

**INQUIRIES**

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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – MARCH QUARTER 1977**

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March quarter 1977 increased by 2.3% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in the All Groups index for individual cities were : Sydney +2.1%, Melbourne +2.6%, Brisbane +2.2%, Adelaide +2.1%, Perth +2.3%, Hobart +1.9%, Canberra +1.6%. An analysis of these changes is given in the table on page 4 and in paragraph 15.

3. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index are shown below. Paragraph 6 on page 2 contains corresponding details for All Groups excluding hospital and medical services (six capitals).

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1974-75 –								
March	+3.6	+3.4	+3.8	+2.7	+4.4	+3.8	+2.3	+2.3
June	+3.5	+3.7	+3.5	+2.6	+3.2	+4.1	+3.1	+4.1
1975-76 –								
September (b)	+0.8	+1.5	+0.6	+1.6	-0.6	-0.1	+0.7	-0.1
December (b)	+5.6	+4.6	+6.0	+6.3	+5.8	+6.3	+7.5	+8.0
March	+3.0	+3.1	+2.7	+3.2	+3.2	+3.3	+2.7	+2.5
June	+2.5	+2.2	+2.5	+2.3	+3.0	+3.4	+3.3	+3.2
1976-77 –								
September	+2.2	+1.7	+2.5	+2.5	+2.5	+2.5	+2.4	+2.1
December (c)	+6.0	+5.5	+6.0	+6.2	+7.1	+6.6	+5.7	+5.5
March	+2.3	+2.1	+2.6	+2.2	+2.1	+2.3	+1.9	+1.6

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (b) Includes effects of price decreases in hospital and medical services with the introduction of Medibank. (c) Includes effects of price increases in hospital and medical services associated with changes to Medibank.

4. Recent annual changes in the All Groups index are shown below. Paragraph 6 on page 2 contains corresponding details for All Groups excluding hospital and medical services (six capitals).

Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding Year

Quarter	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1974-75 –								
March	+17.6	+17.0	+17.6	+15.8	+19.5	+19.5	+17.6	+14.8
June	+16.9	+16.9	+16.3	+14.7	+18.2	+20.1	+16.5	+15.8
1975-76 –								
September	+12.1	+12.7	+11.5	+10.5	+11.8	+14.4	+11.8	+ 9.9
December	+14.0	+13.8	+14.5	+13.8	+13.3	+14.7	+14.3	+14.9
March	+13.4	+13.6	+13.2	+14.3	+12.0	+14.2	+14.7	+15.1
June	+12.3	+11.9	+12.2	+14.0	+11.8	+13.4	+14.9	+14.1
1976-77 –								
September	+13.9	+12.2	+14.4	+15.0	+15.3	+16.4	+16.8	+16.7
December	+14.4	+13.2	+14.3	+14.9	+16.6	+16.7	+14.9	+14.0
March	+13.6	+12.0	+14.3	+13.8	+15.5	+15.5	+14.0	+13.0

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

5. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of the index have been as follows :

<i>Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities - Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter</i>									
<i>Quarter</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</i>	<i>All Groups</i>
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1974-75 -									
March	+1.1	+1.4	+3.2	+3.7	+4.2	+5.1	+12.9	(a)	+3.6
June	+3.4	+4.4	+5.3	+3.2	+3.3	+2.0	+ 1.5	(a)	+3.5
1975-76 -									
September	+1.6	+2.3	+3.6	+2.5	+5.1	+2.1	(b)-23.1	(a)	(b)+0.8
December	+3.1	+6.9	+5.3	+7.2	+5.6	+18.9	(b)- 7.3	(a)	(b)+5.6
March	+5.0	+1.3	+2.8	+2.0	+2.8	+2.1	+ 3.7	(a)	+3.0
June	+0.5	+5.8	+4.1	+2.5	+1.2	+2.4	+ 4.9	(a)	+2.5
1976-77 -									
September	+3.1	+1.7	+3.1	+1.8	+1.9	+0.1	+ 2.9	(a)	+2.2
December	+3.8	+6.4	+3.4	+1.6	+1.6	+1.4	(c)+82.9	+1.6	(c)+6.0
March	+1.9	+1.5	+2.2	+3.1	+2.9	+0.5	+ 2.0	+4.1	+2.3

(a) New grouping not compiled for quarters prior to September quarter 1976. (b) Includes effects of price decreases in hospital and medical services with the introduction of Medibank. (c) Includes effects of price increases in hospital and medical services associated with changes to Medibank.

