

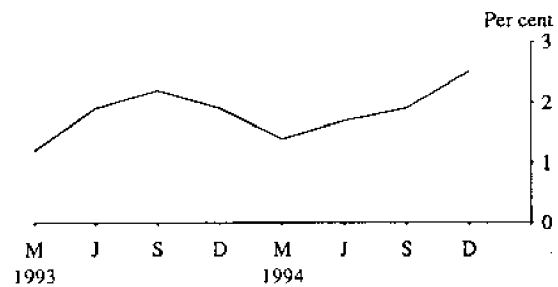
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, DECEMBER QUARTER 1994**

*NOTE: See Appendix for an explanation of changes to the treatment of holiday travel and accommodation.*

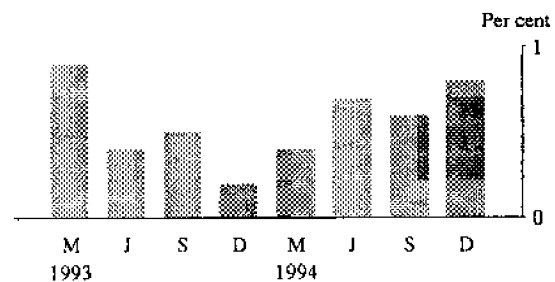
**MAIN FEATURES**

Weighted average of eight capital cities	Change between—	
	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1994
	%	%
Food	0.5	1.3
Clothing	0.2	0.0
Housing	2.7	4.2
Household equipment and operation	0.6	1.4
Transportation	-0.2	2.9
Tobacco and alcohol	1.2	4.5
Health and personal care	0.2	5.3
Recreation and education	1.1	2.0
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>
All groups excluding housing	0.5	2.2
All groups excluding food	1.0	2.9

**ALL GROUPS - ANNUAL MOVEMENT**



**ALL GROUPS - QUARTERLY MOVEMENT**



Partially offsetting the above were falls in petrol prices (down 2.4%), pharmaceuticals (down 4.6% - due mainly to the increased effect of the PBS safety net scheme), soft drinks and cordials (down 1.8%), take away food (down 0.5%), other household non-durables (down 1.8%), and fresh vegetables (down 2.4%).

Contributing most to the annual increase in consumer prices were mortgage interest charges (up 8.2%), cigarette and tobacco prices (up 7.0%), the cost of hospital and medical services (up 6.7%), the cost of vehicle insurance (up 10.2%) and motor vehicle prices (up 4.6%), with significant off-sets being provided by falls in prices of take away food (down 3.8%), consumer credit charges (down 4.2%), petrol prices (down 1.4%) and the cost of overseas holiday travel and accommodation (down 2.8%).

**Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation**

The index of underlying inflation as defined by the Commonwealth Treasury, increased by 0.5 per cent between the September and December quarters 1994, resulting in an annual increase (December quarter 1994 on December quarter 1993) of 2.1 per cent.

**CPI Outcome**

The All groups CPI increased 0.8 per cent between the September and December quarters 1994, resulting in an annual increase (December quarter 1994 on December quarter 1993) of 2.5 per cent.

**Overview of CPI Movements**

Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were mortgage interest charges (up 6.1%), the cost of holiday travel and accommodation in Australia (up 7.0%), cigarette and tobacco prices (up 2.5%), local government rates and charges (up 2.7%), furniture (up 1.9%), prices of potatoes (up 48.9%), motor vehicle prices (up 1.1%), the cost of hospital and medical services (up 1.1%), bread (up 2.9%) and tea, coffee and food drinks (up 7.4%).

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact **Information Services** on Canberra (06) 252 6627 or any ABS State office.
- for more detailed information about these statistics, contact Margaret Woodrow on Canberra (06) 252 6251 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

## Main contributions to change:

### Housing: +2.7%

The housing group was the largest contributor to the change in the All groups index, accounting for about 50 per cent of the total change this quarter. An increase in mortgage interest charges (+6.1%) accounted for about 81 per cent of this, and an increase in local government rates and charges (+2.7%) accounted for a further 17 per cent.

The increase in mortgage interest charges this quarter reflects a rise in interest rates (+4.7%) combined with an increase in the value of the debt outstanding (+1.3%).

Increases in local government rates and charges were recorded in all cities ranging from 1.6 per cent in Melbourne to 6.4 per cent in Brisbane. The local government rates and charges component of the CPI includes both council rates and charges and water, sewerage and drainage rates. The December quarter 1994 figure includes changes in water, sewerage and drainage rates and charges as well as changes in general rates and charges, for all cities excluding Melbourne. Changes in Melbourne's general rates and charges were measured in the June quarter.

The combined effect of increased mortgage interest charges and Local government rates and charges has resulted in the largest annual increase (+4.2%) for the housing group since December quarter 1990.

### Recreation and education: +1.1%

The increase in recreation and education costs this quarter is largely attributable to increases in the cost of holiday travel and accommodation in Australia (+7.0%), entertainment (+0.5%), overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+1.5%) and the prices of video and sound equipment (+0.7%).

### Tobacco and alcohol: +1.2%

The increase in prices of cigarettes and tobacco (+2.5%), beer (+0.3%), and spirits (+1.0%) result mainly from the flow-on effect of increases in Commonwealth excises during the September quarter.

Over the 12 months to December 1994, tobacco and alcohol prices have increased 4.5 per cent overall due to increases in prices of cigarettes and tobacco (+7.0%), beer (+2.4%), wine (+5.1%) and spirits (+3.3%).

### Household equipment and operation: +0.6%

Increases in furniture prices (+1.9%), appliances (+0.8%), pet foods (+3.5%) and the cost of telephone services (+1.3%) were partially offset by falls in consumer credit charges (-0.7%), prices of floor covering (-0.8%), tools (-0.5%) and other household non-durables (-1.8%).

### Food: +0.5%

Increases in prices of fresh potatoes (+48.9%), bread (+2.9%), milk and cream (+1.4%), tea, coffee and food drinks (+7.4%) were partially offset by falls in prices of soft drinks and cordials (-1.8%), take away food (-0.5%), fresh vegetables (-2.4%) and cakes and biscuits (-1.5%).

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1994 food prices have increased 1.3 per cent overall. The main contributors to the annual increase have been fresh fruit (+19.4%), fresh potatoes (+33.1%), bread (+4.1%), milk and cream (+4.2%) and fresh vegetables (+4.7%), partially offset by falls in prices of take away food (-3.8%), cakes and biscuits (-3.3%), lamb and mutton (-4.9%) and poultry (-4.1%).

### Transportation: -0.2%

Increases in motor vehicle prices (+1.1%), the cost of vehicle insurance (+0.8%), and urban transport fares (+0.4%) were partially offset by a fall in petrol prices (-2.4%).

Motor Vehicle prices increased in all cities, ranging from 0.3 per cent in Darwin and Canberra to 1.6 per cent in Perth. The 1.1 per cent overall increase this quarter follows a 1.8 per cent increase last quarter, delivering an annual increase (December quarter 1994 on September quarter 1993) of 4.6 per cent.

