

GII Survey Report

Selection: New Zealand.

1) New Zealand, 1910 - 1911 (Dept. of Labour)

Survey ID: 693

69 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: Sixty-nine account books were kept by the families of workers and trade unionists in 1910-11 in the four chief centers of New Zealand—Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

Although the returns received from householders were comparatively few in number, considering the total number of booklets distributed, it was felt that in the absence of any prior statistics on the matter it would be best to publish what were obtained. Need for reliable data was largely influenced by the fact that the Commonwealth of Australia had put in hand an inquiry with the object of gaining comprehensive and reliable data in regard to cost of living in Australia. Commonwealth Statistician very courteously supplied the New Zealand labour department with full information concerning the method employed, and with some modification the same system was eventually followed in New Zealand. But the New Zealand survey sought the cooperation of workers only.

A total of 2,000 books were sent to agents in the four chief centres to distribute. The number of account-books received of any practical use number only sixty-nine. Most of the householders concerned reported that books had become disused after some weeks, while others had lost them.

The period covered by the New Zealand returns was from the 1st October, 1910, to the 30th September, 1911, inclusive.

The weekly account-books issued by the Department provided a page for the receipts and expenditure to be entered weekly.

It was decided to follow as closely as possible the headings of the several returns compiled and published by the Commonwealth Statistician.

Ref ID: 692

J.W Collins, *Inquiry into the cost of living in New Zealand, 1910-11* (Wellington: John MacKay Government Printer, 1912)

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: New Zealand.

Ref ID: 1997

Alan Bentley, 'Special consumer price indices for particular groups of households' in: *Forbes, S, & Victorio, A (Eds) The New Zealand CPI at 100: History and interpretation* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2014)

2) New Zealand, 1919 - 1919 (Office of Census and Statistics)

Survey ID: 694

109 households

Sample Duration: 6 Month(s)

Notes: Weekly expenditure records were kept for 6 months in 1919 by 109 families. The class of person who filled in the books was clearly representative of the more thrifty part of the population, and thus not a representative sample of the whole community. Households were divided into two income groups—those receiving more and those receiving less than £4 10s. per week.

With a view to examining what changes had taken place in the relative household expenditure on the various groups of items, the Census and Statistics Office, with the co-operation of a Christchurch firm, undertook in 1919 another investigation on similar lines. Profiting by the experience of Australia and New Zealand in 1910-11, and of a further Australian investigation in 1913, the period to be covered by the return was reduced to six months, and in order to encourage householders to furnish returns a pecuniary inducement in the shape of prizes for the most accurately compiled returns was offered. Again the results were disappointing: although several thousand books were printed, only 109 returns which could be considered of any practical value were received.

Ref ID: 693

Malcolm Fraser, *Prices : an enquiry into prices in New Zealand, 1891-1919*. New Zealand Office of Census and Statistics (Wellington: Marcus Marks Governmetn Printer, 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)

Ref ID: 1997

Alan Bentley, 'Special consumer price indices for particular groups of households' in: *Forbes, S, & Victorio, A (Eds) The New Zealand CPI at 100: History and interpretation* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2014)

3) **New Zealand, 1930 - 1930 (Census and Statistics Office)**

Survey ID: 695

318 households

Sample Duration: 13 Week(s)

Notes: Account books were distributed by the New Zealand Office of Census and Statistics to large cities, small towns, and rural localities in order to discover the living costs among the people of all classes. The average size of the families covered was 4.33; 140 heads of families were in clerical occupations, 16 were farmers, 34 were laborers, 27 were salesmen, 82 were trades men, and 19 were in miscellaneous occupations.

Booklets were distributed through various channels to householders, who were requested to enter therein details of their expenditure for thirteen consecutive weeks during the months of March, April, May, and June, 1930. Prizes were offered for the most carefully compiled records. This particular year was selected at the instigation of the International Labour Office, which has urged all statisticians compiling index numbers of retail prices to adopt a 1930 base, so that future comparisons of the level of retail prices in the various countries may be more readily made.