6. In recent quarters the All Groups index has included the effects of unusual changes in prices for the hospital and medical services components of the index. This occurred for September and December quarters of 1975 following the introduction of Medibank, and for December Quarter 1976 following changes to Medibank. In order to facilitate analysis of trends in retail prices excluding these unusual changes a special grouping "All Groups excluding hospital and medical services" has been published in each bulletin since September quarter 1975. The table below compares movements in this measure with those in the All Groups index.

<i>Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities</i>				
<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter</i>		<i>Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding 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>
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1974-75 -				
March	+2.9	+3.6	+16.7	+17.6
June	+3.7	+3.5	+16.2	+16.9
1975-76 -				
September	+2.9	+0.8	+13.7	+12.1
December	+6.3	+5.6	+16.7	+14.0
March	+2.9	+3.0	+16.8	+13.4
June	+2.5	+2.5	+15.4	+12.3
1976-77 -				
September	+2.2	+2.2	+14.6	+13.9
December	+2.8	+6.0	+10.8	+14.4
March	+2.4	+2.3	+10.2	+13.6

7. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of goods and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of employee households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). Nine series for short periods have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index up to the link of December quarter 1973 is contained in *Labour Report* No. 58, 1973. (Reference No. 6.7). Section XI of the Appendix to this report describes the seventh series. The eighth series differs from the seventh only because of the deletion of the item "radio and television licences" as from September quarter 1974. The Appendix to the bulletin for December quarter 1976 describes the ninth series. A consolidated description of the Consumer Price Index will be prepared and published later.

8. The quarterly prices for food items used in the index are the averages of prices normally collected as at the middle of each of the three months of the quarter. Prices for all fresh fruit and fresh vegetables since January 1977 have been collected at weekly intervals and averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices of all non-food items are collected at regular quarterly intervals (or at annual intervals with items such as local government rates and seasonal clothing) normally as at the middle of the mid-month of each quarter. However, for furniture, major household appliances and motoring items (other than motor vehicles) the collection is made during the first month of each quarter to facilitate field collection arrangements.
9. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.
10. Table 1 on page 6 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1966-67 to 1975-76 and for each quarter from September quarter 1968. Table 2 on pages 7, 8 and 9 shows group index numbers quarterly from March quarter 1974 to March quarter 1977.
11. Information on monthly food price movements is contained in the monthly bulletins *Consumer Price Index, Food Group Index Numbers* (Reference No. 9.11). Since the food group is the only group of the index for which prices are collected monthly, it is not possible to provide monthly indexes for other groups.
12. Table 3 on page 10 shows index numbers for December quarter 1976 and March quarter 1977 for groups and sub-groups of the index and for some special groupings. It also contains information of contributions by index sub-groups to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points for these two quarters. Users of these figures should bear in mind that the Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the proportionate change in retail prices as combined in the eight major groups and more particularly the total of the groups.
13. Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percentage changes rather than changes in the 'index points' because 'index point' changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percentage changes are not. In this bulletin details are given in terms of percentage changes in paragraphs 2-6. However, the analysis in paragraph 14 shows movements in terms of All Groups 'index points'. This analysis shows the contribution of selected items and of the eight groups to movements in the total indexes. Table 3 on page 10 shows movements expressed as both percentage changes and changes in 'index points'. The following example illustrates the computation of 'index point' and percentage changes :

All Groups : Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities

<i>Index Point Change</i>		<i>Percentage Change</i>
March quarter 1977 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0)	224.3	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period $\frac{224.3 - 219.3}{219.3} \times 100 = 2.3\%$
less Dec. quarter 1976 CPI	219.3	
Index points difference	5.0	

14. The following analysis and Table 3 on page 10 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1976 to March quarter 1977.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**Movements from December Quarter 1976 to March Quarter 1977**  
**Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a)(b)**