Increases in the cost of vehicle insurance were recorded in all cities except Perth (-1.2%). The increases in the other cities ranged from 0.5 per cent in Adelaide to 3.2 per cent in Darwin.

Petrol prices fell by 2.4 per cent this quarter as a result of an increase in August (+1.8%), falls in September (-2.6%) and October (-2.1%), a further increase in November (+1.8%) and a fall in December (-0.9%). Over the 12 months to December quarter 1994, the price of petrol has fallen by 1.4 per cent.

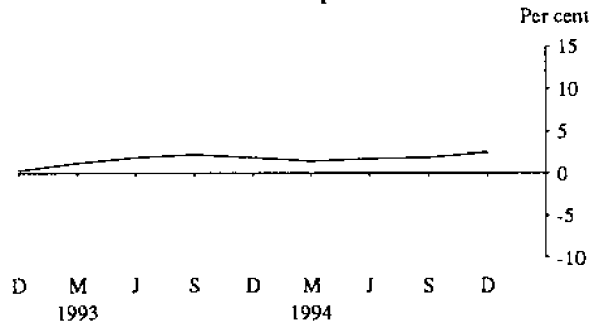
## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX- ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

	Change between—	
	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1994
	%	%
Sydney	0.7	2.8
Melbourne	0.8	2.1
Brisbane	1.1	3.2
Adelaide	1.0	2.8
Perth	0.8	2.3
Hobart	0.8	2.3
Darwin	0.6	1.8
Canberra	1.1	2.2
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.8	2.5

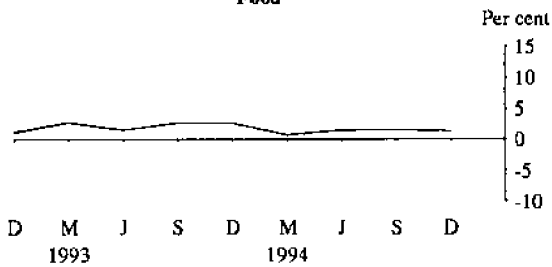
RICHARD MADDEN  
Acting Australian Statistician

**WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES  
PERCENTAGE CHANGE ON CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR**

