

# The Cost of Living Index for June 1929

INDEX REMAINS STATIONARY

Increase over July 1914 { All articles 47 per cent.  
Food only 44 per cent.

In June 1929\* the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay City was the same as in the preceding month. Taken 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 147 below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and on a par with the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928.

As compared with May 1929, the index number for all food articles advanced by 1 point to 144. The slight rise in wheat, jowari and bajra was more than counterbalanced by a fall in rice and the index number for Cereals went down by 2 points to 123. Pulses advanced by 1 point due to a rise in the price of turdal. The combined average for all food grains stood at 127 as against 128 in the preceding month. Among other food articles, raw sugar (gul) advanced by 7 points, but the price of sugar (refined) remained stationary at 141. Tea, salt, beef, ghee and potatoes rose by 5, 6, 6, 2 and 13 points respectively while mutton and coconut oil declined by 3 points each. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review. The index number for the "Other food" group stood at 172.

The index number for the "fuel and lighting" group remained stationary at 143. The index number for the "Clothing" group declined by 1 point to 159 due to a fall in the price of Shirtings.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January ..	56	56	57	55	56	54	49	
February ..	65	54	57	54	55	48	48†	
March ..	65	54	59	55	55	45	49	
April ..	62	56	58	53	53	44	48	
May ..	63	53	56	53	52	47	47	
June ..	63	52	54	55	54	46	47	
July ..	65	53	57	57	56	47	47	
August ..	64	54	61	52	55	57	46	
September ..	65	54	61	51	55	54	45	
October ..	62	52	61	53	55	51	46	
November ..	60	53	61	53	54	50	47	
December ..	61	57	60	55	56	51	48	
Yearly average ..	64	54	57	55	55	54	47	

The articles included in the index are cereals, pulses, other articles of food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the total all-India aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living since July 1914.

\* The month in which the index is based are those collected between May 16 and June 15.  
† Revised figure.

# WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—JUNE

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price x Mass Unit		
			July 1914	May 1929	June 1929	July 1914	May 1929	June 1929
Cereals—	Mauud	77	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 6.943	Rs. 6.651	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 486.01	Rs. 465.57
Rice ..	..	71	5.594	7.167	7.484	117.47	150.51	157.16
Wheat ..	..	11	4.354	5.167	5.380	47.89	56.84	59.18
Bajra ..	..	5	4.313	5.880	6.292	25.88	35.28	37.75
Total—Cereals ..	..	..	..	..	..	582.82	728.64	719.66
Index Numbers—Cereals ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	125	123
Pulses—	Mauud	10	4.302	7.380	7.359	43.02	73.80	73.59
Turdal ..	3	5.844	8.065	8.417	17.53	24.02	25.25	
Total—Pulses ..	..	..	..	..	..	60.55	97.82	98.84
Index Numbers—Pulses ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	162	163
Other food articles—	Mauud	7	10.714	10.714	10.714	15.24	21.43	21.43
Tea ..	..	..	13.094	13.693	13.693	59.90	91.66	95.85
.. ..	..	..	75.641	77.776	77.776	1.00	1.89	1.94
.. ..	..	..	3.031	3.146	3.146	10.65	15.16	15.73
.. ..	..	..	0.448	0.469	0.469	9.04	12.54	13.13
.. ..	..	..	0.703	0.693	0.693	13.76	23.20	22.87
.. ..	..	..	17.583	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
.. ..	..	..	88.693	89.880	89.880	76.19	133.04	134.82
.. ..	..	..	6.547	7.141	7.141	49.27	72.02	78.55
.. ..	..	..	3.573	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
.. ..	..	..	27.380	26.766	26.766	12.70	13.69	13.39
Total—Other food articles ..	..	..	..	..	..	381.18	641.51	654.39
Index Numbers—Other food articles ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	168	172
Fuel and lighting—	Case	5	4.375	0.791	0.791	32.97	32.97	32.97
.. ..	..	..	0.792	1.099	1.099	52.75	52.75	52.75
.. ..	..	..	0.542	0.672	0.672	0.70	0.67	0.67
Total—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	60.44	86.42	86.39
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	143	143
Clothing—	Lb.	27	0.594	0.938	0.938	16.04	25.33	25.73
.. ..	..	..	0.641	1.042	1.005	16.03	26.05	25.13
.. ..	..	..	0.583	0.938	0.938	20.99	33.77	33.77
Total—Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	..	53.06	85.15	84.63
Index Numbers—Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	160	159
House-rent ..	Per month	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
Index Numbers—House-rent ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	172	172
Grand Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,024.55	1,467.97	1,473.09
Cost of Living Index Numbers ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	143	144

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in May and June 1929 as compared with the price level for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of article per standard (or railway) maund or maund.