<i>Group</i>	<i>Six Capitals (c)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
<b>INDEX POINTS (a)</b>								
<b>Food -</b>								
Meals out, take-away food	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2
Meat and seafoods	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.4	+0.2	+0.4	..	+0.4
Dairy produce	+0.2	..	+0.4	+0.1	..	..	+0.1	..
Cereal products	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1
Fruit and vegetables	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	+0.1	-0.2	+0.2	..	-0.6
Other	+0.3	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2
<b>Clothing -</b>								
Men's and boys'	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1
Footwear	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Other	+0.1	..	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
<b>Housing -</b>								
House price, repairs and maintenance	+0.4	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5	+0.5	+0.3	..
Rents, private	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	..
Rents, government	..	..	+0.1	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Household equipment and operation -</b>								
Fuel and light	+0.3	+0.1	+0.5	+0.3	+0.4	..	..	+0.2
Household supplies and services	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4	+0.3	+0.1
Furniture and floor coverings	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	..	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
Drapery	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Household utensils and tools	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Appliances	+0.1	..	+0.1	..	+0.1	..	..	..
<b>Transportation -</b>								
Motor vehicle purchase	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.5	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4
Motor vehicle operation	+0.8	+0.9	+1.1	+0.2	+0.5	+0.1	+0.7	+0.7
<b>Tobacco and alcohol -</b>								
Alcohol	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	-0.1	+0.2
<b>Health and personal care -</b>								
Personal care products	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Health services	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	..	+0.2	+0.1	..
Hairdressing	+0.1	+0.1	..	..	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
<b>Recreation -</b>								
Books, newspapers, magazines	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2
Other recreation goods	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4	+0.1	+0.1
Recreation services	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
<b>Total Change</b>								
(Index Points) (d)	+5.0	+4.6	+5.7	+4.7	+4.7	+5.0	+4.2	+3.5

(a) See explanation in paragraph 13. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (d) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

15. A summary of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between the pricing dates (see paragraph 8) for December quarter 1976 and March quarter 1977 is shown below :

**Food Group.** The main increases were for meals out, take-away foods; poultry; fish; cereal products; coffee; and for milk in Melbourne. Fresh fruit and vegetable prices decreased in all cities except Brisbane and Perth. The group index increased by 1.9%.

**Clothing Group.** Increased prices for men's and boys' clothing and for footwear accounted for most of the increase in this group. The group index increased by 1.5%.

**Housing Group.** There were increases in all sections of the group except local government rates and charges. The group index increased by 2.2%.

**Household Equipment and Operation Group.** There were increases in most sections of this group. Electricity charges increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Furniture and floor coverings increased in price in all cities except Brisbane. Drapery and household utensil prices increased in all cities. The group index increased by 3.1%.

**Transportation Group.** Increased private transportation costs were responsible for all of the increase in this group. Motor vehicle and petrol prices increased in all cities. Motor vehicle registration charges increased in Sydney and Melbourne. Third party insurance also increased in Sydney. The group index increased by 2.9%.

**Tobacco and Alcohol Group.** The group showed a small increase of 0.5%.

**Health and Personal Care Group.** Increased charges for personal care products and hair dressing were responsible for two-thirds of the increase in this group. The group index increased by 2.0%.

**Recreation Group.** Higher prices for radio and television equipment and repairs, books, sporting equipment, toys and entertainment admission were responsible for most of the increase in this group. The group index increased by 4.1%.

#### Related Publications

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

*Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index Numbers* (Ref. No. 9.11)

*Average Retail Prices of Selected Food and Grocery Items, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (Ref. No. 9.3)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8).

