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RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES: JULY, 1940.

Particulars concerning variations in the retail prices of Food and Groceries (41 commodities) in 30 principal cities and towns in Australia for the month of July, 1940, have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

Base Period. The index-numbers in the attached table are computed to the base Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities 1923-27 = 1000.

Compared with the previous month of June, 1940, the price levels in the 30 Cities and Towns fell by 0.8 per cent. and the Six Capital Cities by 1.0 per cent. Decreases were recorded in the weighted averages of the five towns in South Australia (2.1 per cent.); Queensland (1.0 per cent.); New South Wales (0.9 per cent.); Victoria (0.9 per cent.); and Tasmania (0.1 per cent.); while an increase of 1.9 per cent. was shown for Western Australia.

Items for which the greatest price variations were recorded in July, 1940, compared with the previous month were as follows:

Groceries. Tea prices declined in all States.

Dairy Produce. Egg prices declined in all States.

Meat. Meat prices increased in Western Australia and Tasmania, remained practically unchanged in Victoria and Queensland, and declined in New South Wales and South Australia.

Compared with the month of July, 1939, increases were recorded for the 30 Cities and Towns (1.7 per cent.); Six Capital Cities (1.6 per cent.); Western Australia (3.4 per cent.); Tasmania (2.4 per cent.); Queensland (2.0 per cent.); New South Wales (1.6 per cent.); Victoria (1.4 per cent.); and South Australia (1.0 per cent.).

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ROLAND WILSON
Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

Canberra, A.C.T. 22nd August, 1940.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES - FOOD AND GROCERIES: JULY, 1940.
RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR EACH OF THE 30 PRINCIPAL CITIES
AND TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capitals, 1923-27 = 1000)

City or Town	1939			1940		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
NEW SOUTH WALES -						
Sydney	924	928	928	952	951	942
Newcastle	957	953	952	986	983	973
Broken Hill	1144	1064	1070	1073	1074	1076
Goulburn	990	987	972	1019	1015	1002
Bathurst	936	935	933	959	958	952
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	931	933	933	958	957	948
VICTORIA -						
Melbourne	936	927	935	958	959	949
Ballarat	935	931	945	946	944	934
Bendigo	922	920	919	957	958	956
Geelong	942	932	946	948	948	944
Warrnambool	952	948	962	964	970	958
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	936	927	936	957	958	949
QUEENSLAND -						
Brisbane	848	838	851	882	877	866
Toowoomba	815	802	810	850	847	837
Rockhampton	897	884	892	929	920	906
Townsville	952	946	949	982	967	969
Bundaberg	901	896	899	935	922	915
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	858	848	859	892	885	876
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -						
Adelaide	899	892	889	919	919	900
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo	969	966	953	969	977	969
Port Pirie	995	991	995	991	999	990
Mount Gambier	978	941	920	932	935	925
Peterborough	975	970	978	980	985	973
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	907	899	897	924	925	906
WESTERN AUSTRALIA -						
Perth, Fremantle ..	944	945	945	954	961	981
Kalgoorlie, Boulder ..	1089	1093	1092	1091	1095	1097
Northam	984	971	977	983	989	1019
Bunbury	978	970	972	981	981	985
Geraldton	952	951	951	942	952	958
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	956	957	957	965	972	990
TASMANIA -						
Hobart	925	917	914	936	938	936
Launceston	917	913	910	932	933	933
Burnie	940	937	933	936	953	966
Devonport	937	934	930	941	953	960
Queenstown	1022	1021	1021	1026	1026	1018
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	927	921	918	938	941	940
Wtd. Average - 30 Towns:	924	920	923	947	947	939
Wtd. Average - 6 Capitals:	919	916	920	944	944	935
SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES ABOVE).						
Lithgow (N.S.W.) ..	948	947	945	983	982	971
Yallourn (V.)	988	989	996	1012	1010	1002
Charters Towers (Q.) ..	978	969	967	986	976	961
Warwick (Q.)	854	844	846	877	874	864
Port Augusta (S.A.) ..	986	979	988	988	1037	1027
Rosebery (T.)	1012	1013	1015	1076	1070	1065
Canberra (A.C.T.) ..	1066	1060	1044	1068	1081	1068

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ROLAND WILSON
Commonwealth Statistician