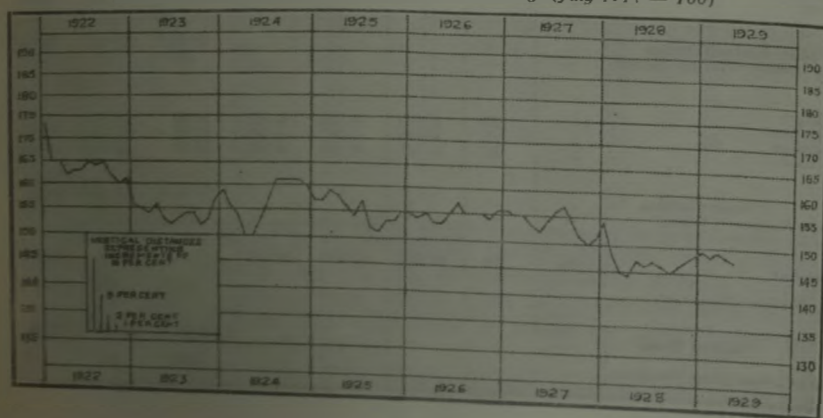
Articles	July 1914	May 1929	June 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in June 1929 over or below May 1929	Articles	July 1914	May 1929	June 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in June 1929 over or below May 1929
Rice .. ..	100	124	119	- 5	Salt .. ..	100	142	148	+ 6
Wheat .. ..	100	128	134	+ 6	Beef .. ..	100	139	145	+ 6
Jowari .. ..	100	119	124	+ 5	Mutton .. ..	100	169	166	- 3
Bajri .. ..	100	136	146	+ 10	Milk .. ..	100	191	191	..
Gram .. ..	100	172	171	- 1	Ghee .. ..	100	175	177	+ 2
Turdal .. ..	100	137	144	+ 7	Potatoes .. ..	100	146	159	+ 13
Sugar (refined) ..	100	141	141	..	Onions .. ..	100	230	230	..
Raw sugar (gul) ..	100	153	160	+ 7	Cocconut oil ..	100	108	105	- 3
Tea .. ..	100	189	194	+ 5	All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	143	144	+ 1

The amount purchasable per rupee was less than the amount purchasable in July 1914 by the following percentage differences :-

Rice 16, Wheat 25, Jowari 19, Bajri 32, Gram 42, Turdal 31, Sugar (refined) 29, Raw Sugar (gul) 37, Tea 48, Salt 32, Beef 31, Mutton 40, Milk 48, Ghee 44, Potatoes 37, Onions 57 and Cocconut Oil 5.

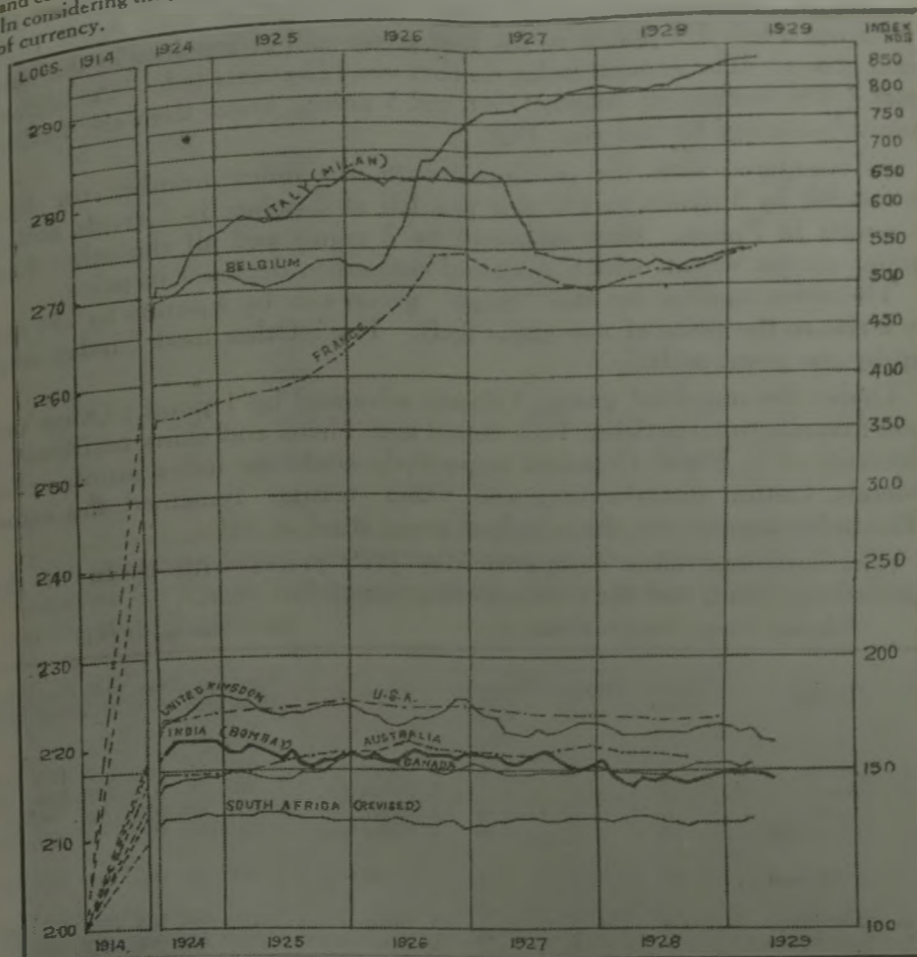
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas and 11 pies for all items and 11 annas and 1 pie for food articles only.