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Australian Statistician

TABLE I.  
 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
 ALL GROUPS – SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA  
 (Base of Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Six Capitals (b)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
Year –								
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	103.3	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	102.6
1968-69	106.0	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	104.4
1969-70	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	107.4
1970-71	114.6	116.8	113.1	114.2	112.5	114.1	112.6	113.0
1971-72	122.4	126.3	119.7	121.6	119.2	120.7	119.9	119.4
1972-73	129.8	133.9	127.2	128.6	126.5	127.3	126.7	126.3
1973-74	146.6	151.3	144.0	146.1	143.9	140.6	142.6	142.8
1974-75	171.1	176.1	167.9	168.7	169.7	166.1	166.7	164.9
1975-76	193.3	199.0	189.5	190.9	190.5	189.6	190.0	187.3
Quarter –								
1968-69 –								
September	104.6	104.4	105.1	104.7	104.2	104.3	105.0	103.5
December	105.7	105.9	106.0	105.3	105.2	104.9	105.8	103.9
March	106.4	106.7	106.6	105.8	105.5	105.6	106.5	104.8
June	107.2	107.6	107.2	106.3	106.4	107.0	107.0	105.2
1969-70 –								
September	107.8	108.4	107.6	107.2	106.9	107.7	107.4	106.0
December	108.7	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	106.7
March	109.8	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	108.0
June	111.2	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	109.0
1970-71 –								
September	111.9	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	109.7
December	114.0	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	113.2
March	115.2	117.4	113.7	115.1	112.9	114.8	113.2	113.6
June	117.2	119.8	115.2	117.2	115.4	116.4	114.6	115.6
1971-72 –								
September	119.4	123.3	116.5	119.0	116.5	117.2	116.5	117.2
December	122.2	126.0	119.7	121.3	119.1	120.5	120.3	119.4
March	123.4	127.3	120.7	122.6	120.2	121.8	120.9	119.9
June	124.5	128.5	121.9	123.6	121.1	123.1	122.0	120.9
1972-73 –								
September	126.2	130.3	123.6	124.6	123.0	124.8	123.4	122.6
December	127.7	132.0	125.0	126.6	124.3	125.3	125.1	124.5
March	130.4	134.6	127.8	129.4	127.0	127.8	127.5	127.1
June	134.7	138.8	132.3	133.9	131.6	131.4	130.8	130.9
1973-74 –								
September	139.6	144.1	136.8	139.4	136.5	134.4	135.2	135.6
December	144.6	149.4	141.9	144.0	141.9	138.6	141.1	140.8
March	148.1	152.8	145.2	147.8	145.4	142.1	144.0	145.0
June	154.1	158.7	151.9	153.1	151.7	147.1	149.9	149.6
1974-75 –								
September	162.0	167.0	159.4	161.4	159.4	154.3	157.4	157.4
December	168.1	173.0	164.6	166.6	166.4	163.6	165.5	162.7
March	174.1	178.8	170.8	171.1	173.8	169.8	169.3	166.4
June	180.2	185.5	176.7	175.6	179.3	176.7	174.6	173.2
1975-76 –								
September	181.6	188.2	177.7	178.4	178.2	176.5	175.9	173.0
December	191.7	196.9	188.4	189.6	188.6	187.7	189.1	186.9
March	197.4	203.1	193.4	195.6	194.6	193.9	194.2	191.6
June	202.4	207.6	198.3	200.1	200.4	200.4	200.6	197.7
1976-77 –								
September	206.9	211.1	203.2	205.1	205.5	205.4	205.5	201.9
December	219.3	222.8	215.3	217.8	220.0	219.0	217.2	213.0
March	224.3	227.4	221.0	222.5	224.7	224.0	221.4	216.5

