



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANBERRA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – MARCH QUARTER 1974

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

2. In accordance with established practice a further link in the Consumer Price Index series has been effected as at December quarter 1973. A description of the link is contained in the appendix to this bulletin. The Consumer Price Index consists of a series of short term retail price indexes linked to form one continuous series. Up to December quarter 1973 there had been six such short term indexes. For March quarter 1974, the seventh of these short term indexes is introduced. The process of linking ensures that the series reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index.

3. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March quarter 1974 increased by 2.4% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +2.3%, Melbourne +2.3%, Brisbane +2.6%, Adelaide +2.5%, Perth +2.5%, Hobart +2.1%, Canberra +3.0%.

4. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	<i>Six</i> <i>Capitals (a)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1971-72 –								
March	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
June	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.8
1972-73 –								
September	+ 1.4	+ 1.4	+ 1.4	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	+ 1.4	+ 1.1	+ 1.4
December	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	+ 1.1	+ 1.6	+ 1.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 1.5
March	+ 2.1	+ 2.0	+ 2.2	+ 2.2	+ 2.2	+ 2.0	+ 1.9	+ 2.1
June	+ 3.3	+ 3.1	+ 3.5	+ 3.5	+ 3.6	+ 2.8	+ 2.6	+ 3.0
1973-74 –								
September	+3.6	+3.8	+3.4	+4.1	+3.7	+2.3	+3.4	+3.6
December	+3.6	+3.7	+3.7	+3.3	+4.0	+3.1	+4.4	+3.8
March	+2.4	+2.3	+2.3	+2.6	+2.5	+2.5	+2.1	+3.0

5. Recent annual changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding Year

Quarter	<i>Six</i> <i>Capitals (a)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1971-72 –								
March	+ 7.1	+ 8.4	+ 6.2	+ 6.5	+ 6.5	+ 6.1	+ 6.8	+ 5.5
June	+ 6.2	+ 7.3	+ 5.8	+ 5.5	+ 4.9	+ 5.8	+ 6.5	+ 4.6
1972-73 –								
September	+ 5.7	+ 5.7	+ 6.1	+ 4.7	+ 5.6	+ 6.5	+ 5.9	+ 4.6
December	+ 4.5	+ 4.8	+ 4.4	+ 4.4	+ 4.4	+ 4.0	+ 4.0	+ 4.3
March	+ 5.7	+ 5.7	+ 5.9	+ 5.5	+ 5.7	+ 4.9	+ 5.5	+ 6.0
June	+8.2	+8.0	+8.5	+8.3	+8.7	+6.7	+7.2	+8.3
1973-74 –								
September	+10.6	+10.6	+10.7	+11.9	+11.0	+7.7	+9.6	+10.6
December	+13.2	+13.2	+13.5	+13.7	+14.2	+10.6	+12.8	+13.1
March	+13.6	+13.5	+13.6	+14.2	+14.5	+11.2	+12.9	+14.1

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

6. 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 and Drapery</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household Supplies and Equipment</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>All Groups</i>
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1971-72 -						
March	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	+ 1.1	+ 1.2	+ 1.0
June	..	+ 2.1	+ 1.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 0.9
1972-73 -						
September	+ 2.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.4	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	+ 1.4
December	+ 1.2	+ 1.7	+ 2.0	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.2
March	+ 4.4	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	+ 1.0	+ 2.1
June	+ 5.6	+ 4.3	+ 2.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.6	+ 3.3
1973-74 -						
September	+5.5	+2.9	+2.1	+2.8	+2.9	+3.6
December	+4.0	+4.1	+3.8	+1.7	+3.8	+3.6
March	+3.4	+2.0	+2.2	+2.4	+1.7	+2.4

7. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 56, 1971 (Reference No. 6.7).

8. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of goods and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner 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). Seven 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.

9. 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. However, for potatoes and for onions from December quarter 1968, weekly prices are 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 car) the collection is made during the first month of each quarter to facilitate field collection arrangements.

10. 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.

