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EVENING PAPERS .. MONDAY, 18TH JUNE, 1934.
MORNING PAPERS .. TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1934.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - MAY 1934.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E.T. McPHERSON) as to the price of Food and Groceries (44 commodities) have been made available for the month of May, 1934.

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 levels for the 30 Towns, and for the Six Capitals increased C.9% and O.8%, respectively.

Increases were recorded in all States - New South Wales, C.1%; Victoria, 2.0%; Queensland, O.5%; South Australia, O.4%; Western Australia, 1.1%; and Tasmania, 3.1%.

The following are the percentage increases in the various capitals etc., as compared with July, 1914 - Sydney, 28.2%; Melbourne, 23.1%; Brisbane, 24.7%; Adelaide, 13.7%; Perth, etc., 10.5%; Hobart, 17.6%; 30 Towns, 22.6%; Six Capitals, 23.1%.

In Group I (Groceries), a general decline in prices occurred, the chief items contributing to this result being Flour and Potatoes, in many towns.

In Group II (Dairy Produce) the prices of Butter and Eggs rose throughout all States.

In Group III (Meat) prices rose in South Australia and Tasmania, showed little change in Victoria and Queensland, and dropped in New South Wales and Western Australia.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ONLY.

MAY, 1934.

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	May, 1933	March, 1934	April, 1934	May, 1934	Percentage Increase from July 1914, to May, 1934.
Sydney	645	797	817	829	827	28. 2
Newcastle ..	642	789	824	836	848	32. 1
Broken Hill ..	821	885	890	904	923	12. 4
Goulburn	661	790	806	816	829	25. 4
Bathurst	613	772	800	811	824	34. 4
<u>Wt.Average - N.S.Wales</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>799</u>	<u>819</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>27. 5</u>
Melbourne	619	700	728	747	762	23. 1
Bellarat	617	725	762	780	796	29. 0
Bendigo	619	720	760	784	794	28. 3
Geelong	609	728	746	771	781	28. 2
Warrnambool ..	608	738	760	786	807	32. 7
<u>Wt.Average - Victoria</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>703</u>	<u>732</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>765</u>	<u>23. 8</u>
Brisbane	591	698	718	736	737	24. 7
Toowoomba	582	671	689	700	714	22. 7
Rockhampton ..	646	763	762	775	792	22. 6
Charters Towers ..	696	806	807	812	824	18. 4
Warwick	605	726	731	745	759	25. 5
<u>Wt.Average - Queensland</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>706</u>	<u>723</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>742</u>	<u>22. 6</u>
Adelaide	699	727	764	793	795	13. 7
Kadina, etc. ..	688	802	835	860	870	26. 5
Port Pirie	722	752	774	817	816	13. 0
Mount Gambier ..	595	742	744	761	765	28. 6
Peterborough ..	749	769	797	816	821	9. 6
<u>Wt.Average - S.Australia</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>732</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>795</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>14. 5</u>
Perth, etc. ..	749	773	795	824	831	10. 9
Kalgoorlie, etc. ..	931	941	959	997	1016	9. 1
Northam	(a)	822	848	878	880	-
Bunbury	793	798	842	858	884	11. 5
Geraldton	808	761	784	810	845	4. 6
<u>Wt.Average - W.Australia</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>813</u>	<u>838</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>7. 2</u>
Hobart	678	749	747	771	797	17. 6
Launceston	640	735	736	756	778	21. 6
Burnie	(a)	775	749	780	809	-
Devonport	(a)	769	765	787	804	-
Queenstown	735	876	880	889	914	24. 4
<u>Wt.Average - Tasmania</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>752</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>772</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>18. 5</u>
<u>Wt.Average - Australia</u> <u>(30 Towns)</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>774</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>22. 6</u>
<u>Wt.Average - Australia</u> <u>(6 Capitals)</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>746</u>	<u>770</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>794</u>	<u>23. 1</u>

SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES).

Lithgow (N.) ..	(a)	791	758	770	801	-
Fallourn (V.) ..	(a)	730	786	803	821	-
Townsville (Q.) ..	(a)	820	830	839	845	-
Fort Augusta (S.) ..	(a)	819	843	864	886	-
Zeehan (T.) ..	723	937	933	949	966	33. 6
Canberra (F.C.T.) ..	(a)	856	900	920	943	-

(a) Not available.