



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—DECEMBER QUARTER 1981

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### MAIN FEATURES

	Change between		Group indexes— Weighted average of six State capital cities	Change between	
	Sept. qtr 1981 and Dec. qtr 1981 %	Dec. qtr 1980 and Dec. qtr 1981 %		Sept. qtr 1981 and Dec. qtr 1981 %	Dec. qtr 1980 and Dec. qtr 1981 %
<b>All groups index</b>					
<b>Weighted average of six State capital cities</b>	+4.2	+11.3	<b>Food</b>	+1.5	+8.8
<b>Sydney</b>	+4.1	+10.8	<b>Clothing</b>	+2.7	+7.6
<b>Melbourne</b>	+4.3	+11.4	<b>Housing</b>	+3.0	+10.8
<b>Brisbane</b>	+3.8	+11.4	<b>Household equipment and operation</b>	+3.6	+10.7
<b>Adelaide</b>	+3.9	+11.6	<b>Transportation</b>	+4.5	+12.6
<b>Perth</b>	+4.5	+12.6	<b>Tobacco and alcohol</b>	+1.8	+9.0
<b>Hobart</b>	+3.8	+11.1	<b>Health and personal care</b>	+24.5	+29.2
<b>Canberra</b>	+4.0	+11.2	<b>Recreation</b>	+3.8	+11.3
<b>Weighted average of seven capital cities</b>	+4.1	+11.3	<b>All Groups</b>	+4.2	+11.3

Main price changes between September quarter 1981 and December quarter 1981 were as follows:

#### Food

Prices of meals out and take-away food increased in all cities.  
 Prices for soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery increased in all cities.  
 Bread prices increased in all cities.  
 Milk prices increased in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.  
 Prices for fresh fruit and vegetables decreased in all cities except Sydney and Hobart.  
 Lamb prices fell in all cities.

#### Clothing

Prices increased for women's and men's summer seasonal clothing.

#### Housing

House prices increased in all cities.  
 Local government rates and charges increased in all cities.  
 Private dwelling rents increased in all cities.  
 Government dwelling rents increased in Adelaide.

#### Household equipment and operation

Furniture and floor coverings prices increased in all cities.  
 Prices of pet food increased in all cities.  
 Telephone rental charges increased in all cities.  
 Electricity charges increased in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart.  
 Gas charges increased in Melbourne, Perth, Hobart and Canberra.

#### Transportation

Petrol prices increased in all cities.  
 Motor car prices increased in all cities.  
 Urban public transport fares increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.  
 Motor vehicle servicing and repair charges increased in all cities.

#### Tobacco and alcohol

Beer prices increased in all cities except Adelaide.  
 Cigarette prices increased in all cities.

#### Health and personal care

Prices of hospital and medical services increased significantly in all cities as a result of changes to health insurance arrangements—see Appendix for details.

#### Recreation

Prices of books and magazines increased in all cities.  
 Newspaper prices increased in all cities except Brisbane and Perth.  
 Holiday accommodation charges increased for all cities except Canberra.  
 Entertainment charges increased in all cities.

Prices for a range of goods, including motor vehicles, furniture and pet food, were affected by increases in sales tax.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Brief description of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditures by metropolitan wage and salary earner households. This 'basket' covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following groups: Food; Clothing; Housing; Household equipment and operation; Transportation; Tobacco and alcohol; Health and personal care; and Recreation. Each group is in turn divided into subgroups. Index numbers at the *group* and *All Groups* levels are published for each State capital city and Canberra, for the weighted average of six State capital cities and for the weighted average of seven capital cities. This publication also contains *subgroup index numbers* for the weighted average of six State capital cities.

2. It is important to note that 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 the booklet entitled *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* which is available from the ABS on request.

### Prices

4. Prices of *non-food items* are collected quarterly, usually as at the middle of the mid-month of the quarter. However, to facilitate field collection arrangements, some items (furniture, appliances, television sets, radios, sound equipment, motor vehicle operation, clothing and footwear services and hairdressing) are priced during the first month of each quarter. Items such as local government rates and seasonal clothing are priced annually.

5. The quarterly prices for *food items* used in the index are the averages of prices collected as at the middle of each of the three months of the quarter. In the case of some fresh food items (fruit, vegetables and fish) prices are collected more frequently and averaged to obtain monthly prices.

### Weighting pattern

6. There are 105 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) within the current 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 in fact comprises nine series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series. The ninth series (that is, the current series) was introduced as from September quarter 1976 and its weighting pattern is based on estimated expenditures in 1974-75, obtained from the first household expenditure survey conducted by the ABS.

### Index points and percentage changes

8. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as percentage changes, or as changes in 'index points'. The difference between these two methods of describing movements in indexes is shown by the following example:

*All Groups CPI: Weighted average of six State capital cities*  
*Index numbers:*

December quarter 1981:	345.4
Less: September quarter 1981:	331.6
Change in index points:	+13.8

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{+13.8}{331.6} \times 100 = +4.2\%$$

The index number of 345.4 for December quarter 1981 indicates an increase of 245.4% since the reference base year (1966-67).

