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MORNING PAPERS: MONDAY, 21ST MAY, 1934.

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CCST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - APRIL, 1934.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E.T. McPHEE) as to the price of Food and Groceries (44 commodities) have been made available for the month of April, 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 2.2% and 2.3%, respectively.

Increases were recorded in all States - New South Wales, 1.3%; Victoria, 2.5%; Queensland, 2.1%; South Australia, 3.5%; Western Australia, 3.1%; and Tasmania, 2.9%

The following are the percentage increases of the various capitals etc., as compared with July, 1914 - Sydney, 28.5%; Melbourne, 20.7%; Brisbane, 24.5%; Adelaide, 13.4%; Perth, etc., 10.0%; Hobart, 13.7%; 30 Towns, 21.5%; Six Capitals, 22.2%.

In Group I (Groceries), there was a general increase in the price of potatoes. The price of Flour dropped in several towns in each State.

In Group II (Dairy Produce), the prices of Butter and Eggs rose throughout all States; the price of Cheese rose in all States except New South Wales and Tasmania; and the prices of Bacon and Ham rose in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

In Group III (Meat), prices increased in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ONLY.

APRIL, 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	April 1933	February, 1934	March 1934	April 1934	Percentage Increase from July 1914, to April 1934.
Sydney	645	800	814	817	829	28.5
Newcastle	642	791	820	824	836	30.2
Broken Hill	821	885	890	890	904	10.1
Goulburn	661	782	801	806	816	23.4
Bathurst	613	762	803	800	811	32.3
<u>Average - New South Wales ..</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>801</u>	<u>816</u>	<u>819</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>27.3</u>
Melbourne	619	688	727	728	747	20.7
Ballarat	617	719	756	762	780	26.4
Bendigo	619	719	753	760	784	26.7
Geelong	609	728	745	746	771	26.6
Warrnambool	606	738	762	760	786	29.3
<u>Average - Victoria ..</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>693</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>732</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>21.4</u>
Brisbane	591	694	720	718	736	24.5
Toowoomba	582	676	690	689	700	20.3
Rockhampton	646	751	755	762	775	20.0
Charters Towers	696	804	804	807	812	16.7
Warwick	605	719	738	731	745	23.1
<u>Average - Queensland ..</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>723</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>22.0</u>
Adelaide	699	726	758	764	793	13.4
Kadina, etc.	688	801	833	835	860	25.0
Port Pirie	722	755	771	774	817	13.2
Mount Gambier	595	735	741	744	761	28.0
Peterborough	749	770	793	797	816	8.9
<u>Average - South Australia ..</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>731</u>	<u>761</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>795</u>	<u>14.1</u>
Ferth, etc.	749	763	783	795	824	10.0
Kalgoorlie, etc.	931	938	952	959	997	7.1
Northam	(a)	815	831	848	878	-
Bunbury	793	793	825	842	858	8.2
Geraldton	806	756	775	784	810	0.2
<u>Average - Western Australia ..</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>783</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>813</u>	<u>838</u>	<u>6.1</u>
Robart	673	741	753	747	771	13.7
Launceston	640	730	730	736	756	18.1
Burnie	(a)	771	742	749	789	-
Devonport	(a)	772	749	765	787	-
Queenstown	715	872	873	880	889	21.0
<u>Average - Tasmania ..</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>746</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>772</u>	<u>14.9</u>
<u>Average - Australia (30 Towns)</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>746</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>774</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>21.5</u>
<u>Average - Australia (6 Capitals)</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>742</u>	<u>767</u>	<u>770</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>22.2</u>
<u>SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES).</u>						
Lithgow (N.)	(a)	785	779	758	770	-
Yallourn (V.)	(a)	711	777	786	803	-
Townsville (Q.)	(a)	807	833	830	839	-
Port Augusta (S.)	(a)	816	832	843	864	-
Zeeloh (T.)	723	929	924	933	949	31.3
Canberra (F.C.T.)	(a)	850	899	900	920	-

(a) Not available.