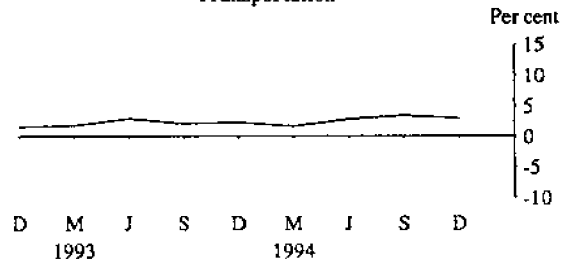
**All Groups**



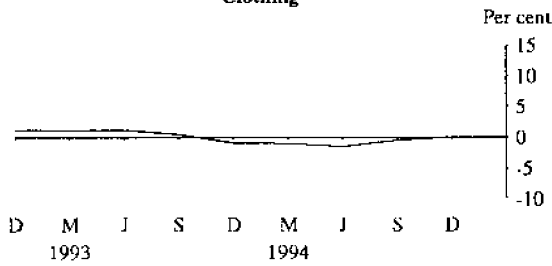
**Food**



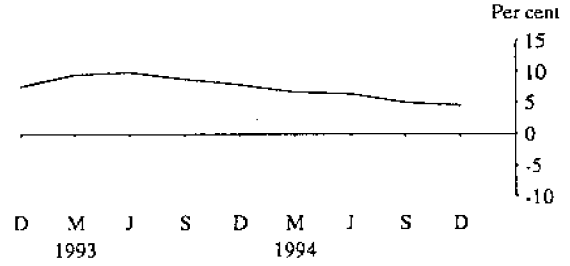
**Transportation**



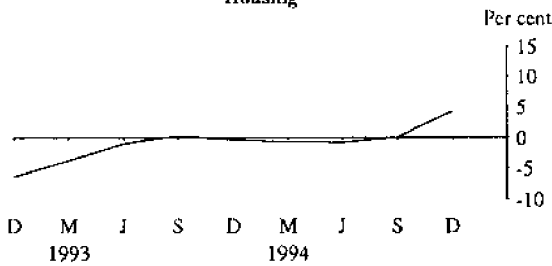
**Clothing**



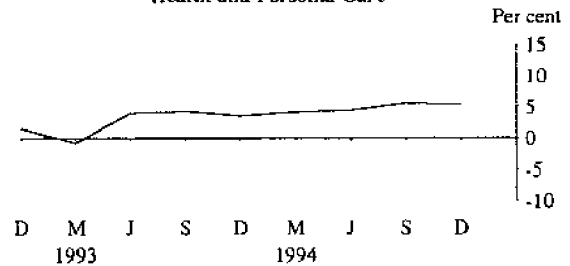
**Tobacco and Alcohol**



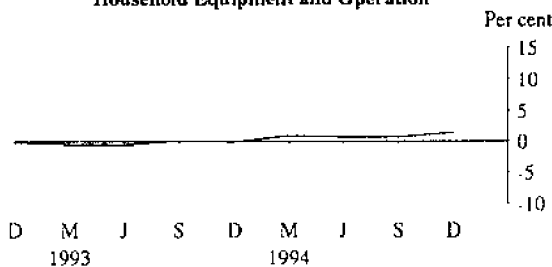
**Housing**



**Health and Personal Care**



**Household Equipment and Operation**



**Recreation and Education**

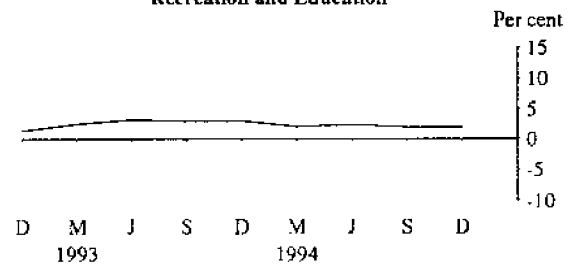


TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS  
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
1990-91	104.9	105.8	104.9	106.2	105.1	104.9	105.7	105.1	105.3
1991-92	106.7	108.1	107.0	108.9	105.9	107.1	108.0	107.8	107.3
1992-93	107.7	108.9	108.5	111.2	106.2	108.5	109.5	109.5	108.4
1993-94	109.2	111.1	110.6	113.4	108.5	111.7	111.5	111.4	110.4
<i>1990-91—</i>									
December	105.5	106.6	105.4	106.9	106.2	105.5	106.4	106.0	106.0
March	105.7	106.1	105.7	106.7	105.2	105.2	106.1	105.5	105.8
June	105.4	106.8	105.7	107.3	105.1	105.8	106.6	105.6	106.0
<i>1991-92—</i>									
September	106.0	107.6	106.1	108.0	105.7	106.7	106.9	107.0	106.6
December	107.1	108.4	107.3	108.8	106.1	107.4	108.2	107.9	107.6
March	107.0	108.3	107.5	109.5	106.1	107.4	108.3	108.2	107.6
June	106.5	108.2	107.0	109.4	105.6	107.0	108.4	107.9	107.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.9	107.9	106.9	110.1	105.5	107.6	108.9	108.6	107.4
December	107.4	108.2	108.1	110.7	106.1	108.0	109.2	109.0	107.9
March	108.2	109.5	109.1	111.6	106.4	109.1	109.8	110.1	108.9
June	108.4	110.1	109.7	112.3	106.8	109.4	110.0	110.3	109.3
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	108.7	110.5	109.9	112.7	107.9	111.0	110.6	111.0	109.8
December	108.8	110.8	110.2	112.8	108.5	111.6	111.7	111.3	110.0
March	109.1	111.2	110.8	113.6	108.6	111.9	111.4	111.4	110.4
June	110.0	112.0	111.5	114.4	109.1	112.4	112.4	112.0	111.2
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	111.0	112.2	112.5	114.9	110.1	113.3	113.0	112.6	111.9
December	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
Change from previous year									
1991-92	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5	0.8	2.1	2.2	2.6	1.9
1992-93	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
1993-94	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	-1.0	0.3
March	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
June	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.6	2.2	2.2
December	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
March	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
June	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.9
December	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.5
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
March	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.9
June	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
December	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.2
March	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.1	0.4
June	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
December	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : CHANGE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1994 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1994  
MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS

Item	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
<b>FOOD</b>	0.23	0.05	0.07	-0.03	-0.04	-0.12	0.00	0.22	0.10
Milk and cream	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.02
Butter	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Bread	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.07	-0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Cakes and biscuits	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	-0.02
Other cereal products	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Processed meat	0.02	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.06	-0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fish	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Fresh fruit	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.03	0.02	-0.04	-0.01
Fresh potatoes	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.07
Fresh vegetables	0.02	-0.02	0.02	-0.04	-0.15	-0.03	0.06	0.01	-0.02
Soft drinks and cordials	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04	-0.13	0.02	-0.01	-0.03	0.00	-0.02
Confectionery	0.00	0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.01
Meals out	-0.02	0.02	-0.02	-0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.03	-0.01
Take away foods	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	-0.18	-0.01	-0.20	0.02	-0.02
Tea coffee and food drinks	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.02
Other foods	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01
<b>CLOTHING</b>	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.00	-0.03	-0.08	0.01	0.01	0.01
Men's shirts	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01
Womens underwear nightwear etc.	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Women's footwear	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01
<b>HOUSING</b>	0.45	0.39	0.55	0.56	0.49	0.45	0.48	0.63	0.47
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	-0.03	0.01
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Mortgage interest charges	0.42	0.31	0.39	0.45	0.35	0.32	0.47	0.52	0.38
Local government rates and charges	0.05	0.05	0.16	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.09	0.08
House insurance	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	-0.03	0.04	0.00
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b>	0.07	0.12	0.22	0.07	0.16	0.21	-0.01	0.15	0.12
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gas	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Furniture	0.03	0.16	0.07	-0.01	0.04	0.12	-0.02	0.07	0.08
Floor coverings	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Appliances	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Tools	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Household paper products	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Other household non-durables	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	-0.01
Pet foods	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.02
House contents insurance	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Telephone services	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.02
Consumer credit charges	-0.02	-0.04	0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.02
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	-0.06	0.01	-0.07	0.03	-0.09	0.14	-0.05	-0.10	-0.03
Motor vehicles	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.05
Automotive fuel	-0.17	-0.06	-0.15	-0.06	-0.19	-0.05	-0.11	-0.17	-0.13
Vehicle insurance	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.01	-0.03	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.02
Motoring charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle servicing etc.	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Urban transport fares	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b>	0.13	0.04	0.14	0.26	0.19	0.14	0.13	0.06	0.12
Beer	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Spirits	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.09	0.04	0.10	0.21	0.16	0.12	0.03	0.05	0.10
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>	-0.02	0.06	-0.01	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.02
Hospital and medical services	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.05
Optical services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01
Personal care products	-0.04	-0.05	-0.08	-0.01	-0.01	-0.05	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04
Pharmaceuticals	-0.05	-0.03	-0.04	-0.04	-0.02	-0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.04
Hairdressing services	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
<b>RECREATION AND EDUCATION</b>	0.06	0.19	0.21	0.11	0.17	0.15	0.10	0.23	0.13
Video and sound equipment	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Holiday travel and accomodation in Australia	0.06	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.10
O'seas holiday travel and accommodation	0.03	0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.01
Entertainment	-0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.02
<b>Total change</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Contribution of selected State and local government charges (a) to total change</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.16</b>						

TABLE 4. CHANGE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1994 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1994 (a)  
PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN WEIGHTED AVERAGE EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES ALL GROUP INDEX

	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
Food	8.0	1.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.7	10.2
Clothing	0.1	0.9	0.8	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.0	1.3
Housing	16.3	12.2	7.0	5.7	5.5	0.8	0.4	2.0	50.6
Household equipment and operation	2.5	3.9	2.8	0.8	1.8	0.4	0.0	0.5	12.5
Transportation	-2.1	0.5	-0.8	0.4	-1.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-3.1
Tobacco and alcohol	4.5	1.4	1.8	2.7	2.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	12.8
Health and personal care	-0.6	1.9	-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Recreation and education	2.0	5.8	2.6	1.2	2.0	0.3	0.1	0.7	14.6
All Groups	30.6	28.0	14.9	10.6	10.0	1.7	0.6	3.8	100.0

(a) Table 4 shows the percentage contribution of Groups in each city to the change (between September quarter 1994 and December quarter 1994) in the All Groups index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

TABLE 5. WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES: PERCENTAGE CHANGES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Tobacco and alcohol</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All Groups</i>
Change from previous year									
1991-92	2.4	1.7	-4.4	2.3	1.8	5.7	10.7	1.8	1.9
1992-93	1.5	1.0	-4.3	-0.2	2.3	8.2	2.2	2.1	1.0
1993-94	1.9	-0.7	-0.4	0.5	2.2	7.5	4.0	2.6	1.8
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	1.1	1.2	-6.4	-0.2	1.5	7.6	1.5	1.3	0.3
March	2.7	1.1	-3.8	-0.5	1.8	9.5	-0.8	2.5	1.2
June	1.5	1.2	-1.0	-0.6	2.9	9.9	3.9	3.2	1.9
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	2.1	8.8	4.2	3.0	2.2
December	2.6	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	2.3	7.9	3.5	3.0	1.9
March	0.7	-1.1	-0.7	0.9	1.7	6.7	4.1	2.1	1.4
June	1.4	-1.6	-0.8	0.7	2.8	6.4	4.4	2.4	1.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	1.5	-0.5	0.0	0.7	3.4	5.0	5.5	2.0	1.9
December	1.3	0.0	4.2	1.4	2.9	4.5	5.3	2.0	2.5
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	0.7	1.1	-0.6	0.1	0.0	2.7	1.1	1.0	0.5
March	2.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.6	0.4	2.2	2.4	1.1	0.9
June	-0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	0.7	-0.9	-0.3	0.1	1.0	2.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
December	0.6	-0.3	-1.4	-0.1	0.3	1.8	0.4	1.1	0.2
March	0.3	-0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.3	1.1	2.9	0.2	0.4
June	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.9	1.1	-0.1	0.6
December	0.5	0.2	2.7	0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.8