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

TABLE 2.  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA  
(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
FOOD GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
March	152.0	154.3	150.8	155.7	149.7	144.8	144.2	151.6
June	157.6	159.0	157.2	159.7	157.8	149.7	149.7	156.7
1974-75 -								
September	161.9	164.3	161.1	165.1	160.3	152.2	155.1	160.6
December	161.6	164.5	159.6	161.4	161.2	156.1	158.0	158.1
March	163.4	166.2	159.8	163.9	163.4	164.2	158.1	160.5
June	168.9	170.3	166.2	168.7	170.0	171.2	163.1	167.7
1975-76 -								
September	171.6	173.1	170.1	170.4	171.5	171.9	168.8	171.1
December	176.9	179.0	175.1	176.6	176.0	175.4	174.8	178.8
March	185.7	187.7	182.8	187.9	185.9	183.8	181.6	187.5
June	186.6	187.2	183.3	188.1	189.0	189.6	184.7	187.9
1976-77 -								
September	192.3	191.9	189.9	192.1	197.4	194.6	192.0	193.0
December	199.6	199.5	197.0	199.8	203.8	201.8	200.4	201.8
March	203.4	202.1	200.8	205.9	207.6	208.2	204.0	203.8
CLOTHING GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
March	143.2	144.1	142.2	142.1	144.2	143.8	142.7	143.0
June	153.6	154.1	152.9	152.5	155.0	153.7	152.9	152.7
1974-75 -								
September	161.1	162.4	160.0	159.3	161.8	162.2	160.3	160.1
December	172.8	174.0	171.5	171.7	173.4	174.0	171.6	172.4
March	175.2	176.2	174.1	173.7	176.2	176.5	174.0	174.3
June	182.9	183.6	182.2	181.2	183.9	184.1	181.3	182.2
1975-76 -								
September	187.1	187.4	186.2	185.6	189.6	188.5	186.1	185.7
December	200.0	200.3	199.0	198.7	202.2	201.1	199.7	200.1
March	202.6	202.6	201.9	201.8	205.0	203.8	202.4	202.7
June	214.4	213.5	214.3	213.9	217.4	215.9	215.2	215.1
1976-77 -								
September	218.1	217.6	217.7	217.1	220.7	219.8	218.5	218.3
December	232.1	231.3	232.3	230.0	235.8	232.7	231.8	232.2
March	235.6	234.7	235.6	233.6	240.7	235.5	235.4	235.1
HOUSING GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
March	158.9	172.0	149.7	151.9	152.7	149.8	149.8	142.2
June	167.0	181.3	157.8	157.7	161.0	155.0	153.9	145.1
1974-75 -								
September	174.8	187.9	166.7	167.5	169.9	160.5	163.6	157.1
December	184.3	195.5	176.9	175.5	181.6	173.4	179.8	162.8
March	190.2	200.1	184.2	179.2	191.3	178.4	186.0	165.0
June	200.3	213.2	194.7	183.4	198.2	184.6	194.2	168.2
1975-76 -								
September	207.5	220.5	201.4	193.7	204.0	191.2	199.7	172.3
December	218.4	230.9	210.5	200.9	221.3	207.5	214.5	194.3
March	224.6	236.2	217.5	205.5	228.0	215.8	221.4	198.5
June	233.9	247.3	226.6	211.3	235.0	224.4	230.1	211.2
1976-77 -								
September	241.1	254.5	232.4	225.2	241.3	230.9	235.5	214.7
December	249.4	262.3	239.1	235.1	252.5	242.9	244.0	226.4
March	255.0	267.4	245.4	239.4	258.1	249.3	247.7	226.6

For footnotes see page 9.