Logarithmic Chart showing cost of living in Bombay (July 1914 = 100)



### Comparison with the Cost of Living in Other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living (noted from 1922) and certain other countries since the month of July 1914. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In considering the position and movements of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos.: (1) India—Labour Office, Bombay, (2) The United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (3) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by cable), (4) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (5) The U.S.A.—Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, (6) Canada—The Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, Canada, (7) Australia—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations, (8) Belgium—The Revue du Travail, (9) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. is for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay only.

In all cases the Index Number is for working classes only. The actual Index Numbers for twelve world centres will be found among the tables at the end of the volume. The centres for which figures are published are India (Bombay), the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris) and the United States of America. The Labour Office also maintains a register wherein the Index Numbers for all countries for which figures are available are recorded.

### Wholesale and Retail Prices

#### 1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY \*

Increase over July 1914 .. 41 per cent.

In May 1929, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 141 as against 144 in the previous month. As compared with April 1929, there was a fall of 2 points in the food group and of 3 points in the non-food group. The general index number was 122 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 5 points lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928.

As compared with the previous month, the index number for food grains fell by 5 points to 137 due to a fall of 5 points in Cereals and of 6 points in Pulses. Rice advanced by 2 points and all the other food grains except wheat, which remained stationary, declined in price.

The index number for the "Sugar" group rose by 3 points to 134 due to a rise in the price of raw sugar (gul). The "Other food" index went up by one point to 162.

Under the non-food group, Oilseeds advanced by 1 point; Other raw and manufactured articles, Raw cotton and Hides and skins registered a decrease of 1, 8 and 13 points respectively while the index numbers for Metals, Cotton manufactures and Other textiles remained the same. The index number for the non-food group stood at 141.

The subjoined table compares May 1929 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay †

100 - Average of 1928

Groups	No. of items	+ or - % compared with Apr. 1929	+ or - % compared with May 1929	Groups	Average of 1928					
					May 1928	Aug. 1928	Nov. 1928	Feb. 1929	Apr. 1929	May 1929
1. Cereals	7	- 3	+ 6	1. Cereals	96	96	106	117	105	101
2. Pulses	2	- 4	+ 1	2. Pulses	98	98	107	103	103	99
3. Sugar	3	+ 2	+ 4	3. Sugar	97	99	109	98	98	101
4. Other food	3	+ 1	+ 10	4. Other food	101	107	106	99	90	91
All food ..	15	- 1	+ 1	All food ..	99	99	106	108	100	99
5. Oilseeds	8	+ 1	-	5. Oilseeds	102	98	103	108	101	102
6. Raw cotton	1	- 6	- 21	6. Raw cotton ..	104	96	94	90	87	82
7. Cotton manufactures	1	-	+ 3	7. Cotton manufactures	98	101	102	102	101	101
8. Other textiles	1	-	- 6	8. Other textiles	105	100	97	98	98	98
9. Hides and skins	1	-	- 7	9. Hides and skins	99	101	106	116	101	92
10. Metals	1	-	+ 4	10. Metals	98	101	101	102	101	101
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	- 1	- 3	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	101	106	103	96	99	99
All non-food ..	29	- 2	- 4	All non-food ..	101	101	101	101	99	97
General Index No.	44	- 2	- 3	General Index No.	99	100	102	103	99	97