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
<b>FOOD</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	106.6	105.5	107.2	108.1	108.2	107.5	108.3	107.5	106.7
March	109.5	107.3	109.4	111.3	110.0	109.0	110.6	110.5	109.0
June	107.8	107.0	108.7	110.4	109.2	109.1	110.1	108.6	108.0
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	108.6	107.8	109.4	110.4	109.8	110.2	111.2	109.8	108.8
December	109.6	108.1	110.1	111.3	110.3	111.7	112.6	111.4	109.5
March	110.2	107.8	111.2	112.0	110.2	112.6	112.6	111.9	109.8
June	109.4	107.9	110.2	113.0	109.9	112.2	113.1	111.4	109.5
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	110.2	108.6	110.7	114.5	111.6	113.9	112.8	112.3	110.4
December	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
<b>CLOTHING</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	107.3	108.3	107.5	107.2	109.2	107.3	106.8	107.0	107.8
March	107.3	107.7	106.7	107.2	108.4	107.2	106.5	107.4	107.5
June	108.0	108.4	107.4	107.6	108.9	107.7	107.3	108.1	108.1
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	106.2	107.9	106.3	107.5	108.3	106.9	103.8	108.0	107.1
December	106.3	107.5	105.6	107.1	107.8	106.8	103.7	107.2	106.8
March	105.6	106.7	105.5	106.0	108.2	106.4	103.6	106.9	106.3
June	106.0	106.9	105.4	105.8	108.5	106.4	105.3	106.7	106.4
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	106.6	107.0	105.3	105.2	107.9	106.6	105.7	107.0	106.6
December	106.6	107.4	106.3	105.1	107.4	105.3	105.9	107.1	106.8
<b>HOUSING</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	95.0	92.3	99.0	94.0	87.6	94.4	102.9	99.2	94.0
March	95.4	92.4	100.0	94.0	88.1	95.3	103.8	100.2	94.4
June	96.1	94.5	100.5	93.8	87.9	95.0	104.2	100.4	95.2
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	96.1	93.8	100.4	93.3	87.7	94.9	104.2	100.3	94.9
December	94.5	92.4	99.8	91.6	86.9	93.4	103.0	99.2	93.6
March	94.7	92.2	100.1	91.6	86.9	93.3	103.6	98.8	93.7
June	95.9	92.4	100.7	91.9	87.8	94.2	104.5	99.3	94.4
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	96.8	92.7	101.1	92.4	88.5	94.8	105.3	99.7	94.9
December	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	106.8	108.6	105.7	108.1	107.7	110.4	105.6	107.5	107.5
March	105.8	108.2	105.8	106.7	107.0	110.3	105.1	107.5	106.9
June	106.0	108.7	107.0	107.3	107.7	110.4	104.8	107.8	107.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	105.9	109.0	106.1	107.5	108.6	111.3	105.0	107.1	107.5
December	105.1	109.3	106.5	108.2	108.1	111.8	104.5	107.0	107.4
March	105.1	110.8	107.1	107.9	108.1	112.2	103.7	107.5	107.9
June	106.0	110.8	107.2	108.2	107.9	112.4	104.2	107.8	108.2
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	106.2	110.3	107.9	108.3	108.3	112.8	104.3	107.7	108.2
December	106.6	110.9	109.1	108.7	109.0	113.9	104.3	108.6	108.9

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES — *continued*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
TRANSPORTATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	109.0	112.0	110.1	115.1	110.8	110.0	111.0	114.1	110.9
March	109.1	113.1	110.6	114.9	111.2	110.9	110.6	114.4	111.3
June	109.9	113.7	111.4	116.1	111.6	111.7	110.7	114.8	112.1
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	110.9	115.0	111.8	117.3	113.6	111.6	112.8	116.9	113.2
December	110.6	115.8	112.3	117.6	114.2	112.3	113.4	117.5	113.5
March	110.8	114.9	112.0	117.6	113.9	111.9	111.3	115.4	113.2
June	112.7	117.5	113.8	118.5	116.0	112.8	113.9	117.8	115.2
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	115.3	118.4	115.8	119.6	117.9	113.9	114.9	119.6	117.0
December	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	128.3	118.8	125.9	130.4	113.9	112.4	122.8	122.0	123.4
March	129.1	126.4	126.3	131.3	113.8	116.9	123.6	123.0	126.1
June	130.7	127.7	128.4	136.4	115.6	119.9	124.2	125.2	128.0
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	131.8	129.8	130.7	138.8	123.7	132.1	127.0	127.3	130.8
December	134.0	131.7	131.8	140.0	129.1	133.4	133.1	129.7	133.1
March	135.7	133.0	132.2	142.6	130.4	134.3	134.4	130.9	134.5
June	138.1	134.0	134.1	144.5	131.8	134.8	136.4	132.2	136.2
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	139.9	134.0	136.5	144.2	133.6	137.2	137.8	134.0	137.4
December	141.9	134.7	138.4	147.8	135.9	139.1	139.2	134.9	139.1
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	117.5	128.5	116.2	132.2	119.2	125.6	123.2	121.3	122.7
March	119.8	131.5	120.6	136.8	121.0	129.1	126.2	124.5	125.6
June	120.4	132.1	121.3	138.9	122.3	129.3	126.1	124.4	126.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	120.6	131.9	121.2	138.7	122.1	134.5	126.2	125.2	126.5
December	121.4	132.9	120.5	138.4	122.9	134.5	126.9	125.1	127.0
March	123.8	137.4	124.0	145.5	124.8	137.5	129.5	128.1	130.7
June	124.4	139.2	124.6	148.2	125.5	137.9	129.7	129.0	131.9
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	126.3	139.8	128.5	148.3	127.6	138.7	132.6	131.1	133.4
December	126.0	140.8	128.4	148.7	128.4	138.7	133.5	131.2	133.7
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1992-93—</i>									
December	108.0	110.2	106.7	109.9	107.6	108.2	104.4	107.6	108.6
March	109.1	112.0	108.0	111.7	106.5	108.5	103.2	108.3	109.8
June	110.3	111.9	108.5	112.3	107.2	108.2	104.5	109.4	110.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	110.6	112.2	108.9	112.8	107.1	108.7	104.1	110.2	110.7
December	112.0	113.3	110.2	113.0	108.5	111.0	108.1	110.5	111.9
March	111.5	114.1	111.2	114.1	107.5	109.7	105.4	111.3	112.1
June	112.5	114.8	113.5	114.8	107.5	111.3	106.1	112.0	113.0
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	112.0	114.9	113.5	115.1	107.7	111.7	105.9	111.1	112.9
December	112.6	116.4	115.5	116.2	109.4	113.0	106.8	112.9	114.1



TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SELECTED EXPENDITURE CLASSES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	
<b>FOOD</b>												
Dairy products	109.5	110.4	110.9	110.9	0.5	1.3	20.39	20.49	0.10			
Cereal products	115.6	117.9	118.5	118.5	0.5	2.5	1.69	1.70	0.01			
Meat and seafoods	116.1	116.1	117.0	117.0	0.8	0.8	2.32	2.34	0.02			
Beef and veal	102.6	100.8	101.8	101.8	1.0	-0.8	3.23	3.26	0.03			
Lamb and mutton	104.0	106.4	105.4	105.4	-0.9	1.3	0.81	0.81	0.00			
Pork	109.4	104.3	104.0	104.0	-0.3	-4.9	0.42	0.42	0.00			
Poultry	105.0	102.3	103.1	103.1	0.8	-1.8	0.19	0.19	0.00			
Bacon and ham	86.2	81.7	82.7	82.7	1.2	-4.1	0.39	0.39	0.00			
Processed meat	107.2	103.7	105.4	105.4	1.6	-1.7	0.34	0.34	0.00			
Fish	105.6	103.7	105.8	105.8	2.0	0.2	0.72	0.72	0.00			
Fresh fruit and vegetables	100.0	97.9	102.4	102.4	4.6	2.4	0.36	0.36	0.00			
Processed fruit and vegetables	84.3	94.4	96.6	96.6	2.3	14.6	1.73	1.77	0.04			
Soft drinks - ice cream and confectionery	108.6	110.0	109.7	109.7	-0.3	1.0	0.91	0.91	0.00			
Meals out and take away foods	119.1	121.2	120.6	120.6	-0.5	1.3	3.28	3.27	-0.01			
Other foods	115.0	113.4	112.9	112.9	-0.4	-1.8	5.37	5.34	-0.03			
	109.8	110.5	112.7	112.7	2.0	2.6	1.86	1.90	0.04			
<b>CLOTHING</b>												
Men's and boy's clothing	106.8	106.6	106.8	106.8	0.2	0.0	6.70	6.71	0.01			
Women's and girls' clothing	108.1	109.3	109.5	109.5	0.2	1.3	1.84	1.85	0.01			
Fabrics and knitting wool	106.9	106.6	106.6	106.6	0.0	-0.3	2.73	2.73	0.00			
Footwear	103.6	103.8	104.1	104.1	0.3	0.5	0.79	0.79	0.00			
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	103.7	100.7	101.3	101.3	0.6	-2.3	1.08	1.08	0.00			
	118.9	120.5	120.5	120.5	0.0	1.3	0.25	0.25	0.00			
<b>HOUSING</b>												
Rents	93.6	94.9	97.5	97.5	2.7	4.2	16.83	17.30	0.47			
Privately-owned dwelling rents	107.9	108.4	108.6	108.6	0.2	0.6	5.29	5.30	0.01			
Government-owned dwelling rents	107.1	107.6	107.7	107.7	0.1	0.6	4.85	4.86	0.01			
Home ownership	115.7	117.9	118.8	118.8	0.8	2.7	0.44	0.44	0.00			
Mortgage interest charges	87.7	89.3	92.8	92.8	3.9	5.8	11.53	11.99	0.46			
Local government rates and charges	70.8	72.2	76.6	76.6	6.1	8.2	6.36	6.74	0.38			
House repairs and maintenance	129.8	131.6	135.2	135.2	2.7	4.2	2.66	2.74	0.08			
House insurance	113.8	115.1	115.0	115.0	-0.1	1.1	2.04	2.04	0.00			
	128.2	131.0	131.9	131.9	0.7	2.9	0.47	0.47	0.00			
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b>												
Fuel and light	107.4	108.2	108.9	108.9	0.6	1.4	19.75	19.87	0.12			
Furniture and floor coverings	117.8	118.5	118.6	118.6	0.1	0.7	2.68	2.69	0.01			
Appliances	110.5	113.2	114.8	114.8	1.4	3.9	4.80	4.87	0.07			
Household textiles	105.6	107.3	108.2	108.2	0.8	2.5	1.69	1.71	0.02			
Household utensils and tools	107.4	107.9	109.0	109.0	1.0	1.5	0.82	0.83	0.01			
Household supplies and services	105.9	106.2	106.0	106.0	-0.2	0.1	1.31	1.31	0.00			
Postal and telephone services	112.1	113.5	114.1	114.1	0.5	1.8	4.42	4.45	0.03			
Consumer credit charges	105.6	106.7	107.9	107.9	1.1	2.2	1.84	1.86	0.02			
	88.3	85.2	84.6	84.6	-0.7	-4.2	2.18	2.16	-0.02			

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SELECTED EXPENDITURE CLASSES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES --- continued

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Change between Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>												
Private motoring	113.5	117.0	116.8	116.8	-0.2	2.9	18.40	18.37	18.37	18.37	-0.03	
Motor vehicles	112.5	115.9	115.6	115.6	-0.3	2.8	16.96	16.93	16.93	16.93	-0.03	
Automotive fuel	113.1	114.2	117.7	117.7	1.1	4.6		4.76	4.76	4.81	0.05	
Vehicle insurance	109.1	119.2	120.2	120.2	-2.4	-1.4		5.21	5.21	5.08	-0.13	
Motoring charges	129.4	132.8	133.3	133.3	0.8	10.2		2.50	2.50	2.52	0.02	
Tyres and tubes	103.1	103.8	104.7	104.7	0.9	1.6		1.03	1.03	1.03	0.00	
Vehicle service repairs and parts	112.3	113.9	114.2	114.2	0.3	1.7		0.38	0.38	0.38	0.00	
Urban transport fares	132.3	136.0	136.6	136.6	0.4	3.3	1.44	1.45	1.45	3.10	0.01	
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b>												
Alcoholic drinks	133.1	137.4	139.1	139.1	1.2	4.5	9.46	9.58	9.58	0.12	0.12	
Beer	117.8	120.8	121.4	121.4	0.5	3.1	5.83	5.85	5.85	0.02	0.02	
Wine	118.8	121.2	121.6	121.6	0.3	2.4		3.35	3.35	3.36	0.01	
Spirits	109.9	114.9	115.5	115.5	0.5	5.1		1.20	1.20	1.20	0.00	
Cigarettes and tobacco	122.4	125.2	126.4	126.4	1.0	3.3	3.63	3.73	3.73	1.29	0.02	
	169.6	177.0	181.5	181.5	2.5	7.0						
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>												
Health services	127.0	133.4	133.7	133.7	0.2	5.3	8.06	8.08	8.08	0.02	0.02	
Personal care products	137.9	144.9	146.4	146.4	1.0	6.2	4.82	4.87	4.87	0.05	0.05	
Hairdressing services	112.7	119.4	117.2	117.2	-1.8	4.0	2.35	2.31	2.31	-0.04	-0.04	
	113.3	115.6	117.4	117.4	1.6	3.6	0.88	0.89	0.89	0.01	0.01	
<b>RECREATION AND EDUCATION</b>												
Books newspapers and magazines	111.9	112.9	114.1	114.1	1.1	2.0	12.28	12.41	12.41	0.13	0.13	
Recreational goods	130.4	135.1	135.0	135.0	-0.1	3.5	1.42	1.42	1.42	0.00	0.00	
Holiday travel and accommodation	101.4	102.5	102.6	102.6	0.1	1.2	2.78	2.79	2.79	0.01	0.01	
Recreational services	102.0	98.2	102.7	102.7	4.6	0.7	2.59	2.71	2.71	0.12	0.12	
Education and child care	120.0	122.1	122.8	122.8	0.6	2.3	3.22	3.24	3.24	0.02	0.02	
	124.8	128.9	128.7	128.7	-0.2	3.1	2.26	2.26	2.26	0.00	0.00	
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>	110.0	111.9	112.8	112.8	0.8	2.5	111.9	112.8	112.8	0.9	0.9	

