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RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - JANUARY, 1939.

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 January, 1939 have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

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 previous month of December, 1938 the price levels of the 30 Cities and Towns as a whole rose 1.2%, and the Six Capitals 1.2%. Increases were recorded in the weighted averages of the five towns of the following States:- Queensland, 3.1%; Western Australia, 1.3%; New South Wales, 1.2%; South Australia, 1.1%; Victoria, 0.5%; a decrease was recorded in Tasmania, 1.0%.

The items for which the greatest price variations were recorded in January as compared with the previous month were as follows:-

Groceries: Potato prices increased in all States except Tasmania where a fall was recorded. Onion prices rose in all States.

Dairy Produce: Egg prices rose in all States.

Meat: Meat prices were practically unchanged.

Compared with the month of January, 1938, the following percentage increases are recorded by the index-numbers:- 30 Cities and Towns 7.3%; Six Capitals, 7.3%; Victoria 9.5%; New South Wales, 7.2%; South Australia, 6.3%; Queensland 4.7%; Western Australia, 4.4%; Tasmania, 3.4%.

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ROLAND WILSON

Commonwealth Statistician .

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES - FOOD AND GROCERIES

JANUARY, 1932.

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	1937			1938			1939
	November	December	January	November	December	January	
NEW SOUTH WALES -							
Sydney	877	876	876	909	925	937	
Newcastle	882	885	886	940	958	964	
Broken Hill	1036	1046	1045	1128	1132	1144	
Goulburn	888	893	894	952	970	984	
Bathurst	861	863	872	914	929	933	
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	880	880	880	916	932	943	
VICTORIA -							
Melbourne	848	851	848	896	925	931	
Bellarat	860	867	860	886	916	914	
Bandigo	853	863	860	904	926	920	
Geelong	857	853	854	914	925	924	
Warrnambool	834	840	840	910	944	944	
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	849	852	849	896	925	930	
QUEENSLAND -							
Brisbane	835	833	830	824	843	868	
Toowoomba	789	785	761	781	794	819	
Rockhampton	877	880	881	863	881	914	
Townsville	921	919	918	933	946	973	
Bundaberg	873	874	872	875	892	912	
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	842	840	837	833	850	876	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -							
Adelaide	833	829	836	860	878	888	
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo	897	894	892	915	928	946	
Port Pirie	915	921	914	950	975	983	
Mount Gambier	847	860	869	907	920	914	
Peterborough	884	886	887	910	931	943	
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	838	835	841	866	884	894	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA -							
Perth, Fremantle	866	864	874	888	898	910	
Kalgoorlie, Boulder	1002	1003	1003	1056	1065	1077	
Northam	905	914	915	931	939	949	
Bunbury	896	893	884	931	927	932	
Geraldton	924	924	905	901	924	934	
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	879	877	885	902	912	924	
TASMANIA -							
Hobart	889	883	875	891	912	903	
Launceston	870	878	871	908	916	905	
Burnie	906	907	903	923	924	919	
Devonport	895	892	892	936	919	913	
Queenstown	922	933	936	1000	999	1001	
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	885	884	878	903	917	904	
Wtd. Average - 30 Towns	862	863	862	895	914	925	
Wtd. Average - 6 Capitals	859	859	858	890	910	921	
SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE WEIGHTED AVERAGES).							
Lithgow (N.)	873	867	872	961	968	977	
Yallourn (V.)	893	890	905	948	988	999	
Charters Towers (Q.)	867	883	891	933	955	972	
Warwick (Q.)	795	793	765	822	834	849	
Fort Augusta (S.)	945	943	945	949	967	977	
Canberra (A.C.T.)	965	976	992	1026	1055	1065	

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
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