9. Most of the tables in this publication show index numbers or percentage changes calculated from index numbers. Table 3, on the other hand, shows the main changes between September quarter 1981 and December quarter 1981, in terms of '*All Groups*' index points, for each capital city.

### Special tables

10. Table 7 provides a *detailed analysis*, for the weighted average of six State capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for subgroups and for some special series. It also shows the *contribution* which each group and subgroup makes to the total index. For instance, the dairy produce subgroup contributed 7.36 index points to the total All Groups index number of 345.4 for December quarter 1981. The final column shows contributions to the *change in All Groups index points* by each group and subgroup.

11. The All Groups index includes the effects of changes in prices for hospital and medical services. To facilitate analysis of trends in retail prices without the effects of these changes, Table 5 shows percentage changes for a special series '*All Groups excluding hospital and medical services*', and compares these with changes in the All Groups index. For further information on the most recent changes see the appendix to this publication.

### Monthly food group index

12. The ABS publication *Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6402.0) contains monthly index numbers, percentage changes and other data relating to the Food Group of the CPI.

### Symbols and other usages

— Nil or rounded to zero.

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.

**TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : ALL GROUPS  
PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of seven capital cities</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Change from previous year</i>									
1978-79	+8.2	+8.7	+7.8	+8.2	+7.4	+8.1	+7.8	+8.1	+8.2
1979-80	+10.2	+10.6	+10.0	+9.7	+10.1	+9.4	+10.2	+10.7	+10.1
1980-81	+9.4	+9.7	+9.4	+9.3	+9.2	+8.8	+9.2	+9.7	+9.4
<i>Change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>									
<i>1979-80—</i>									
December	+10.0	+10.3	+10.2	+8.6	+10.4	+9.4	+10.5	+10.5	+10.0
March	+10.5	+11.1	+10.1	+10.7	+10.6	+9.9	+10.4	+11.3	+10.6
June	+10.7	+11.0	+10.6	+10.8	+11.0	+9.7	+10.1	+11.0	+10.7
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	+10.2	+10.6	+9.9	+10.2	+10.2	+10.2	+9.9	+10.3	+10.2
December	+9.2	+9.8	+9.2	+9.3	+8.4	+8.3	+8.9	+10.0	+9.3
March	+9.4	+9.7	+9.7	+8.7	+9.3	+8.5	+9.1	+9.4	+9.5
June	+8.8	+8.9	+8.9	+9.1	+8.8	+8.2	+8.8	+9.2	+8.8
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	+9.1	+8.8	+9.0	+9.7	+9.6	+9.3	+8.9	+9.5	+9.1
December	+11.3	+10.8	+11.4	+11.4	+11.6	+12.6	+11.1	+11.2	+11.3
<i>Change from previous quarter</i>									
<i>1979-80—</i>									
December	+3.0	+2.9	+2.8	+3.1	+3.8	+3.3	+2.8	+2.7	+3.0
March	+2.2	+2.7	+1.8	+2.6	+1.9	+1.8	+2.1	+2.6	+2.2
June	+2.8	+2.8	+3.1	+2.4	+2.9	+2.5	+2.5	+2.8	+2.8
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	+1.9	+1.8	+2.0	+1.7	+1.3	+2.3	+2.3	+1.9	+1.9
December	+2.1	+2.2	+2.1	+2.2	+2.0	+1.5	+1.8	+2.4	+2.1
March	+2.4	+2.6	+2.3	+2.1	+2.8	+2.0	+2.3	+2.0	+2.4
June	+2.2	+2.0	+2.2	+2.7	+2.4	+2.2	+2.2	+2.6	+2.2
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	+2.1	+1.8	+2.1	+2.3	+2.1	+3.4	+2.4	+2.1	+2.1
December	+4.2	+4.1	+4.3	+3.8	+3.9	+4.5	+3.8	+4.0	+4.1

**TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : ALL GROUPS  
INDEX NUMBERS  
(Base of each index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)**

	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of seven capital cities</i>
1977-78	241.0	243.2	238.2	238.4	241.8	243.1	239.1	232.3	240.9
1978-79	260.7	264.4	256.8	258.0	259.7	262.8	257.7	251.1	260.6
1979-80	287.2	292.4	282.5	283.0	285.8	287.4	284.0	278.0	287.0
1980-81	314.2	320.8	309.1	309.3	312.0	312.7	310.1	305.1	314.1
<i>Quarter—</i>									
<i>1977-78—</i>									
December	239.6	241.8	236.6	236.3	241.0	242.5	238.1	231.9	239.5
March	242.7	245.1	239.2	240.6	243.1	245.3	240.8	234.2	242.5
June	247.7	249.8	245.2	245.2	247.6	249.8	245.5	238.1	247.6
<i>1978-79—</i>									
September	252.5	255.0	249.6	249.8	252.6	254.7	249.3	242.7	252.4
December	258.2	261.6	253.9	257.6	256.9	260.8	254.5	248.2	258.0
March	262.6	266.7	258.4	259.3	261.3	264.3	260.0	252.8	262.4
June	269.6	274.3	265.3	265.2	267.9	271.4	267.0	260.5	269.4
<i>1979-80—</i>									
September	275.8	280.4	272.2	271.2	273.3	276.2	273.6	267.1	275.7
December	284.1	288.5	279.7	279.7	283.6	285.4	281.2	274.3	283.9
March	290.3	296.2	284.6	287.1	288.9	290.4	287.0	281.3	290.1
June	298.4	304.4	293.3	293.9	297.3	297.7	294.1	289.2	298.3
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	304.0	310.0	299.2	298.9	301.3	304.5	300.8	294.7	303.9
December	310.3	316.8	305.4	305.6	307.4	309.0	306.2	301.8	310.2
March	317.7	324.9	312.3	312.0	315.9	315.1	313.1	307.8	317.6
June	324.7	331.4	319.3	320.5	323.5	322.0	320.1	315.9	324.6
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	331.6	337.2	326.1	327.9	330.2	332.9	327.7	322.6	331.5
December	345.4	350.9	340.2	340.5	343.2	347.8	340.1	335.5	345.2