TABLE 8. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — SPECIAL SERIES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between		Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994 and Sep qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994	Sep qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1994
	110.0	111.9	112.8	112.8	0.8	2.5	111.9	112.8	111.9	112.8
ALL GROUPS										0.9
All groups - excluding food	110.1	112.2	113.3	113.3	1.0	2.9	91.48	92.31	91.48	92.31
All groups - excluding clothing	110.2	112.2	113.2	113.2	0.9	2.7	105.17	106.09	105.17	106.09
All groups - excluding housing	113.2	115.1	115.7	115.7	0.5	2.2	95.04	95.50	95.04	95.50
All groups - excluding household equipment and operation	110.6	112.7	113.7	113.7	0.9	2.8	92.12	92.93	92.12	92.93
All groups - excluding transportation	109.4	110.9	112.1	112.1	1.1	2.5	93.47	94.43	93.47	94.43
All groups - excluding tobacco and alcohol	108.2	109.9	110.7	110.7	0.7	2.3	102.41	103.22	102.41	103.22
All groups - excluding health and personal care	109.0	110.5	111.5	111.5	0.9	2.3	103.81	104.72	103.81	104.72
All groups - excluding recreation and education	109.8	111.8	112.7	112.7	0.8	2.6	99.59	100.39	99.59	100.39
All groups - excluding home ownership	113.0	114.9	115.5	115.5	0.5	2.2	100.34	100.81	100.34	100.81
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	75.3	75.8	79.0	79.0	4.2	4.9	8.58	8.94	8.58	8.94
All groups - excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	114.0	116.1	116.7	116.7	0.5	2.4	103.29	103.86	103.29	103.86
All groups - excluding hospital and medical services	109.2	110.9	111.8	111.8	0.8	2.4	108.00	108.89	108.00	108.89
All groups - goods component (a)	112.7	114.5	114.9	114.9	0.3	2.0	69.10	69.33	69.10	69.33
All groups - services component (b)	105.9	107.9	109.6	109.6	1.6	3.5	42.77	43.47	42.77	43.47
Selected State and local government charges (c)	123.6	125.4	126.7	126.7	1.0	2.5	7.62	7.70	7.62	7.70
All groups - excluding selected State and local government charges (c)	109.2	111.0	111.9	111.9	0.8	2.5	104.25	105.10	104.25	105.10

(a) The special series 'All groups, goods component' comprises the Food group (except meals out), Clothing group (except dry cleaning and shoe repairs), Household equipment and operation group (except veterinary services, house contents insurance, repairs to appliances, postal and telephone services and consumer credit charges), Tobacco and alcohol group, materials used in house repairs and maintenance, motor vehicles, automotive fuel, tyres and tubes, parts used in vehicle service and repairs, personal care products, books, newspapers and magazines, and recreational goods. (b) The 'All groups, services component' comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'. (c) Selected State and local government charges comprise: government-owned dwelling rents; water and sewerage rates; council property rates and charges; electricity prices; gas prices (Melbourne and Perth only); motor vehicles third party insurance premiums (except Canberra and in part only in Sydney and Brisbane); motor vehicle registration fees; drivers' licence fees; urban bus fares (government bus fares only in Sydney and Melbourne; council fares only in Brisbane); urban rail and tram fares (not applicable in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin). The derivations and limitations of these figures was described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

TABLE 9. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS:  
ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOUSING, INDEX NUMBERS (a)  
(Base of each index : 1989-90 =100)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Australia	New Zealand (c)
1990-91	105.5	103.4	102.7	105.6	107.7	110.8	109.1	104.0	105.6	104.0
1991-92	108.7	105.9	106.9	109.0	115.0	121.7	117.9	107.6	108.8	106.5
1992-93	112.1	106.8	110.5	110.9	118.6	130.8	123.5	111.4	111.0	108.7
1993-94	114.8	107.9	113.9	112.1	122.0	140.1	130.4	114.2	113.5	109.4
1990-91—										
December	105.5	103.2	102.3	104.0	106.7	108.6	106.5	103.3	106.3	103.9
March	106.2	103.8	103.1	107.3	107.4	112.3	110.7	103.8	106.3	104.6
June	106.8	104.9	103.9	108.4	111.8	116.4	113.1	104.3	106.6	104.7
1991-92—										
September	107.5	104.7	105.5	108.9	113.0	118.1	115.2	105.5	107.7	105.6
December	108.4	106.1	106.1	108.4	114.4	119.4	116.6	106.6	108.9	105.9
March	108.9	105.6	107.4	108.9	115.1	123.2	118.6	107.8	109.4	107.0
June	110.0	107.0	108.4	109.7	117.3	126.0	121.0	110.5	109.3	107.5
1992-93—										
September	110.7	106.3	108.6	110.1	117.1	127.4	122.1	110.1	109.8	108.1
December	111.7	106.7	109.6	110.4	118.0	128.7	121.6	110.8	110.6	108.6
March	112.7	106.6	111.4	111.4	118.4	132.1	123.8	111.3	111.6	108.9
June	113.3	107.6	112.4	111.6	120.8	134.8	126.4	113.5	112.0	109.1
1993-94—										
September	113.7	108.1	112.6	112.1	121.1	136.4	127.2	112.2	112.6	109.3
December	114.6	107.6	113.1	112.7	121.4	139.3	128.3	113.4	113.2	109.4
March	115.1	107.7	114.7	112.0	121.8	140.8	132.2	114.4	113.6	109.3
June	115.9	108.1	115.3	111.6	123.5	143.7	134.0	116.6	114.4	109.5
1994-95—										
September	116.9	107.7	115.6	112.2	123.4	147.6	136.9	119.3	115.1	109.8
December	117.4	n.y.a.	115.7	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	115.7	n.y.a.

