

1915.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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COST OF LIVING:

(INDEX NUMBERS OF) FOR EACH MONTH FROM JULY, 1914.

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*Return to an Order of the House of Representatives dated the 8th September, 1915.*

*Ordered, "That there be laid before this House a return showing—(1) The index numbers of the cost of living for each month from July, 1914, to the latest date available, with percentages of increase in each month over that of July, 1914, for the four chief centres—showing bread, groceries, dairy-produce, and meat separately; (2) the same information for the food products in the household budget as shown on page 551 of the *Labour Journal* for June; and (3) similar information for the grocery articles included in Group 1A and Group 1B on page 537 of the *Labour Journal* for July."*  
—(Mr. McCOMBS.)

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RETURN.

THE following are the commodities covered by the tables given in this return :—

Table I. Bread.

Table II.—Groceries, excluding bread: Flour, oatmeal, rice, sago, tapioca, tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, salt, pepper, jam, honey, golden syrup, treacle, raisins, currants, apricots (tinned), pears (tinned), peaches (tinned), prunes (dried), apricots (dried), potatoes, onions, salmon (tinned), herrings (tinned), starch, blue, soap, tobacco.

Table III.—Dairy-produce: Milk, butter, cheese, eggs, bacon (shoulder), bacon (middle cut) ham.

Table IV. Meat: Beef—sirloin, brisket, prime ribs, rump steak, top-side, stewing-steak, corned round, corned roll, corned brisket; mutton—leg, shoulder, loin, neck, chops; pork—leg, loin, belly, chops; sausages—pork, beef; tripe.

Table V.—Group 1A—General groceries: Rice, sago, tapioca, tea, coffee, cocoa, salt, pepper, jam, honey, golden syrup, treacle, raisins, currants; tinned apricots, peaches, and pears; dried prunes and apricots; tinned salmon and herrings; starch, blue, soap, and tobacco.

Table VI. Group 1B. Five home products: Bread, flour, oatmeal, potatoes, onions.

Table VII. Weekly budgets. (Commodities included are specified in budget.)

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TABLE SHOWING INDEX NUMBERS FOR EACH MONTH FROM JULY, 1914, TO AUGUST, 1915 (INCLUSIVE), FOR AUCKLAND, WELLINGTON, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, TOGETHER WITH MONTHLY INCREASES PER CENT. OVER THE INDEX NUMBERS OF JULY, 1915.

| Month.                 | Auckland. | Increase.<br>per Cent. | Wellington. | Increase<br>per Cent. | Christ-<br>church. | Increase<br>per Cent. | Dunedin. | Increase<br>per Cent. |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| <i>Table I.—Bread.</i> |           |                        |             |                       |                    |                       |          |                       |
| July, 1914 ..          | 1,169     | ..                     | 1,023       | ..                    | 1,169              | ..                    | 1,023    | ..                    |
| August, 1914 ..        | 1,169     | ..                     | 1,023       | ..                    | 1,169              | ..                    | 1,023    | ..                    |
| September, 1914 ..     | 1,169     | ..                     | 1,169       | 14·27                 | 1,169              | ..                    | 1,169    | 14·27                 |
| October, 1914 ..       | 1,316     | 12·57                  | 1,169       | 14·27                 | 1,169              | ..                    | 1,169    | 14·27                 |
| November, 1914 ..      | 1,316     | 12·57                  | 1,169       | 14·27                 | 1,169              | ..                    | 1,169    | 14·27                 |
| December, 1914 ..      | 1,316     | 12·57                  | 1,316       | 28·64                 | 1,169              | ..                    | 1,316    | 28·64                 |
| January, 1915 ..       | 1,316     | 12·57                  | 1,316       | 28·64                 | 1,316              | 12·57                 | 1,316    | 28·64                 |
| February, 1915 ..      | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,462              | 25·06                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |
| March, 1915 ..         | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,462              | 25·06                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |
| April, 1915 ..         | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,462              | 25·06                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |
| May, 1915 ..           | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,462              | 25·06                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |
| June, 1915 ..          | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,462              | 25·06                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |
| July, 1915 ..          | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,462              | 25·06                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |
| August, 1915 ..        | 1,462     | 25·06                  | 1,462       | 42·91                 | 1,389              | 18·82                 | 1,462    | 42·91                 |