11. Table 1 on page 5 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1961-62 to 1972-73 and for each quarter from September quarter 1967. Table 2 on pages 6 and 7 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from March quarter 1971 to March quarter 1974.

12. Table 3 on page 8 shows monthly Food Group index numbers for each month from January 1971. In Table 4 information of contributions by the Food Group to the total index in terms of all Groups Index Points is shown for both December quarter 1973 and March quarter 1974 and each of the three months of this quarter, i.e. January, February and March 1974. A more detailed presentation of information on monthly food price movements can be found in the monthly bulletin *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.

13. Table 5 on page 9 shows index numbers for December quarter 1973 and March quarter 1974 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 five major groups and more particularly the total of the groups. For sub-groups or particular items, the index does not necessarily provide comprehensive and valid measures of price changes in those particular fields. Nor does it necessarily measure the relative influences of those classes of items in aggregate variations in prices. The Consumer Price Index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts.

14. Major changes in the composition of the sub-group indexes published in Table 5 resulting from the latest link in the Consumer Price Index (December quarter 1973), have been indicated in the footnotes on page 10. A more detailed description of the changes is contained in the attached appendix. The old and new combinations have been linked to provide continuous series of index numbers across this point of time (December quarter 1973), but it should be remembered that all sub-groupings were affected by changes at the link and some significantly so. Each series of index numbers links the average price movement shown by one combination of items up to December quarter 1973 to that shown by a different combination from December quarter 1973.

15. 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 3-6. However, the analysis in paragraph 16 shows movements in terms of All Groups 'index points'. This analysis shows the contribution of selected items and of the five groups to movements in the total indexes. Table 5 on page 9 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

Index Point Change		Percentage Change
March quarter 1974 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0)	148.1	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period $\frac{148.1 - 144.6}{144.6} \times 100 = 2.4\%$
less December quarter 1973 CPI	144.6	
Index points difference	3.5	

16. The following analysis and Table 5 on page 9 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1973 to March quarter 1974.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
Movements from December Quarter 1973 to March Quarter 1974  
Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

Group	Six Capitals (c)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
INDEX POINTS (a)								
Food -								
Meat, butcher's	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9	+0.7	+1.2	+1.0	+0.5	+1.0
Processed meat	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2
Potatoes	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	..	-0.4	..	..	-0.1
Onions	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	..	-0.2	..	-0.2	-0.1
Other	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.6	+0.5	+0.9	+0.6	+0.5
Clothing and Drapery	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4
Housing -								
House price	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1
Household Supplies and equipment -								
Fuel and light	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	..	+0.3	..	..	..
Other	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
Miscellaneous -								
Motoring	+0.5	+0.5	+0.4	+0.8	+0.4	+0.3	+0.4	+1.5
Health Services	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	..	..	..	+0.1
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
<b>Total Change (Index Points)</b>	<b>+3.5</b>	<b>+3.4</b>	<b>+3.3</b>	<b>+3.8</b>	<b>+3.5</b>	<b>+3.5</b>	<b>+2.9</b>	<b>+4.2</b>

(a) See explanation in paragraph 15. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

17. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between December quarter 1973 and March quarter 1974 is shown below:

**Food Group.** Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index and of disparate movements between cities. The effects of changes in the prices of these items in each city for this quarter are shown in the table above. The price of bread increased in all cities except Sydney and that of fresh milk increased in Melbourne, Perth and Hobart. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 3.4%.

**Clothing and Drapery Group.** There were increases in all sections of the group with increases in footwear prices predominating. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 2.0%.

**Housing Group.** There were increases in house prices and in private rents in all cities. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 2.2%.

**Household Supplies and Equipment Group.** The price of furniture increased in all cities and that of electricity increased in Sydney and Adelaide. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 2.4%.