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
CHANGE IN INDEX POINTS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1981 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1981(a)

	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of seven capital cities</i>
<b>Food</b>									
Meals out and take-away food	+0.4	+0.2	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.7	+0.3	+0.2	+0.4
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	+0.3	+0.5	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4
Dairy produce	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.5	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2
Cereal products	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2
Fresh fruit and vegetables	-0.3	+0.2	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	+0.5	—	-0.3
Lamb and mutton	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	—	-0.2	-0.2
Other	+0.4	+0.5	+0.3	+0.5	+0.4	—	+0.4	+0.6	+0.4
<b>Clothing</b>									
Women's and girls' clothing	+0.6	+0.6	+0.5	+0.7	+0.6	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5
Men's and boys' clothing	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	—	+0.1	+0.2
Other	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1
<b>Housing</b>									
House price, repairs and maintenance	+0.5	+0.6	+0.5	+0.7	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.6	+0.5
Local government rates and charges	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	+0.5	+0.4
Rent-privately owned dwellings	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4
Rent-government owned dwellings	—	—	—	—	+0.2	—	—	—	—
<b>Household equipment and operation</b>									
Furniture and floor coverings	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.4
Pet food	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
Telephone charges	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2
Household cleaning agents	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Electricity	+0.1	+0.1	—	+0.3	—	+0.4	+0.8	—	+0.1
Gas	+0.1	—	+0.2	—	—	+0.1	—	—	+0.1
Other	+0.6	+0.5	+0.8	+0.7	+0.8	+0.5	+0.5	+1.1	+0.6
<b>Transportation</b>									
Petrol	+0.8	+1.3	+0.7	+0.5	+0.1	+0.4	—	+0.2	+0.8
Motor vehicle purchase	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6	+0.8	+0.7	+0.8	+0.4	+1.1	+0.7
Public transport fares	+0.5	+0.6	+0.7	+0.2	+0.8	—	+0.1	+0.2	+0.5
Motor service, repairs, parts	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.5	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.7	+0.4
Motoring charges	+0.2	—	—	+1.5	+0.2	+0.2	—	—	+0.2
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	+0.2	—	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2
<b>Tobacco and alcohol</b>									
Beer	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	-0.1	+0.4	+1.0	+0.2	+0.3
Cigarettes and tobacco	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2
Wine and spirits	+0.1	+0.1	—	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
<b>Health and personal care</b>									
Hospital and medical services	+4.4	+3.4	+5.5	+1.7	+4.5	+7.3	+3.5	+3.8	+4.4
Personal care products	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Other	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1
<b>Recreation</b>									
Books, newspapers, magazines	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	+0.1	+0.5	+0.1	+0.1	+0.4	+0.4
Holiday accommodation	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	—	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	—	+0.2
Entertainment	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.4	+0.1
Other	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.3
<b>Total change</b>	<b>+13.8</b>	<b>+13.7</b>	<b>+14.1</b>	<b>+12.6</b>	<b>+13.0</b>	<b>+14.9</b>	<b>+12.4</b>	<b>+12.9</b>	<b>+13.7</b>

(a) See notes about changes in index points in paragraphs 8 and 9.

**TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : GROUP INDEXES : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES : PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Trans- portation</i>	<i>Tobacco and alcohol</i>	<i>Health and personal care(a)</i>	<i>Recreation</i>	<i>All Groups (a)</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Change from previous year</i>									
1978-79	+11.5	+7.3	+6.5	+6.3	+9.4	+15.6	-5.2	+6.4	+8.2
1979-80	+14.0	+6.8	+7.5	+8.1	+12.9	+8.3	+9.2	+8.7	+10.2
1980-81	+10.3	+7.2	+10.0	+11.1	+9.5	+6.9	+9.7	+8.6	+9.4
<i>Change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>									
1979-80—									
December	+13.7	+6.6	+7.2	+7.4	+13.5	+3.5	+18.9	+8.3	+10.0
March	+15.0	+6.7	+7.6	+8.4	+11.6	+5.7	+19.3	+9.9	+10.5
June	+12.5	+6.6	+8.2	+9.9	+13.2	+6.0	+20.6	+9.8	+10.7
1980-81—									
September	+11.3	+6.4	+9.4	+11.2	+9.5	+6.9	+20.7	+10.6	+10.2
December	+12.0	+7.2	+9.8	+11.3	+7.6	+6.6	+7.0	+8.7	+9.2
March	+9.7	+7.6	+10.1	+11.5	+10.9	+7.0	+7.1	+8.0	+9.4
June	+8.5	+7.5	+10.5	+10.3	+10.2	+6.9	+5.6	+7.6	+8.8
1981-82—									
September	+10.1	+7.2	+10.4	+9.2	+9.7	+8.0	+5.0	+8.8	+9.1
December	+8.8	+7.6	+10.8	+10.7	+12.6	+9.0	+29.2	+11.3	+11.3
<i>Change from previous quarter</i>									
1979-80—									
December	+2.1	+1.5	+2.2	+2.1	+3.6	+1.2	+14.1	+3.4	+3.0
March	+4.1	+0.8	+1.8	+2.6	+0.6	+1.8	+1.6	+3.4	+2.2
June	+2.5	+2.9	+2.4	+2.6	+4.7	+1.7	+2.4	+1.8	+2.8
1980-81—									
September	+2.1	+1.2	+2.7	+3.5	+0.3	+2.1	+1.7	+1.7	+1.9
December	+2.7	+2.2	+2.6	+2.1	+1.9	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5	+2.1
March	+2.0	+1.1	+2.1	+2.8	+3.7	+2.1	+1.6	+2.8	+2.4
June	+1.4	+2.9	+2.8	+1.5	+4.0	+1.5	+1.0	+1.4	+2.2
1981-82—									
September	+3.6	+0.8	+2.6	+2.4	-0.1	+3.2	+1.1	+2.9	+2.1
December	+1.5	+2.7	+3.0	+3.6	+4.5	+1.8	+24.5	+3.8	+4.2

(a) Series includes effects of price changes in hospital and medical services; see paragraph 11.

**TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : COMPARISON OF 'ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES' AND ALL GROUPS INDEX : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES : PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	<i>Change from previous quarter</i>		<i>Change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>	
	<i>All Groups excluding hospital and medical services</i>	<i>All Groups</i>	<i>All Groups excluding hospital and medical services</i>	<i>All Groups</i>
	%	%	%	%
1978-79—				
September	+1.8	+1.9	+7.5	+7.9
December	+3.8	+2.3	+9.0	+7.8
March	+1.7	+1.7	+9.5	+8.2
June	+2.7	+2.7	+10.4	+8.8
1979-80—				
September	+2.4	+2.3	+11.0	+9.2
December	+2.3	+3.0	+9.5	+10.0
March	+2.2	+2.2	+10.0	+10.5
June	+2.9	+2.8	+10.2	+10.7
1980-81—				
September	+1.9	+1.9	+9.7	+10.2
December	+2.2	+2.1	+9.5	+9.2
March	+2.4	+2.4	+9.7	+9.4
June	+2.3	+2.2	+9.1	+8.8
1981-82—				
September	+2.2	+2.1	+9.3	+9.1
December	+2.9	+4.2	+10.1	+11.3

