913	1,282	1,370	871	1,196	1,302
Sydney	980	1,537	1,682	913	1,375	1,471	865	1,307	1,385
Tamworth	889	1,336	1,474	848	1,231	1,337	809	1,169	1,258
Taree	960	1,509	1,625	924	1,393	1,475	841	1,283	1,393
Temora	1,005	1,565	1,663	932	1,458	1,590	850	1,343	1,444
Tenterfield	954	1,408	1,494	858	1,222	1,313	825	1,160	1,251
Tumut	938	1,465	1,629	926	1,420	1,552	846	1,307	1,439
Ullmarra	973	1,427	1,565	939	1,378	1,465	894	1,355	1,421
Wagga Wagga	937	1,627	1,792	898	1,424	1,560	825	1,315	1,403
Walcha	962	1,302	1,488	921	1,250	1,379	867	1,198	1,295
Wellington	945	1,274	1,379	900	1,229	1,308	815	1,114	1,223
Weston	957	1,333	1,425	868	1,159	1,257	811	1,103	1,155
Windoor	941	1,501	1,593	881	1,341	1,440	855	1,282	1,381

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
New South Wales—contd.	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wollongong	985	1,508	1,640	928	1,376	1,457	799	1,241	1,326
Wyalong	997	1,359	1,425	892	1,205	1,260	849	1,156	1,217
Yaas	1,032	1,503	1,602	912	1,306	1,394	826	1,187	1,262
Young	1,008	1,556	1,666	908	1,350	1,457	852	1,313	1,376
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) ..	978	1,513	1,652	912	1,354	1,453	861	1,286	1,370
Victoria—									
Ararat	969	1,360	1,535	871	1,216	1,378	813	1,142	1,302
Bacchus Marsh	980	1,421	1,559	887	1,316	1,423	773	1,108	1,260
Bairnsdale	984	1,350	1,544	912	1,209	1,401	860	1,135	1,289
Bellarat	923	1,213	1,407	834	1,095	1,279	769	1,064	1,213
Beechworth	990	1,287	1,332	923	1,219	1,285	867	1,103	1,229
Bonalla	935	1,305	1,385	859	1,242	1,306	836	1,189	1,290
Bendigo	908	1,241	1,383	853	1,149	1,268	786	1,097	1,206
Camperdown	1,017	1,435	1,593	891	1,286	1,424	806	1,217	1,319
Casterton	936	1,265	1,462	880	1,235	1,340	847	1,209	1,288
Castlemaine	941	1,170	1,342	867	1,120	1,228	801	1,073	1,157
Colac	912	1,481	1,576	851	1,318	1,453	803	1,237	1,367
Creswick	930	1,128	1,141	842	974	1,000	827	958	989
Daylesford	938	1,218	1,279	831	1,087	1,175	811	1,021	1,119
Dunolly	920	1,081	1,150	854	1,002	1,058	812	973	1,013
Echuca	934	1,294	1,460	843	1,189	1,294	779	1,079	1,199
Euroa	1,023	1,354	1,508	850	1,146	1,238	828	1,161	1,237
Geelong	903	1,305	1,448	813	1,181	1,368	783	1,140	1,307
Hamilton	1,038	1,511	1,596	864	1,287	1,410	840	1,255	1,376
Healesville	942	1,245	1,327	822	1,105	1,194	799	1,089	1,141
Horsham	948	1,395	1,611	875	1,265	1,401	849	1,176	1,308
Kerang	969	1,405	1,627	842	1,306	1,434	807	1,201	1,267
Korolit	937	1,213	1,279	880	1,143	1,209	851	1,114	1,180
Korumburra	899	1,376	1,508	855	1,223	1,364	778	1,099	1,242
Kyneton	947	1,341	1,447	847	1,163	1,294	780	1,069	1,194
Lilydale	970	1,383	1,484	874	1,240	1,361	833	1,183	1,280
Maffra	959	1,520	1,670	851	1,240	1,323	812	1,185	1,259
Maldon	961	1,093	1,145	888	1,019	1,072	833	945	998
Maryborough	921	1,264	1,359	847	1,123	1,222	775	1,006	1,104
Melbourne	895	1,380	1,518	812	1,246	1,360	754	1,160	1,282
Mildura	1,000	1,584	1,804	915	1,458	1,652	879	1,398	1,526
Morwell	964	1,455	1,567	858	1,279	1,371	802	1,237	1,206
Nhill	971	1,366	1,557	884	1,213	1,345	866	1,166	1,307
Orbost	989	1,371	1,575	917	1,272	1,373	874	1,229	1,331
Portland	967	1,305	1,434	886	1,217	1,325	833	1,169	1,241
Port Fairy	948	1,211	1,333	895	1,154	1,270	849	1,108	1,224
St. Arnaud	1,038	1,357	1,538	896	1,225	1,357	869	1,212	1,290
Sale	960	1,266	1,507	867	1,217	1,355	802	1,121	1,256
Seymour	969	1,371	1,479	915	1,247	1,375	873	1,202	1,301
Shepparton	960	1,502	1,659	856	1,266	1,432	792	1,186	1,313
Stawell	993	1,305	1,414	900	1,199	1,314	865	1,142	1,244
Swan Hill	937	1,521	1,792	845	1,371	1,592	812	1,338	1,536
Terang	984	1,340	1,537	937	1,304	1,459	876	1,200	1,338
Traralgon	931	1,322	1,483	842	1,197	1,367	780	1,153	1,277
Wangaratta	967	1,461	1,592	854	1,316	1,418	814	1,268	1,380
Warracknabeal	947	1,332	1,495	875	1,220	1,362	827	1,130	1,251
Warragul	921	1,428	1,633	830	1,344	1,513	760	1,286	1,454
Warrnambool	928	1,363	1,526	850	1,259	1,429	812	1,207	1,369
Wentzlaggi	942	1,323	1,442	842	1,232	1,359	773	1,155	1,227
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) ..	905	1,366	1,507	822	1,235	1,356	765	1,156	1,279