*Table II.—Groceries, excluding Bread.*

|                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| July, 1914 ..      | 950   | ..    | 1,036 | ..    | 1,009 | ..    | 1,011 | ..     |
| August, 1914 ..    | 1,003 | 5·58  | 1,042 | 0·58  | 1,023 | 1·39  | 1,010 | — 0·10 |
| September, 1914 .. | 964   | 1·47  | 1,075 | 3·76  | 1,062 | 5·25  | 1,021 | 0·99   |
| October, 1914 ..   | 964   | 1·47  | 1,094 | 5·60  | 1,042 | 3·27  | 1,006 | — 0·49 |
| November, 1914 ..  | 1,050 | 10·53 | 1,104 | 6·56  | 1,044 | 3·47  | 1,058 | 4·65   |
| December, 1914 ..  | 1,144 | 20·42 | 1,261 | 21·72 | 1,076 | 6·64  | 1,151 | 13·85  |
| January, 1915 ..   | 1,062 | 11·79 | 1,145 | 10·52 | 1,161 | 15·06 | 1,270 | 25·62  |
| February, 1915 ..  | 1,087 | 14·42 | 1,169 | 12·84 | 1,137 | 12·69 | 1,227 | 11·47  |
| March, 1915 ..     | 1,083 | 14·00 | 1,165 | 12·45 | 1,114 | 10·41 | 1,130 | 11·77  |
| April, 1915 ..     | 1,064 | 12·00 | 1,164 | 12·36 | 1,101 | 9·12  | 1,066 | 5·44   |
| May, 1915 ..       | 1,069 | 12·53 | 1,132 | 9·27  | 1,103 | 9·32  | 1,126 | 11·37  |
| June, 1915 ..      | 1,073 | 12·95 | 1,170 | 12·93 | 1,119 | 10·90 | 1,156 | 14·34  |
| July, 1915 ..      | 1,088 | 14·53 | 1,194 | 15·25 | 1,133 | 12·78 | 1,155 | 14·24  |
| August, 1915 ..    | 1,095 | 15·26 | 1,190 | 14·86 | 1,118 | 10·80 | 1,132 | 11·97  |

*Table III.—Dairy-produce.*

|                    |       |        |       |         |       |         |       |        |
|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------|
| July, 1914 ..      | 1,008 | ..     | 1,163 | ..      | 1,024 | ..      | 1,075 | ..     |
| August, 1914 ..    | 989   | — 1·88 | 1,107 | — 4·82  | 1,000 | — 2·34  | 1,038 | — 3·44 |
| September, 1914 .. | 991   | — 1·69 | 1,035 | — 11·01 | 994   | — 2·93  | 1,054 | — 1·95 |
| October, 1914 ..   | 1,003 | — 0·50 | 1,052 | — 9·54  | 904   | — 11·72 | 1,024 | — 4·74 |
| November, 1914 ..  | 1,036 | 2·78   | 1,042 | — 10·40 | 911   | — 11·04 | 1,032 | — 4·00 |
| December, 1914 ..  | 1,041 | 3·27   | 1,078 | — 7·31  | 1,019 | — 0·49  | 1,040 | — 3·26 |
| January, 1915 ..   | 1,079 | 7·04   | 1,102 | — 5·25  | 1,040 | 1·56    | 1,056 | — 1·77 |
| February, 1915 ..  | 1,094 | 8·53   | 1,109 | — 4·64  | 1,080 | 5·47    | 1,094 | 1·77   |
| March, 1915 ..     | 1,129 | 12·00  | 1,146 | — 1·46  | 1,110 | 8·40    | 1,123 | 4·47   |
| April, 1915 ..     | 1,181 | 17·16  | 1,295 | 11·35   | 1,172 | 14·45   | 1,195 | 11·16  |
| May, 1915 ..       | 1,169 | 15·97  | 1,315 | 13·07   | 1,167 | 13·96   | 1,222 | 13·67  |
| June, 1915 ..      | 1,182 | 17·26  | 1,276 | 9·72    | 1,154 | 12·70   | 1,190 | 10·70  |
| July, 1915 ..      | 1,203 | 19·35  | 1,322 | 13·67   | 1,178 | 15·04   | 1,209 | 12·47  |
| August, 1915 ..    | 1,140 | 13·10  | 1,259 | 8·25    | 1,140 | 11·33   | 1,185 | 10·23  |

— Signifies decrease.