TABLE 6.  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—GROUP INDEXES

Quarter	Weighted average of six State capital cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra	Weighted average of seven capital cities
<b>FOOD</b> (Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)									
1979-80—									
December	277.5	277.3	273.8	276.5	280.3	285.1	283.8	279.3	277.5
March	288.9	290.9	281.4	295.7	289.2	295.7	291.2	287.8	288.8
June	296.2	297.5	291.0	298.8	298.4	300.4	296.9	294.4	296.2
1980-81—									
September	302.4	302.6	298.8	302.4	303.8	308.5	304.6	302.8	302.4
December	310.7	312.0	306.6	313.9	309.8	313.6	311.0	310.7	310.7
March	316.9	318.1	311.1	322.7	319.5	320.4	315.0	316.4	316.9
June	321.4	323.4	314.2	328.5	323.2	325.8	321.4	321.0	321.4
1981-82—									
September	333.0	330.0	329.6	337.5	334.9	345.6	332.1	330.1	332.9
December	338.1	337.7	332.0	344.4	339.1	348.5	340.9	336.2	338.0
<b>CLOTHING</b> (Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)									
1979-80—									
December	292.9	291.7	292.5	289.4	299.9	294.6	295.8	288.9	292.8
March	295.2	293.8	295.0	291.4	301.7	296.9	297.2	289.5	295.0
June	303.7	302.0	303.6	300.1	311.2	304.0	307.0	299.5	303.6
1980-81—									
September	307.2	306.4	306.7	302.5	314.4	308.6	310.8	302.7	307.1
December	314.1	313.3	313.6	307.8	321.8	316.6	317.2	309.7	314.0
March	317.5	317.0	316.8	312.1	324.8	319.1	320.1	311.2	317.4
June	326.6	324.8	326.4	320.0	336.4	329.5	330.8	324.9	326.6
1981-82—									
September	329.2	327.7	329.0	322.7	338.9	331.1	332.7	328.1	329.2
December	338.0	336.5	336.8	335.2	348.7	339.4	338.9	335.0	337.9
<b>HOUSING</b> (Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)									
1979-80—									
December	311.3	339.8	289.3	295.4	306.5	291.9	291.7	260.7	310.4
March	316.8	347.0	293.6	300.1	312.8	294.8	296.3	265.9	315.9
June	324.5	357.6	300.0	305.2	319.7	298.0	301.5	268.2	323.4
1980-81—									
September	333.1	369.0	306.8	315.2	325.0	304.3	305.2	271.9	331.9
December	341.7	378.4	314.6	320.2	333.6	316.4	315.0	279.8	340.5
March	348.9	387.2	321.2	328.0	338.2	320.9	318.8	284.3	347.6
June	358.5	399.2	331.2	334.9	345.9	324.7	322.7	295.7	357.3
1981-82—									
September	367.7	408.6	339.9	348.9	351.9	332.8	327.8	302.5	366.5
December	378.7	419.9	349.7	359.8	367.0	343.7	336.6	313.7	377.5
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b> (Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)									
1979-80—									
December	240.7	245.2	235.0	240.7	237.4	247.7	251.9	229.0	240.6
March	247.0	251.6	241.5	244.8	243.5	254.1	261.1	241.5	247.0
June	253.4	258.0	247.8	252.1	248.4	262.7	267.6	247.2	253.5
1980-81—									
September	262.2	265.3	257.1	261.4	257.1	274.7	278.3	254.2	262.2
December	267.8	270.7	262.4	267.7	264.0	279.6	282.6	261.1	267.8
March	275.3	280.1	270.5	272.0	268.2	284.5	291.1	269.6	275.4
June	279.5	285.7	274.1	275.6	272.4	286.7	293.3	272.2	279.6
1981-82—									
September	286.2	290.4	280.5	284.1	283.1	296.0	299.1	276.5	286.2
December	296.4	300.4	291.2	294.9	291.1	306.1	311.2	285.7	296.4

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

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of seven capital cities</i>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b> (Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)									
<i>1979-80—</i>									
December	294.7	304.3	291.8	286.7	286.9	277.9	287.7	289.1	294.8
March	296.5	306.9	292.9	288.0	289.2	278.2	292.6	293.5	296.6
June	310.3	323.4	305.2	301.7	300.3	291.6	303.2	309.5	310.6
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	311.3	322.0	309.1	302.1	296.9	295.2	309.6	312.5	311.6
December	317.1	330.5	312.5	307.5	303.0	300.7	312.0	318.2	317.4
March	328.7	340.4	326.2	312.6	320.0	310.7	325.2	324.1	328.8
June	341.8	350.2	339.1	332.8	336.2	323.7	339.4	339.7	342.0
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	341.6	350.2	335.6	332.2	334.7	334.2	351.4	347.0	342.1
December	357.1	368.2	350.4	351.6	346.4	343.5	358.2	359.3	357.4
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b> (Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)									
<i>1979-80—</i>									
December	297.5	303.0	300.3	285.5	283.3	298.1	287.5	276.5	297.2
March	302.8	312.4	303.9	288.2	283.7	300.0	290.2	283.0	302.5
June	307.9	316.3	309.0	295.0	291.3	305.7	295.4	284.7	307.5
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	314.3	324.1	314.1	300.5	299.4	310.3	304.1	291.0	313.9
December	317.2	327.5	316.8	303.7	299.3	313.8	306.0	298.6	316.9
March	324.0	339.6	319.4	306.8	304.9	317.7	312.9	304.1	323.7
June	329.0	342.6	325.5	312.8	308.4	328.1	319.9	307.2	328.7
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	339.6	354.2	335.3	324.4	319.5	336.4	326.3	314.4	339.2
December	345.6	359.5	341.6	332.2	322.0	343.5	341.7	319.2	345.2
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b> (Base of each index : December quarter 1968 = 100.0)									
<i>1979-80—</i>									
December	335.3	322.9	328.9	338.5	350.8	398.5	324.7	348.2	335.5
March	340.6	326.3	335.4	345.2	356.5	404.9	329.4	356.0	340.8
June	348.8	334.8	345.9	349.2	362.3	411.1	337.6	363.6	349.0
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	354.7	341.4	350.4	358.5	367.8	417.2	339.2	369.7	354.9
December	358.9	344.8	360.2	370.0	372.4	391.6	351.9	378.7	359.2
March	364.7	352.7	363.7	377.8	380.5	392.6	356.9	384.5	365.0
June	368.4	357.2	366.9	381.5	385.1	393.3	362.0	388.3	368.7
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	372.3	359.4	371.3	386.3	390.2	399.9	365.0	390.6	372.5
December	463.6	430.1	486.7	428.6	475.1	555.1	439.0	487.0	463.9
<b>RECREATION</b> (Base of each index : September quarter 1976 = 100.0)									
<i>1979-80—</i>									
December	129.4	128.2	129.7	131.8	129.8	129.6	126.6	129.3	129.4
March	133.8	133.7	133.1	137.1	134.4	132.8	131.1	132.2	133.7
June	136.2	134.4	136.9	138.2	138.6	135.8	133.4	135.8	136.2
<i>1980-81—</i>									
September	138.5	138.0	138.0	140.1	139.7	139.6	136.0	138.0	138.5
December	140.6	138.5	141.7	141.3	143.1	141.6	137.8	141.0	140.6
March	144.5	142.2	145.5	146.2	146.9	145.7	142.3	145.0	144.5
June	146.5	142.5	148.8	149.6	149.4	147.5	143.2	148.2	146.6
<i>1981-82—</i>									
September	150.7	147.5	152.2	154.6	152.4	152.5	147.7	153.0	150.8
December	156.5	154.2	158.2	158.2	159.1	156.0	150.5	158.7	156.6

