

CONFIDENTIAL.To be treated as strictly confidential until
released for publication as follows:-MORNING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1936.EVENING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1936.COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - JANUARY, 1936.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E. T. McPhee), as to the price of Food and Groceries (44 commodities) in 36 principal towns in Australia, have been made available for the month of January, 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 the various Capitals, etc., as compared with the figures for July, 1914:-
 Sydney, 31.2%; Melbourne, 26.7%; Brisbane, 32.5%; Adelaide, 10.2%;
 Perth and Fremantle, 8.1%; Hobart, 15.6%; 30 Towns, 24.7%;
 Six Capitals, 25.4%.

Compared with the previous month, the price levels for the 30 Towns fell 0.1%, while there was no change for the Six Capital Cities.

Percentage decreases were recorded in Tasmania, 0.8%; South Australia, 0.4%; and New South Wales, 0.2%. An increase was recorded in Queensland, 0.9%; while Victoria and Western Australia remained stationary.

In Group I (Groceries), potato prices decreased in all States except Queensland, where the prices increased.

In Group II (Dairy Produce), prices of condensed milk fell in Queensland and Tasmania, but in other States were unchanged. Milk prices were lower in Kalgoorlie. Egg prices rose in all States except Tasmania, where they fluctuated.

In Group III (Meat), the only noticeable fluctuations in meat were slightly lower prices in most cuts in Newcastle, Ballarat and Geelong, and a slight rise in Northam.

Printed and Published by E. T. MCPHEE, COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,

CANBERRA, F.C.T.

20th February, 1936.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.
COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ONLY.

JANUARY, 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	January 1935	November 1935	December 1935	January 1936	Percentage Increase from July 1914 to January, 1936
Sydney ..	645	832	851	848	846	31.2
Newcastle ..	642	848	880	874	867	35.0
Broken Hill ..	821	940	929	928	927	12.9
Goulburn ..	661	834	846	838	837	26.6
Bathurst ..	613	799	842	841	839	36.9
<u>At. Aver. - N.S. WALES</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>854</u>	<u>851</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>30.2</u>
Melbourne ..	619	774	797	783	784	26.7
Ballarat ..	617	804	818	815	806	30.6
Bendigo ..	619	799	812	805	804	29.9
Geelong ..	609	786	796	782	771	26.6
Warrnambool ..	608	811	820	813	812	33.6
<u>At. Aver. - VICTORIA</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>776</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>27.0</u>
Brisbane ..	591	741	780	776	783	32.5
Toowoomba ..	582	711	751	755	755	29.7
Rockhampton ..	646	776	839	842	856	32.5
Charters Towers	696	821	876	885	896	28.7
Warwick ..	605	728	792	793	799	32.1
<u>At. Aver. - QUEENSLAND</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>743</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>782</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>30.4</u>
Adelaide ..	699	772	784	773	770	10.2
Adina, Moonta, Wallaroo	688	852	868	858	856	24.4
Port Pirie ..	722	808	811	802	807	11.8
Mount Gambier ..	595	769	802	786	782	31.4
Peterborough ..	749	806	816	807	801	6.9
<u>At. Aver. - S. AUSTRALIA</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>776</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>777</u>	<u>774</u>	<u>11.0</u>
Perth, Fremantle	749	813	813	809	810	8.1
Kalgoorlie, Boulder	931	971	981	977	971	4.3
Northam ..	(a)	834	850	834	845	-
Bunbury ..	793	850	845	839	836	5.4
Geraldton ..	808	824	840	836	834	3.2
<u>At. Aver. - W. AUSTRALIA</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>826</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>4.2</u>
Hobart ..	678	795	797	790	784	15.6
Launceston ..	640	789	793	790	783	22.3
Burnie ..	(a)	826	837	828	820	-
Devonport ..	(a)	812	824	816	807	-
Queenstown ..	735	909	900	895	894	21.6
<u>At. Aver. - TASMANIA</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>799</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>17.5</u>
<u>At. Aver. - 30 TOWNS</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>820</u>	<u>813</u>	<u>812</u>	<u>24.7</u>
<u>At. Aver. - 6 CAPITALS</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>797</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>25.4</u>
<u>SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES).</u>						
Lithgow (N.) ..	(a)	825	859	844	837	-
Ballourn (V.) ..	(a)	809	850	850	843	-
Townsville (Q.) ..	(a)	835	887	895	905	-
Port Augusta (S.) ..	(a)	882	892	891	892	-
Geelan (T.) ..	723	958	943	942	936	29.5
Canberra (F.C.T.) ..	(a)	923	931	930	928	-

(a) Not available.

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