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RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - MARCH, 1939.

Particulars concerning variations in the retail prices of Food and Groceries (41 commodities) in 30 principal cities and towns in Australia for the month of March, 1939, have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

Base Period: The index-numbers in the attached table are computed to the base - Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities 1923-27 = 1000.

Compared with the previous month of February, 1939, the price levels of the 30 Cities and Towns as a whole fell 0.9%, and the Six Capitals 0.9%. Increases were recorded in the weighted averages of the five towns in South Australia, 0.4%, and Western Australia, 0.1%; while decreases were recorded in New South Wales, 0.9%, Queensland, 0.9%, and Tasmania 0.9%. Victoria was unchanged.

Items for which the greatest price variations were recorded in March as compared with the previous month were as follows:-

Groceries. Jam prices increased in New South Wales. Potato prices fell in all States. Onion prices fell in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

Dairy Produce. Egg prices fell in all States except Western Australia where a rise was recorded. Fresh milk prices rose in Tasmania.

Meat Prices. Meat prices rose in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Compared with the month of March, 1938, the following percentage increases are disclosed by the index numbers:- Six Capitals, 8.6%; 30 Towns, 8.5%; Victoria, 12.5%; South Australia, 8.6%; New South Wales, 7.0%; Queensland, 6.3%; Tasmania, 5.3%; Western Australia, 5.2%.

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, 1905-1938.

ROLAND WILSON

Commonwealth Statistician

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

26TH APRIL, 1939.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES - FOOD AND GROCERIES

MARCH, 1939.

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR EACH OF THE 30 PRINCIPAL
CITIES AND TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA**

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capitals, 1923-27 = 1000)

City or Town	1938			1939		
	Jan.	Feby.	Mar.	Jan.	Feby.	Mar.
NEW SOUTH WALES -						
Sydney	876	880	879	937	957	938
Newcastle	886	893	897	964	(a)982	973
Broken Hill	1045	1076	1076	1144	1174	1163
Goulburn	894	904	906	984	1006	1002
Bathurst	872	877	877	932	948	946
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	880	885	884	943	(a)964	946
VICTORIA -						
Melbourne	848	847	853	931	962	961
Ballarat	860	859	862	914	936	954
Bendigo	860	864	863	920	947	946
Geelong	854	841	845	924	957	961
Warrnambool .. .	840	841	848	944	951	950
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	849	848	853	930	960	960
QUEENSLAND --						
Brisbane	830	835	835	868	(a)898	887
Toowoomba	781	789	792	819	859	843
Rockhampton .. .	881	878	877	914	931	922
Townsville	918	919	924	973	992	989
Bundaberg	872	877	881	912	940	933
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	837	842	842	876	906	895
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -						
Adelaide	836	845	848	888	914	919
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo ..	892	891	893	946	978	971
Port Pirie	914	916	914	983	1018	1013
Mount Gambier ..	869	863	862	914	929	927
Peterborough ..	887	884	891	943	1004	995
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	841	849	852	894	921	925
WESTERN AUSTRALIA						
Perth, Fremantle	874	878	898	910	940	942
Kalgoorlie, Boulder	1003	1006	1018	1077	1108	1091
Northam	915	918	928	949	971	978
Bunbury	884	885	885	932	947	971
Geraldton	905	915	920	934	952	955
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	885	889	907	924	953	954
TASMANIA -						
Hobart	875	878	871	903	917	920
Launceston	871	873	869	905	921	912
Burnie	903	905	910	919	942	935
Devonport	892	900	904	913	941	925
Queenstown	936	940	946	1001	1016	1020
Wtd. Average - 5 Towns	878	880	876	908	923	922
Wtd. Average - 30 Towns	862	866	868	925	950	942
Wtd. Average - 6 Capitals	858	862	864	921	947	938
SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE WEIGHTED AVERAGES).						
Lithgow (N.)	872	876	878	977	983	956
Yallourn (V.)	905	894	905	999	1024	990
Charlton Towers (Q.)	891	900	905	972	992	977
Warwick (Q.)	785	791	801	849	882	880
Port Augusta (S.)	945	951	953	977	1018	1012
Rosebery (T.)	-	-	-	1002	1031	1014
Canberra (A.C.T.)	992	995	985	1065	1080	1087

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(a) Amended

ROLAND WILSON
Commonwealth Statistician

26th April, 1939.