**Miscellaneous Group.** The motoring sub-group, with increases in the prices of the motor car and repairs items in all cities, increases in the price of petrol in Brisbane and Canberra and increases in registration and driver's licence fees in Canberra, dominated increases in this group. The price of beer increased in Adelaide. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.7%.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Sims on 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

TABLE 1.  
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 -								
1961-62	89.6	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	91.6
1962-63	89.8	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	91.8
1963-64	90.6	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	92.5
1964-65	94.0	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	95.3
1965-66	97.4	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	98.1
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
Quarter -								
1967-68 -								
September	102.7	102.5	102.9	102.8	102.6	102.0	104.3	102.2
December	103.0	102.9	103.3	103.0	102.1	102.5	105.0	102.4
March	103.4	103.2	103.8	103.7	102.6	103.1	104.6	102.6
June	104.2	104.0	104.8	103.7	104.2	104.0	104.6	103.2
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

For footnotes see page 10.

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
<b>FOOD GROUP</b>								
1970-71 -								
March	112.3	113.0	112.1	113.9	109.4	112.7	109.5	110.1
June	114.3	115.1	113.7	116.8	111.5	114.9	110.2	112.4
1971-72 -								
September	115.6	116.5	115.2	118.1	112.7	114.6	111.3	114.4
December	116.7	117.7	116.6	118.3	113.2	115.5	113.0	114.8
March	117.5	118.0	117.5	119.7	114.5	117.0	113.5	115.0
June	117.5	117.7	117.7	119.7	114.1	118.5	113.9	115.2
1972-73 -								
September	120.1	120.8	119.8	120.6	117.5	121.2	115.9	118.1
December	121.6	122.5	121.1	123.8	118.7	120.6	117.9	119.9
March	126.9	127.6	127.3	129.2	123.9	124.8	121.4	125.7
June	134.0	133.6	135.3	136.2	132.1	131.5	124.9	132.0
1973-74 -								
September	141.4	142.6	141.1	144.7	140.7	135.1	131.9	140.1
December	147.0	150.0	145.9	150.0	145.1	137.0	139.7	146.0
March	152.0	154.3	150.8	155.7	149.7	144.8	144.2	151.6
<b>CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP</b>								
1970-71 -								
March	112.2	112.4	111.8	112.1	112.8	112.7	112.0	111.8
June	115.1	115.3	114.6	114.7	115.8	115.7	115.0	114.9
1971-72 -								
September	115.7	116.0	115.1	115.1	116.4	116.4	115.9	115.2
December	118.0	118.2	117.4	117.7	119.2	118.3	118.2	117.7
March	118.8	119.1	118.3	118.5	119.8	119.2	118.7	118.7
June	121.3	121.5	120.9	120.6	122.5	121.6	121.1	121.2
1972-73 -								
September	122.2	122.4	121.9	121.6	123.3	122.4	121.8	122.0
December	124.3	124.4	123.7	124.0	125.6	124.6	124.6	124.1
March	125.7	125.7	125.3	125.4	126.9	126.2	125.5	125.4
June	131.1	131.1	130.8	130.2	132.8	131.1	130.4	130.7
1973-74 -								
September	134.9	135.3	134.6	133.9	135.9	134.8	134.2	134.1
December	140.4	140.8	139.6	139.5	141.6	140.9	139.8	139.6
March	143.2	144.1	142.2	142.1	144.2	143.8	142.7	143.0
<b>HOUSING GROUP</b>								
1970-71 -								
March	124.4	132.4	118.7	118.9	117.2	126.9	118.2	119.4
June	126.8	135.6	120.6	121.4	118.5	127.6	119.2	120.0
1971-72 -								
September	128.8	138.0	121.8	125.8	120.0	128.4	120.4	118.8
December	132.4	142.3	124.4	128.0	123.9	134.4	124.1	122.1
March	134.1	144.6	125.6	129.6	125.8	135.4	125.3	122.7
June	136.6	147.8	127.9	131.7	127.8	136.7	126.8	124.0
1972-73 -								
September	138.5	150.0	129.5	133.6	129.7	137.4	128.3	124.7
December	141.3	153.4	132.0	135.6	132.5	139.4	131.6	128.5
March	143.1	155.5	133.8	137.2	134.2	140.4	132.7	129.7
June	146.7	160.5	137.0	140.2	136.6	141.7	134.4	130.8
1973-74 -								
September	149.8	164.0	139.5	143.3	140.6	143.9	137.1	133.0
December	155.5	168.8	146.2	148.1	148.1	147.8	146.8	140.5
March	158.9	172.0	149.7	151.9	152.7	149.8	149.8	142.2

For footnotes see page 10.

