

GII Survey Report

Selection: Australia.

1) Australia, 1910 - 1911 (Bureau of Census and Statistics)

Survey ID: 32

212 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: This government inquiry into the cost of living was prompted by a desire for reliable and comprehensive information regarding conditions in the Commonwealth. Account books were sent to 1,500 families. Of the 222 returned, 10 were rejected as inaccurate, leaving about 14 percent of those requested to serve as a basis for the statistics. The data refer to the year 1910—11 as it was collected between July 1 1910 and June 30 1911. The results are presented without regard to industrial classification and with a rough grouping as to income.

No methodological explanation of how survey was carried out.

The requisite data upon which the results of this inquiry are based were obtained by distributing among householders throughout the Commonwealth, copies of a small account book in which provision was made for entering, for each week of the period referred to, particulars of income and expenditure under certain specified headings.

The distribution of the books was not in any way restricted, either in regard to the nature of the occupation of the head of the family or to income received. It was hoped that the number and nature of the returns would be such as would enable the results to be presented both for various classes of occupations and for different ranges of income. However, owing to the small number of budgets available, it was considered desirable to present the results without any classification of occupations, and with only a very limited classification as to amount of income.

Ref ID: 33

G.H. Knibs, *Inquiry into the cost of living in Australia, 1910-11. Australia Ministry for Home Affairs, Bureau of Census and Statistics (Melbourne, 1911)*

Ref ID: 1296

Faith M. Williams and Carle C. Zimmerman, *Studies of Family Living in the U.S.A. and other Countries: An Analysis of Material and Method (Washington D. C.: United States Dept. of Agriculture, 1935)*

Selection: Australia.

Ref ID: 34

G.H Knibbs, *Expenditure on Living in the Commonwealth, November 1913, Report No. 4* (Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co. Printers, 1914)

2) **Australia, 1913 - 1913 (Bureau of the Census and Statistics)**

Survey ID: 33

392 households

Sample Duration: 1 Month(s)

Notes: Householders' budget inquiry carried out to elaborate index numbers.

This survey builds on the knowledge of the 1910-1911 one. The shorter duration of this inquiry relates to the problems identified in the previous one. It was shortened with the hope to obtain a much greater number of returns, for various classes of occupations, different ranges of income, localities and family structures.

Account books were distributed among householders throughout the Commonwealth for them to enter daily the particulars of income and expenditure under certain specified headings. The survey was carried out between 2 and 29 November 1913.

Distribution of 7,000 books during October, only 417 returned, 25 rejected do to incompleteness, inaccuracy or other causes. Only 392 books were available for classification.

There is no classification of the information by occupation and limited by income due to the small size of the sample. However, the Bureau considered that the survey was representative of the geographical distribution of the population as a whole.

There is no information on how the budgets were distributed.

Ref ID: 34

G.H Knibbs, *Expenditure on Living in the Commonwealth, November 1913, Report No. 4* (Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co. Printers, 1914)

Ref ID: 1296

Faith M. Williams and Carle C. Zimmerman, *Studies of Family Living in the U.S.A. and other Countries: An Analysis of Material and Method* (Washington D. C.: United States Dept. of Agriculture, 1935)

3) **Australia, 1914 - 1926 (Board of Trade-New South Wales)**

Survey ID: 2019

657 households

Sample Duration: 1 Week(s)

Notes: The purpose of this study was to estimate a suitable minimum living wage for workers in the district around Sydney (and suburbs). The original data on which the estimates were based refer to 1914-16 and were obtained: (1) from accounts put in by employers from grocers, milk vendors, butchers, bakers, etc., regarding expenditure on food; and (2) through 4 interviewers who questioned housewives in 657 families; some of these wage earners' wives kept records of expenditures for between 1 and several weeks.

The report quotes the 1910 enquiry by the National Statistician.

The report's main focus is the determination of a living wage and thus the analysis comprises expenditure rather than income data. It uses data of surveys carried out elsewhere and values them at Sydney prices.

No methodology of enquiry nor income distribution of sample.