In 1930 the CPI was revised using commodity weights mostly derived from figures of national consumption during 1926-30 and group weights provided by a household budget collection taken in 1930.

This is the third comprehensive family budget inquiry that was conducted by the Census and Statistics Department in 1930. Although many thousands of budgets were distributed, and although generous-prizes were offered for well-completed books, only 318 useable budgets were received in that year.

Ref ID: 694

New Zealand Census and Statistics Office, *A Study of Family Budgets in New Zealand, Monthly Abstract of Statistics* (Wellington, 1930)

Ref ID: 2008

'The New Zealand Wartime Price Index', *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, Vol. 43 (1944)

Ref ID: 1997

Alan Bentley, 'Special consumer price indices for particular groups of households' in: *Forbes, S, & Victorio, A (Eds) The New Zealand CPI at 100: History and interpretation* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2014)

Selection: New Zealand.

Ref ID: 2050

[No Title], *Bur. Labor Statis. Monthly Labor Rev.*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (1931), pp. 241-244.

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) **New Zealand, 1938 - 1939 (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research)**

Survey ID: 2022

250 households

Sample Duration: 4 Week(s)

Notes: Survey of urban living standards which was conducted in 1938-39 by the Social Science Research Bureau of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Budgets covering four weeks for 128 tramwaymen's and 122 boot and shoe operatives' households were analysed, covering married workers only. The average annual family incomes for these groups (including contributions from children working) were £316 (126 families) and £260 (116 families) respectively. For the combined group the average was £287 per annum.

Budgets were kept for four consecutive weeks, most of them during the period from August to November, 1938. There were a few for July and December, 1938, three in January, 1939, and one each in February and March, 1939.

Ref ID: 2008

'The New Zealand Wartime Price Index', *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, Vol. 43 (1944)

Ref ID: 1984

'Methods of Computation of Statistics - Cost-of-Living Index Numbers', *International Labour Review*, Vol. 58, No. 5 (1948), pp. 704-709.

Selection: New Zealand.

Ref ID: 1997

Alan Bentley, 'Special consumer price indices for particular groups of households' in: *Forbes, S, & Victorio, A (Eds) The New Zealand CPI at 100: History and interpretation* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2014)

5) **New Zealand, 1952 - 1953 (New Zealand Public Service Association)**

Survey ID: 2023

unknown # of households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: Information on household budgets was collected by the Public Service Association in 1952–53.

Although no official family budget inquiry had been made since 1930 the New Zealand Public Service Association had conducted such an inquiry among its members during the March year 1952-53, and it was hoped that the Association would allow the Department to use the results of this inquiry in the index revision. The household budget inquiry recorded many quantities as well as values. These data were used, along with retail trade data from the Census of Distribution 1953, to weight the CPI in the 1955 revision.

This report is a revised edition of the October-November 1949 Abstract Supplement. The product of the revision is not a new index, though several changes have been introduced into it beyond the "overhaul of the weighting pattern" which the Committee stipulated apparently as a minimum requirement. Report quotes CPI revisions in USA, Canada, UK and Australia. It also has a detailed explanation of the revisions of the NZ CPI.

Ref ID: 2006

'Consumers Price Index 1955 Revision. Special Supplement to November 1956 issue of Monthly Abstract of Statistics', *Monthly Abstract of Statistics* (1956)

Ref ID: 1985

'Statistical Supplement for Issue 6 [notes]', *International Labour Review*, Vol. 75, No. 6 (1957), pp. 97-138.

Ref ID: 1997

Alan Bentley, 'Special consumer price indices for particular groups of households' in: *Forbes, S, & Victorio, A (Eds) The New Zealand CPI at 100: History and interpretation* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2014)

Selection: New Zealand.

Report Stats:

Selection: New Zealand.

Surveys:	5
Reference instances:	17
Total Households:	746