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 15. (b) The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany). (c) From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

TABLE 10. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS:  
ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOUSING, PERCENTAGE CHANGES (a)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Australia	New Zealand (c)
Change from previous year										
1991-92	3.0	2.4	4.1	3.2	6.8	9.8	8.1	3.5	3.0	2.4
1992-93	3.1	0.8	3.4	1.7	3.1	7.5	4.7	3.5	2.0	2.1
1993-94	2.4	1.0	3.1	1.1	2.9	7.1	5.6	2.5	2.3	0.6
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
1992-93—										
December	3.0	0.6	3.3	1.8	3.1	7.8	4.3	3.9	1.6	2.5
March	3.5	0.9	3.7	2.3	2.9	7.2	4.4	3.2	2.0	1.8
June	3.0	0.6	3.7	1.7	3.0	7.0	4.5	2.7	2.5	1.5
1993-94—										
September	2.7	1.7	3.7	1.8	3.4	7.1	4.2	1.9	2.6	1.1
December	2.6	0.8	3.2	2.1	2.9	8.2	5.5	2.3	2.4	0.7
March	2.1	1.0	3.0	0.5	2.9	6.6	6.8	2.8	1.8	0.4
June	2.3	0.5	2.6	0.0	2.2	6.6	6.0	2.7	2.1	0.4
1994-95—										
September	2.8	-0.4	2.7	0.1	1.9	8.2	7.6	6.3	2.2	0.5
December	2.4	n.y.a.	2.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.2	n.y.a.
Change from previous quarter										
1992-93—										
December	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.8	1.0	-0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5
March	0.9	-0.1	1.6	0.9	0.3	2.6	1.8	0.5	0.9	0.3
June	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	0.4	0.2
1993-94—										
September	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.6	-1.1	0.5	0.2
December	0.8	-0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	2.1	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.1
March	0.4	0.1	1.4	-0.6	0.3	1.1	3.0	0.9	0.4	-0.1
June	0.7	0.4	0.5	-0.4	1.4	2.1	1.4	1.9	0.7	0.2
1994-95—										
September	0.9	-0.4	0.3	0.5	-0.1	2.7	2.2	2.3	0.6	0.3
December	0.4	n.y.a.	0.1	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.5	n.y.a.

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 15. (b) The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany). (c) From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

TABLE II. ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION(a)

Period	All Groups	All Groups excluding Housing(b)	All Groups excl. interest and "volatile items"(c)	Private Sector Goods and Services(d)			Treasury Underlying Rate(e)
				Goods	Services	Total	
Index Numbers (1989-90 = 100.0)							
1990-91	105.3	105.6	105.5	104.7	106.0	105.1	104.9
1991-92	107.3	108.8	109.3	107.9	108.0	107.9	108.2
1992-93	108.4	111.0	112.1	110.9	109.0	110.4	110.4
1993-94	110.4	113.5	115.2	113.9	110.8	113.1	112.7
<i>1990-91—</i>							
December	106.0	106.3	105.4	104.4	106.7	105.0	104.5
March	105.8	106.3	106.1	105.1	106.7	105.5	105.3
June	106.0	106.6	107.2	106.5	106.7	106.5	106.4
<i>1991-92—</i>							
September	106.6	107.7	108.0	107.0	106.8	106.9	107.0
December	107.6	108.9	109.3	107.8	108.8	108.0	108.1
March	107.6	109.4	109.9	108.0	108.1	108.1	108.5
June	107.3	109.3	110.1	108.9	108.2	108.7	109.3
<i>1992-93—</i>							
September	107.4	109.8	110.7	109.5	108.6	109.3	109.6
December	107.9	110.6	111.6	110.4	109.2	110.1	110.1
March	108.9	111.6	112.6	111.3	108.9	110.7	110.7
June	109.3	112.0	113.4	112.2	109.3	111.5	111.3
<i>1993-94—</i>							
September	109.8	112.6	114.1	113.1	109.6	112.2	112.0
December	110.0	113.2	114.8	113.6	111.0	112.9	112.4
March	110.4	113.6	115.6	114.1	111.0	113.3	113.0
June	111.2	114.4	116.1	114.6	111.6	113.8	113.5
<i>1994-95—</i>							
September	111.9	115.1	116.7	115.0	112.7	114.4	114.2
December	112.8	115.7	117.5	115.7	113.7	115.2	114.8
Percentage Changes							
Change from previous year							
1991-92	1.9	3.0	3.6	3.1	1.9	2.7	3.1
1992-93	1.0	2.0	2.6	2.8	0.9	2.3	2.0
1993-94	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.7	1.7	2.4	2.1
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year							
<i>1992-93—</i>							
December	0.3	1.6	2.1	2.4	0.4	1.9	1.9
March	1.2	2.0	2.5	3.1	0.7	2.4	2.0
June	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.6	1.8
<i>1993-94—</i>							
September	2.2	2.6	3.1	3.3	0.9	2.7	2.2
December	1.9	2.4	2.9	2.9	1.6	2.5	2.1
March	1.4	1.8	2.7	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.1
June	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
<i>1994-95—</i>							
September	1.9	2.2	2.3	1.7	2.8	2.0	2.0
December	2.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.0	2.1
Change from previous quarter							
<i>1992-93—</i>							
December	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5
March	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	-0.3	0.5	0.5
June	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.5
<i>1993-94—</i>							
September	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.6
December	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.4
March	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5
June	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
<i>1994-95—</i>							
September	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.6
December	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 16, page 15. (b) This series covers approximately 84 per cent of the total CPI basket. (c) Comprises the All Groups CPI excluding: Fresh fruit and vegetables, Mortgage interest charges, Automotive fuel, and Consumer credit charges. The resulting series covers approximately 85 per cent of the total CPI basket. (d) Comprises the All Groups CPI excluding: items in (c), Government-owned dwelling rents, Fuel and light, Local government rates and charges, Postal and telephone services, Motoring charges, Urban transport fares, Health services, Pharmaceuticals, and Education and child care. The resulting series covers approximately 69 per cent of the total CPI basket. (e) Comprises the All Groups CPI excluding: items in (c) and (d) (except Motoring charges), Meat and seafoods, Clothing, Tobacco and alcohol, and Holiday travel and accommodation. The resulting series covers approximately 51 per cent of the total CPI basket.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Brief description of the CPI**

1. The CPI measures quarterly changes in the price of a *basket* of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (ie metropolitan wage and salary earner households). This *basket* covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. Pensioners and other social welfare recipients are not included in the CPI population group and the index does not reflect concessional prices paid by these people such as subsidised government dwelling rents, public transport fares and the like.

2. The capital city indexes measure price movements over time in each city individually. They do not measure differences in retail price levels between cities.

3. Further information about the CPI is contained in a booklet entitled *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0) which is available from the ABS on request. A more detailed account is contained in *The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6461.0).

**Prices**

4. Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are generally collected quarterly. However, some important items are priced monthly or more frequently (e.g. bread, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, petrol, alcohol and tobacco) and a small number annually (e.g. seasonal clothing).

5. In order to facilitate a more even spread of field collection workload the bulk of the items for which prices are collected quarterly are priced in the first two months of each quarter (ie July/August, October/November, January/February, April/May). With a few exceptions items priced in the third month are those subject to price changes at discrete points of time (e.g. electricity and postal charges, milk); in these cases information about any changes in price during the quarter is obtained so that an average price for the whole quarter can be calculated.

**Weighting pattern**

6. There are 107 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) in the twelfth series CPI and each expenditure class has its own weight, or measure of relative importance. In calculating the index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights.

7. Changes in the weighting pattern have been made at approximately five-yearly intervals to take account of changes in household spending patterns. The CPI now comprises twelve series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series.

