

Evening



COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.
NOVEMBER, 1924.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Minister for Home and Territories by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. Chas. H. Wickens) as to prices of food and groceries (46 commodities) have been made available for the month of November, 1924.

Compared with the preceding month (October) of this year, there has been an increase for the thirty towns considered as a whole of 0.6 per cent. All the States except New South Wales and South Australia show decreases. The decrease was greatest in Tasmania (1.9 per cent.), followed in the order named by Queensland (1.4 per cent.), Victoria (0.7 per cent.), and Western Australia (0.4 per cent.). The increase in New South Wales amounted to 2.7 per cent. and in South Australia to 0.4 per cent.

Compared with the corresponding month (November) of last year, all the States with the exception of Western Australia show decreases. The decrease was greatest in Victoria (9.3 per cent.), followed in the order named by Queensland (7.5 per cent.), New South Wales (5.4 per cent.), Tasmania (5.5 per cent.), and South Australia (4.7 per cent.). The increase in Western Australia amounted to 5.7 per cent. The weighted average index-number for the thirty towns considered as a whole was 1710 in November, 1924, compared with 1827 in November, 1923 - a decrease of 6.4 per cent.

In the following table particulars are given in the form of index-numbers of price levels for food and groceries in November, 1924, compared with July, 1914, November, 1923, and October, 1924. In the last column the percentage increase in November, 1924, compared with July, 1914, is shown. The base (1000) to which the index-numbers are computed is the weighted average aggregate cost for the six capital cities of the commodities included in the investigations for the year 1911. The increase in cost since July, 1914, is greatest in Queensland (51.9 per cent.), followed in the order named by Tasmania (49.6 per cent.), New South Wales (49.1 per cent.), Victoria (48.1 per cent.), South Australia (39.1 per cent.), and Western Australia (36.0 per cent.).

The increase in cost in the thirty towns considered as a whole from July, 1914, to November, 1924, amounts to 46.9 per cent.

/Retail Price Indexes.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon the Cost of Food and Groceries only - November, 1924.

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 1923.	October 1924.	November 1924.	Percentage increase from July 1914 to October 1924.
Sydney	1153	1845	1683	1735	5
Newcastle	1147	1901	1712	1708	50.5
Broken Hill	1468	2083	1922	1942	48.0
Coulburn	1183	1859	1719	1731	32.3
Bathurst	1067	1774	1608	1598	46.3
Wt. Aver. - N. S. WALES (5 towns)	1165	1856	1692	1737	45.7
Melbourne	1106	1803	1646	1635	49.1
Bellarat	1203	1834	1669	1676	47.8
Bendigo	1107	1825	1695	1678	52.0
Geelong	1089	1799	1621	1604	51.6
Warrnambool	1087	1812	1677	1676	47.3
Wt. Aver. - VICTORIA (5 towns)	1105	1804	1648	1637	54.2
Brisbane	1057	1765	1673	1649	48.1
Toowoomba	1041	1781	1575	1536	56.0
Rockhampton	1156	1841	1669	1651	47.6
Charters Towers	1246	1921	1814	1809	42.8
Warwick	1083	1736	1592	1581	45.2
Wt. Aver. - QUEENSLAND (5 towns)	1082	1777	1668	1644	46.0
Adelaide	1250	1821	1724	1732	51.0
Moonta	1230	1797	1720	1722	38.6
Port Pirie	1291	1884	1812	1799	40.0
Mt. Gambier	1054	1784	1689	1687	39.4
Peterborough	1340	1832	1830	1874	55.6
Wt. Aver. - S. AUSTRALIA (5 towns)	1247	1821	1728	1735	39.9
Perth	1340	1776	1904	1892	39.1
Belgoorlie	1564	2093	2097	2136	41.2
Northam .. .. .	..	2959	1792	1824	23.4
Bunbury	1418	1794	1975	1931	..
Geraldton	1445	1920	2059	2024	36.2
Wt. Aver. - W. AUSTRALIA (5 towns)	1412	1816	1927	1920	40.1
Hobart	1211	1892	1831	1784	36.0
Lausceston	1144	1888	1815	1795	47.3
Burnie .. .. .	..	1997	1779	1770	56.9
Devonport .. .. .	..	1945	1641	1834	..
Queenstown	1315	2061	2025	2011	..
Wt. Aver. - TASMANIA (5 towns)	1201	1903	1832	1797	52.0
Wt. Aver. - AUSTRALIA (6 Capitals)	1152	1818	1693	1706	49.0
do. do. - (30 Towns)	1164	1827	1700	1710	48.1
Townsville, Queensland .. .. .	..	1951	1826	1843	46.9

Not included in weighted average for Queensland or the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
MELBOURNE, 23rd December, 1924.