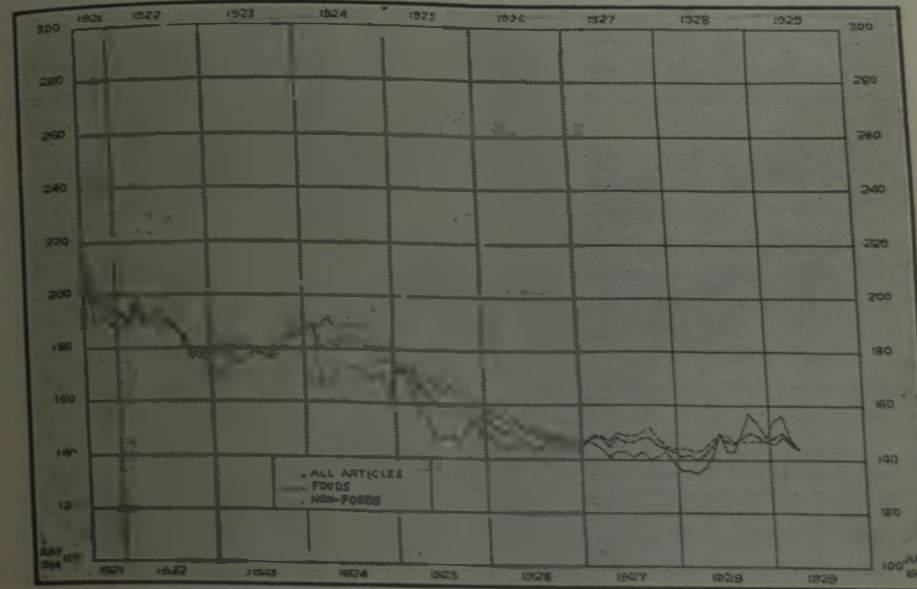
\* Actual wholesale prices in Bombay since 1923. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 1024-1025.

The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food, non-food and general wholesale prices :—  
July 1914 = 100

	Food Index No.	Non-food Index No.	General Index No.
Twelve-monthly average for 1918 ..	171	275	239
" " 1919 ..	202	234	223
" " 1920 ..	206	219	216
" " 1921 ..	193	201	198
" " 1922 ..	186	187	187
" " 1923 ..	179	182	181
" " 1924 ..	173	188	182
" " 1925 ..	155	167	163
" " 1926 ..	145	152	149
" " 1927 ..	143	148	147
" " 1928 ..	144	146	146
Five-monthly 1929 ..	148	145	146

The diagram below shows the course of the changes in the Index Numbers for Foods, Non-foods and all articles in the Bombay wholesale market from September 1921.

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay

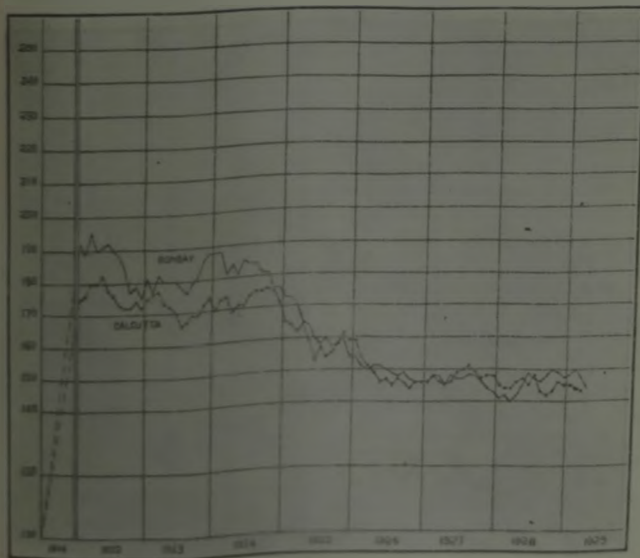


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

The diagram on this page shows the comparative movements of the index numbers of wholesale prices in Bombay and Calcutta. The index numbers for Calcutta are prepared by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence under the Government of India.

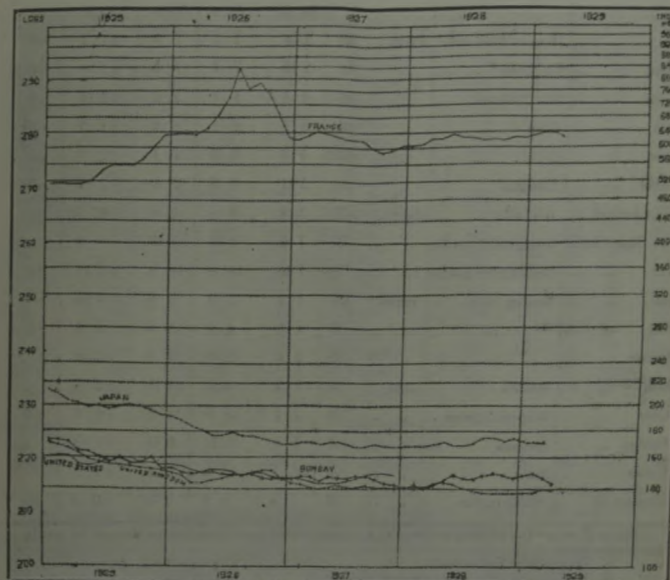
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay list but excluded from the Calcutta list. But the details of the different commodities differ. The method of constructing the index is the same in each case—the unweighted arithmetic average being used and certain important commodities being indirectly weighted by securing quotations for more than one grade of such commodities. The diagram shows that the correlation between the two indices is direct but not perfect, i.e., the changes in the two curves are in the same direction but not to the same extent. The increase in prices over July 1914 was definitely lower in Calcutta than in Bombay though there was a tendency for the divergence to diminish in degree, and at the end of 1925 and in the beginning of 1926 and the middle of 1927 the two curves temporarily crossed. Prices in Bombay were lower than those in Calcutta between June 1927 and May 1928 and in July 1928.