TABLE 2. - continued  
 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
 GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA  
 (Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
March	130.6	136.3	125.1	131.3	128.2	131.7	133.1	124.5
June	135.7	141.2	131.5	135.9	132.0	134.9	138.0	128.4
1974-75 -								
September	143.5	149.9	137.7	146.5	140.1	142.1	144.2	133.5
December	151.8	158.1	145.0	157.5	147.8	152.0	157.0	145.7
March	157.4	163.8	151.3	159.8	153.3	158.3	161.0	148.6
June	162.4	171.4	154.9	162.3	155.7	165.5	163.4	152.0
1975-76 -								
September	166.4	174.1	158.2	170.1	159.9	173.4	167.1	154.6
December	178.4	185.9	169.6	181.7	173.9	185.3	186.8	165.9
March	181.9	189.8	173.1	185.5	177.2	187.1	188.7	168.7
June	186.5	196.0	176.9	189.3	181.4	190.5	192.8	175.3
1976-77 -								
September	189.9	198.7	181.0	192.4	184.2	194.2	196.2	178.4
December	193.0	202.7	184.0	194.8	187.0	195.3	198.5	181.5
March	198.9	207.7	191.2	199.9	192.7	200.7	203.3	185.6
TRANSPORTATION GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
March	146.8	156.3	140.0	146.9	142.6	135.1	141.6	144.1
June	150.2	158.6	144.6	150.1	147.7	137.1	143.7	149.1
1974-75 -								
September	161.9	170.4	156.0	163.3	159.7	148.2	155.4	158.6
December	169.9	181.5	160.3	170.4	167.6	157.8	162.2	164.9
March	177.1	190.8	167.3	172.8	178.1	159.8	168.1	166.4
June	182.9	195.6	173.9	179.0	182.3	166.8	175.6	175.7
1975-76 -								
September	192.3	207.1	184.3	185.0	188.5	172.7	181.2	181.1
December	203.0	218.1	194.6	199.6	194.6	183.5	193.6	197.5
March	208.7	228.2	196.7	204.1	198.7	188.1	202.8	201.8
June	211.2	226.4	200.8	210.1	203.1	195.3	209.1	207.0
1976-77 -								
September	215.2	225.9	207.9	214.9	207.6	203.4	215.2	211.3
December	218.6	228.0	212.5	217.6	213.5	204.9	217.7	214.0
March	225.0	235.3	220.7	221.3	217.7	207.2	223.3	219.1
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
March	145.6	146.0	147.3	144.1	143.5	139.8	153.2	142.4
June	152.6	156.0	154.0	151.5	143.9	144.4	159.9	143.6
1974-75 -								
September	162.8	163.5	165.6	159.7	157.2	159.1	164.2	158.1
December	166.1	166.6	169.3	162.5	161.0	162.0	167.2	159.7
March	174.5	173.8	178.5	170.3	171.7	171.3	172.1	164.2
June	178.0	176.5	181.5	172.7	178.0	177.9	173.9	169.6
1975-76 -								
September	181.7	178.7	185.9	178.5	182.9	180.4	182.8	173.3
December	216.1	222.3	217.4	205.8	208.5	208.2	212.0	199.6
March	220.6	224.1	224.5	207.8	214.2	217.3	212.2	200.8
June	225.8	232.0	228.1	211.4	219.2	219.8	218.2	203.3
1976-77 -								
September	226.1	232.9	225.7	213.4	220.7	223.1	218.9	210.3
December	229.2	236.4	228.4	216.6	224.7	225.1	220.9	212.0
March	230.3	236.6	230.5	217.9	225.5	227.5	220.5	214.8

For footnotes see page 9.



TABLE 2. - *continued*  
 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
 GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

Quarter	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE GROUP (c)								
(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : December quarter 1968 = 100.0) (a)								
1973-74 -								
March	151.4	151.3	155.0	143.8	152.9	147.1	138.5	159.5
June	155.4	154.2	158.7	148.9	156.8	154.6	151.3	162.3
1974-75 -								
September	167.5	172.0	168.1	155.2	166.9	160.8	161.7	169.5
December	176.7	174.3	177.4	168.6	182.4	188.2	170.6	178.1
March	199.5	195.5	204.3	191.6	208.1	201.0	180.8	199.2
June	202.4	205.2	202.7	187.6	207.9	202.8	183.1	212.5
1975-76 -								
September	155.6	177.3	141.7	155.0	136.3	143.4	125.5	147.1
December	144.3	136.7	147.5	160.7	141.2	154.1	136.9	155.1
March	149.6	144.2	149.9	167.5	145.2	161.2	141.0	159.2
June	156.9	150.9	157.9	173.3	153.4	167.5	150.4	166.3
1976-77 -								
September	161.5	154.9	163.7	178.5	156.7	172.3	153.4	169.6
December	295.4	272.1	295.0	329.8	310.2	348.0	277.0	289.4
March	301.3	278.6	300.5	335.4	313.9	356.3	283.4	294.6
RECREATION GROUP (c)								
(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : September quarter 1976 = 100.0) (a)								
1976-77 -								
September	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
December	101.6	102.0	101.2	102.0	101.0	101.4	102.1	102.8
March	105.8	106.5	105.1	106.2	105.0	105.9	105.4	105.8

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (c) The composition of groups and the group structure of the index has been altered with the introduction of the current series. These changes are described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1976 bulletin.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS, DECEMBER QUARTER 1976 AND MARCH QUARTER 1977.  
Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities : Base - Year 1966-67 = 100.0

