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EVENING PAPERS .. WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1937.
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COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES - FEBRUARY, 1937.

The results of the investigations made under the direction of the Honorable the Treasurer by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) as to the price of Food and Groceries (41 commodities) in 37 principal cities and towns in Australia, have been made available for the month of February, 1937.

BASE PERIOD: The index numbers in the attached table are computed to the base 1923-27 = 1000.

Compared with the previous month of January, 1937, the price levels of the 30 cities and Towns fell 1.1%, and the Six Capitals also showed a similar decline. Decreases were recorded in the weighted average of all States as follows:- Queensland (2.4%); Victoria (1.6%); Tasmania (0.7%); New South Wales (0.6%); South Australia (0.6%); and Western Australia (0.5%).

The items for which the greatest price variations were recorded in February as compared with the previous month were as follows:-

Groceries. Bread prices increased in New South Wales. Potato prices fell in all States.

Dairy Produce. Egg prices rose in all States.

Meat. Prices fell in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania, but were practically unaltered in New South Wales and South Australia.

Compared with February, 1936, the following percentage increases are disclosed by the Indexes:- 30 Cities and Towns, 4.0%; Six Capitals, 3.9%; Tasmania, 8.3%; Queensland, 6.0%; Western Australia, 6.0%; Victoria, 4.1%; South Australia, 4.1%; New South Wales, 2.7%.

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ROLAND WILSON

Commonwealth Statistician

24th March, 1937.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.
COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ONLY.
FEBRUARY, 1937.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS FOR EACH OF THE 37 PRINCIPAL CITIES
AND TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA.

BASE: Weighted Average Cost in the Six Capital Cities during the
five-yearly period 1923-27 = 1000.

City or Town	1935	1936		1937		
	December	January	February	December	January	February
Sydney ..	848	846	849	875	878	872
Newcastle ..	874	867	872	885	887	887
Broken Hill ..	928	927	933	989	978	977
Goulburn ..	838	837	832	869	860	857
Bathurst ..	841	839	836	860	869	857
<u>Wtd. Aver. - N.S. WALES</u>	<u>851</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>878</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>875</u>
Melbourne ..	783	784	784	828	829	815
Ballarat ..	815	806	811	869	862	853
Bendigo ..	805	804	801	848	857	840
Geelong ..	782	771	775	825	820	817
Warrnambool ..	813	812	817	849	839	832
<u>Wtd. Aver. - VICTORIA</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>817</u>
Brisbane ..	776	783	790	838	859	838
Toowoomba ..	755	755	756	815	837	815
Rockhampton ..	842	856	850	879	884	858
Townsville ..	(885) a	(396) a	(888) a	(907) a	903	896
Rundaberg ..	(793) b	(799) b	(801) b	(835) h	883	863
<u>Wtd. Aver. - Q'LAND</u>	<u>782</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>794</u>	<u>841</u>	<u>863</u>	<u>842</u>
Adelaide ..	773	770	781	813	816	810
Kadina, Moonta, Walleroo ..	858	856	855	908	898	910
Port Pirie ..	802	807	815	901	906	898
Mount Gambier ..	786	782	781	826	835	829
Peterborough ..	807	801	807	861	852	860
<u>Wtd. Aver. - S. AUST.</u>	<u>777</u>	<u>774</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>820</u>	<u>822</u>	<u>817</u>
Perth, Fremantle	809	810	813	875	867	863
Kalgoorlie, Boulder	977	971	971	1015	1014	1009
Northam ..	834	845	849	914	913	907
Bunbury ..	839	836	844	872	880	880
Geraldton ..	836	834	844	973	977	973
<u>Wtd. Aver. - W. AUST.</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>888</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>877</u>
Hobart ..	790	784	797	873	870	870
Launceston ..	790	783	784	861	857	842
Burnie ..	828	820	816	907	895	892
Devonport ..	816	807	808	897	891	878
Queenstown ..	895	894	897	940	930	919
<u>Wtd. Aver. - TASMANIA</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>874</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>864</u>
<u>Wtd. Aver. - 30 TOWNS</u>	<u>813</u>	<u>812</u>	<u>815</u>	<u>854</u>	<u>857</u>	<u>848</u>
<u>Wtd. Aver. - 6 CAPITALS</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>812</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>853</u>	<u>844</u>
<u>SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE WEIGHTED AVERAGES)</u>						
Withgow (N.) ..	844	837	835	843	853	853
Ballourn (V.) ..	850	843	825	864	847	839
Charters Towers (Q.)	885	896	888	907	911	898
Warwick, (Q.)	793	799	801	835	821	803
Port Augusta (S.)	891	892	894	939	940	937
Sheehan (T.) ..	942	936	927	992	982	970
Manberra (F.C.T.)	930	928	919	949	928	944

(a) Charters Towers. (b) Warwick.

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