Ref ID: 2005

Living wage (adult males), 1918, Bulletin of the New South Wales Board of Trade (Sidney: William Applegate Guillick, Government Printer, 1918)

Ref ID: 1296

Faith M. Williams and Carle C. Zimmerman, *Studies of Family Living in the U.S.A. and other Countries: An Analysis of Material and Method* (Washington D. C.: United States Dept. of Agriculture, 1935)

4) **Australia, 1917 - 1918 (Government of Western Australia)**

Survey ID: 2020

66 households

Sample Duration: 13 Week(s)

Notes: For this cost of living investigation in 1917, 66 families, covering 380 persons in Western Australia, kept records of their income and expenditure for (in most cases) 13 weeks.

In September 1917, the Government of Western Australia appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the cost of the necessaries of life in that State. Under the authority of this Commission a budget inquiry was instituted, and steps were taken to obtain from householders, budgets showing their weekly expenditure in detail. The Commonwealth Statistician (Mjr. G-. H. Knibbs) was requested to undertake the necessary analysis of the returns, and the budgets were accordingly forwarded by the Commission to this Bureau.

The aim was to investigate the effects of recent fluctuations of prices upon the standard of living of wage-earners and others. Steps were taken to obtain from householders, budgets showing their weekly expenditure in detail.

The budgets distributed made provision for the record of income, expenditure, and other particulars for a single week, and householders were asked to fill in the necessary particulars on thirteen of these for a period of thirteen weeks.

Ref ID: 2000

G.H. Knibbs, *Prices, Purchasing-Power-of-Money, Wages, Trade Unions, Unemployment, and General Industrial Conditions, 1918, Labour and Industrial Branch Report Nro 9* (Melbourne, 1919)

Ref ID: 1999

G.H. Knibbs, *Prices, Purchasing-Power-of-Money, Wages, Trade Unions, Unemployment, and General Industrial Conditions, 1919, Labour and Industrial Branch Report Nro 10* (Melbourne, 1920)

Ref ID: 1296

Faith M. Williams and Carle C. Zimmerman, *Studies of Family Living in the U.S.A. and other Countries: An Analysis of Material and Method* (Washington D. C.: United States Dept. of Agriculture, 1935)

5) **Australia, 1919 - 1919**

Survey ID: 2021

178 households

Notes: This study is mainly devoted to estimates concerning the minimum living wage in New South Wales; but appendix 2 contains a set of questions used in a survey made by the board among 178 farmers, graziers, dairy hands, and orchardists, selected at random from various sections of New South Wales about 1919.

Questions were included on the weekly cost of various categories of food, and the change in dietaries of employees during the period of the war. The replies to the questionnaires were very incomplete, and the results obtained were negligible.

Ref ID: 1296

Faith M. Williams and Carle C. Zimmerman, *Studies of Family Living in the U.S.A. and other Countries: An Analysis of Material and Method* (Washington D. C.: United States Dept. of Agriculture, 1935)

6) **Australia, 1944 - 1945 (National Health and Research Council)**

Survey ID: 2051

2,730 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: The 1944 Food Consumption Survey was undertaken to discover whether the diet of the Australian people, which in 1936-8 was found to be generally adequate had been affected by war-time conditions. It comprised 2,730 households.

The survey was limited to households containing two or more children. Information on food consumption was obtained through the cooperation of the housewife by means of the log-book or household dietary budget method.

The survey commenced in mid-February 1944 and continued until February 1945. Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales were covered consecutively in that order during the months from mid-February to the end of September. South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were surveyed by groups of workers simultaneously during October, November and December, while supplementary field work was carried out during January and February 1945.

The method of sampling is that established for all surveys covering representative population groups. A strictly random selection of the housewives who were to be invited to take part in the survey was deemed necessary.

Ref ID: 2026

The food consumption and dietary levels in 2,760 Australian family households in 1944: carried out by the staff of the Australian Institute of Anatomy under the direction of the Committee. (Canberra: Australian Institute of Anatomy, 1945)

Selection: Australia.

Report Stats:

Selection: Australia.

Surveys: 6
Reference instances: 12
Total Households: 4,235