Group and sub-group (d)	Index Numbers (Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0 unless otherwise noted) (a)			All Groups Index Points (contributed by Sub-Groups, etc. to Total) (b)		
	Dec. qtr 1976	March qtr 1977	Percentage change since Dec. qtr (c)	Dec. qtr 1976	March qtr 1977	Change in All Groups Index Points since Dec. qtr (c)
<b>FOOD GROUP</b>						
Dairy produce	176.0	182.1	+3.5	4.45	4.61	+0.16
Cereal products	229.3	234.7	+2.4	5.03	5.15	+0.12
Meat and seafoods -	185.4	189.9	+2.4	10.62	10.88	+0.26
Beef and veal	156.1	157.0	+0.6	4.32	4.34	+0.02
Lamb and mutton	218.7	217.7	-0.5	2.01	2.01	..
Pork	211.8	214.6	+1.3	0.54	0.54	..
Poultry (e)	(153.5)	(166.4)	+8.4	1.07	1.16	+0.09
Other meat	(r)183.5	189.0	+3.0	1.76	1.81	+0.05
Fish (f)	(105.6)	(116.1)	+9.9	0.92	1.01	+0.09
Fruit and vegetables (f) -	(111.4)	(106.6)	-4.3	6.70	6.41	-0.29
Fresh fruit and vegetables (f)	(115.9)	(108.1)	-6.7	4.84	4.51	-0.33
Processed fruit and vegetables	172.6	176.0	+2.0	1.86	1.90	+0.04
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	238.9	243.8	+2.1	4.43	4.52	+0.09
Meals out, take-away food (f)	(102.0)	(105.7)	+3.6	9.29	9.63	+0.34
Other food	173.1	180.7	+4.4	4.64	4.84	+0.20
Food group	199.6	203.4	+1.9	45.15	46.02	+0.87
<b>CLOTHING GROUP</b>						
Men's and boys'	219.7	225.1	+2.5	6.41	6.56	+0.15
Women's and girls'	235.7	236.1	+0.2	10.17	10.19	+0.02
Piecegoods and other clothing	186.4	189.0	+1.4	1.15	1.16	+0.01
Footwear	257.7	267.3	+3.7	3.46	3.59	+0.13
Clothing and footwear services (g)	298.4	303.2	+1.6	1.14	1.16	+0.02
Clothing Group	232.1	235.6	+1.5	22.33	22.67	+0.34
<b>HOUSING GROUP</b>						
Rent -	235.0	240.6	+2.4	11.17	11.44	+0.27
Privately-owned dwellings	233.1	238.1	+2.1	10.16	10.38	+0.22
Government-owned dwellings	274.5	286.1	+4.2	1.01	1.06	+0.05
Home ownership (h) -	262.7	268.3	+2.1	17.81	18.19	+0.38
Local government rates and charges (i)	307.2	307.2	..	3.93	3.93	..
House price, repairs and maintenance	245.4	252.2	+2.8	13.88	14.26	+0.38
Housing Group	249.4	255.0	+2.2	28.98	29.63	+0.65
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION GROUP</b>						
Fuel and light	171.2	180.9	+5.7	4.67	4.94	+0.27
Furniture and floor coverings	234.9	240.3	+2.3	6.91	7.06	+0.15
Appliances (j)	122.7	124.2	+1.2	3.98	4.03	+0.05
Draperies	231.3	244.4	+5.7	2.24	2.37	+0.13
Household utensils and tools	197.6	206.0	+4.3	3.15	3.28	+0.13
Household supplies and services (k)	182.5	188.2	+3.1	6.98	7.20	+0.22
Postal and telephone services	244.7	244.7	..	3.12	3.12	..
Household Equipment and Operation Group	193.0	198.9	+3.1	31.04	31.99	+0.95
<b>TRANSPORTATION GROUP</b>						
Private transport -	213.9	220.9	+3.3	34.31	35.44	+1.13
Motor vehicle purchase	195.0	200.7	+2.9	11.65	11.99	+0.34
Motor vehicle operation (l)	225.9	233.7	+3.5	22.66	23.44	+0.78
Public transport fares (m)	212.3	212.3	..	4.47	4.47	..
Transportation Group	218.6	225.0	+2.9	38.78	39.90	+1.12
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL GROUP</b>						
Alcoholic beverages	219.3	220.5	+0.5	14.68	14.76	+0.08
Beer	221.1	223.5	+1.1	10.00	10.11	+0.11
Wine and spirits (n)	(153.3)	(152.4)	-0.6	4.67	4.65	-0.02
Cigarettes and tobacco	239.2	240.2	+0.4	6.82	6.84	+0.02
Tobacco and Alcohol Group	229.2	230.3	+0.5	21.49	21.60	+0.11
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE GROUP</b>						
Health services (e)(o)	(355.9)	359.8	+1.1	9.72	9.82	+0.10
Personal care products (p)	198.5	205.2	+3.4	3.80	3.93	+0.13
Personal care services (q)	387.8	406.2	+4.7	1.42	1.49	+0.07
Health and Personal Care Group (e)	(295.4)	(301.3)	+2.0	14.94	15.24	+0.30
<b>RECREATION GROUP</b>						
Books, newspapers, magazines (f)	(102.3)	(107.1)	+4.7	3.02	3.17	+0.15
Other recreation goods (f)(s)	(100.4)	(104.6)	+4.2	6.68	6.95	+0.27
Holiday accommodation (f)	(106.7)	(106.7)	..	2.03	2.03	..
Other recreation services (f)(t)	(100.8)	(106.2)	+5.4	4.82	5.08	+0.26
Recreation Group (f)	(101.6)	(105.8)	+4.1	16.56	17.24	+0.68
<b>All Groups</b>	219.3	224.3	+2.3	(b)219.3	(b)224.3	(b)+5.0
<b>SPECIAL GROUPINGS</b>						
All groups, excluding food group	226.3	231.7	+2.4	174.12	178.26	+4.14
All groups, excluding housing group	214.4	219.4	+2.3	190.29	194.65	+4.36
All groups, excluding hospital and medical services	216.8	221.9	+2.4	210.83	215.79	+4.96
All groups, goods component (u)	206.0	210.6	+2.2	161.24	164.88	+3.64
All groups, services component (u)	271.2	277.7	+2.4	58.03	59.40	+1.37