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—INDEX NUMBERS AND INDEX POINTS CONTRIBUTIONS: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES

	Reference base period	Index numbers				Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
		Sept. 1981		Dec. 1981		Sept. 1981 and		Dec. 1981 and		Sept. 1981		Dec. 1981	
		1981	1981	1981	1981	%	%	%	%	1981	1981	1981	1981
<b>FOOD</b>	1966-67 = 100.0	333.0	338.1	338.1	338.1	+1.5	+8.8	75.32	76.48	+1.16			
Dairy produce	"	280.9	290.8	290.8	290.8	+3.5	+12.5	7.11	7.36	+0.25			
Cereal products	"	350.1	361.1	361.1	361.1	+3.1	+11.0	7.67	7.92	+0.25			
Meat and seafoods	"	355.2	354.8	354.8	354.8	-0.1	+2.9	20.34	20.32	-0.02			
Beef and veal	"	344.7	344.2	344.2	344.2	-0.1	-0.5	9.54	9.52	-0.02			
Lamb and mutton	"	388.6	365.9	365.9	365.9	-5.8	+3.1	3.58	3.37	-0.21			
Pork	"	325.5	343.0	343.0	343.0	+5.4	+10.7	0.83	0.87	+0.04			
Poultry	"	231.0	236.7	236.7	236.7	+2.5	+12.2	1.62	1.66	+0.04			
Other meat	"	341.8	349.9	349.9	349.9	+2.4	+8.0	3.27	3.35	+0.08			
Fish	"	174.2	178.5	178.5	178.5	+2.5	+0.4	1.51	1.55	+0.04			
Fruit and vegetables	"	183.3	179.9	179.9	179.9	-1.9	+14.4	11.02	10.81	-0.21			
Fresh fruit and vegetables	"	201.4	194.9	194.9	194.9	-3.2	+15.7	8.40	8.13	-0.27			
Processed fruit and vegetables	"	242.5	248.9	248.9	248.9	+2.6	+10.6	2.61	2.68	+0.07			
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	"	396.6	415.4	415.4	415.4	+4.7	+14.8	7.35	7.69	+0.34			
Meals out and take-away food	"	164.0	168.5	168.5	168.5	+2.7	+9.6	14.94	15.35	+0.41			
Other food	"	257.5	262.3	262.3	262.3	+1.9	+4.6	6.90	7.03	+0.13			
<b>CLOTHING</b>		329.2	338.0	338.0	338.0	+2.7	+7.6	31.67	32.51	+0.84			
Men's and boys'	"	311.9	317.0	317.0	317.0	+1.6	+8.2	9.09	9.24	+0.15			
Women's and girls'	"	317.9	330.7	330.7	330.7	+4.0	+7.1	13.72	14.27	+0.55			
Piecegoods and other clothing	"	299.6	302.9	302.9	302.9	+1.1	+5.9	1.84	1.86	+0.02			
Footwear	"	384.5	392.1	392.1	392.1	+2.0	+6.8	5.17	5.27	+0.10			
Clothing and footwear services (a)	"	482.1	486.6	486.6	486.6	+0.9	+13.1	1.84	1.86	+0.02			
<b>HOUSING</b>		367.7	378.7	378.7	378.7	+3.0	+10.8	42.73	44.01	+1.28			
Rent	"	341.1	349.8	349.8	349.8	+2.6	+9.4	16.22	16.63	+0.41			
Privately-owned dwellings	"	328.0	336.6	336.6	336.6	+2.6	+9.2						
Government-owned dwellings	"	520.3	529.5	529.5	529.5	+1.8	+10.7						
Home ownership (b)	"	391.0	403.9	403.9	403.9	+3.3	+11.8	26.51	27.38	+0.87			
Local government rates and charges (c)	"	482.7	511.8	511.8	511.8	+6.0	+12.9						
House price, repairs and maintenance	"	359.5	368.4	368.4	368.4	+2.5	+11.4	6.17	6.55	+0.38			
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b>		286.2	296.4	296.4	296.4	+3.6	+10.7	46.03	47.67	+1.64			
Fuel and light	"	300.4	309.6	309.6	309.6	+3.1	+15.8	8.19	8.44	+0.25			
Furniture and floor coverings	"	325.9	337.8	337.8	337.8	+3.7	+7.3	9.58	9.93	+0.35			
Appliances	"	155.7	159.0	159.0	159.0	+2.1	+6.7	5.05	5.16	+0.11			
Drapery	"	376.1	382.0	382.0	382.0	+1.6	+7.1	3.64	3.70	+0.06			
Household utensils and tools	"	313.8	319.7	319.7	319.7	+1.9	+11.4	5.00	5.09	+0.09			
Household supplies and services (d)	"	292.4	308.4	308.4	308.4	+5.5	+14.3	11.18	11.80	+0.62			
Postal and telephone services	"	265.7	278.9	278.9	278.9	+5.0	+6.2	3.38	3.55	+0.17			
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		341.6	357.1	357.1	357.1	+4.5	+12.6	60.60	63.33	+2.73			
Private transport	"	332.5	346.2	346.2	346.2	+4.1	+12.3	53.32	55.52	+2.20			
Motor vehicle purchase	"	267.6	278.3	278.3	278.3	+4.0	+11.2						
Motor vehicle operation(e)	"	372.2	387.8	387.8	387.8	+4.2	+12.8	15.99	16.63	+0.64			
Public transport fares(f)	"	345.7	371.0	371.0	371.0	+7.3	+14.8	37.34	38.90	+1.56			