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
<b>HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP</b>								
1970-71 -								
March	107.8	109.6	106.1	109.2	105.6	108.4	109.1	104.5
June	109.8	112.4	107.4	110.6	108.1	109.7	111.6	106.0
1971-72 -								
September	110.0	112.9	107.2	111.0	108.1	109.9	112.4	106.4
December	111.3	113.8	108.9	112.4	109.2	111.4	117.4	107.6
March	112.5	115.5	109.3	113.2	109.6	114.9	117.7	107.7
June	113.0	116.1	110.0	114.1	110.0	114.7	118.1	108.3
1972-73 -								
September	113.7	116.6	110.6	114.8	110.9	115.5	118.9	109.5
December	114.5	117.5	111.2	116.4	111.6	116.2	119.6	110.6
March	115.9	118.9	112.4	117.6	113.4	117.9	120.3	111.5
June	117.6	120.5	114.0	118.9	116.0	120.0	122.5	115.9
1973-74 -								
September	120.9	123.8	117.9	123.3	117.6	121.8	125.5	117.7
December	122.9	125.9	119.6	125.0	119.6	124.8	126.7	118.8
March	125.9	129.3	122.5	127.2	123.6	126.9	128.4	120.3
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GROUP</b>								
1970-71 -								
March	119.4	121.4	118.0	119.5	118.9	116.1	118.3	120.7
June	120.7	123.1	118.7	120.3	121.9	116.9	119.4	122.5
1971-72 -								
September	125.7	132.6	121.1	122.9	123.6	119.0	123.8	126.7
December	131.2	137.1	127.7	127.8	128.6	125.4	130.3	130.5
March	132.8	139.3	129.2	129.4	129.7	126.3	130.8	131.6
June	134.1	140.7	130.3	130.6	131.2	127.1	132.1	132.7
1972-73 -								
September	135.6	141.8	132.5	131.3	132.4	129.0	133.5	134.0
December	136.5	142.8	133.6	131.9	132.8	129.4	134.0	135.4
March	137.8	144.0	134.8	133.7	134.0	131.1	137.7	136.5
June	140.0	146.2	136.9	137.2	135.6	132.1	141.0	137.5
1973-74 -								
September	144.0	149.8	141.8	141.9	139.3	134.9	144.2	141.9
December	149.5	154.2	148.1	146.2	146.1	141.5	148.6	146.9
March	152.1	157.0	150.5	149.7	148.6	142.9	150.7	152.6
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>								
1970-71 -								
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

For footnotes see page 10.