## FOOTNOTES TO TABLE 3

- (a) Figures appearing after the decimal point have little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding the figures to the nearest whole number.
- (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by subgroup or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.
- (c) See paragraph 13 on page 3.
- (d) The structure of the index and the composition of the groups and sub-groups was altered with the introduction of the current series. See paragraphs 7 and 11 of the Appendix to the December quarter 1976 bulletin.
- (e) Base : December quarter 1968 = 100.0.
- (f) Base : September quarter 1976 = 100.0.
- (g) Dry cleaning, clothing repairs and shoe repairs.
- (h) Does not include cost of land and interest charges on house purchase.
- (i) Local government (council) and water and sewerage authority rates and charges.
- (j) Stoves, refrigerators, washing machines and other household appliances. From September Quarter 1976, television sets, radios and sound equipment are included in other recreation goods.
- (k) Household cleaning agents and paper products, gardening supplies, stationery, pet food, travel goods, umbrellas, insurance of dwellings and contents, repairs to household goods.
- (l) Petrol, tyres, tubes, parts, repairs, motor vehicle insurance, registration, driver's licence, motoring organisation fees.
- (m) Bus, tram, rail, taxi and air fares.
- (n) Base : December quarter 1973 = 100.0.
- (o) Medical practitioners' fees (net), hospital charges (net), dental charges, and hospital and medical insurance contributions.
- (p) Pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics.
- (q) Hair and beauty services.
- (r) Index numbers for this grouping for September and December quarters 1976 are 180.4 and 183.5 respectively instead of those shown incorrectly in the previous issue.
- (s) Television sets, radios, sound equipment, photographic goods, sunglasses, records, cassettes, tapes, sports equipment, bicycles, toys, games, caravans.
- (t) 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.
- (u) The special grouping "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 recreation goods; replacement parts for television sets. The remaining items are classified as "Services".