**Analysis of CPI changes**

8. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in *index points* or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating index points changes and percentage changes between any two periods:

All Groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities

Index numbers:

Sep quarter 1994:	111.9	(see Table 1)
less: Jun quarter 1994:	111.2	(see Table 1)
Change in index points:	0.7	

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.7}{111.2} \times 100 = 0.6\%$$

9. In this publication, percentage changes are calculated to illustrate 3 different kinds of movements in index numbers :

- movements between consecutive financial years (where the index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers),
- movements between corresponding quarters of consecutive years, and
- movements between consecutive quarters.

10. Table 7 provides a detailed analysis, for the weighted average of eight capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for subgroups and for selected expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each group and subgroup makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy products subgroup contributed 1.69 index points to the total All Groups index number of 111.9 for September quarter 1994. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group and subgroup.

11. Table 8 provides summary information about a range of Special series in a similar format to that provided in Table 7.

12. Information on the impact of changes in Selected State and local government charges on the CPI is included in Tables 3 and 8. Table 3 shows the contribution made by changes in these charges to the CPI for each capital city, while Table 8 shows index numbers for two special series *Selected State and local government charges* and *All Groups excluding selected State and local government charges*. An explanation of the derivation and limitations of these figures was published in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

### International comparisons

13. In analysing price movements in Australia, an important consideration is Australia's performance relative to other countries. However, due to the many differences in the structure of the housing sector in different countries and in the way that housing is treated in their CPIs, a simple comparison of All groups (or headline) CPIs is often inappropriate. To provide a better basis for international comparisons, the Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a resolution which called for countries to "provide for dissemination at the international level of an index which excludes shelter, in addition to the all-items index."

14. Table 9 presents indexes for selected countries on a basis consistent with the above resolution and comparable to the Australian series *All groups excluding housing*. To facilitate comparisons all indexes in this table have, where necessary, been converted to a quarterly basis and re-referenced to a base of 1989-90 = 100.0.

15. In producing this table, the ABS is grateful for the assistance of the relevant national statistical agencies which have either directly supplied indexes for all items excluding shelter or data to enable their derivation.

### Alternative Measures of Consumer Price Inflation

16. The various uses of the CPI may be grouped into two major categories. The first relates to uses of the CPI to assess changes in the purchasing power of household incomes, particularly as input to income adjustment processes. The second relates to uses as a general measure of inflation.

17. It is not possible to produce a single measure that is entirely suitable for both purposes, due to certain fundamental differences in requirements. For more details, see the Information Paper *The Australian Consumer Price Index, 12th Series Review* (Cat. No. 6450.0).

18. While the removal of shelter costs from the CPI serves to improve international comparability there is a need for other measures for some purposes. In particular, there is a requirement for measures which seek to remove temporary influences and one-off changes in order to focus on the "underlying" inflation rate.

19. There is no universally accepted methodology for deriving a measure of an "underlying" inflation rate. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury (Treasury) have developed several alternative measures which, while based on the CPI, exclude various components which have been assessed as contributing significant temporary influences from time to time.

20. Table 11 presents the *All groups* CPI, the series recommended for international comparisons (*All groups excluding housing*), and a number of possible "underlying" measures including the Treasury measure. A description of the Treasury "underlying" inflation rate was published in the Appendix to the September quarter 1994 issue of this publication.

21. No single series can be claimed to provide the ideal guide to "underlying" inflation in every time period due to variations in the sources of particular "shocks". Judgement will still be required in assessing the trend from period to period. However, Treasury and the RBA have agreed that the Treasury series provides the best available guide to "underlying" inflation for macro-economic policy purposes.

### Related publications

22. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

*The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts Sources and Methods* (6461.0)

*A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0)

*Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges* (6442.0)

*House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0)

*Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities* (6403.0)

*Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: 12th Series Review* (6450.0)

### Next issue

23. The Consumer Price Index - March quarter 1995 (6401.0) is scheduled to be released on Thursday 27 April 1995.

24. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

n.a.	not available
r	revised
n.y.a.	not yet available

**NOTE.** Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this publication are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by subgroup or group index numbers in Table 7 do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.

## APPENDIX A

## TREATMENT OF HOLIDAY TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

1. As part of an ongoing programme of CPI sample reviews, the ABS has recently completed a review of the samples used to construct the indexes for holiday travel and accommodation. As a result, prices for holiday travel and accommodation will be collected more frequently and the indexes will consistently register price changes in the period in which the travel is undertaken.

2. This Appendix provides a general explanation of the treatment of holiday travel and accommodation costs in the CPI and an outline of the most recent changes to procedures.

**Background**

3. Holiday travel and accommodation costs were first included in the CPI in December quarter 1976, although coverage was restricted to holiday travel and accommodation in Australia until June quarter 1982 when it was extended to include holiday travel and accommodation overseas.

4. In constructing a quarterly price index, for these items the objective is to measure the change from one quarter to the next in the cost of purchasing the same basket of travel and accommodation that was purchased in the weighting base year by the reference population. To date this has been achieved by pricing a basket of travel and accommodation services in the second month of each quarter (ie in February, May, August and November).

5. For most items included in the CPI the prices collected are those prevailing on the date of visit by the price collector. However, prices of some components of holiday travel and accommodation, particularly airfares, vary depending on how far in advance the product is booked and/or paid for. Therefore, in order to ensure that travel and accommodation prices used in calculating the CPI matched as closely as possible those prices actually paid by households, the technique of advance pricing was adopted.

6. In practice, advance pricing involved collecting the price that could be obtained on the date of visit for a departure on the first Saturday of the next school holiday period commencing at least 60 days after the date of visit. This approach reflected the actual purchasing patterns of the majority of households and resulted in price changes being accounted for in the CPI during the period in which households incurred the liability to pay for such services (this being justified, at least in part, by the recognition of the substantial number of cases where significant penalties applied for subsequent cancellation).

**Changed circumstances**

7. In recent years, airline deregulation and changes to school holiday periods have resulted in increased availability of discount prices (particularly to overseas destinations), a significant increase in product choice and flexibility of departure dates.

8. These changes mean that the existing procedures are no longer appropriate as they fail to adequately take account of changing purchasing patterns and the range of prices available within a quarter.

**New procedures**

9. Respondent samples have been updated and distributed across the quarter such that price observations are collected each month. Although the technique of advance pricing has been retained, the requirement for a school holiday departure date has been relaxed — the initial requirement simply being for the price applicable for departure two months after the pricing date. The prices will be included in the CPI in the month in which the nominated departure date falls rather than in the month in which the price is collected.

10. Although the new pricing basis does not cover the full range of options available to purchasers of holiday travel and accommodation, it is considered to provide a sufficiently representative sample to allow for the construction of reliable measures of price change.

11. In addition to providing more reliable measures of average quarterly prices, the new procedures will result in more consistent timing of the recording of price change in the CPI. Prices included in the CPI will always relate to departures in the given quarter. Future changes to the average time between booking and departure will be reflected in the timing of price collection and not in the timing with which price change is accounted for in the CPI.











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