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. 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
Queensland—									
Ayr	996	1,404	1,522	967	1,423	1,481	873	1,317	1,439
Bacaldine .. .	1,062	1,447	1,569	1,078	1,447	1,543	911	1,283	1,346
Bowen	1,002	1,355	1,490	982	1,344	1,432	932	1,283	1,384
Brisbane .. .	818	1,164	1,281	815	1,125	1,235	748	1,050	1,151
Bundaberg .. .	877	1,203	1,298	875	1,167	1,212	817	1,105	1,160
Cairns	947	1,483	1,698	937	1,421	1,574	888	1,360	1,575
Charleville .. .	1,005	1,487	1,742	968	1,435	1,626	904	1,326	1,474
Charters Towers .. .	945	1,311	1,360	937	1,222	1,286	900	1,137	1,232
Chillagoe .. .	1,168	1,379	1,431	1,194	1,392	1,451	1,126	1,330	1,383
Cloncurry .. .	1,141	1,540	1,638	1,059	1,469	1,591	1,045	1,462	1,624
Cooktown .. .	1,169	1,367	1,452	1,050	1,247	1,313	972	1,170	1,236
Cunnamulla .. .	1,054	1,501	1,580	982	1,399	1,464	911	1,306	1,393
Dalby	872	1,227	1,464	872	1,240	1,370	799	1,161	1,263
Gayndah .. .	960	1,262	1,361	971	1,287	1,373	859	1,135	1,241
Gladstone .. .	948	1,245	1,369	878	1,192	1,269	837	1,151	1,247
Goodwindi .. .	900	1,385	1,425	938	1,333	1,373	863	1,238	1,324
Gympie	886	1,234	1,362	878	1,185	1,269	790	1,117	1,212
Hughenden .. .	1,082	1,516	1,595	1,069	1,494	1,585	979	1,374	1,486
Innisfail .. .	1,017	1,544	1,708	990	1,576	1,681	969	1,523	1,680
Ipswich	855	1,159	1,246	838	1,094	1,183	769	980	1,110
Longreach .. .	1,066	1,312	1,607	1,092	1,408	1,566	962	1,282	1,405
Mackay	956	1,412	1,547	951	1,368	1,478	850	1,222	1,331
Maryborough .. .	876	1,238	1,428	887	1,216	1,347	815	1,144	1,254
Mount Morgan .. .	970	1,102	1,168	963	1,128	1,161	877	1,044	1,092
Nambour .. .	923	1,289	1,406	911	1,240	1,319	794	1,092	1,200
Rockhampton .. .	886	1,195	1,310	892	1,178	1,261	816	1,120	1,162
Roma	941	1,321	1,461	922	1,253	1,373	850	1,179	1,298
Stanthorpe .. .	935	1,369	1,461	901	1,335	1,454	870	1,281	1,359
Toowoomba .. .	835	1,112	1,297	791	1,102	1,173	734	1,103	1,133
Townsville .. .	917	1,372	1,456	904	1,399	1,460	868	1,283	1,358
Warwick	856	1,185	1,262	827	1,156	1,222	788	1,095	1,153
Winton	1,064	1,380	1,498	1,063	1,374	1,503	1,010	1,306	1,438
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. .	863	1,211	1,330	859	1,178	1,276	790	1,102	1,196
South Australia—									
Adelaide .. .	894	1,323	1,443	793	1,152	1,274	754	1,079	1,227
Freeling .. .	892	1,207	1,319	832	1,095	1,161	773	1,036	1,102
Gawler	882	1,177	1,264	831	1,114	1,182	782	1,053	1,134
Kadina, etc. .. .	998	1,186	1,226	879	1,068	1,112	840	1,024	1,091
Kapunda .. .	937	1,147	1,182	813	1,008	1,080	803	1,031	1,092
Koorlinga .. .	959	1,275	1,354	891	1,194	1,251	851	1,084	1,150
Millicent .. .	875	1,279	1,358	842	1,207	1,280	801	1,087	1,200
Mount Gambier .. .	902	1,160	1,281	802	1,047	1,192	783	1,045	1,174
Murray Bridge .. .	899	1,250	1,340	791	1,054	1,153	723	976	1,055
Peterborough .. .	977	1,389	1,461	872	1,188	1,329	808	1,155	1,256
Port Augusta .. .	1,086	1,503	1,583	941	1,278	1,298	883	1,185	1,311
Port Pirie .. .	986	1,361	1,490	862	1,207	1,310	802	1,122	1,231
Quorn	1,005	1,294	1,378	871	1,156	1,210	828	1,111	1,173
Renmark .. .	1,116	1,577	1,752	951	1,345	1,477	946	1,341	1,472
Victor Harbour .. .	925	1,479	1,626	869	1,329	1,467	825	1,273	1,418
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. .	907	1,317	1,431	805	1,150	1,266	765	1,081	1,219
Western Australia—									
Albany	983	1,337	1,409	961	1,289	1,349	858	1,179	1,213
Beverley .. .	987	1,307	1,382	921	1,256	1,342	910	1,239	1,348
Bridgetown .. .	1,072	1,427	1,516	1,042	1,359	1,437	905	1,234	1,332
Broome	1,325	1,801	1,983	1,276	1,752	1,934	1,243	1,704	1,901
Bunbury .. .	995	1,416	1,502	881	1,300	1,341	852	1,267	1,330

