

CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

MORNING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1936.
EVENING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1936.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - JULY, 1936.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) as to the price of Food and Groceries (44 commodities) in 36 principal towns in Australia, have been made available for the month of July, 1936.

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.

The following are the percentage increases in various towns as compared with the figures for July, 1914:- Sydney 29.5; Melbourne 31.3; Brisbane 31.3; Adelaide 16.2; Perth 17.9; Hobart 19.6; 30 towns 26.7; 6 Capitals 27.4.

Compared with the previous month, the price levels for the 30 Towns rose 0.9%, and the 6 Capitals 0.7%.

Percentage increases were recorded in Victoria (1.9%); Tasmania (1.6%); South Australia (1.1%); Queensland (1.0%). A decrease was recorded in Western Australia (0.8%); and New South Wales remained stationary.

Groceries. Flour prices increased in all States. Potato prices increased in all States except Tasmania, and onion prices rose in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

Dairy Produce. Butter prices rose in Tasmania, fell slightly in South Australia, and remained practically stationary elsewhere. Egg prices decreased in all States.

Meat. Prices advanced in all States.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act, 1905-1930.

ROLAND WILSON.
 Commonwealth Statistician
 21st August, 1936.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.
COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ONLY.

JULY, 1936.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS FOR EACH ONE OF THE 36
PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA.

BASE: Weighted Average cost in the Six Capital Cities
during the five-yearly period 1923-27 = 1000.

Towns	July 1914	July 1935	May 1936	June 1936	July 1936	Percentage Increase from July 1914 to July, 1936
Sydney ..	645	842	838	834	835	29.5
Newcastle ..	642	859	852	847	848	32.1
Broken Hill ..	821	943	935	932	928	13.0
Goulburn ..	661	806	840	833	837	26.6
Bathurst ..	613	820	840	837	840	37.0
Wtd.Aver. - N.S.WALES..	652	844	841	837	837	28.4
Melbourne ..	619	790	794	797	813	31.3
Ballarat ..	617	817	817	816	836	35.5
Bendigo ..	619	815	806	809	817	32.0
Geelong ..	609	805	793	796	810	33.0
Warrnambool ..	608	825	815	813	811	33.4
Wtd.Aver. - VICTORIA ..	618	793	795	798	813	31.6
Brisbane ..	591	758	768	767	776	31.3
Toowoomba ..	582	718	741	743	747	28.4
Rockhampton ..	646	777	841	828	829	26.3
Charters Towers ..	696	849	875	869	866	24.4
Warwick ..	605	743	766	757	761	25.8
Wtd.Aver. - QUEENSLAND.	605	758	774	772	780	28.9
Adelaide ..	699	789	801	803	812	16.2
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo ..	638	867	867	868	878	27.6
Port Pirie ..	722	820	856	868	871	20.6
Mount Gambier ..	595	771	795	809	808	35.8
Peterborough ..	749	813	844	840	865	15.5
Wtd.Aver. - S.AUSTRALIA	697	792	805	808	817	17.2
Perth, Fremantle ..	749	822	844	892	883	17.9
Kalgoorlie, Boulder ..	931	981	992	1014	1019	9.5
Northam ..	(a)	857	879	943	945	-
Bunbury ..	793	848	869	887	888	12.0
Geraldton ..	808	853	925	903	943	16.7
Wtd.Aver. - W.AUSTRALIA	790	835	857	902	895	13.3
Hobart ..	678	791	787	793	811	19.6
Launceston ..	640	787	776	776	784	22.5
Burnie ..	(a)	834	820	823	828	-
Devonport ..	(a)	809	791	797	800	-
Queenstown ..	735	909	881	879	877	19.3
Wtd.Aver. - TASMANIA ..	672	796	788	792	805	19.8
Wtd.Aver. - 30 TOWNS ..	651	812	816	818	825	26.7
Wtd.Aver. - 6 CAPITALS	645	810	813	816	822	27.4
SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE WEIGHTED AVERAGES).						
Lithgow (N.) ..	(a)	841	828	833	833	-
Yallourn (V.) ..	(a)	830	844	838	849	-
Townsville (Q.) ..	(a)	853	881	871	873	-
Port Augusta (S.) ..	(a)	875	929	926	930	-
Zeehan (T.) ..	723	958	908	903	910	25.9
Canberra (F.C.T.) ..	(a)	907	889	889	892	-

(a) Not available.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1930.

ROLAND WILSON.
Commonwealth Statistician
21st August, 1936.