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The following diagram illustrates the comparative level of Wholesale Prices Index Numbers in five countries. The bases are 1913 for the other centres and July 1914 for Bombay. The Japan figure is for Tokyo.



The sources of these five Index Numbers are:—Bombay, the Labour Office; United Kingdom, the Board of Trade; United States of America, the Bureau of Labor Statistics; France and Japan, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations.

These Index Numbers and those for eight other countries will be found in a table at the end of the *Gazette*. The sources of information for these eight other Index Numbers are:—Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; China (Shanghai), Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Markets, Shanghai; Egypt (Cairo), Monthly Agricultural Statistics, published by the Statistical Department, Ministry of Finance; Java (Batavia), Monthly Bulletins of Statistics of Prices and Index Numbers in the Neth.-Indies; Australia, Norway, Sweden and Holland, figures republished in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, published by the League of Nations.

The Labour Office also keeps on record 20 other Index Numbers, including three privately published for the United Kingdom and three for the United States of America. The three privately published figures for the United Kingdom are those of the *Statist*, the *Economist* and the *London Times*, and the three for the United States of America are those of Bradstreet, Prof. Irving Fisher and Dun.

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

JUNE, 1929

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	July 1914			April 1929			May 1929			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in May 1929 over or below
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill.*	Paylee	204	5 10	7 2	7 1	+1 3	-0 1					
Wheat	Pissu Sooni**	"	200	5 10	7 7	7 2	+1 4	-0 5					
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	"	200	4 3	5 1	5 2	+0 11	+0 1					
Bajri	Ghati	"	204	4 7	6 1	6 0	+1 5	-0 1					
Gram	Delhi*	"	192	4 4	7 0	7 1	+2 9	+0 1					
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	8 5	8 2	+2 3	-0 3					
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	1 6	1 6	+0 5	..					
Raw Sugar (Cul.)	Sangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	1 10	1 10	+0 8	..					
Tea	Loose, Ceylon, powder	Lb.	..	7 10	14 6	14 9	+6 11	+0 3					
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	2 9	2 8	+0 11	-0 1					
Beef	....	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	3 6	+1 0	-0 6					
Mutton	....	"	39	3 0	5 6	5 6	+2 6	..					
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	..					
Ghee	Belgaum, superior	"	28	7 1	12 7	12 5	+5 4	-0 2					
Peanut	Ordinary	"	28	0 8	0 11	0 11	+0 3	..					
Onion	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 6	0 6	+0 3	..					
Cocoanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	3 9	3 10	+0 3	+0 1					

- 1. Dadar—Dadar Station Road.
- 2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).
- 3. Saitan Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
- 4. ...
- 5. Nangan—Nangan Cross Road and Development Chawla.
- 6. Parel—Poisawadi.
- 7. Fergusson Road.
- 8. DeLisle Road.
- 9. ...
- 10. ...
- 11. Grant Road.
- 12. Nal Bazar.

The prices for mutton and beef are collected from the Central Municipal Markets. The number of quotations collected for each article during the month is, on an average, 100. The prices are collected by the investigators of the Labour Office.

The variations in prices during May 1929 as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Among food grains, the price of jowari and gram advanced by 1 pie each per paylee, that of rice and bajri declined by 1 pie each per paylee and of wheat and turdal registered a fall of 5 and 3 pies respectively per paylee. Amongst other food articles, beef fell by 6 pies per lb. but the price of mutton remained the same. Salt was cheaper by 1 pie per paylee and ghee by 2 pies per seer. Tea rose by 3 pies per lb. and cocoanut oil by 1 pie per seer. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

