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To be treated as strictly confidential until released
for publication on Friday, 24th December, 1926.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics - MELBOURNE.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - NOVEMBER, 1926.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Minister for Home and Territories by the Commonwealth Statistician and Actuary (Mr. Chas. H. Wickens) as to the prices of food and groceries (46 commodities) have been made available for the month of November 1926.

Compared with the preceding month (October 1926) there has been an increase for the 30 towns considered as a whole of 1.3 %. Three of the States show increases, the increase being greatest in Victoria of 2.3 %, followed by New South Wales 1.7 %, and South Australia 0.8 %. The decreases were Queensland and Tasmania 0.8 %, and Western Australia 0.3 %.

Compared with the corresponding month - November - of last year all of the States except New South Wales showed decreases. The decrease was greatest in Victoria 2.7 %, followed in the order named by Queensland 1.8 %, Tasmania 1.4 %, South Australia 0.9 %, and Western Australia 0.3 %. The increase in New South Wales amounted to 1.7 %.

The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns considered as a whole was 1807 in November 1926 compared with 1816 in November 1925 - a decrease of 0.5 %.

In the following table particulars are given in the form of index-numbers of price levels for food and groceries in November 1926, compared with July 1914, November 1925, and October 1926. In the last column the percentage increase in November 1926 compared with July 1914 is shown. The base (1000) to which the index-numbers are computed is the weighted average aggregated cost for the 6 capital cities of the commodities included in the investigations for the year 1911. The increase in cost since July 1914 is greatest in Queensland 65.0%, followed in the order named by New South Wales 59.7 %, Victoria 57.6 %, Tasmania 50.7 %, South Australia 44.7 %, and Western Australia 30.5 %. The actual cost of the regimen of food and groceries for the month of November 1926 was highest in New South Wales and lowest in Victoria. In the case of the individual towns, the cost was highest in Charters Towers and lowest in Warrnambool. The increase in cost in the 30 towns considered as a whole from July 1914 to November 1926 amounts to 5.2 %.

/Retail Prices Indexes.

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RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon the Cost of Food and Groceries only - November 1926.

Retail Prices Index-Numbers for each of the 30 Principal Towns in the Commonwealth for the months specified, the weighted average cost in the six capital towns in 1911 being taken as base (= 1000).

Town.	July, 1914.	November, 1925.	October, 1926.	November, 1926.	Percentage increase from July 1914 to November 1926.
Sydney	1153	1819	1827	1862	61.5
Newcastle	1147	1850	1807	1818	58.5
Broken Hill	1468	2113	2035	2030	38.3
Goulburn.	1183	1845	1794	1819	53.8
Bathurst	1097	1771	1746	1762	60.6
Wt. Aver. - N.S.W. (5 Towns) ..	1165	1829	1829	1861	59.7
Melbourne	1106	1788	1699	1739	57.2
Ballarat.	1103	1811	1764	1778	61.2
Bendigo	1107	1817	1742	1788	61.5
Geelong.	1089	1782	1692	1720	57.9
Warrnambool	1087	1767	1691	1704	56.8
Wt. Aver. - VICT. (5 Towns) ..	1105	1790	1703	1742	57.6
Brisbane.	1057	1814	1789	1768	67.3
Toowoomba	1041	1785	1754	1736	66.8
Rockhampton	1156	1825	1843	1858	60.7
Charters Towers	1246	1963	2022	2066	65.8
Warwick.	1083	1765	1804	1826	68.6
Wt. Aver. - Q'LAND. (5 Towns) ..	1082	1817	1800	1785	65.0
Adelaide.	1250	1811	1780	1793	43.4
Kadina, etc.	1230	1885	1858	1902	54.6
Port Pirie	1291	1960	1910	1930	49.5
Mt. Gambier	1064	1766	1803	1803	69.5
Peterborough	1340	1894	1947	1951	45.6
Wt. Aver. - S. AUST. (5 Towns) ..	1247	1820	1790	1804	44.7
Perth	1340	1808	1812	1803	34.6
Kalgoorlie	1664	2098	2048	2063	24.0
Northam.	..	1972	1975	1974	..
Bunbury	1418	1925	2003	1998	40.9
Geraldton	1445	1991	1986	1983	37.2
Wt. Aver. - W. AUST. (5 Towns) ..	1412	1848	1848	1842	30.5
Hobart	1211	1829	1814	1811	49.5
Launceston	1144	1806	1810	1774	55.1
Burnie	..	1885	1862	1832	..
Devonport	..	1864	1847	1838	..
Queenstown	1315	2080	2027	2026	54.1
Wt. Aver. - TAS. (5 Towns) ..	1201	1835	1824	1810	50.7
Wt. Aver. - AUST. (6 Caps) ..	1152	1807	1775	1801	56.3
Wt. Aver. - AUST. (30 Towns) ..	1164	1816	1783	1807	55.2
Townsville, Queensland ..	..	1997	1995	2065	..

Not included in weighted average for Queensland or the Commonwealth.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, MELBOURNE, 20/12/1926.