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

State and Town.	1930. November.			1931. November.			1932. 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.
Western Australia—contd.	A	B	B	A	B	C	A	B	C
Carnarvon	1,188	1,683	1,774	1,117	1,606	1,670	1,062	1,511	1,605
Collie	999	1,462	1,568	906	1,277	1,375	825	1,189	1,285
Geraldton	969	1,541	1,700	951	1,462	1,629	838	1,347	1,480
Greenbushes	1,046	1,259	1,342	1,020	1,197	1,243	958	1,123	1,156
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,080	1,398	1,493	1,038	1,475	1,509	997	1,453	1,554
Katanning	929	1,323	1,494	891	1,252	1,391	846	1,200	1,324
Leonora and Gwalia ..	1,247	1,444	1,510	1,135	1,398	1,464	1,079	1,343	1,395
Meekatharra	1,229	1,466	1,624	1,098	1,467	1,592	1,102	1,562	1,760
Narrogin	943	1,491	1,601	884	1,315	1,421	862	1,326	1,401
Northam	987	1,434	1,571	907	1,341	1,453	852	1,251	1,379
Perth and Fremantle ..	902	1,363	1,502	839	1,259	1,358	800	1,202	1,296
Wagin	1,007	1,434	1,464	970	1,282	1,367	914	1,169	1,243
York	940	1,275	1,377	864	1,193	1,272	817	1,146	1,225
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) ..	937	1,378	1,508	875	1,292	1,384	832	1,235	1,330
Tasmania—									
Benacoonsfield	919	997	1,050	871	977	1,003	795	914	952
Burnie	994	1,355	1,489	881	1,267	1,348	843	1,212	1,299
Campbelltown	971	1,183	1,238	884	1,116	1,151	855	1,091	1,151
Deloraine	881	1,213	1,276	823	1,113	1,218	820	1,143	1,222
Devonport	935	1,379	1,402	844	1,265	1,329	833	1,251	1,307
Franklin	950	1,187	1,239	952	1,162	1,215	900	1,137	1,229
Hobart	932	1,390	1,557	834	1,281	1,419	809	1,251	1,379
Launceston	911	1,308	1,474	826	1,212	1,359	789	1,181	1,290
New Norfolk	923	1,292	1,318	832	1,148	1,214	856	1,171	1,224
Queenstown	1,068	1,387	1,444	961	1,288	1,369	942	1,304	1,393
Scottsdale	913	1,209	1,286	787	1,090	1,151	808	1,071	1,163
Ulverstone	883	1,217	1,348	841	1,050	1,269	866	1,142	1,228
Zeehan	1,103	1,301	1,334	1,002	1,200	1,233	994	1,192	1,225
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) ..	935	1,349	1,492	843	1,246	1,371	817	1,220	1,330
Territories(a)—									
Canberra	1,057	2,037	2,163	963	1,528	1,638	899	1,459	1,573
Weighted Averages—									
Australia (200 Towns) ..	932	1,400	1,535	864	1,271	1,378	811	1,200	1,304
Thirty Towns	926	1,403	1,540	855	1,269	1,377	805	1,199	1,304
Six Capitals	922	1,414	1,551	851	1,276	1,383	800	1,202	1,307