For footnotes see page 9.



TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—INDEX NUMBERS AND INDEX POINTS CONTRIBUTIONS : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES—continued

	Reference base period	Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
		Index numbers		Sept. qtr 1981 and Dec. qtr 1980		Sept. qtr 1981		Dec. qtr 1981 and Dec. qtr 1980	
		Sept. qtr 1981	Dec. qtr 1981	Sept. qtr 1981	Dec. qtr 1981	Sept. qtr 1981	Dec. qtr 1981	Sept. qtr 1981	Dec. qtr 1981
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b>	1966-67 = 100.0	339.6	345.6	+1.8	+9.0	31.85	32.41	+0.56	
Alcoholic beverages	"	331.8	337.1	+1.6	+9.1	22.21	22.56	+0.35	
Beer	Dec. qtr 1973 = 100.0	341.5	347.3	+1.7	+10.8		15.45	15.71	+0.26
Wine and spirits	1966-67 = 100.0	221.7	224.7	+1.4	+5.3		6.76	6.85	+0.09
Cigarettes and tobacco		338.4	345.7	+2.2	+8.7	9.64	9.85	+0.21	
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>	Dec. qtr 1968 = 100.0	372.3	463.6	+24.5	+29.2	18.83	23.45	+4.62	
Health services (g)		387.3	548.9	+41.7	+44.3	10.57	14.98	+4.41	
Personal care products (h)	1966-67 = 100.0	307.6	314.6	+2.3	+8.4	5.90	6.03	+0.13	
Personal care services (i)	"	644.7	664.9	+3.1	+10.2	2.36	2.44	+0.08	
<b>RECREATION</b>	Sept. qtr 1976 = 100.0	150.7	156.5	+3.8	+11.3	24.57	25.51	+0.94	
Books, newspapers, magazines	"	192.7	204.8	+6.3	+19.0	5.69	6.05	+0.36	
Other recreational goods (j)	"	120.8	124.8	+3.3	+5.6	8.04	8.30	+0.26	
Holiday accommodation	"	162.7	172.1	+5.8	+11.2	3.10	3.28	+0.18	
Other recreational services (k)	"	161.7	164.7	+1.9	+12.4	7.74	7.88	+0.14	
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>	1966-67 = 100.0	331.6	345.4	+4.2	+11.3	331.6	345.4	+13.8	
<b>SPECIAL SERIES</b>									
All groups, excluding food group	"	333.0	349.4	+4.9	+12.0	256.27	268.89	+12.62	
All groups, excluding housing group	"	325.5	339.6	+4.3	+11.3	288.87	301.36	+12.49	
All groups, excluding hospital and medical services	"	332.3	341.9	+2.9	+10.1	323.14	332.54	+9.40	
All groups, goods component (l)	"	318.2	326.7	+2.7	+9.8	249.12	255.76	+6.64	
All groups, services component (l)	"	385.5	418.8	+8.6	+15.8	82.47	89.61	+7.14	

(a) Dry cleaning and shoe repairs. (b) Does not include cost of land and interest charges on house purchases. (c) Local government (council) and water and sewerage authority rates and charges. (d) Household cleaning agents and paper products, gardening supplies, stationery, pet food, travel goods, umbrellas, insurance of dwellings and contents, repairs to household goods. (e) Petrol, tyres, tubes, parts, repairs, motor vehicle insurance, registration, driver's licence, motoring organisation fees. (f) Bus, train, rail, taxi and air fares. (g) Medical practitioners' fees (net), hospital charges (net), dental charges, and hospital and medical insurance contributions. (h) Pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics. (i) Hairdressing services. (j) Television sets, radios, sound equipment, photographic goods, sunglasses, records, cassettes, tapes, sports equipment, bicycles, toys, games, caravans. (k) Cinema and live theatre admission, other entertainment and recreation, spectator admission to sports, other sports services, television hire, photographic services and repairs to television sets. (l) The special series 'All groups, goods component' comprises: the Food group (except meals out); Clothing group (except clothing and footwear services); Household equipment and operation group (except insurance of dwellings and contents, repairs to household goods and postal and telephone services); Tobacco and alcohol group; house price; house repair materials; motor vehicle purchase; petrol, tyres, tubes, vehicle replacement parts; personal care products; books, newspapers, magazines; other recreational goods; replacement parts for television sets. The remaining items are classified as 'Services'.