**TABLE 3**  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP - 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>
1971 - January	111.9	112.4	111.8	112.9	109.4	111.6	110.1	109.6
February	112.6	113.2	112.3	114.4	109.5	113.0	109.1	110.2
March	112.6	113.3	112.2	114.3	109.2	113.6	109.4	110.5
April	113.7	114.5	112.8	116.4	110.8	114.7	110.0	111.4
May	114.7	115.3	114.1	117.0	112.3	115.2	110.6	112.6
June	114.7	115.5	114.1	116.9	111.4	115.0	109.9	113.2
July	114.5	115.2	114.2	117.1	111.6	114.2	109.8	113.1
August	115.8	116.7	115.5	117.7	112.9	114.7	111.6	114.7
September	116.6	117.7	115.9	119.4	113.7	114.8	112.6	115.4
October	116.7	117.8	116.3	118.9	113.1	115.5	113.3	115.2
November	116.5	117.5	116.6	117.6	113.3	115.1	113.4	114.9
December	116.8	117.8	116.7	118.4	113.2	115.9	112.3	114.4
1972 - January	117.5	118.2	117.7	119.6	113.7	116.6	113.0	114.5
February	117.6	118.2	117.4	119.7	114.7	116.9	113.8	115.6
March	117.5	117.6	117.6	119.7	115.1	117.5	113.6	114.8
April	117.2	117.1	117.7	119.7	114.0	117.6	113.4	114.3
May	117.5	118.0	117.6	119.7	113.8	118.3	114.1	115.7
June	117.7	117.9	117.8	119.6	114.3	119.6	114.4	115.7
July	118.9	119.5	118.6	119.8	116.4	120.2	115.1	116.2
August	120.2	120.9	120.1	120.5	117.3	121.8	115.9	118.5
September	121.1	122.1	120.7	121.4	118.7	121.4	116.6	119.5
October	121.6	122.8	120.8	122.9	119.0	121.1	117.6	120.0
November	121.7	122.6	121.3	124.3	119.0	120.3	117.9	119.7
December	121.4	122.1	121.2	124.1	118.0	120.3	118.3	119.9
1973 - January	122.2	122.6	121.5	125.7	119.8	122.4	118.4	120.5
February	127.9	129.3	127.8	130.1	125.0	124.6	122.3	127.8
March	130.6	130.8	132.5	131.7	126.9	127.5	123.6	128.7
April	132.8	132.6	134.6	135.1	129.7	128.8	124.4	131.2
May	133.8	133.6	134.9	136.4	132.2	131.7	124.6	132.1
June	135.3	134.5	136.5	137.3	134.4	134.1	125.6	132.5
July	137.6	138.3	137.6	140.4	136.5	134.4	128.0	136.5
August	141.5	142.5	141.4	145.4	140.5	134.8	132.0	139.9
September	145.1	146.9	144.4	148.3	145.0	136.2	135.8	144.0
October	145.9	148.7	144.7	149.3	144.8	137.1	136.3	144.5
November	147.1	150.1	146.2	149.8	145.0	136.3	141.6	145.9
December	147.9	151.1	146.7	150.9	145.5	137.7	141.2	147.6
1974 - January r	150.4	153.4	149.0	154.3	147.2	142.0	143.0	150.1
February r	152.0	154.1	150.8	155.3	150.4	145.2	144.7	152.1
March	153.5	155.4	152.5	157.4	151.4	147.3	145.0	152.7

r - revised. For details see Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index Numbers, March 1974.

**TABLE 4.**  
**POINTS CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX**

NOTE. These figures are on the basis of the current linked series and are not comparable with index points contributions published for previous periods.

<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>
December Quarter 1973	40.96	41.83	39.70	42.88	41.59	38.64	40.95	40.29
January 1974	41.92	42.79	40.55	44.11	42.19	40.02	41.92	41.41
February 1974	42.36	42.97	41.06	44.40	43.12	40.94	42.42	41.97
March 1974	42.79	43.33	41.52	45.01	43.40	41.54	42.50	42.14
March Quarter 1974	42.36	43.03	41.05	44.51	42.91	40.83	42.28	41.84

For footnotes see page 10.



TABLE 5. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
 PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS DECEMBER QUARTER 1973 AND MARCH QUARTER 1974  
 Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities : Base - Year 1966-67 = 100.0

