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RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1940.

Particulars concerning variations in the retail prices of Food and Groceries (41 commodities) in 30 principal cities and towns in Australia for the month of December, 1940, 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 November, 1940, the price levels in the six Capital Cities in December increased by 0.5% and in the 30 Cities and Towns as a whole by 0.6%. Increases were recorded in the weighted averages of the five towns in Queensland 3.8%, New South Wales 0.8%, Western Australia 0.3%, Tasmania 0.2%, Victoria 0.1% while a decrease of 1.4% was recorded for South Australia.

From December, 1939 to December, 1940, increases were recorded as follows in the weighted averages :- 30 Cities and Towns 5.3%; Six Capital Cities 5.4% Queensland 10.2%; New South Wales 5.2%; Victoria 4.6%; Western Australia 4.5%; Tasmania 4.3%; and South Australia 2.1%.

Items for which the greatest price variations were recorded in the Capital Cities in December, 1940, compared with the previous month were as follows:-

Groceries. The price of tea increased in all Capital Cities. The price of Salmon increased in Sydney, Perth and Hobart. Onion prices rose in all Capital Cities except Adelaide. Potato prices increased in Sydney, Brisbane and Hobart, but declined in Adelaide.

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

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

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Acting Commonwealth Statistician

RETAIL PRICE INDEX - FOOD AND GROCERIES - DECEMBER, 1940.

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR EACH OF THE 30 PRINCIPAL
CITIES AND TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA.**

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

City or Town	1939			1940		
	October	November	December	October	November	December
NEW SOUTH WALES -						
Sydney ..	949	943	929	969	973	982
Newcastle ..	989	969	946	1012	1014	1019
Broken Hill ..	1086	1079	1038	1064	1107	1095
Goulburn ..	1003	996	972	1013	1020	1024
Bathurst ..	962	947	924	959	963	977
Wtd. Average-5 Towns:	955	948	933	974	979	987
VICTORIA -						
Melbourne ..	947	958	920	957	963	964
Ballarat ..	944	963	920	934	940	950
Bendigo ..	933	952	926	959	964	967
Geelong ..	946	973	921	944	950	950
Warrnambool ..	970	974	944	966	962	965
Wtd. Average-5 Towns:	947	959	921	956	962	963
QUEENSLAND -						
Brisbane ..	873	854	849	909	909	943
Toowoomba ..	823	815	814	865	877	907
Rockhampton ..	906	885	906	914	918	961
Townsville ..	955	948	946	956	961	1006
Bundaberg ..	909	904	906	941	951	970
Wtd. Average-5 Towns:	879	862	859	910	912	947
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -						
Adelaide ..	902	883	878	903	911	897
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo ..	930	981	958	972	988	976
Port Pirie ..	999	986	967	989	996	994
Mount Gambier ..	948	976	931	927	929	939
Peterborough ..	1000	984	969	984	991	980
Wtd. Average-5 Towns:	910	892	885	909	917	904
WESTERN AUSTRALIA -						
Perth, Fremantle ..	947	919	911	949	948	950
Kalgoorlie, Boulder ..	1110	1076	1067	1133	1127	1131
Northam ..	980	954	947	997	995	999
Bunbury ..	983	961	954	972	970	976
Geraldton ..	956	926	917	975	975	978
Wtd. Average-5 Towns:	961	932	924	965	963	966
TASMANIA -						
Hobart ..	942	944	937	973	973	970
Launceston ..	918	921	912	947	953	962
Burnie ..	953	961	938	985	998	1004
Devonport ..	935	938	946	986	996	991
Queenstown ..	1018	1018	1017	1037	1052	1067
Wtd. Average-5 Towns:	937	940	933	968	971	973
Wtd. Average-30 Towns:	940	935	916	954	959	965
Wtd. Average-6 Capitals:	936	932	912	951	956	961
SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES ABOVE).						
Lithgow (N.S.W.) ..	991	956	933	991	1004	1009
Yallourn (Vic.) ..	990	1007	963	1028	1030	1032
Charters Towers (Q.) ..	958	956	957	946	951	979
Warwick (Q.) ..	868	858	849	885	882	924
Port Augusta (S.A.) ..	1006	996	986	1037	1041	1038
Rosebery (T.) ..	1070	1053	1061	1113	1130	1129
Canberra (A.C.T.) ..	1055	1040	1020	1067	1077	1083

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