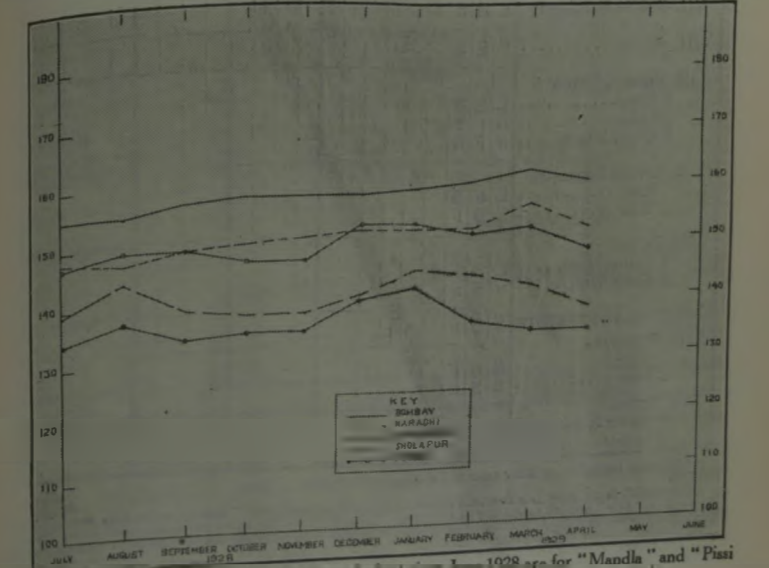
As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Onions are double the prewar price. Tea, mutton and milk have risen by more than 75 per cent.; gul, salt and ghee by more than 50 per cent.; and sugar (refined), beef and potatoes by more than 35 per cent. The price of cocoanut oil is only 7 per cent. above its prewar level.

\*In the case of rice, wheat and gram, the equivalents in tolas shown in column 4 relate to "Mandla," "Pissu Sarabatti" and "Punjab" variety respectively.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS OF FOOD ARTICLES IN FIVE CENTRES OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY (July 1914=100)

Articles	April 1929					Articles	May 1929				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona		Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	160	114	130	159	122	Rice (1)	160	109	130	159	130
Wheat (1)	166	165	158	121	145	Wheat (1)	163	145	142	125	137
Jowari	124	141	131	128	131	Jowari	122	133	131	128	127
Bajri	134	136	142	133	135	Bajri	132	136	137	131	135
Gram	175	175	157	135	137	Gram	172	175	154	135	137
Turdal	153	120	144	137	131	Turdal	153	120	144	132	131
Sugar (refined)	158	138	129	107	120	Sugar (refined)	158	138	126	114	113
Jagri (Gul)	135	135	129	129	143	Jagri (Gul)	148	135	129	140	150
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	Tea	190	225	200	171	200
Beef	124	145	151	145	139	Salt	122	145	151	141	134
Mutton	179	180	100	201	141	Beef	179	180	100	201	141
Milk	169	167	167	133	178	Mutton	169	167	167	133	158
Ghee	191	195	200	138	133	Milk	191	195	200	138	133
Potatoes	154	167	144	163	129	Chee	154	156	144	163	119
Onion	159	123	131	125	113	Potatoes	159	123	131	125	104
Cocoanut oil	111	104	160	109	100	Onion	230	122	133	107	70
						Cocoanut oil	100	96	160	109	100
Average—All food articles	160	152	148	138	134	Average—All food articles	159	147	146	138	131

Chart showing the unweighted Retail Prices food Index Numbers (17 articles) in five centres of the Bombay Presidency (July 1914 prices=100)



(1) The Bombay index comprises the price of wheat (1) and wheat (2) for "Mandla" and "Pissu Sarabatti" varieties (varieties of the "Punjab" Small Mill) and "Punjab" variety respectively.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1929

Abbreviations:— S = Scanty. F = Fair. N = Normal.

RAINFALL DIVISION	JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY						
1 Sind (River Rainfall)	E	S				
2 Gujarat	S	F				
3 Deccan	F	F				
4 K...	F	F				
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY						
1 Malabar	F	F				
2 Deccan	S	S				
3 Coast North	F	F				
4 South East	F	F				
III. MYSORE	F	F				
IV. HYDERABAD						
1 North	S	S				
2 South	S	S				
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES						
1 Berar	S	N				
2 West	N	E				
3 East	F	N				
VI. CENTRAL INDIA						
1 West	F	F				
2 East	F	F				
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY	F	F				
VIII. ASSAM	F	E				
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA						
1 Bihar	F	F				
2 Orissa	F	F				
3 Chota Nagpur	F	F				
X. UNITED PROVINCES						
1 East	E	F				
2 West	E	S				
XI. PUNJAB						
1 East & North	E	F				
2 South West	N	F				
XII. NORTHWEST FRONTR.						
XIII. RAJPUTANA						
1 West	F	F				
2 East	F	F				
XIV. BURMA						
1 Lower	F	F				
2 Upper	F	F				

\* The data for the Indus River refer to Calendar weeks. ... "Excess" means more than 120% of ... and "Scanty" 40%. The values are communicated by the Director ... in his office on the sum of the rainfall readings for recording stations ... are communicated by the ... the P. D.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign  
Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in May .. 11 Workpeople involved .. 130,222

