

Evening

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.

JANUARY, 1925.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Minister for Home and Territories by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. Chas. H. Wickens) as to prices of food and groceries (46 commodities) have been made available for the month of January, 1925.

Compared with the preceding month (December, 1924) there has been an increase for the thirty towns considered as a whole of 0.5 per cent. All the States with the exception of New South Wales show increases. The increase was greatest in Western Australia (22 per cent.), followed in the order named by South Australia (1.9 per cent.), Queensland (0.7 per cent.), Tasmania (0.6 per cent.), and Victoria (0.2 per cent.). The decrease in New South Wales amounted to 0.1 per cent.

Compared with the corresponding month, January of last year, all the States with the exception of Western Australia show decreases. The decrease was greatest in Queensland (9.2 per cent.), followed in the order named by Tasmania (5.1 per cent.), New South Wales (5.0 per cent.), Victoria (3.8 per cent.), and South Australia (3.1 per cent.). The increase in Western Australia amounted to 4.4 per cent. The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns considered as a whole was 1726 in January 1925 compared with 1802 in January 1924 - a decrease of 4.2 per cent.

In the following table particulars are given in the form of index-numbers of price levels for food and groceries in January, 1925, compared with July 1914, January 1924, and December 1924. In the last column the percentage increase in January 1925 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 Victoria (51.9 per cent.), followed in the order named by Queensland (51.5 per cent.), Tasmania (49.7 per cent.), New South Wales (48.2 per cent.), South Australia (43.0 per cent.), and Western Australia (38.6 per cent.).

The increase in cost in the thirty towns considered as a whole from July 1914 to January 1925 amounts to 48.3 per cent.

Retail Price
Indexes.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon the Cost of Food and Groceries only - January, 1925.

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 1924	December 1924	January 1925	Percentage increase from July 1914 to January 1925.
Sydney	1153	1808	1726	1718	49.0
Newcastle	1147	1874	1696	1736	51.4
Broken Hill	1468	2034	1947	1962	33.7
Poultburn	1183	1832	1742	1727	46.0
Bathurst	1097	1715	1597	1673	52.5
T. Aver. - N.E.V. (5 towns) ..	1165	1817	1728	1726	48.2
Melbourne	1106	1743	1678	1677	51.6
Bellarat	1101	1766	1678	1701	54.2
Bendigo	1107	1763	1675	1699	53.5
Geelong	1089	1723	1624	1661	52.5
Warrnambool	1087	1758	1672	1666	52.7
T. Aver. - VICTORIA (5 towns) ..	1105	1744	1675	1678	51.9
Brisbane	1057	1811	1632	1644	55.5
Toowoomba	1041	1764	1527	1528	46.8
Rockhampton	1176	1736	1619	1652	42.9
Charter Towers	1246	1948	1793	1807	45.0
Warwick	1083	1778	1572	1556	43.7
T. Aver. - QUEENSLAND (5 towns) ..	1082	1805	1627	1639	51.5
Adelaide	1250	1847	1745	1781	42.5
Mounts	1230	1763	1753	1791	45.0
Port Pirie	1291	1820	1827	1843	42.8
Mt. Gambler	1064	1717	1673	1693	59.1
Peterborough	1340	1740	1864	1903	42.0
T. Aver. - S. AUSTRALIA (5 towns) ..	1247	1840	1749	1783	43.0
Perth	1340	1848	1889	1936	44.5
Kalgoorlie	1664	2073	2112	2129	27.9
Northam	1183	1918	1848	1864	...
Bunbury	1418	1821	1921	1975	39.3
Geraldton	1445	1931	1999	2005	38.8
T. Aver. - W. AUSTRALIA (5 towns) ..	1412	1874	1914	1957	38.6
Hobart	1211	1896	1779	1793	48.1
Launceston	1144	1870	1776	1787	56.2
Burnie	1950	1769	1734	1734	...
Devonport	1873	1812	1831	1831	...
Queenstown	1315	2061	2009	1991	51.4
T. Aver. - TASMANIA (5 towns) ..	1201	1895	1788	1798	49.7
T. Aver. - AUSTRALIA (6 capitals) ..	1152	1796	1716	1721	49.4
" " " (30 towns) ..	1164	1802	1718	1726	43.3
Townsville, Queensland, N.	..	1936	1836	1853	..

Not included in weighted average for Queensland or the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
MELBOURNE, 27th February, 1925.