Group and sub-Group	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 (c)		
	Dec. qtr 1973	Mar. qtr 1974	Percentage change since Dec. qtr (d)	Dec. qtr 1973	Mar. qtr 1974	Change in All Groups Index Points since Dec. qtr (d)
				NOTE. These figures are on the basis of the current linked series and are not comparable with index points contributions published for previous periods		
<b>FOOD GROUP</b>						
Cereal products	145.4	150.2	+3.3	4.29	4.43	+0.14
Dairy produce	125.4	128.1	+2.2	6.61	6.75	+0.14
Preserved fruit and vegetables	113.2	115.4	+1.9	1.66	1.69	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	285.0	237.3	-16.7	2.28	1.90	-0.38
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	152.7	156.7	+2.6	5.71	5.86	+0.15
Meat	160.1	172.4	+7.7	15.55	16.74	+1.19
Beef	164.0	171.0	+4.3	6.31	6.58	+0.27
Mutton	193.1	204.9	+6.1	0.70	0.74	+0.04
Lamb	166.2	192.9	+16.1	2.98	3.46	+0.48
Pork	140.5	155.4	+10.6	1.20	1.33	+0.13
Processed meat (e)	134.7	143.2	+6.3	4.35	4.63	+0.28
Snacks, take away food (f)(g)	(100.0)	(104.2)	+4.2	1.32	1.37	+0.05
Other food	116.9	119.0	+1.8	3.55	3.61	+0.06
Food Group	147.0	152.0	+3.4	40.96	42.36	+1.40
<b>CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP</b>						
Predominantly summer seasonal (h)	151.7	151.7	..	3.59	3.59	..
Predominantly winter seasonal (i)	135.3	135.3	..	3.23	3.23	..
Predominantly non-seasonal	132.4	136.7	+3.2	7.38	7.62	+0.24
Footwear	159.0	164.6	+3.5	3.28	3.40	+0.12
Clothing and Drapery Group	140.4	143.2	+2.0	17.49	17.84	+0.35
<b>HOUSING GROUP</b>						
Rent, privately owned dwellings (j)	158.8	161.5	+1.7	9.08	9.23	+0.15
Rent, government owned houses	145.7	146.0	+0.2	0.82	0.82	..
Home ownership (k)	154.9	159.2	+2.8	10.88	11.18	+0.30
House price and repairs and maintenance	146.6	152.4	+4.0	7.55	7.86	+0.31
Local government rates and charges	173.4	173.4	..	3.33	3.33	..
Housing Group	155.5	158.9	+2.2	20.78	21.23	+0.45
<b>HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP</b>						
Fuel and light	116.9	121.1	+3.6	4.22	4.37	+0.15
Electricity	118.1	122.5	+3.7	2.83	2.93	+0.10
Gas	111.2	115.0	+3.4	0.98	1.01	+0.03
Other (l)	121.6	125.1	+2.9	0.41	0.42	+0.01
Household appliances	102.3	103.4	+1.1	3.13	3.17	+0.04
Furniture and floor coverings	144.7	150.7	+4.1	2.83	2.94	+0.11
Other household utensils, sundries and stationery	129.1	131.6	+1.9	2.85	2.90	+0.05
Personal requisites and proprietary medicines	137.0	139.0	+1.5	3.33	3.38	+0.05
Household Supplies and Equipment Group	122.9	125.9	+2.4	16.35	16.76	+0.41
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GROUP</b>						
Fares (m)	163.6	164.2	+0.4	2.58	2.59	+0.01
Motoring	137.5	141.1	+2.6	18.68	19.16	+0.48
Goods (n)	126.1	129.1	+2.4	14.36	14.70	+0.34
Services and charges (o)	165.9	171.3	+3.3	4.31	4.46	+0.15
Cigarettes and tobacco	151.4	151.2	-0.1	5.15	5.15	..
Beer	138.8	139.2	+0.3	6.46	6.47	+0.01
Wines and spirits (f)	(100.0)	(101.8)	+1.8	1.79	1.82	+0.03
Postal and telephone services	141.1	141.1	..	1.87	1.87	..
Newspapers and magazines	163.7	166.5	+1.7	1.57	1.60	+0.03
Recreational goods and services (f)(p)	(100.0)	(102.1)	+2.1	2.92	2.98	+0.06
Health services (q)	152.0	155.0	+2.0	5.87	5.98	+0.11
Other services (s)	177.2	186.2	+5.1	2.14	2.25	+0.11
Miscellaneous Group	149.5	152.1	+1.7	49.04	49.88	+0.84
All Groups	144.6	148.1	+2.4	(c) 144.6	(c) 148.1	(c) +3.5
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>						
Excluding food group	143.6	146.4	+1.9	103.65	105.72	+2.07
Excluding housing group	142.9	146.4	+2.4	123.84	126.84	+3.00
Goods component (t)	140.0	143.7	+2.6	109.54	112.38	+2.84
Services component (t)	162.2	165.0	+1.7	35.08	35.69	+0.61

For footnotes see page 10.

