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EVENING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1941.
MORNING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1941.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - MONTH OF MARCH, 1941.

Particulars concerning variations in the retail price index numbers of Food and Groceries (41 commodities) in 30 principal cities and towns in Australia for the month of March, 1941, have been made available by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

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 month of February, 1941, the index number in March, 1941, declined in both the six Capital Cities, and the 30 Cities and Towns as a whole, by 0.6%. Decreases were recorded in the weighted averages of the five towns in Tasmania (1.2%), Queensland (1.1%), Victoria (0.8%), South Australia (0.5%), and New South Wales (0.4%), while an increase of (1.0%) was recorded in Western Australia.

From March 1940 to March 1941 increases were recorded in the weighted averages throughout Australia as follows - 30 Cities and Towns (2.3%), Six Capital Cities (2.2%), Western Australia (4.5%), Tasmania (4.5%), Queensland (4.0%), South Australia (3.5%), New South Wales (3.0%), and Victoria (0.1%).

Items for which the greatest price variations were recorded in the Capital Cities in March 1941, compared with the previous month were as follows:-

Groceries:- Potato prices declined in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart but recorded a slight increase in Sydney. Onion prices declined in Melbourne, Brisbane and Hobart.

Dairy Produce:- The price of eggs increased in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, but declined in Hobart.

Meat:- Meat prices declined in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart remained practically unchanged in Melbourne, and increased in Perth.

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S. R. CARVER

Acting Commonwealth Statistician

RETAIL PRICE INDEX - FOOD AND GROCERIES - MARCH, 1941.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR EACH OF 1923 TO 1930
PRINCIPAL CITIES AND TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA

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

City or Town	1940			1941		
	January	February	March	January	February	March
NEW SOUTH WALES -						
Sydney ..	925	931	942	1005	973	968
Newcastle ..	953	950	972	1023	1013	1004
Broken Hill ..	1046	1050	1057	1160	1151	1145
Coilburn ..	973	978	985	1023	1012	1006
Bathurst ..	919	921	947	980	962	955
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	930	936	947	1009	979	975
VICTORIA -						
Melbourne ..	909	922	935	969	943	935
Bellarat ..	911	922	923	958	928	923
Bendigo ..	907	918	943	963	950	942
Geelong ..	907	920	920	955	936	928
Warranboole ..	928	952	938	968	942	930
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	909	921	924	968	943	935
QUEENSLAND -						
Brisbane ..	868	877	877	956	923	916
Toowoomba ..	823	829	839	918	890	881
Rockhampton ..	918	917	918	900	949	939
Townsville ..	959	956	965	1014	1005	990
Bundaberg ..	924	925	925	981	970	957
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	876	883	883	964	930	925
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -						
Adelaide ..	972	993	890	908	926	920
Kadina, Renmark, Wallaroo	956	945	966	973	972	956
Port Pirie ..	951	961	960	995	982	993
Mount Gambier ..	907	893	904	927	924	915
Peterborough ..	957	950	962	964	960	947
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	879	889	894	914	930	935
WESTERN AUSTRALIA -						
Perth, Fremantle ..	912	919	928	948	953	964
Kalgoorlie, Boulder ..	1053	1074	1075	1143	1163	1164
Northam ..	965	972	984	1004	1073	1013
Bunbury ..	941	944	948	979	979	956
Geraldton ..	931	926	972	982	982	961
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	925	931	939	964	971	961
TASMANIA -						
Hobart ..	913	924	918	978	980	950
Launceston ..	897	910	913	956	950	951
Burnie ..	914	930	935	1006	964	957
Devonport ..	921	927	931	1002	967	989
Queenstown ..	1003	1007	1023	1048	1054	1001
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:	911	923	921	977	971	952
Wtd. Average - 30 Towns:	912	920	920	975	957	953
Wtd. Average - 3 Capitals:	908	917	927	975	953	951
SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGE ABOVE)						
Lithgow (N.S.W.) ..	935	936	963	1013	995	988
Yallourn (Vic.) ..	962	934	975	1026	1003	990
Charters Towers (Q.) ..	957	959	975	990	990	977
Warrick (Q.) ..	950	954	959	982	916	907
Port Augusta (S.A.) ..	972	974	978	1043	1042	1032
Rosebery (T.) ..	1035	1038	1057	1121	1101	1108
Canberra (A.C.T.) ..	1020	1027	1045	1087	1077	1064

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S. R. CARVER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 17TH APRIL, 1941.