

The gross margin in each case is the amount available to provide cost of manufacturing, delivery to shop, overhead expenses and profit, and retailers' margin.

The Department is of the opinion that, while bakers are not in general securing any very high margin of profit, there is some room for reduction in the price charged to the public. It certainly appears that retailers, who in many cases have a margin of 1½d. or 1¼d. per 4 lb. loaf, could trade on a sum of not more than 1d. per 4 lb. loaf. As already mentioned, there appears also to be good ground for suggesting some adjustment as between the prices of bread sold for cash over counter and bread delivered to householders.

APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE A.—SHOWING COST OF BAKING AND DELIVERING BREAD (PER *nominal* 4 LB. LOAF) IN THE FOUR MAIN CENTRES OF THE DOMINION.

Baker.	Flour.	Bakehouse Costs.			Delivery Costs.			General Expenses.	Total Cost of Bread delivered.	Average Selling-price.	Profit per Loaf.
		Wages.	Other Bake-house Expenses.	Total.	Wages.	Other Expenses.	Total.				
Wellington.											
A ..	d. 5·888	d. 1·169	d. 0·821	d. 7·878	d. 0·950	d. 0·304	d. 1·254	d. 1·014	d. 10·146	d. 10·945	d. 0·799
B ..	6·830	1·130	0·636	8·596	1·128	0·506	1·634	0·936	11·166	11·040	0·126*
C ..	6·400	1·498	0·866	8·764	1·294	0·872	2·166	0·602	11·532	11·080	0·452*
Average	6·372	1·266	0·774	8·412	1·124	0·561	1·684	0·851	10·948	11·022	0·074
Auckland.											
D ..	5·790	1·262	0·818	7·870	1·110	0·648	1·758	1·754	11·382	11·932	0·550
E ..	5·488	1·092	0·830	7·410	1·086	0·514	1·600	1·680	10·690	11·754	1·064
Average	5·639	1·177	0·824	7·640	1·098	0·581	1·679	1·717	11·036	11·843	0·807
Christchurch.											
F ..	5·320	0·990	0·970	7·280	1·070	0·740	1·810	1·480	10·570	11·000	0·430
G ..	6·190	0·910	0·732	7·832	1·358	0·380	1·738	1·762	11·332	11·720	0·388
H ..	5·222	1·064	0·666	6·952	1·122	0·590	1·712	1·278	9·942	11·000	1·058
Average	5·577	0·988	0·789	7·355	1·183	0·570	1·753	1·507	10·614	11·240	0·626
Dunedin.											
I ..	6·020	1·820	0·620	8·460	1·030	0·510	1·540	0·720	10·720	11·250	0·530
J ..	6·100	1·230	0·870	8·200	0·800	0·580	1·380	0·710	10·290	10·520	0·230
K ..	6·070	1·540	0·620	8·230	1·070	0·480	1·550	0·410	10·190	10·330	0·140
Average	6·063	1·530	0·703	8·297	0·967	0·523	1·490	0·613	10·400	10·700	0·300

* Loss.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (900 copies), £8.