## FOOTNOTES TO TABLES

- (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) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.
- (d) See paragraph 15 on page 2.
- (e) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968 and sausages as from December quarter 1973 (previously included in Beef sub-group)
- (f) Base : December quarter 1973 = 100.0.
- (g) Includes fried chicken, meat pies, hamburgers and sandwiches.
- (h) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's and girls' summerweight underwear.
- (i) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets.
- (j) Includes flats as from December quarter 1968.
- (k) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase.
- (l) Firewood and kerosene. Includes heating oil and briquettes as from December quarter 1968.
- (m) City and suburban rail, bus and tram.
- (n) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading and battery.
- (o) Repairs, registration, third party insurance and driver's licence.
- (p) Includes cameras, film, film processing, phonograph records, radio and television operation and cinema admission.
- (q) Base : December quarter 1968 = 100.0.
- (s) Hairdressing, drycleaning and shoe repairs.
- (t) The Special grouping "Goods" is composed of the Food Group; Clothing Group; Household Supplies and Equipment Group, house price, motoring goods, cigarettes and tobacco, beer, wines and spirits, photographic goods, newspapers and magazines. The remaining items are classified as "Services".

## APPENDIX

1. The Consumer Price Index is compiled as a chain of "fixed weight aggregative" linked indexes with significant changes in composition and weighting effected at relatively short intervals generally of four or five years duration. Links have previously been effected at June quarter 1952, June quarter 1956, March quarter 1960, December quarter 1963 and December quarter 1968. A further link in the series has now been made as at December quarter 1973. Price change between December quarter 1973 and March quarter 1974, has thus been measured on the basis of the changed list of items and weights.
2. During each period between links the items and weighting remain unchanged. At times of linking the weighting pattern is brought up-to-date and the list of items is reviewed. Under this method, in effect, average percentage price movements are assessed on one pattern up to the time of the link and on another pattern thereafter. The process of linking ensures that the series reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index.
3. There are no ideal points of time for linking the various series since, particularly in times of disparate and large price movements, the application of different weights to the same price series over the same periods of time would cause differences in aggregative changes. For example, an approximate calculation shows that, if the weights of the new (seventh) series were used to measure retail price change between December quarter 1968 and December quarter 1973 (the span of the sixth series) the All Groups index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities would have increased by 35.2 per cent compared with the 36.8 per cent shown by the sixth series (and incorporated in the published chain-linked continuous series). The differences could be somewhat greater in the case of some individual cities and of some groups and sub-groups, and, of course, less in the case of others. In the circumstances and in the nature of index numbers, no single fixed weight index can be taken as measuring aggregative price change between these points of time much more accurately than is indicated by this difference.
4. It is likely that the next link will be made after detailed results are available from the first Household Expenditure Survey planned to be conducted for the year ended June 1975. This survey will supply data enabling consideration of a full-scale recasting of the Consumer Price Index. Depending on the frequency of subsequent Household Expenditure Surveys, implementation of links at intervals more frequent than the short term periods which have so far applied for the Consumer Price Index can also be considered.
5. The weighting of the seventh linked index has been derived from recently completed analyses of data from the Population Census of 1971, the 1968/69 Census of Retail Establishments, the 1971 Motor Vehicle Usage Survey, from recent statistics and estimates of production, consumption, etc., and from several special purpose sample surveys. Weights of all items have been reviewed and are now broadly based on the estimated pattern of consumption in 1971-72. For some items data extending over several years has been used in order to smooth out short term fluctuations in consumption.
6. Changes from the previous (sixth) linked series are —
  - (a) The items fried chicken, meat pies, hamburgers and sandwiches have been added to the Food Group and form a new sub-group called "Snacks, Take Away Food". Prices for these items are collected monthly from a representative sample of outlets in each city.
  - (b) In the Miscellaneous Group —
    - (i) A new sub-group, "Wines and Spirits", has been included.
    - (ii) A new sub-group, "Recreational Goods and Services", has been added. This sub-group includes the new items; camera, film, film processing and phonograph records. The former sub-group "Radio and Television Operation" and the item "Cinema Admission" are now included in this sub-group for publication purposes.
    - (iii) The weights for the motoring section take account of data from the 1971 Survey of Motor Vehicle Usage.
    - (iv) Local weights for individual cities are now used for hairdressing, dry cleaning, cinema admission and health services.

