

CONFIDENTIAL.

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EVENING PAPERS .. WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER, 1932.
MORNING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, 1932.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - SEPTEMBER, 1932.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (Professor L. F. Giblin) as to the price of food and groceries (44 commodities) have been made available for the month of September, 1932.

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 for September remained practically unchanged. The price level for the 6 Capitals and also for the 30 Towns decreased by 0.5%. Decreases were recorded in four States - South Australia, 1.1%; Western Australia, 1.0%; New South Wales and Victoria, 0.5%; while Tasmania registered a small increase of 0.4%, and Queensland remained practically unchanged.

Retail prices in September showed little movement when compared with August. Onion prices were higher in all of the towns, and butter prices increased in all towns in Victoria and South Australia, while in most of the other towns the price of that commodity was slightly lower. Potatoes were lower in price in most of the towns, while in a few cases increases were recorded. Meat prices were fairly steady, though the tendency was downward in a number of the towns.

Food prices have fallen about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the twelve months since September, 1931. The fall is more than accounted for by the present abnormally low price of potatoes, and the general level of food prices is remarkably near what it was a year ago. There was a small rise in the year followed by a small decline. The total fall from the level that held for some years up to 1930 remains about 20 per cent. In New Zealand, by contrast, there has been a fall of 6 per cent. in the last year, and the total fall from the old level has been somewhat greater than in Australia.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
CANBERRA, F.C.T. 28th October, 1932.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon Cost of Food and Groceries only

SEPTEMBER, 1932.

Retail Price Index Numbers for each of the 30

Principal Towns in Australia.

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

TOWN	1931	Average 5-yearly period 1923-27	Sept- ember, 1931	August, 1932	Sept- ember, 1932	Percentage increase from July, 1914 to Sept- ember, 1932.
Sydney	645	1012	854	851	845	31.0
Newcastle	642	1015	836	838	845	31.6
Broken Hill	821	1155	971	967	964	17.4
Goulburn	661	1018	815	840	836	26.5
Bathurst	613	974	829	814	811	32.3
<u>Wt. Average - New South Wales..</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>1016</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>848</u>	<u>30.1</u>
Melbourne	619	978	767	751	747	20.7
Ballarat	617	989	796	762	761	23.3
Bendigo	619	993	808	777	779	25.8
Geelong	609	967	776	782	774	27.1
Warrnambool	608	967	804	795	800	31.6
<u>Wt. Average - Victoria ..</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>978</u>	<u>770</u>	<u>754</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>21.4</u>
Brisbane	591	960	763	728	729	23.4
Toowoomba	582	934	740	724	722	24.1
Rockhampton	646	988	815	791	793	22.8
Charter Towers	696	1074	880	861	867	24.6
Warwick	605	951	789	763	767	26.8
<u>Wt. Average - Queensland ..</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>965</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>739</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>22.3</u>
Adelaide	699	1025	748	755	746	6.7
Kadina	688	1032	811	851	846	23.0
Port Pirie	722	1060	809	812	808	11.9
Mount Gambier	595	989	755	766	764	28.4
Peterborough	749	1064	814	810	795	6.1
<u>Wt. Average - South Australia ..</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>1026</u>	<u>754</u>	<u>761</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>8.0</u>
Perth	749	1042	800	797	788	5.2
Kalgoorlie	931	1179	978	970	970	4.2
Northam	-	1104	869	853	842	-
Bunbury	793	1094	870	829	835	5.3
Geraldton	808	1112	896	858	847	4.8
<u>Wt. Average - Western Australia ..</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>1060</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>810</u>	<u>2.5</u>
Hobart	678	1027	776	786	791	16.7
Launceston	640	1013	778	769	767	19.8
Burnie	-	1040	832	814	820	-
Devonport	-	1035	797	795	799	-
Queenstown	735	1127	902	902	893	21.5
<u>Wt. Average - Tasmania ..</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>1027</u>	<u>784</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>17.6</u>
<u>Wt. Average - Australia (30 Towns)</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>1003</u>	<u>804</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>792</u>	<u>21.7</u>
<u>Wt. Average - Australia (6 Caps.)</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>1000</u> <u>base</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>22.0</u>
Canberra (a)	(b)	(b)	930	899	899	-
Townsville (a)	(b)	1091	911	835	837	-

(a) Not included in weighted averages. (b) Not available.