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during May 1929, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute," in the official sense, means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike." A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number and magnitude of strikes in May 1929, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in May 1929			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in May 1929	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in May 1929
	Started before May	Started in May	Total		
Textile	6	4	10	130,153	2,342,104
Transport					
Engineering					
Metal		1	1	69	80
Miscellaneous					
Total	6	5	11	130,222	2,342,104

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was eleven of which five occurred in Bombay, two in Ahmedabad and four at other centres. One of the disputes in Bombay City was a strike which affected 24 textile mills during the month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 130,222 and the number of working days lost (i.e. the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days lost workers employed) was 2,342,104.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

## II—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, June 1928 to May 1929

	June 1928	July 1928	August 1928	September 1928	October 1928	November 1928
Total number of disputes in progress	7	6	6	5	14	23
Disputes in progress at beginning of the month	8	4	3	3	4	3
Disputes which began during the month	1	2	3	2	10	20
Disputes ended during the month	2	1	3	1	11	16
Disputes in progress at end of the month	4	7	3	4	3	7
Number of workpeople involved	166,190	170,700	170,982	171,289	172,900	37,414
Number of working days lost	4,311,802	4,141,054	4,151,788	4,088,637	1,208,291	156,855
Demands—						
Wages	3	2	3	4	1	16
Bonus	1	2	1	1	1	6
Personal	1	2	1	1	1	1
Leave and hours	1	2	2	1	1	1
Others	1	2	2	1	1	1
Results—						
In favour of employees	1	1	1	1	1	4
Compromised	1	1	1	1	1	3
In favour of employers	3	1	2	1	1	3
Inconclusive	1	1	1	1	1	9

## II—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, June 1928 to May 1929—contd.

	December 1928	January 1929	February 1929	March 1929	April 1929	May 1929
Total number of disputes in progress	44	16	6	10	12	11
Disputes in progress at beginning of the month	7	7	2	1	4	6
Disputes which began during the month	37	9	4	9	8	5
Disputes ended during the month	37	14	5	6	6	5
Disputes in progress at end of the month	7	2	1	4	6	6
Number of workpeople involved	73,861	20,890	4,335	37,770	126,570	130,222
Number of working days lost	364,875	184,018	39,780	368,690	595,742	2,342,100
Demands—						
Wages	29	4	3	2	6	1
Bonus	1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal	10	1	3	6	5	10
Leave and hours	1	1	1	1	1	1
Others	4	5	1	1	1	1
Results—						
In favour of employees	12	3	1	3	2	1
Compromised	3	3	1	3	2	1
In favour of employers	22	8	4	3	4	4
Inconclusive	1	1	1	1	1	1

It may be of interest to state that the highest peak (4,243,194) in respect of the number of working days lost through strikes in this Presidency were April 1921 was reached in May 1928, whereas the lowest level was reached in December 1927, when no strikes were reported. The nearest approach to this was in May 1924 when only 390 working days were lost.

## GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported at the beginning of the month of May 1929 was 5 as compared with 8 in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 2432 and the number of working days lost amounted to 18,043. All these five disputes arose over questions regarding the employment of individuals. In addition, six disputes, including a strike affecting 62 textile mills in Bombay City, involving 127,790 workpeople in all, which continued into the month under review, resulted in a time loss amounting to 2,324,057 man-days. Out of the 11 old and new disputes, settlements were arrived at in the case of five disputes during the month. The results were favourable to the employers in 4 cases while in the remaining case, the result was inconclusive.

## Progress of Individual Disputes

## BOMBAY CITY

During the month under review there were 5 industrial disputes in progress in Bombay City. One of these was the continuation of a dispute which had begun in the Spring Mill in the month of March. The mill worked throughout the month and the number of hands working on each day was usually between 2800 to 3050. The Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union distributed grain to about 600 strikers on the 10th, 17th and 24th May. This strike continued into the next month.

The second was the continuation of a dispute which affected the Textile Mill. The mill worked on all the working days during the month of May. The number of operatives who attended at the beginning of the month was only about 900 but it increased to 2200 by the 10th. The attendance on the 31st May was 2500. Rations were distributed by the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union in 5335 individual cases. This dispute continued into the next month.

The third was the continuation of a dispute in the Century Mill. The mill started working on the 1st but was closed in the afternoon for want of a sufficient number of hands. From the 2nd May, it worked every day with an increasing number of hands and 3139 operatives were working on the 14th. The Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union distributed rations to 550 and 300 strikers on the 2nd and the 3rd May respectively. At the close of the month there were 3665 hands working in the Mill. This dispute also continued into the next month.

The fourth was the continuation of a dispute which had begun in the Morarji Goculdas Mill in the month of April. The mill which had remained closed was re-opened by the Management on the 8th May with

about 300 hands. It continued to work throughout the rest of the month and the number of hands working daily rose steadily and by the 25th stood at 1200. At the close of the month there were 2110 operatives working in the mill. This strike continued into the next month.