TABLE SHOWING INDEX NUMBERS FOR EACH MONTH FROM JULY, 1914, TO AUGUST, 1915 (INCLUSIVE), FOR AUCKLAND, WELLINGTON, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, TOGETHER WITH MONTHLY INCREASES PER CENT. OVER THE INDEX NUMBERS OF JULY, 1914—*continued.*

| Month. | Auckland. | Increase.<br>per Cent. | Wellington. | Increase<br>per Cent. | Christ-<br>church. | Increase<br>per Cent. | Dunedin. | Increase<br>per Cent. |
|--------|-----------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|
|--------|-----------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|

*Table IV.—Meat.*

|                   |       |        |       |       |       |        |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| July, 1914 ..     | 1,258 | ..     | 1,090 | ..    | 1,070 | ..     | 1,056 | ..    |
| August, 1914 ..   | 1,258 | ..     | 1,090 | ..    | 1,070 | ..     | 1,080 | 2·27  |
| September, 1914   | 1,258 | ..     | 1,100 | 0·92  | 1,115 | 4·21   | 1,196 | 13·26 |
| October, 1914 ..  | 1,300 | 3·34   | 1,118 | 2·57  | 1,179 | 10·19  | 1,162 | 10·04 |
| November, 1914    | 1,300 | 3·34   | 1,207 | 10·73 | 1,168 | 9·16   | 1,211 | 14·68 |
| December, 1914    | 1,274 | 1·27   | 1,207 | 10·73 | 1,159 | 8·32   | 1,197 | 13·35 |
| January, 1915 ..  | 1,278 | 1·59   | 1,176 | 7·89  | 1,184 | 10·65  | 1,200 | 13·64 |
| February, 1915 .. | 1,274 | 1·27   | 1,177 | 7·99  | 1,181 | 10·37  | 1,183 | 12·03 |
| March, 1915 ..    | 1,295 | 2·94   | 1,180 | 8·26  | 1,144 | 6·92   | 1,186 | 12·31 |
| April, 1915 ..    | 1,295 | 2·94   | 1,169 | 7·25  | 1,070 | ..     | 1,162 | 10·04 |
| May, 1915 ..      | 1,204 | — 4·29 | 1,180 | 8·26  | 1,035 | — 3·27 | 1,138 | 7·77  |
| June, 1915 ..     | 1,218 | — 3·18 | 1,171 | 7·43  | 1,050 | — 1·87 | 1,116 | 5·68  |
| July, 1915 ..     | 1,218 | — 3·18 | 1,172 | 7·52  | 1,053 | — 1·59 | 1,097 | 3·88  |
| August, 1915 ..   | 1,317 | 4·69   | 1,171 | 7·43  | 1,235 | 15·42  | 1,150 | 8·90  |

