

Commonwealth  
Bureau of Census & Statistics  
S.I.

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**RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - MONTH OF JULY, 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 July, 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 June, 1941, the index-number of prices of Food and Groceries in the Six Capital Cities as a whole fell by 0.1% and in the 30 Cities and Towns by 0.2%. Decreases were recorded in the weighted averages of the five towns in Western Australia 0.9%, South Australia 0.7%, Victoria 0.6% and Queensland 0.4% while increases were recorded in New South Wales 0.4% and Tasmania 0.3%.

From July, 1940 to July, 1941, increases were recorded in the weighted averages as follows:- Tasmania 1.6%, Queensland 1.5% and Western Australia 1.5%, while decreases were recorded in 30 Cities and Towns 0.6%, Six Capital Cities 0.6%, Victoria 2.5% and South Australia 1.7%.

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

Groceries. Tea prices increased in all Capital Cities. Onion prices increased slightly in Victoria and Western Australia. Potato prices declined in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, while salmon prices increased slightly in Western Australia.

Dairy Produce. Egg prices declined in all Capital Cities.

Meat. Meat prices declined in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, increased in New South Wales and Tasmania and remained practically unchanged in Queensland.

(Note: Reports received, and comments published indicate that this monthly circular, which relates to prices of Food and Groceries only, is frequently referred to as the "Cost of Living" Index of the Commonwealth Statistician. This is erroneous, as the only index which could be so described is the quarterly "All Items" ("C" Series) Index which includes not only food and groceries but also clothing, headwear, footwear, household drapery and utensils, fuel, light, rent and other items of miscellaneous household expenditure. The "Court" Series index-numbers used for the adjustment of wages are at present derived from the "All Items" ("C" Series) Index and not from the index of retail prices of food and groceries.)

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This document is published by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof, compiled and tabulated by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act, 1905-1938.

S. R. CARVER  
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

Canberra, A.C.T. 29th August, 1941.

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

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

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

| City or Town                                                    | 1940 |      |      | 1941 |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                                                 | May  | June | July | May  | June | July |
| <b>NEW SOUTH WALES -</b>                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Sydney .. ..                                                    | 952  | 951  | 942  | 948  | 936  | 941  |
| Newcastle .. ..                                                 | 986  | 983  | 973  | 993  | 983  | 982  |
| Broken Hill .. ..                                               | 1073 | 1074 | 1076 | 1131 | 1121 | 1115 |
| Goulburn .. ..                                                  | 1019 | 1015 | 1002 | 1008 | 1002 | 1001 |
| Bethurst .. ..                                                  | 959  | 958  | 952  | 955  | 946  | 941  |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:</b>                                  | 958  | 957  | 948  | 956  | 944  | 948  |
| <b>VICTORIA -</b>                                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Melbourne .. ..                                                 | 958  | 959  | 949  | 936  | 932  | 925  |
| Ballarat .. ..                                                  | 946  | 944  | 934  | 924  | 921  | 916  |
| Bendigo .. ..                                                   | 957  | 958  | 956  | 942  | 941  | 940  |
| Geelong .. ..                                                   | 948  | 948  | 944  | 919  | 908  | 908  |
| Warrnambool .. ..                                               | 964  | 970  | 958  | 943  | 939  | 936  |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:</b>                                  | 957  | 958  | 949  | 935  | 931  | 925  |
| <b>QUEENSLAND -</b>                                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Brisbane .. ..                                                  | 882  | 877  | 866  | 899  | 887  | 885  |
| Toowoomba .. ..                                                 | 850  | 847  | 837  | 851  | 846  | 808  |
| Rockhampton .. ..                                               | 929  | 920  | 906  | 927  | 916  | 912  |
| Townsville .. ..                                                | 982  | 967  | 969  | 971  | 968  | 961  |
| Bundaberg .. ..                                                 | 935  | 922  | 915  | 954  | 948  | 943  |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:</b>                                  | 892  | 885  | 876  | 904  | 893  | 889  |
| <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA -</b>                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Adelaide .. ..                                                  | 919  | 919  | 900  | 895  | 889  | 884  |
| Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo .. ..                                  | 969  | 977  | 969  | 953  | 966  | 960  |
| Port Pirie .. ..                                                | 991  | 999  | 990  | 1006 | 1005 | 997  |
| Mount Gambier .. ..                                             | 932  | 935  | 925  | 912  | 908  | 902  |
| Peterborough .. ..                                              | 980  | 985  | 973  | 974  | 968  | 963  |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:</b>                                  | 924  | 925  | 906  | 902  | 897  | 891  |
| <b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA -</b>                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Perth, Fremantle .. ..                                          | 954  | 961  | 981  | 1006 | 1003 | 995  |
| Kalgoorlie, Boulder .. ..                                       | 1091 | 1095 | 1097 | 1210 | 1144 | 1124 |
| Northam .. ..                                                   | 983  | 989  | 1019 | 1061 | 1051 | 1051 |
| Bunbury .. ..                                                   | 981  | 981  | 985  | 1007 | 1002 | 998  |
| Geraldton .. ..                                                 | 942  | 952  | 958  | 1003 | 1007 | 1005 |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:</b>                                  | 965  | 972  | 990  | 1022 | 1014 | 1005 |
| <b>TASMANIA -</b>                                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Hobart .. ..                                                    | 936  | 938  | 936  | 953  | 953  | 954  |
| Launceston .. ..                                                | 932  | 933  | 933  | 957  | 936  | 942  |
| Burnie .. ..                                                    | 936  | 953  | 966  | 1001 | 995  | 997  |
| Devonport .. ..                                                 | 941  | 953  | 960  | 991  | 968  | 967  |
| Queenstown .. ..                                                | 1026 | 1026 | 1018 | 1048 | 1019 | 1005 |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 5 Towns:</b>                                  | 938  | 941  | 940  | 961  | 952  | 955  |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 30 Towns:</b>                                 | 947  | 947  | 939  | 943  | 935  | 933  |
| <b>Wtd. Average - 6 Capitals:</b>                               | 944  | 944  | 935  | 938  | 930  | 929  |
| <b>SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES ABOVE).</b> |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Lithgow (N.S.W.) .. ..                                          | 983  | 982  | 971  | 989  | 983  | 984  |
| Yallourn (Vic.) .. ..                                           | 1012 | 1010 | 1002 | 996  | 976  | 966  |
| Charters Towers (Qld.) .. ..                                    | 986  | 976  | 961  | 972  | 969  | 947  |
| Warwick (Qld.) .. ..                                            | 877  | 874  | 864  | 898  | 896  | 885  |
| Port Augusta (S.A.) .. ..                                       | 988  | 1037 | 1027 | 1029 | 1027 | 1026 |
| Rosebery (Tas.) .. ..                                           | 1076 | 1070 | 1065 | 1085 | 1083 | 1080 |
| Canberra (A.C.T.) .. ..                                         | 1068 | 1081 | 1068 | 1058 | 1040 | 1043 |

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