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

3. Comparison of Capitals and other Towns.—Three sets of index-numbers for food and rent have been given in the preceding pages, for the six capitals, for the thirty towns, and for the 200 towns. The first two are based on monthly prices of food and quarterly rents, and the third on prices and rents in the month of November. The three series, reduced to a common base (November, 1913) = 1,000 are given in the table below which shows that since 1913 food prices have increased slightly more in the capitals than in the larger groups of towns, while the increase in rents has been generally greater outside the capitals.

The index-numbers for November 1921 to 1932, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above with 1913 as base (= 1,000), are shown in the following tables:—

Retail Prices Index-Numbers—November—Australia.

Particulars.	1913.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930	1931.	1932.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.								
All Towns (200)	1,000	1,578	1,691	1,625	1,770	1,455	1,349	1,267
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,577	1,690	1,618	1,769	1,454	1,343	1,264
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,588	1,705	1,627	1,781	1,463	1,351	1,270

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

All Towns (200)	1,000	1,268	1,586	1,641	1,635	1,541	1,314	1,258
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,271	1,570	1,632	1,622	1,516	1,288	1,233
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,261	1,507	1,571	1,562	1,453	1,229	1,169

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

All Towns (200)	1,000	1,461	1,651	1,632	1,719	1,488	1,336	1,264
Five Towns in each State ..	1,000	1,458	1,643	1,623	1,712	1,478	1,322	1,252
Capital Cities only	1,000	1,455	1,624	1,604	1,692	1,459	1,301	1,229

The figures in the vertical columns show the cost in November of each year compared with November 1913 for "All Towns, (200)" "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Cities only", respectively.

4. Rent Reduction Acts.—In New South Wales, the Reduction of Rents Act, No. 45 of 1931, came into operation on the 9th October, and the Western Australian Reduction of Rents Act, No. 21 of 1931, was assented to on the 18th August. The Acts, which are on practically similar lines, prescribed a general reduction in rents of 22½ per cent., unless the lessor obtains an order permitting him to charge and receive rent under the lease at a higher rate. The order in New South Wales must be obtained from a Court of Petty Sessions, and in Western Australia from a Commissioner appointed by the Governor for the purposes of Part VI. of the *Financial Emergency Act* 1931. A special circumstance to be considered by the tribunal is the amount by which the rent of the premises, the subject of the lease, may have been reduced since the 30th June, 1930. Any such amount is taken into account in calculating the total proposed reduction, but the lessor may not charge a higher rent than was charged at the commencement of the Act. The measures do not apply to premises which were not leased on 30th June, 1930, unless a lease was entered into earlier than three months before the commencement of the Act. An amending Act, No. 67 of 1932, extended the operation of this legislation to the 31st December, 1935.

In Victoria, the Landlord and Tenant (Rent Reduction) Act, No. 3990 of 1931, was assented to on the 24th December, and provides for reduction of rents payable under long leases by 22½ per cent. Orders for reduction may be made by lower Courts, where the rent under the lease does not exceed £208 per annum.

§ 5. International Comparison of Price Index-Numbers.

I. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices in the years 1913 to 1933 for Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913 being taken as base (= 100). The figures have been taken chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations, and represent merely the fluctuations in prices in each country separately.

Index-Numbers, Wholesale Prices, Various Countries. (Prices in 1913 as Base=100).

PERIOD.	UNITED KINGDOM.			AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA).	CHINA (SHANGHAI).	DENMARK.	DUTCH EAST INDIES.	EGYPT (CAIRO).	FRANCE.	FINLAND.	GERMANY.
	Board of Trade.	"Statist."	"Economist."										
	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	National Tariff Commission.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.
Average.	100	100	100	d100	100	100	e100	100	d100	100	100	c100	100
1913 ..	148	150	143	b123	..	b149	f163	159	132	b141	..	..	134
1926 ..	143	144	158	133	123	148	104	153	154	172	130	101	138
1927 ..	140	142	135	130	122	143	102	153	149	130	131	102	140
1928 ..	137	134	127	130	124	141	105	150	148	116	127	98	137
1929 ..	126	113	107	117	108	117	113	130	134	103	112	90	125
1930 ..	104	98	89	109	90	96	127	114	105	97	102	84	111
1931 ..	102	95	86	112	77	91	112	117	86	83	87	90	97
1932 ..	100	92	84	108	75	88	109	117	78	73	84	90	91
1933 I.	99	91	83	106	75	86	108	124	77	72	82	89	91
II.	98	91	82	107	74	83	103	123	76	70	79	89	91
III.	97	92	85	107	72	84	105	122	74	68	79	88	91
IV.	99	95	88	108	72	87	104	123	..	65	78	88	92
V.	102	96	90	109	73	89	105	123	..	67	82	89	93
VI.	102	..	90	111	73	91	103	125	..	..	81	..	94
VII.	102	..	90	111	73	91	103	125	..	..	81	..	94

PERIOD.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
Average.	100	100	100	100	..	100	100	d100	100	100	100	100	100
1913 ..	b654	179	145	198	..	181	149	145	143	168	156	154	123
1926 ..	327	170	148	167	100	172	146	142	137	167	153	146	124
1927 ..	491	171	149	g157	101	167	148	145	139	165	151	147	120
1928 ..	481	166	142	149	96	171	140	141	137	166	149	147	116
1929 ..	411	137	117	137	82	172	122	127	124	147	135	143	103
1930 ..	342	116	97	122	71	174	111	110	105	131	113	133	100
1931 ..	310	122	79	122	62	173	109	96	83	130	105	128	92
1932 ..	296	140	75	122	56	169	106	91	87	124	100	125	87
1933 I.	293	136	74	121	58	168	106	90	86	122	99	130	..
II.	287	134	72	121	58	..	105	90	86	123	101	129	..
III.	282	133	71	121	58	..	105	91	87	125	102	129	90
IV.	282	134	72	121	57	..	106	92	90	129	105	130	..
V.	285	136	73	121	58	..	106	91	93	132	106	130	..
VI.	283	..	..	121	58	..	..	..	..	134	110	..	..
VII.	283	..	..	121	58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

a June, 1914. b Gold index. c Base. d July, 1914. e End of year. f Official since year 1925. g New series. h Average of eight months. i Base, 1917. j Until end of 1925, "Lorenz."

2. **Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.**—The following tables give index-numbers of retail prices, (i) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (ii) foodstuffs only for the years 1914 to 1932, and quarterly for 1932 and 1933. For the majority of the countries included, the prices for July, 1914, are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken 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, with Prices in July, 1914, as Base (= 100).

(i) COST OF LIVING.*

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna.	59	100	21	Paris.	72	Milan.	Tokio.	Amsterdam.
1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1921	226	..	100	232	1,171	309	..	541	..	..
1926	172	103	165	184	1,183	505	141	654	199	95
1927	168	106	203	177	1,207	514	148	588	189	95
1928	166	108	208	175	1,233	519	152	530	184	96
1929	164	111	220	173	1,225	556	154	545	181	95
1930	158	111	220	165	1,129	581	147	530	155	91
1931	147	106	204	155	1,039	569	136	485	136	86
1932	143	108	184	155	1,025	526	121	468	137	80
1st Quarter, 1932	146	108	186	155	1,044	534	123	476	138	80
2nd " 1932	143	108	180	154	1,017	535	121	470	134	80
3rd " 1932	142	108	181	156	1,016	517	120	458	134	80
4th " 1932	143	107	188	155	1,022	516	119	466	143	79
1st " 1933	139	105	185	157	1,004	523	117	457	146	78
2nd " 1933	137	105	..	..	991	516	118	446	143	77

