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**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS  
EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1996**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**Change in methodology**

1. There has been a change in the method used to produce these estimates - see paragraph 5 below.

**Scope of publication**

2. This publication contains average prices for selected items which are included in the Consumer Price Index for the eight capital cities.

3. The selected items for which average prices are shown in this publication fall within the Food Group and the following non-food subgroups: household supplies and services; private motoring; alcoholic drinks; and personal care products. The items and varieties selected, however, do not comprise all of the items and varieties which are incorporated in the Food Group or the specified subgroups of the CPI.

**Average prices**

4. Prices shown are the averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc. charged by a number of selected retailers in each city. The specified grades etc. and the retailers have been selected as representative to measure price change over time. Thus the prices do not purport to be the actual averages of all retail sales of these items. They should be regarded as no more than approximate indicators of price levels and price changes for the items concerned. Furthermore, the selected grades, brands, etc. for some items differ between cities and may also differ from one period to the next due to a change in product specification. Thus *the average prices for some items may not be comparable from city to city, nor from quarter to quarter*. Details of differences in specifications are provided in footnotes to the table.

5. Commencing with this issue, average retail prices are calculated as the geometric mean of the individual observations. Geometric means have been adopted to reduce the distorting effects of unrepresentative price increases, and are generally lower than arithmetic means. Evaluation of the September quarter estimates shows that for most items the difference due to changing the calculation method is small. The main exceptions to this are some items within the fresh fruit and vegetables and meat categories. September quarter data calculated with geometric means are available on request.

6. Prices for fresh fruit and vegetables are collected weekly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for fresh meat, bread, fish, petrol and alcohol are collected monthly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for fresh milk are collected at the end of the quarter together with details of price changes during the quarter, and average prices calculated for the quarter. Prices for all other items are collected during the mid month of each quarter (i.e. in August, November, February and May).

**Related publications**

7. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on request:

*Consumer Price Index* (6401.0) - issued quarterly

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

*The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6461.0), available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concept Reference Library* (1361.0)

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

**Information Consultancy Service**

9. Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

**National Dial-a-Statistic Line -- 0055 86 400**

10. This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year for a range of statistics.

**Electronic Data Services**

11. A large range of data is available via on-line services diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD-ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact any ABS office.

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**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Sue Lewis on Canberra (06) 252 5754 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services, please call Information Services on

## AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, DECEMBER QUARTER 1996 (Cents)

Item	Unit	Sydney	Melb.	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra
<b>Dairy products</b>									
Milk, carton, supermarket sales(a)	(a) 1 litre	115	126	115	116	125	120	116	112
Milk, powdered, full cream	750 g	470	489	481	491	477	562	552	488
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	371	350	313	318	336	364	391	375
Butter	(b) 500 g	186	203	175	172	199	216	200	189
<b>Cereal products</b>									
Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	203	202	186	157	174	170	194	192
Biscuits, dry	250 g	156	154	148	151	160	175	176	160
Breakfast cereal, corn based	550 g	334	329	355	316	365	349	341	317
Flour, self raising	2 kg	327	339	261	227	256	271	311	327
Rice, long grain	(c) 1 kg	135	140	148	115	156	160	160	141
<b>Meat and seafoods</b>									
<b>Beef</b>									
Silverside Roast	(d) 1 kg	739	775	791	685	752	677	890	678
Rump steak	1 kg	1185	1081	1041	1061	1051	1088	1237	1022
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	1127	1005	992	1069	1097	1016	1233	1006
Chuck steak	1 kg	537	563	577	630	583	602	742	494
Silverside, corned	1 kg	640	643	570	625	646	567	526	609
<b>Lamb</b>									
Leg	1 kg	622	585	586	563	614	613	640	563
Loin chops	1 kg	758	864	800	778	873	772	925	732
Forequarter chops	1 kg	477	479	491	528	600	545	572	447
<b>Pork</b>									
Leg	1 kg	615	522	630	617	598	681	701	584
Loin chops	1 kg	883	774	856	793	812	823	834	855
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	349	365	329	375	338	393	356	330
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	308	307	318	317	336	332	375	307
Beef corned	340 g can	268	277	297	260	289	309	306	286
Sausages	1 kg	335	354	356	351	398	384	406	294
Salmon, pink	210 g can	206	223	225	211	226	263	251	222
<b>Fresh fruit and vegetables</b>									
Oranges	1 kg	247	149	127	90	244	120	160	134
Bananas	1 kg	249	224	205	229	262	238	198	229
Potatoes	1 kg	97	102	82	73	124	87	104	92
Tomatoes	1 kg	315	248	223	343	349	304	401	295
Carrots	1 kg	164	114	95	106	110	137	178	152
Onions	1 kg	137	104	98	128	94	100	157	136
<b>Processed fruit and vegetables</b>									
Peaches	825 g can	195	191	185	190	218	202	250	201
Pineapple, sliced	450 g can	111	96	102	88	111	122	122	111
Peas, frozen	500 g pkt	121	136	139	116	130	153	182	133
<b>Confectionery</b>									
Chocolate, milk, block	250 g	283	278	280	257	285	292	282	282
<b>Other food</b>									
Eggs	(e) 55g, 1 dozen	275	266	276	248	257	287	306	279
Sugar, white	2 kg	219	202	200	182	216	236	259	221
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	246	244	235	228	249	283	288	247
Tea	250 g	197	184	188	172	198	213	209	195
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	575	563	563	513	559	632	579	569
Tomato sauce	600 ml	176	187	190	156	205	199	208	181
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	167	137	158	143	159	166	185	167
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	425 g	86	96	104	86	103	114	111	95
Baby food	125 g can	59	55	59	56	59	66	63	60
<b>Household supplies and services</b>									
Laundry detergent	1 kg	542	473	524	427	532	582	537	516
Dishwashing detergent	1 litre	382	376	358	364	371	416	390	379
Facial tissues	pkt 224	191	185	190	181	200	223	196	199
Toilet paper	4 x 280 sheet rolls	331	326	354	307	334	367	315	316
Pet food	410 g	97	95	101	97	108	116	107	96
<b>Private motoring</b>									
Petrol, super grade	1 litre	75.6	74.4	66.7	76.1	77.2	78.3	80.3	77.8
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	73.4	72.2	64.5	73.7	75.1	76.2	78.3	75.6
<b>Alcoholic drinks</b>									
Beer, low alcohol, unchilled	(f)(g) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2090	1610	2297	2081	2322	2290	2357	2059
Beer, full strength, unchilled	24 x 375 ml bottles	2741	2611	2514	2690	2660	2678	3068	2674
Draught beer, full strength, public bar	285 ml glass	166	192	179	195	219	179	226	169
Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar	(h) 285 ml glass	151	164	168	171	214	154	211	146
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	317	285	252	343	333	246	312	275
<b>Personal care products</b>									
Toilet soap	3 x 125 g	180	174	187	170	175	203	177	173
Toothpaste	140 g	240	239	268	236	251	271	260	257

(a) Darwin price relates to blended milk. (b) Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra: 2 x 250 g. (c) Rice prices now relate to long grain and are not comparable to previous periods. (d) Adelaide price relates to blade bolar roast. Darwin price relates to topside roast. (e) Eggs in Sydney have a net carton weight of 700 g per dozen. Eggs in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra have a minimum net weight of 55 g. Eggs in Brisbane and Hobart have a minimum net weight of 52 g. Eggs in Perth have a minimum net weight of 50 g. Eggs in Darwin have a minimum net weight of 54 g. (f) Alcoholic content of low alcohol beer ranges from 1.5% to 3.8%. (g) Darwin, chilled. (h) Hobart glass size 225 ml.

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