

CONFIDENTIAL.

To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

EVENING PAPERS .. WEDNESDAY, 29th MARCH, 1933.

MORNING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 30th MARCH, 1933.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - FEBRUARY, 1933.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician as to the price of food and groceries (44 commodities) have been made available for the month of February, 1933.

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.

Compared with the previous month, the price level of Food and Groceries for February showed a small decrease amounting to 0.5 per cent for the six capitals and to 0.7 per cent. for the 30 towns.

Most States showed decreases, the greatest being Victoria with a fall of 1.6 per cent., followed by Tasmania 0.9 per cent., and New South Wales 0.4 per cent. South Australia showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. Queensland and Western Australia showed practically no alteration.

Retail prices generally remained steady during February, but exceptions were flour, canned fruits, potatoes, and onions which showed decreases. Butter and cheese continued to fall in all States except South Australia, where an increase was recorded, while eggs showed high prices generally.

Meat prices were steady except in Queenstown, Bunbury and Melbourne, where decreases were recorded, and in Townsville, Northam and Adelaide, where increases were shown.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

CANBERRA, F.C.T. 24th March, 1933.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon Cost of Food and Groceries only

FEBRUARY, 1933.

Retail Price Index Number for each of the 30

Principal Towns in Australia.

Weighted average cost in the Six Capital Cities during the five-
yearly base period, 1923-27 = 1000.

TOWN	July 1914	Average 5-yearly period 1923-27	February, 1932	January, 1933	February, 1933	Percentage increase from July, 1914, to February, 1933.
Sydney	645	1012	874	802	799	23.9
Newcastle	642	1015	859	790	788	32.7
Broken Hill	821	1155	984	882	881	7.3
Goulburn	661	1018	821	796	791	19.7
Bathurst	613	974	829	766	764	24.6
<u>Wt. Average - New South Wales</u>	652	1016	874	803	799	22.5
Melbourne	619	978	795	700	689	11.3
Ballarat	617	989	814	722	712	15.4
Bendigo	619	993	808	731	722	16.6
Geelong	609	967	798	728	720	18.2
Warrnambool	608	967	829	736	728	19.7
<u>Wt. Average - Victoria</u>	618	978	797	703	692	12.0
Brisbane	591	960	764	696	694	17.4
Toowoomba	582	934	742	672	680	16.8
Rockhampton	646	988	843	750	748	15.8
Charters Towers	696	1074	894	831	838	20.4
Warwick	605	951	767	717	720	19.0
<u>Wt. Average - Queensland</u>	605	965	774	704	703	16.2
Adelaide	699	1025	798	707	712	1.9
Kadina	688	1032	889	796	795	15.6
Port Pirie	722	1060	866	745	749	3.7
Mount Gambier.. ..	595	989	790	742	739	24.2
Peterborough	749	1064	864	764	767	2.4
<u>Wt. Average - South Australia</u>	697	1026	805	713	717	2.9
Perth	749	1042	822	732	733	-2.1
Salgoorlie	931	1179	990	928	929	-0.2
Northam	-	1104	858	783	789	-
Bunbury	793	1094	822	773	762	-3.9
Geraldton	808	1112	897	751	743	-8.0
<u>Wt. Average - West. Australia</u>	790	1060	842	754	755	-4.4
Hobart	678	1027	818	746	739	9.0
Launceston	640	1013	803	732	726	13.4
Burnie	-	1040	859	769	768	-
Devonport	-	1035	859	769	765	-
Queenstown	735	1127	912	880	865	17.7
<u>Wt. Average - Tasmania</u>	672	1027	821	749	742	10.4
<u>Wt. Average - Australia (30 Towns)</u>	651	1003	829	747	742	14.0
<u>Wt. Average - Australia (6 Cons)</u>	645	1000 base	825	742	738	14.4
Canberra (a)	(b)	(b)	961	850	847	-
Townsville (a)	(b)	1091	950	813	811	-

(a) Not included in weighted averages. (b) Not available.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

CANBERRA, F.C.T. 24th March, 1933.