



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

Melbourne.

PLEASE QUOTE THIS NUMBER IN REPLY

22nd April, 1925.

COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES.
MARCH, 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 March, 1925.

Compared with the preceding month (February 1925) there has been an increase for the thirty towns considered as a whole of 1.2 per cent. All the States with the exception of Tasmania show increases. The increase was greatest in Victoria and Queensland (1.4 per cent.), followed in the order named by New South Wales (1.2 per cent.), Western Australia (0.8 per cent.), and South Australia (0.6 per cent.). The decrease in Tasmania amounted to 0.2 per cent.

Compared with the corresponding month, March of last year, all the States with the exception of Victoria and Western Australia show decreases. The decrease was greatest in Tasmania (5.6 per cent.), followed in the order named by Queensland (2.0 per cent.), New South Wales (1.4 per cent.), and South Australia (0.1 per cent.). The increase in Western Australia amounted to 4.4 per cent., and in Victoria to 0.1 per cent. The weighted average index-number for the 30 towns considered as a whole was 1759 in March 1925, compared with 1769 in March 1924 - a decrease of 0.6 per cent.

In the following table particulars are given in the form of index-numbers of price levels for food and groceries in March 1925 compared with July 1914, March 1924 and February 1925. In the last column the percentage increase in March 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 Queensland (55.7 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (54.9 per cent.), New South Wales (50.1 per cent.), Tasmania (48.6 per cent.), South Australia (47.1 per cent.), and Western Australia (42.4 per cent.).

The increase in cost in the thirty towns considered as a whole from July 1914 to March 1925 amounts to 51.1 per cent.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES.

Based upon the Cost of Food and Groceries only - March, 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. | March 1924. | February 1925. | March 1925. | Percentage increase from July 1914 to March 1925. |
|---|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Adney | 1153 | 1765 | 1721 | 1741 | 51.0 |
| Newcastle | 1147 | 1738 | 1745 | 1767 | 54.1 |
| Broken Hill | 1468 | 2008 | 1983 | 1996 | 36.0 |
| Mulburn | 1183 | 1815 | 1742 | 1750 | 47.9 |
| Wahurst | 1097 | 1699 | 1670 | 1692 | 54.2 |
| Wt. Aver. - N.S.W. (5 towns) .. | 1165 | 1774 | 1729 | 1749 | 50.1 |
| Melbourne | 1106 | 1707 | 1688 | 1712 | 54.8 |
| Ballarat | 1103 | 1744 | 1716 | 1727 | 56.6 |
| Endigo | 1107 | 1760 | 1719 | 1739 | 57.1 |
| Geelong | 1089 | 1681 | 1668 | 1679 | 54.2 |
| Harrnambool | 1087 | 1767 | 1659 | 1663 | 53.0 |
| Wt. Aver. - VICTORIA (5 towns) .. | 1105 | 1710 | 1689 | 1712 | 54.9 |
| Brisbane | 1057 | 1721 | 1666 | 1691 | 60.0 |
| Bowamba | 1041 | 1645 | 1543 | 1579 | 51.7 |
| Rockhampton | 1156 | 1734 | 1677 | 1699 | 47.0 |
| Charters Towers | 1246 | 1834 | 1845 | 1820 | 46.1 |
| Warwick | 1083 | 1663 | 1565 | 1593 | 47.1 |
| Wt. Aver. - Q'LAND. (5 towns) .. | 1082 | 1719 | 1662 | 1685 | 55.7 |
| Melade | 1250 | 1842 | 1823 | 1834 | 46.7 |
| Monta | 1230 | 1783 | 1804 | 1800 | 46.3 |
| Port Pirie | 1291 | 1816 | 1867 | 1899 | 47.1 |
| St. Gambier | 1064 | 1686 | 1723 | 1726 | 62.2 |
| Waterborough | 1340 | 1797 | 1919 | 1941 | 44.9 |
| Wt. Aver. - S. AUST. (5 towns) .. | 1247 | 1836 | 1823 | 1834 | 47.1 |
| Berth | 1340 | 1896 | 1971 | 1988 | 48.4 |
| Calgoorlie | 1664 | 2161 | 2169 | 2168 | 30.3 |
| Northam | .. | 1980 | 1955 | 2030 | .. |
| Unbury | 1418 | 1922 | 2019 | 2019 | 42.4 |
| Meraldton | 1445 | 1924 | 2053 | 2069 | 43.2 |
| Wt. Aver. - W. AUST. (5 towns) .. | 1412 | 1926 | 1995 | 2010 | 42.4 |
| Coart | 1211 | 1896 | 1784 | 1780 | 47.0 |
| Curceston | 1144 | 1863 | 1772 | 1762 | 54.0 |
| Burnie | .. | 1953 | 1740 | 1757 | .. |
| Leonport | .. | 1851 | 1832 | 1838 | .. |
| Queenstown | 1315 | 1999 | 1993 | 2006 | 52.5 |
| Wt. Aver. - TASMANIA (5 towns) .. | 1201 | 1890 | 1789 | 1785 | 48.6 |
| Wt. Aver. - AUSTRALIA | | | | | |
| (6 capitals) .. | 1152 | 1762 | 1734 | 1755 | 52.3 |
| " " " (30 towns) .. | 1164 | 1769 | 1739 | 1759 | 51.1 |
| Townsville, Queensland, &c. .. | .. | 1895 | 1875 | 1910 | .. |

Not included in weighted average for Queensland or the Commonwealth.