The fifth dispute was the continuation of the strike which affected 62 textile mills in Bombay City and had involved 104,813 workers by the close of the month of April. On the 1st May two more mills employing 4419 workers were affected by the strike.

The Hon ble the General Member of the Government of Bombay came down to Bombay from Mahabaleshwar and granted separate interviews to the representatives of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, the Millowners' Association and the Bombay Textile Labour Union during the first three days of the month. Neither the Millowners' Association nor the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union were prepared to yield on the question of the reinstatement of about 6000 workers in the Wadia Group of Mills. His Excellency the Governor came down to Bombay from Mahabaleshwar on the 3rd May and granted interviews to the representatives of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, the Millowners' Association and the Bombay Textile Labour Union on the 5th and 6th May. A Joint Conference of the representatives of the Millowners' Association and the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union was held on the 7th May 1929 presided over by His Excellency the Governor. The conference lasted for about 2½ hours but no agreement could be arrived at on the main point at issue, namely, the reinstatement of the strikers in the Wadia Group of Mills.

Meetings of the strikers were held on the 3rd and 4th May when they were exhorted by the labour leaders to remain firm in their demands and advised to go to their villages after receiving their April wages. The Millowners proposed to issue Marathi leaflets as a counter propaganda to that carried on through the *Kranti* and the handbills issued by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union. Two mills were restarted on the 3rd and eleven more on the 7th May. On the next day eleven more mills were reopened and worked with varying complements of hands. Notices were issued by the Millowners on the 8th May regarding the payment of April wages. It was notified that in those mills that had not stopped work, payment would be made on the 15th May to those operatives who had continued working and in those mills which had been closed, payment would be made 10 days after resumption of work to all operatives who had put in six days work after the restarting of the mills. The mills remained closed on account of the Solar Eclipse on the 9th May. On the next day 9 more mills were restarted for work, and the gates of five other mills were opened but none of the strikers from these mills returned to work. The Committee of the Millowners' Association decided not to pay the strikers their April wages on the 15th May. The managements of 8 mills paid wages to their working hands on the 14th May. On the night of the same day, the Managing Committee of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union passed a resolution instructing the strikers with regard to the action to be taken by them in view of the refusal by the Millowners to pay their April wages. The strikers were asked to go inside the compounds of their respective mills on the morning of the 15th May and to demand

peacefully the payment of their legitimate wages. They were further asked not to leave the premises of their mills and to repeat the same action every day till their wages were paid. In accordance with these instructions, a number of strikers entered the compounds of their mills on the morning of the 15th May. The strikers forced open the gates of 11 mills and stood outside in the case of many of the other mills. Some of the strikers started throwing stones at the mills. The Police chased them away but they returned. When they were again chased away by the Police the strikers ran up a hill nearby and began throwing stones at the Police who fired two shots but nobody was injured. A newspaper hawker was severely assaulted by some strikers. In all, 14 persons were injured on account of the disturbances during the day.

The Collector of Bombay ordered the closing of all liquor and toddy shops from the 15th of May. The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union leaders addressed a meeting of the strikers on the 16th May and exhorted them to continue the strike and to go to their villages. They were also assured that relief would be afforded to them and to their families from the funds of the Union. On the same day a deputation of the Bombay Textile Labour Union waited upon the Millowners and requested them to pay the strikers their April wages but the Owners expressed their inability to alter their previous decision in the matter. The Chief Presidency Magistrate issued an order on the 17th prohibiting the assembly of more than 5 persons on any public road or thoroughfare.

Some more mills were restarted during the three days preceding the 20th May, on which date most of the mills remained closed on account of Bakri-Id. On the next day the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union made arrangements with a Shipping Company to take the strikers at concession rates and by the end of the month the Union had assisted about 2575 strikers to go to the Konkan. On the 24th May, the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union distributed rations to about 500 strikers and announced in the issue of the *Kranti* of the 26th May that the Union would distribute grain to the strikers on every Monday beginning from the 27th May. Accordingly, grain consisting of four seers of rice and half a seer of dal was distributed to about 1542 strikers on that date.

Marathi leaflets were issued daily by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union and also by the Millowners' Association throughout the month. The former exhorted the strikers to remain firm and united in their demands and to go to their native places, whereas the latter showed the futility of continuing the strike. Nearly all the mills were picketed daily by the volunteers of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, throughout the month except on the 15th and the 16th May. The Millowners also posted their own volunteers every day at some of the mills to persuade loyal workers to return to work.

From the 21st up to the 28th May there was a continuous rise in the number of hands working in all the affected mills. But during the last three days of the month under review, the number decreased and on the 31st May there were in all about 62,000 hands working in the Bombay mills. This strike also continued into the next month.