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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.

July, 1926.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Minister for Home and Territories by the Commonwealth Statistician and Actuary (Mr. Chas. H. Wickens) as to the prices of food and groceries (46 commodities) have been made available for the month of July, 1926.

Compared with the preceding month (June 1926) there has been a decrease for the thirty towns considered as a whole of 1.6 per cent. All the States with the exception of Queensland show decreases. The decrease was greatest in South Australia (4.1 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (2.4 per cent.), New South Wales (0.9 per cent.), and Western Australia and Tasmania (0.8 per cent.). The increase in Queensland amounted to only 0.1 per cent.

Compared with the corresponding month - July - of last year all of the States with the exception of Western Australia and Victoria show increases. The increase was greatest in Queensland (4.7 per cent.), followed in the order named by Tasmania (4.4 per cent.), New South Wales (3.5 per cent.) and South Australia (1.8 per cent.). The decrease in Western Australia amounted to 2.6 per cent. while in Victoria the index-numbers are identical. The weighted average index-number for the thirty towns considered as a whole was 1849 in July 1926 compared with 1814 in July 1925 - an increase of 1.9 per cent.

In the following table particulars are given in the form of index-numbers of price levels for food and groceries in July 1926 compared with July 1914, July, 1926, and June, 1926. In the last column the percentage increase in July 1926 compared with July 1914 is shown. The base (1000) to which the index-numbers are computed is the weighted average aggregate cost for the six capital cities of the commodities included in the investigations for the year 1911. The increase in cost since July 1914 is greatest in Queensland (68.1 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (62.2 per cent.), New South Wales (60.7 per cent.), Tasmania (57.4 per cent.), South Australia (52.0 per cent.), and Western Australia (37.1 per cent.). The actual cost of the regimen of food and groceries for the month of July 1926 was highest in Western Australia and lowest in Victoria. In the case of individual towns the cost was highest in Kalgoorlie and lowest in Toowoomba. The increase in cost in the thirty towns considered as a whole from July 1914 to July 1926 amounts to 58.8 per cent.

/Retail Price Indexes.

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RETAIL PRICE INDEXES

Based upon the Cost of Food and Groceries only - July, 1926.

Retail Prices Index-numbers for each of the 30 Principal Towns in the Commonwealth for the months specified, the weighted average cost in the six capital towns in 1911 being taken as base (= 1000).

Town.	July, 1914.	July, 1925.	June, 1926.	July, 1926.	Percentage increase from July 1914 to July 1926.
Sydney	1153	1799	1882	1868	62.0
Newcastle	1147	1811	1868	1844	60.8
Broken Hill	1144	1780	2227	2151	46.5
Goulburn	1183	1782	1851	1809	52.9
Bathurst	1097	1711	1831	1803	64.4
Wt. Aver. - N.S.W. (5 Towns)	1165	1809	1889	1872	60.7
Melbourne	1106	1793	1838	1790	61.8
Hallarat	1102	1785	1849	1838	66.6
Bendigo	1107	1804	1842	1804	63.0
Geelong	1089	1732	1811	1792	64.6
Warrnambool	1087	1760	1825	1799	65.5
Wt. Aver. - VICT. (5 Towns)	1105	1792	1837	1792	62.2
Brisbane	1097	1737	1805	1803	70.6
Toowoomba	1041	1678	1779	1773	70.3
Rockhampton	1156	1767	1886	1907	65.0
Charter Towers	1246	1874	2034	2047	64.3
Warwick	1083	1690	1815	1807	66.9
Wt. Aver. - Q'LAND. (5 Towns)	1032	1738	1818	1819	68.1
Adelaide	1250	1859	1974	1887	51.0
Kadina, etc.	1230	1832	1980	1954	58.9
Port Pirie	1291	1903	2066	2040	58.0
St. Gambier	1064	1737	1891	1866	75.4
Peterborough	1340	1955	2047	2031	51.6
Wt. Aver. - S.AUST. (5 Towns)	1247	1863	1975	1896	52.0
Perth	1340	1959	1914	1897	41.6
Kalgoorlie	1564	2169	2181	2181	31.1
Northam	1410	2039	2091	2032	..
Bunbury	1410	2000	2072	2052	45.4
Geraldton	1445	2116	2035	2028	40.3
Wt. Aver. - W.AUST. (5 Towns)	1412	1987	1951	1936	37.1
Hobart	1211	1854	1901	1882	55.4
Launceston	1144	1785	1880	1873	63.7
Burnie	..	1838	1939	1921	..
Devonport	..	1854	1916	1899	..
Queenstown	1315	2051	2119	2101	59.8
Wt. Aver. - TAS. (5 Towns)	1201	1811	1905	1890	57.4
Wt. Aver. - AUST. (6 Cops.)	1152	1809	1893	1841	59.8
Wt. Aver. - AUST. (30 Towns)	1164	1814	1880	1849	58.8
Townsville, Queensland [§]	..	1924	2045	2037	..

[§] Not included in weighted average for Queensland or the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, MELBOURNE, 23/8/1926.