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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Melbourne, 24th February, 1927.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - JANUARY, 1927.

The results of the investigation 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 January, 1927.

Compared with the preceding month (December 1926) there has been a decrease for the 30 towns considered as a whole of 0.4 %. Three of the States show decreases, the greatest being in Queensland, 4.3 %, followed by Victoria 1.2 % and South Australia 1.1 %. The increases were - New South Wales 1.2 %, followed by Western Australia 0.3 %, and Tasmania 0.1 %, compared with the corresponding month - January - of last year, four of the States show a decrease, the greatest being in Tasmania 1.8 %, followed in the order named - South Australia, 1.2 %, Queensland, 0.7 %, and Victoria, 0.3 %. The increase for New South Wales amounted to 5.2 % and Western Australia 0.5 %.

In the following table particulars are given in the form of index-numbers of price levels for food and groceries in January, 1927, compared with July, 1914, January, 1926, and December, 1926.

In the last column the percentage increase in January, 1927, 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, 55.8 %, followed in the order named - New South Wales, 65.4 %, Victoria, 56.5 %, Tasmania, 53.1 %, South Australia, 47.5 %, and Western Australia, 41.0 %. The actual cost of the regimen of food and groceries for the month of January, 1927, was highest in New South Wales and lowest in Victoria. In the case of the individual towns the cost was highest in Charters Towers and lowest in Warrnambool. The increase in cost in the 30 towns considered as a whole from July, 1914, to January, 1927, amounts to 47.6 %.

The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns considered as a whole was 1834 in January, 1927, compared with 1803 in January, 1926, an increase of 1.7 %.

Retail Price Indexes.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon the Cost of Food and Groceries only - January, 1927.
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.	January, 1926.	December, 1926.	January, 1927.	Percentage increase from July 1914 to January, 1927
					%
Sydney	1153	1824	1900	1926	67.0
Newcastle	1147	1829	1907	1893	65.0
Broken Hill	1468	2105	2076	2131	45.2
Melburn	1183	1873	1933	1906	61.1
Adelaide	1097	1778	1802	1854	69.0
Wt. Aver. - N.S.W. (5 Towns) ..	1165	1832	1905	1927	65.4
Melbourne	1106	1730	1744	1724	55.9
Ballarat	1103	1704	1803	1791	62.4
Wendigo	1107	1797	1820	1797	62.3
Geelong	1089	1743	1750	1725	58.4
Warrnambool	1087	1692	1737	1681	54.6
Wt. Aver. - VICT. (5 Towns) ..	1105	1735	1750	1729	56.5
Brisbane	1057	1799	1858	1762	66.7
Goowamba	1041	1749	1836	1782	71.2
Rockhampton	1156	1855	1953	1912	65.4
Chartiers Towers	1246	1994	2130	2186	75.4
Warwick	1083	1728	1887	1860	71.7
Wt. Aver. - Q'LAND. (5 Towns) ..	1082	1806	1875	1794	65.8
Adelaide	1250	1854	1849	1828	46.2
Adina, etc.	1230	1903	1955	1937	57.5
Port Pirie	1291	1999	1976	1951	51.1
St. Gambier	1054	1756	1806	1830	72.0
Peterborough	1340	1953	2022	1991	48.6
Wt. Aver. - S. AUST. (5 Towns) ..	1247	1861	1859	1839	47.5
Perth	1340	1802	1807	1814	35.4
Algoorlie	1654	2090	2060	2053	23.4
Northam		1949	1974	1966	..
Unbury	1418	1881	1994	1996	40.8
Geraldton	1445	1959	1977	1988	37.6
Wt. Aver. - W. AUST. (5 Towns) ..	1412	1840	1845	1850	31.0
Robart	1211	1834	1842	1835	51.5
Launceston	1144	1819	1784	1814	58.6
Burnie		1910	1865	1847	..
Devonport		1858	1889	1865	..
Queenstown	1315	2087	2096	2051	56.0
Wt. Aver. - TAS. (5 Towns) ..	1201	1873	1838	1839	53.1
Wt. Aver. - AUST. (6 Capitals) ..	1152	1794	1832	1825	58.4
Wt. Aver. - AUST. (30 Towns) ..	1164	1803	1841	1834	57.6
Townsville, Queensland #		2028	2186	2134	..

Not included in weighted average for Queensland or the Commonwealth.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, MELBOURNE, 24/ 2/1927.