## APPENDIX

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—DECEMBER QUARTER 1981**  
**HEALTH SERVICES SUBGROUP—EFFECT OF CHANGES IN HEALTH INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The CPI for December quarter 1981 is affected by price increases for hospital and medical services associated with recent changes to health insurance arrangements. The new arrangements involve:

- (a) in all capital cities except Brisbane, introduction of hospital charges for patients occupying standard (public ward) accommodation and for outpatient and casualty services from 1 September 1981
- (b) increased hospital bed-day charges for intermediate (shared) ward and private ward accommodation from 1 September 1981
- (c) abolition of Commonwealth medical benefits for uninsured persons from 1 September 1981
- (d) increase in basic medical insurance cover from 75% to 85% of schedule fees from 1 September 1981
- (e) increased schedule fees for medical services from November 1981.

2. The introduction of hospital charges for patients occupying standard (public ward) hospital accommodation, and for outpatient and casualty services (in capital cities other than Brisbane) resulted in an increase in the price for health services for uninsured persons because the patients themselves now have to pay for services which were previously available free of charge.

3. Increases in hospital bed-day charges for intermediate (shared) ward and private ward accommodation and higher schedule fees for medical services resulted in increases in the level of hospital and medical benefits paid by health insurance funds, which in turn led to increased fund contribution rates.

4. The removal of Commonwealth medical benefits for uninsured persons resulted in increases in the net price of medical services for uninsured persons. The net price of medical services for insured persons is reduced because of the increase in the level of benefits applying to basic medical insurance cover. The net price of medical services was also affected by increases in doctors' fees during December quarter 1981.

5. The following table shows the contributions of the various components to the increase in the Health Services subgroup between September and December quarters 1981, expressed in terms of All Groups index points.

**CPI HEALTH SERVICES SUBGROUP**  
 (Weighted average of six State capital cities)

	<i>All Groups index points</i>			
	<i>September quarter 1981 (former basis)(a)</i>	<i>September quarter 1981 (new basis) (a)</i>	<i>December quarter 1981</i>	<i>Change between September and December quarters</i>
Hospital and medical services—				
Health insurance fund contributions	7.19	7.24	8.74	+1.50
Net price for medical services	1.26	1.22	1.40	+0.18
Net price for hospital services	—	—	2.69	+2.69
<i>Total hospital and medical services</i>	<i>8.45</i>	<i>8.45</i>	<i>12.83</i>	<i>+4.38</i>
Dental services	2.12	2.12	2.15	+0.03
<b>Total Health Services subgroup</b>	<b>10.57</b>	<b>10.57</b>	<b>14.98</b>	<b>+4.41</b>

(a) The relative contributions of the two components of hospital and medical services in September quarter 1981 have changed because the internal combining weights have been adjusted. The new combining weights take account of information, from the Health Insurance Survey conducted by the ABS in March 1981, on proportions of (i) persons covered by health insurance funds, and (ii) persons uninsured, together with information on the extent to which services are consumed by those two groups in the population. Weights remain constant at the CPI expenditure class level and hence there is no change in the relative contributions of the two expenditure classes concerned, that is 'hospital and medical services' and 'dental services'.

6. The health insurance fund contributions component is measured by pricing commonly-purchased levels of insurance cover for hospital and medical services from major health insurance funds in each capital city. In calculating price movement for health insurance fund contributions, the internal combining weights given to the various health insurance fund tables have been adjusted to reflect information on fund membership from the 1981 Health Insurance Survey and from other sources.
7. The net price for the medical services component is calculated by taking a representative selection of medical services (e.g. doctor's consultation), and calculating a net amount for each service from the average fee charged by doctors less the appropriate medical benefit, where applicable.
8. For insured persons the net price for hospital services is zero. The assumption is made that within the target population insured persons utilising intermediate (shared) or private ward accommodation have hospital insurance which provides full cover for the charge for that level of accommodation.
9. For uninsured persons the net price for hospital services was zero up to September quarter 1981 on the assumption that within the target population, uninsured persons used standard (public ward) accommodation, with treatment by hospital doctor, which were provided free in all capital cities and because outpatient and casualty services were provided free of charge. For December quarter 1981 the net price for hospital services for uninsured persons takes account of hospital bed-day charges, service fees charged for medical treatment by a hospital doctor and charges for outpatient treatment, which are now paid for by the patient in all capital cities other than Brisbane.

