

CONFIDENTIAL.

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MORNING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 4th AUGUST, 1933.

EVENING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 4th AUGUST, 1933.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - JUNE, 1933.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E. T. McPhee) as to the price of Food and Groceries (44 commodities) have been made available for the month of June, 1933.

BASE PERIOD. The index numbers in the attached table are computed to the base 1923-27 = 1000, which has replaced the 1911 base since January, 1930.

Compared with the previous month, the price level of Food and Groceries showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. for the Six Capitals and 1.2 per cent. for the 30 Towns.

Increases were recorded in most States, the greatest being Victoria with an increase of 2.6 per cent., followed by Western Australia 2.1 per cent., South Australia 1.5 per cent., Tasmania 0.9 per cent., New South Wales 0.1 per cent., while Queensland showed no change.

In Group I (Groceries), an almost general decline occurred, the large increase in Flour, and, in many towns, Tea also, being more than offset by the sharp decline in the price of Potatoes, and minor decreases in Dried and Canned Fruits. Onions, while showing a slight tendency to decrease, have risen in price in some towns.

In Group II (Dairy Produce) Butter showed a marked increase in all States except South Australia, where a slight decrease occurred, while Eggs fell considerably in price. Cheese showed a slight increase in most towns.

A general tendency to increase was noted in Group III (Meat), in several towns the prices being considerably higher. Notable among these were Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Bendigo, Port Pirie, Northam, Bunbury, Launceston, Devonport and Yallourn. Large decreases occurred in Townsville and Lithgow.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

CANBERRA, F.C.T. 31st July, 1933.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.
COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ONLY.
JUNE, 1933.

Retail Price Index Number for each of the 30
Principal Towns in Australia.

Base - Weighted average cost in the Six Capital Cities during the five-
yearly base period, 1923-27 = 1000.

TOWN	July, 1914	June, 1932	April, 1933	May, 1933	June, 1933	Percentage increase from July, 1914, to June, 1933.
Adelaide	645	852	800	797	799	23.9
Newcastle	642	835	791	789	794	23.7
Broken Hill	821	960	885	885	881	7.3
Melbourne	661	836	782	790	790	19.5
Perth	613	823	762	772	780	27.2
<u>Average - New South Wales</u>	652	853	801	799	800	22.7
Brisbane	619	761	688	700	720	16.3
Albany	617	755	719	725	728	18.0
Geelong	619	781	719	720	731	18.1
Warrnambool	609	779	728	728	737	21.0
<u>Average - Victoria</u>	608	800	738	738	744	22.4
Sydney	618	762	693	703	721	16.7
Perth	591	739	694	698	698	18.1
Woolloomooloo	582	733	676	671	671	15.3
Geelong	646	802	751	763	759	17.5
Port Phillip	696	879	804	806	811	16.5
<u>Average - Queensland</u>	605	772	719	726	728	20.3
Melbourne	699	769	726	727	740	5.9
Adelaide, etc.	688	853	801	802	806	17.2
Port Pirie	722	820	755	752	751	4.0
Mount Gambier	595	775	735	742	738	24.0
Port Adelaide	749	814	770	769	772	3.1
<u>Average - South Australia</u>	697	775	731	732	743	6.6
Perth, etc.	749	826	763	773	791	5.6
Albany, etc.	931	971	938	941	949	1.9
Perth	-	870	815	822	835	-
Perth	793	843	793	798	813	2.5
Perth	808	888	756	761	765	-5.3
<u>Average - Western Australia</u>	790	844	783	791	803	2.3
Perth	678	790	741	749	759	11.9
Perth	640	779	730	735	740	15.6
Perth	-	827	771	775	772	-
Perth	-	829	772	769	765	-
Perth	735	900	872	876	884	20.3
<u>Average - Tasmania</u>	672	794	746	752	759	12.9
<u>Average - Australia (30 Towns)</u>	651	803	746	750	759	16.6
<u>Average - Australia (6 Caps.)</u>	645	800	742	746	756	17.2
Canberra (a)	(b)	904	850	856	860	-
Canberra (a)	(b)	842	807	820	804	-

(a) Not included in Weighted Average.

(b) Not available.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

CANBERRA, F.C.T. 31st July, 1933.