- (c) Data from the 1971 Population Census has been incorporated into the weights for the Housing Group which continues on substantially the same basic approach as for past series. The weight for house price now includes estimated expenditure on major alterations and additions to private houses.
- (d) Private house and flat rents have been added to the list of items in the Canberra index.
- (e) Some other new items of less significance (including pet food) have been included and some items of minor significance have been deleted.
- (f) An alternative classification of the All Groups index into the components: – “Goods” and “Services” has been made and index numbers for each of these components have been added to the range of published index numbers.

7. Table A attached is provided to assist users by describing the new weights, in sectional detail, in the form of percentage contributions to the total index aggregate for the weighted average of the six State capital cities as at December quarter 1973. They indicate the relative influence given to the various components in measuring the degree of price change in the index from December quarter 1973 (i.e. from the beginning of the new linked series).

TABLE A. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED  
COMPOSITION AS AT DECEMBER QUARTER 1973

Group, Sub-Group, etc.	Percentage contribution to total index aggregate (a)	
	Sub-group etc.	Group
<b>FOOD</b>		<b>28.3</b>
Cereal products	3.0	
Dairy produce	4.6	
Potatoes, onions, preserved fruit and vegetables	2.7	
Soft drink, ice cream and confectionery	4.0	
Meat –		
Butcher's	7.7	
Processed, including poultry	3.0	
Snacks, take away food	0.9	
Other food	2.4	
<b>CLOTHING AND DRAPERY</b>		<b>12.1</b>
Men's clothing	3.2	
Women's clothing	4.0	
Boys' clothing	0.5	
Girls' clothing	0.4	
Piecegoods, etc.	0.8	
Footwear	2.3	
Household drapery	0.9	
<b>HOUSING</b>		<b>14.4</b>
Rent –		
Privately owned houses	2.8	
Privately owned flats	3.4	
Government owned houses	0.6	
Home Ownership –		
House price	3.6	
Rates	2.3	
Repairs and maintenance	1.7	
<b>HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>11.3</b>
Fuel and light –		
Electricity	1.9	
Gas	0.7	
Other (firewood, heating oil, briquettes and kerosene)	0.3	
Household appliances	2.2	
Furniture and floor coverings	2.0	
Household utensils	0.7	
Household sundries and stationery	1.2	
Personal requisites	1.3	
Proprietary medicines	1.0	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		<b>33.9</b>
Fares –		
Train	0.7	
Bus and tram	1.0	
Private motoring –		
Car purchase	4.4	
Car operation	8.6	
Cigarettes and tobacco	3.6	
Beer	4.5	
Wine and spirits	1.2	
Postal and telephone services	1.3	
Recreational goods and services	2.0	
Newspapers and magazines	1.1	
Health services	4.0	
Other services (Hairdressing, dry cleaning, shoe repairs)	1.5	
<b>All groups</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Percentage contributions shown are in proportion to estimated pattern of consumption at or about 1971-72 valued at relevant prices of December Quarter 1973

- NOTE. 1. These percentages should not be regarded as dissecting total household expenditure into its component parts (see page 13 of Labour Report No. 56, 1971).
2. A similar table showing data for the previous linked series as at December quarter 1968 is shown on page 8 of Labour Report No. 56, 1971.