*Table V.—Group 1a: General Groceries.*

|                  |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| July, 1914 ..    | 978   | ..     | 1,103 | ..     | 1,057 | ..     | 1,116 | ..     |
| August, 1914 ..  | 998   | 2·00   | 1,072 | — 2·81 | 1,059 | 0·19   | 1,061 | — 4·93 |
| September, 1914  | 975   | — 0·31 | 1,076 | — 2·45 | 1,068 | 1·04   | 1,094 | — 1·97 |
| October, 1914 .. | 986   | 0·82   | 1,092 | — 1·00 | 1,045 | — 1·14 | 1,037 | — 7·08 |
| November, 1914   | 986   | 0·82   | 1,065 | — 3·45 | 1,052 | — 0·47 | 1,048 | — 6·09 |
| December, 1914   | 984   | 0·61   | 1,085 | — 1·63 | 1,072 | 1·42   | 1,084 | — 2·87 |
| January, 1915 .. | 1,003 | 2·56   | 1,063 | — 3·63 | 1,058 | 0·09   | 1,127 | 0·99   |
| February, 1915   | 979   | 0·10   | 1,071 | — 2·90 | 1,059 | 0·19   | 1,096 | — 1·79 |
| March, 1915 ..   | 983   | 0·51   | 1,084 | — 1·72 | 1,071 | 1·32   | 1,089 | — 2·42 |
| April, 1915 ..   | 986   | 0·82   | 1,070 | — 2·99 | 1,056 | — 0·09 | 1,062 | — 4·84 |
| May, 1915 ..     | 980   | 0·20   | 1,056 | — 4·26 | 1,049 | — 0·76 | 1,088 | — 2·51 |
| June, 1915 ..    | 984   | 0·61   | 1,064 | — 3·54 | 1,052 | — 0·47 | 1,102 | — 1·25 |
| July, 1915 ..    | 985   | 0·72   | 1,079 | — 2·18 | 1,050 | — 0·66 | 1,100 | — 1·43 |
| August, 1915 ..  | 991   | 1·33   | 1,078 | — 2·27 | 1,049 | — 0·76 | 1,084 | — 2·87 |

*Table VI.—Group 1b: Home Products.*

|                  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| July, 1914 ..    | 1,067 | ..    | 1,011 | ..    | 1,019 | ..    | 925   | ..    |
| August, 1914 ..  | 1,145 | 7·31  | 1,021 | 0·99  | 1,042 | 2·26  | 981   | 6·05  |
| September, 1914  | 1,070 | 0·28  | 1,124 | 11·18 | 1,077 | 5·69  | 1,031 | 11·46 |
| October, 1914 .. | 1,127 | 5·62  | 1,126 | 11·37 | 1,066 | 4·61  | 1,044 | 12·86 |
| November, 1914   | 1,246 | 16·78 | 1,176 | 16·32 | 1,022 | 0·29  | 1,091 | 17·95 |
| December, 1914   | 1,406 | 31·77 | 1,520 | 50·35 | 1,054 | 3·43  | 1,311 | 41·73 |
| January, 1915 .. | 1,234 | 15·65 | 1,319 | 30·46 | 1,313 | 28·85 | 1,475 | 59·46 |
| February, 1915   | 1,389 | 30·18 | 1,442 | 42·63 | 1,349 | 32·38 | 1,425 | 54·05 |
| March, 1915 ..   | 1,378 | 29·15 | 1,418 | 40·26 | 1,293 | 26·89 | 1,335 | 44·32 |
| April, 1915 ..   | 1,339 | 25·49 | 1,431 | 41·54 | 1,314 | 28·95 | 1,248 | 34·92 |
| May, 1915 ..     | 1,354 | 26·90 | 1,380 | 36·50 | 1,302 | 27·77 | 1,330 | 43·78 |
| June, 1915 ..    | 1,356 | 27·09 | 1,423 | 40·75 | 1,323 | 29·83 | 1,367 | 47·78 |
| July, 1915 ..    | 1,365 | 27·93 | 1,437 | 42·14 | 1,352 | 32·68 | 1,355 | 46·49 |
| August, 1915 ..  | 1,370 | 28·40 | 1,438 | 42·24 | 1,284 | 26·01 | 1,329 | 43·68 |

— Signifies decrease.

TABLE SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE COSTS OF AN ASSUMED WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION OF CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS IN THE MONTHS BETWEEN JULY, 1914, AND AUGUST, 1915 (INCLUSIVE), AND THE PERCENTAGES OF INCREASES OVER THE PRICES RULING IN JULY, 1914.

(Based on the average of the four chief centres.)

Table VII.—Weekly Budgets.

| Commodity. | Quantity. | Average Cost, 1914. |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | Average Cost, July, 1914. |    | Average Cost, August, 1914. | Average Cost, Sept., 1914. | Average Cost, October, 1914. | Average Cost, Nov., 1914. | Average Cost, Dec., 1914. | Average Cost, January, 1915. | Average Cost, February, 1915. | Average Cost, March, 1915. | Average Cost, April, 1915. | Average Cost, May, 1915. | Average Cost, June, 1915. | Average Cost, July, 1915. | Average Cost, August, 1915. |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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