Period.	NORWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
No. of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw	Madrid.	49	31	51-173	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1914	100	a	f	100	100	c	g	100	d	h	i
1921	277	..	189	247	200	103	147	173	167	103	162
1926	206	..	187	173	162	104	146	155	153	101	131
1927	186	100	189	171	160	102	145	154	151	100	131
1928	173	101	176	172	161	100	146	147	151	101	131
1929	166	102	181	170	161	100	149	149	153	100	131
1930	161	95	187	165	158	96	141	137	152	98	128
1931	153	86	196	139	130	88	127	110	137	91	123
1932	149	79	187	156	138	78	121	109	125	84	118
1st Quarter, 1932	150	80	196	137	142	80	123	110	128	88	120
2nd " 1932	149	83	187	156	139	78	122	107	124	84	119
3rd " 1932	149	77	179	156	137	77	120	109	124	82	117
4th " 1932	149	75	183	154	135	76	118	110	122	81	116
1st " 1933	147	73	..	153	133	73	116	104	120	80	113
2nd " 1933	147	73	..	153	131	72	117	102	..	80	114

* NOTE.—With the following exceptions the index-numbers in the above table are based on the cost of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items:—Belgium and Japan, exclusive of housing; Switzerland and British India, exclusive of miscellaneous items; Netherlands and Spain, exclusive of clothing and rent. For footnotes, see next page.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries with Prices in July, 1914, Base (=100).—continued.

(1) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS.

Period.	UNITED KINGDOM.	AUSTRIA.	BELGIUM.	DENMARK.	FINLAND.	FRANCE.	GERMANY.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.
No. of Towns and Localities.	68-509	Vienna.	59.	100	21	Paris.	72	Milan.	Tokio.	10
1914	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100	100	b
1921	230	..	100	227	1,254	337	..	359	..	..
1926	164	116	171	166	1,108	554	144	655	217	91
1927	160	120	268	152	1,115	556	152	559	211	89
1928	157	119	207	150	1,150	549	152	517	202	91
1929	154	122	218	148	1,124	102	155	543	203	89
1930	145	118	209	136	971	100	143	510	173	83
1931	130	108	176	120	869	99	128	452	151	74
1932	125	110	150	116	897	88	112	431	158	65
1933 I.	122	106	154	..	894	86	107	423	167	64
II.	119	103	156	..	884	86	107	417	162	63
III.	115	103	150	117	870	85	106	404	159	63
IV.	114	103	148	..	868	85	106	398	159	62
V.	114	103	143	..	868	83	110	403	159	63
VI.	118	106	..	..	882	81	111	403	156	63
VII. .. ..	..	104	..	..	..	80	111	..	158	..

Period,	NOEWAY.	POLAND.	SPAIN.	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNITED STATES.	AUSTRALIA.	BRITISH INDIA.	CANADA.	NEW ZEALAND.	SOUTH AFRICA.
No. of Towns and Localities.	31	Warsaw.	Madrid.	49	34	51	30	Bombay.	60	25	9
1914	100	a	100	100	100	c	100	100	d	e	100
1921	295	..	184	239	213	105	164	169	163	113	145
1926	197	..	191	158	160	110	158	152	151	103	118
1927	173	100	196	152	158	106	154	152	148	98	118
1928	168	98	178	154	157	106	152	144	149	100	117
1929	158	95	185	150	156	107	161	146	153	101	115
1930	152	82	194	140	152	101	145	134	149	97	110
1931	139	72	205	129	141	83	128	102	117	84	105
1932	134	64	192	124	126	70	123	76	96	78	96
1933 I.	130	56	180	..	118	65	115	65	92	71	93
II.	130	57	200	..	117	62	114	65	91	73	94
III.	130	59	..	119	116	62	113	66	93	71	95
IV.	130	59	..	..	116	62	115	68	94	71	97
V.	130	59	..	..	116	64	115	65	94	73	98
VI.	130	58	..	120	116	66	117	..	..	..	99
VII.	132	59	..	..	..	..	116	..	..	..	..

a Base 1927.
(October-September).b Base 1921-25.
f Base 1914.

c Base 1923.

d Base 1913.
g Base, November, 1914.e Base 1923-24.
h Base 1926-30.