

**PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED  
IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM THURS 18 JULY 1996

**MAY KEY FIGURES**

	<i>% change Apr 96 to May 96</i>	<i>% change May 95 to May 96</i>
<b>Manufacturing Division</b>	-0.4	-3.9
Imported materials	-1.4	-5.2
Home produced materials	0.2	-3.2

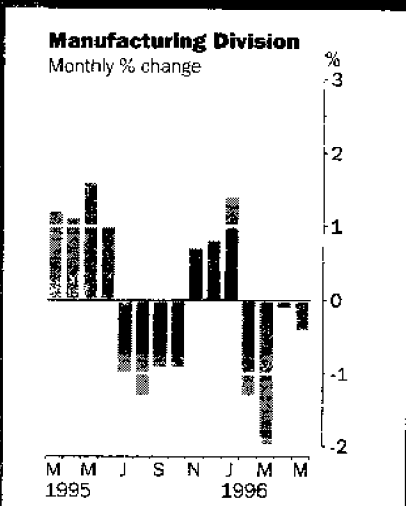
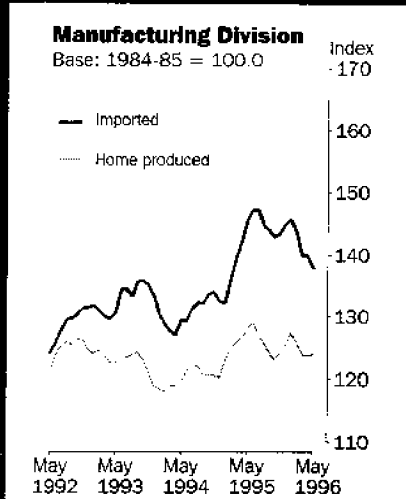
**MAY KEY POINTS**

**MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX**

- A further strengthening in the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies together with price falls for crude petroleum and cattle were the main contributors to the fall in the Manufacturing division index.
- Price increases for wheat and sheep partly offset the overall decrease.

**MAJOR MOVEMENTS**

- Prices of crude petroleum fell due to decreased world prices.
- Cattle prices continued to fall due to weak market demand.
- Wheat prices rose due to higher world prices.
- Prices of sheep and lambs rose due to sustained high market demand.



**INQUIRIES**

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Mark Dickson on 06 252 5541, or any ABS Office.

# PRICE INDEX NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 1996	15 August 1996
July 1996	17 September 1996
August 1996	17 October 1996

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## FORTHCOMING CHANGES

The ABS has completed a review of the Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing. As a result of the review and the adoption of a new industrial classification the index structure and weighting pattern used to compile the index will change.

From the July 1996 issue, the content and format of this publication will alter to reflect the outcomes of the review. The reference base will also be updated from 1984-85 = 100.0 to 1989-90 = 100.0.

A note outlining the changes which will occur to the publication has been prepared and sent to subscribers. Should you wish to obtain a copy of this note please contact Mark Dickson on 06 252 5541.

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W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX<sup>1</sup>

## SOURCE OF MATERIALS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Manufacturing Division</i>	<i>Imported materials</i>	<i>Home produced materials</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	126.6	130.6	124.6
<b>1993-94</b>	124.6	131.7	120.9
<b>1994-95</b>	128.1	136.5	123.7
<b>1995</b>			
March	130.5	139.4	125.8
April	131.9	141.9	126.6
May	134.0	145.5	128.0
June	135.4	147.1	129.2
July	134.0	147.1	127.1
August	132.3	144.7	125.7
September	131.1	143.9	124.3
October	129.9	142.8	123.1
November	130.8	143.4	124.2
December	131.9	144.8	125.2
<b>1996</b>			
January	133.8	145.6	127.5
February	132.0	143.6	125.9
March	129.4	139.9	123.9
April	129.3	140.0	123.7
May	128.8	138.0	123.9

<sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1984-85 = 100.0

## MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX, Percentage changes

## SOURCE OF MATERIALS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Manufacturing Division</i>	<i>Imported materials</i>	<i>Home produced materials</i>
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## PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous year)

<b>1992-93</b>	4.9	5.9	4.4
<b>1993-94</b>	-1.6	0.8	-3.0
<b>1994-95</b>	2.8	3.6	2.3

## PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding month of previous year)

<b>1995</b>			
March	7.0	9.2	5.7
April	8.4	11.7	6.5
May	8.8	12.4	6.8
June	9.2	13.9	6.5
July	7.1	12.2	4.3
August	5.3	9.5	2.9
September	5.2	8.9	3.0
October	3.8	6.9	2.1
November	4.4	7.0	3.0
December	5.9	9.2	4.1
<b>1996</b>			
January	6.1	10.2	3.7
February	2.4	5.6	0.6
March	-0.8	0.4	-1.5
April	-2.0	-1.3	-2.3
May	-3.9	-5.2	-3.2

## PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous month)

<b>1995</b>			
March	1.2	2.5	0.6
April	1.1	1.8	0.6
May	1.6	2.5	1.1
June	1.0	1.1	0.9
July	-1.0	0.0	-1.6
August	-1.3	-1.6	-1.1
September	-0.9	-0.6	-1.1
October	-0.9	-0.8	-1.0
November	0.7	0.4	0.9
December	0.8	1.0	0.8
<b>1996</b>			
January	1.4	0.6	1.8
February	-1.3	-1.4	-1.3
March	-2.0	-2.6	-1.6
April	-0.1	0.1	-0.2
May	-0.4	-1.4	0.2

### MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX, Contribution of Categories of Materials<sup>1</sup>

Category	April 1996	May 1996	Change
Manufacturing Division	129.3	128.8	-0.5
IMPORTED MATERIALS: Contribution to Manufacturing Division Index (index points)			
All imported materials	48.36	47.67	-0.69
Crude petroleum and condensates	4.18	4.07	-0.11
Textile fibres, yarns and fabrics	6.10	6.07	-0.03
Pulp, paper and materials made of paper	3.85	3.71	-0.14
Chemicals and chemical based materials	10.67	10.55	-0.12
Basic iron and steel	2.88	2.87	-0.01
Components for machinery and equipment	10.21	10.05	-0.16
Other imported materials	10.47	10.35	-0.12
HOME PRODUCED MATERIALS: Contribution to Manufacturing Division Index (index points)			
All home produced materials	80.97	81.10	0.13
Live animals	15.85	15.69	-0.16
Other agricultural materials	19.13	19.80	0.67
Hardwood and softwood logs	1.95	1.96	0.01
Fish, prawns and lobsters	1.62	1.68	0.06
Metal ores and concentrates	10.48	10.45	-0.03
Coal, crude petroleum and gas	20.71	20.30	-0.41
Electricity	5.78	5.81	0.03
Other home produced materials	5.45	5.41	-0.04

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of this table see paragraph 16 of the Explanatory Notes

MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX, Selected Categories of Imported Materials<sup>1</sup>

Period	Agricultural materials	Crude petroleum and condensates	Mining materials	Textile fibres, yarns and fabrics	Pulp, paper and materials made of paper	Chemicals and chemical based materials	Basic iron and steel	Components for machinery and equipment	Manufactured materials	All imported materials
<b>1992-93</b>	89.6	67.2	72.5	148.7	125.1	165.4	125.6	162.7	150.2	130.6
<b>1993-94</b>	92.7	57.2	63.1	152.6	121.8	162.9	123.3	178.4	154.4	131.7
<b>1994-95</b>	128.1	59.6	65.4	159.6	124.5	174.9	125.0	177.6	158.5	136.5
<b>1995</b>										
March	143.7	61.3	67.3	160.8	126.9	181.6	126.6	178.5	161.1	139.4
April	144.5	61.3	67.3	162.6	128.6	187.9	126.7	182.5	164.4	141.9
May	143.5	65.4	71.1	166.8	130.8	192.4	127.4	187.3	168.2	145.5
June	146.3	65.1	70.6	168.0	136.9	196.4	128.0	188.2	170.4	147.1
July	137.8	60.5	66.7	166.9	144.9	200.2	128.3	188.7	171.9	147.1
August	131.6	57.1	63.5	165.0	151.3	198.0	127.5	184.6	169.9	144.7
September	125.2	57.6	64.8	165.3	156.4	199.1	126.6	178.9	168.8	143.9
October	120.4	56.6	63.9	164.2	156.8	194.5	133.6	176.8	167.8	142.8
November	123.4	56.8	64.2	164.2	158.8	195.7	134.3	175.8	168.4	143.4
December	124.2	60.3	67.1	166.1	158.9	197.3	135.4	176.0	169.4	144.8
<b>1996</b>										
January	121.4	65.2	71.4	165.2	158.1	198.7	135.4	174.7	169.3	145.6
February	121.6	61.4	67.9	164.1	159.6	193.6	135.3	173.6	167.7	143.6
March	117.5	61.3	67.6	163.6	150.2	181.8	134.4	170.3	162.9	139.9
April	114.6	62.9	69.4	161.4	148.8	188.2	132.9	167.6	162.6	140.0
May	113.9	61.3	67.9	160.7	143.3	186.1	132.3	165.1	160.4	138.0

<sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1984-85 = 100.0

MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX, Selected Categories of Home Produced Materials<sup>1</sup>

Period	Live animals	Other agricultural materials	Hardwood and softwood logs	Fish, prawns and lobsters	Agricultural, forestry and fishing materials	Metal ores and concentrates	Coal, crude petroleum and gas	Mining materials	Electricity	All home produced materials
<b>1992-93</b>	129.5	135.3	155.3	198.9	135.2	141.6	99.3	113.6	133.2	124.6
<b>1993-94</b>	139.9	136.0	154.4	250.6	141.9	130.5	85.2	100.4	132.8	120.9
<b>1994-95</b>	130.2	157.0	155.3	259.4	146.8	141.8	83.3	102.2	130.7	123.7
<b>1995</b>										
March	131.3	161.1	156.2	242.1	148.7	144.8	85.9	104.7	131.6	125.8
April	128.7	165.9	157.0	239.4	149.5	145.5	87.2	105.8	131.4	126.6
May	130.9	168.2	155.9	248.6	151.8	144.6	88.7	106.6	131.3	128.0
June	138.5	167.3	155.8	264.2	155.5	148.1	86.7	106.0	130.9	129.2
July	137.7	160.9	158.4	267.9	152.5	151.2	83.5	104.0	133.5	127.1
August	135.0	159.6	158.9	267.3	150.7	149.8	82.4	102.9	132.2	125.7
September	130.4	160.5	157.8	263.1	145.7	149.0	80.9	101.7	133.1	124.3
October	128.7	157.0	157.9	261.1	146.2	148.8	80.2	101.1	133.5	123.1
November	132.0	158.4	159.4	218.1	147.3	148.3	82.2	102.4	133.3	124.2
December	133.7	154.8	159.3	197.4	146.0	149.2	86.1	105.3	134.9	125.2
<b>1996</b>										
January	132.8	155.9	160.2	199.9	146.1	147.4	93.1	109.8	135.3	127.5
February	127.1	156.7	160.5	202.8	143.8	147.3	91.2	108.6	134.5	125.9
March	119.6	152.8	159.7	214.8	138.7	146.1	92.2	109.0	133.0	123.9
April	119.0	157.3	160.1	210.1	140.4	144.4	90.4	107.5	132.0	123.7
May	117.8	162.8	160.4	218.6	142.4	143.9	88.6	106.1	132.6	123.9

<sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1984-85 = 100.0

MANUFACTURING SUBDIVISION INDEXES<sup>1</sup>

Period	Food, beverages and tobacco (21)	Textiles (23)	Clothing (244-245)	Footwear (246)	Wood, wood products and furniture (25)	Paper, paper products, printing and publishing (26)	Basic chemicals and other chemical products (275-276)
<b>1992-93</b>	134.3	128.2	151.3	142.9	153.9	138.0	137.0
<b>1993-94</b>	138.7	130.7	150.8	147.2	161.5	135.4	134.1
<b>1994-95</b>	143.0	149.8	153.0	157.4	158.5	139.6	139.8
<b>1995</b>							
March	145.2	154.1	154.0	159.9	160.6	141.9	143.4
April	146.1	155.8	155.0	159.4	160.6	144.6	146.3
May	148.2	157.5	157.1	161.7	161.3	145.7	147.4
June	151.2	157.4	159.1	161.6	162.1	149.2	148.9
July	148.5	156.5	158.6	161.7	163.2	154.2	150.6
August	147.4	152.3	157.6	161.6	163.6	157.2	148.9
September	146.0	152.7	156.8	159.6	163.9	160.2	149.1
October	144.4	148.3	156.3	160.1	163.4	160.0	148.5
November	145.2	146.3	156.0	160.0	164.0	161.1	148.7
December	143.8	147.5	157.0	159.9	164.3	161.3	149.1
<b>1996</b>							
January	143.7	146.1	156.6	160.8	164.7	160.8	149.2
February	142.4	145.9	155.5	160.0	163.8	161.4	147.5
March	138.8	143.8	155.2	160.6	163.2	156.0	143.8
April	140.3	141.4	154.3	161.7	162.5	154.8	145.4
May	142.2	139.4	153.9	161.7	161.5	151.8	144.8

<sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1984-85 = 100.0



MANUFACTURING SUBDIVISION INDEXES<sup>1</sup> *continued*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Petroleum and coal products (277-278)</i>	<i>Non-metallic mineral products (28)</i>	<i>Basic metal products (29)</i>	<i>Fabricated metal products (31)</i>	<i>Transport equipment (32)</i>	<i>Other machinery and equipment (33)</i>	<i>Miscellaneous manufacturing (34)</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	88.2	149.0	135.5	146.3	154.1	143.1	131.5
<b>1993-94</b>	73.8	140.3	125.4	146.0	164.0	144.3	133.2
<b>1994-95</b>	72.6	146.1	134.6	151.3	165.6	149.6	144.0
<b>1995</b>							
March	75.2	147.9	138.6	154.3	166.9	151.5	149.4
April	76.3	148.0	140.9	154.1	169.5	153.1	150.7
May	78.5	147.9	140.5	155.1	172.1	153.7	151.5
June	76.5	148.2	142.8	154.8	172.5	154.1	150.3
July	72.6	144.6	145.4	155.5	172.6	155.0	150.6
August	70.8	144.4	143.9	155.1	170.4	153.9	147.5
September	69.7	144.3	143.6	155.5	166.8	153.3	146.2
October	68.8	144.3	143.6	158.1	165.0	153.0	143.6
November	70.6	144.5	143.2	159.0	164.1	153.0	147.9
December	74.7	144.7	144.5	159.5	164.8	153.5	145.4
<b>1996</b>							
January	81.7	144.6	144.1	159.0	163.5	152.0	145.0
February	79.1	146.0	142.8	158.6	163.3	150.7	145.2
March	80.0	146.1	141.3	158.3	161.6	150.1	144.2
April	78.8	146.5	139.9	157.6	160.3	148.8	144.3
May	76.9	146.6	138.8	157.6	159.5	147.6	144.8

<sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1984-85 = 100.0

MANUFACTURING SUBDIVISION INDEX, Selected Metallic Materials<sup>1</sup>

## USED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Iron and Steel</i>	<i>Aluminium</i>	<i>Copper and brass</i>	<i>Zinc</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	145.4	135.8	180.0	155.0
<b>1993-94</b>	147.1	130.8	168.6	138.7
<b>1994-95</b>	148.7	144.3	205.0	137.9
<b>1995</b>				
March	149.3	160.7	211.8	137.6
April	149.3	155.7	217.1	136.3
May	149.8	161.3	213.1	140.1
June	149.9	156.4	218.1	139.6
July	150.0	158.3	223.8	138.5
August	150.2	155.8	219.2	139.1
September	150.7	158.4	216.2	142.0
October	155.1	156.8	214.3	135.6
November	156.7	155.2	214.7	135.6
December	157.4	155.5	218.4	140.5
<b>1996</b>				
January	157.4	154.2	213.1	140.4
February	157.4	153.9	207.6	140.2
March	157.3	152.9	205.7	139.7
April	157.1	150.7	202.9	139.1
May	157.0	149.2	204.9	136.7

<sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1984-85 = 100.0

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents index numbers that are based on materials (including fuels) used by establishments classified to designated 'sectors' of Australian manufacturing industry — the Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries. They are calculated on the reference base 1984-85 = 100.0.

**2** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.

## SCOPE

**3** The indexes are on a 'net sector' basis; that is, each relates only to those materials which are used in the defined 'sector' of Australian manufacturing industry and which have been produced by establishments outside that 'sector'. These establishments are either Australian manufacturing establishments classified to other manufacturing 'sectors' or to other divisions of Australian industry (eg 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting' or 'Mining') or are overseas producers (including overseas manufacturing establishments).

## CLASSIFICATION

**4** The Manufacturing Division index measures changes in prices of materials (including fuels) used by establishments classified to Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) Division C, Manufacturing, which have been purchased or transferred in from establishments outside the Manufacturing Division. It excludes semi-processed materials which have been produced by establishments within the Manufacturing Division and sold or transferred to other establishments within the Manufacturing Division. The index reflects purchases of materials at the point of entry to the Manufacturing Division.

**5** The indexes for ASIC Subdivisions and the indexes for ASIC Groups and measure changes in prices of materials (including fuels) used by establishments classified to each defined ASIC manufacturing 'sector' which have been purchased or transferred in from establishments outside that 'sector'. These exclude semi-processed materials which have been produced by establishments within the specific 'sector' and sold or transferred to establishments in the same 'sector'. The pricing and weights for these net 'sector' indexes therefore reflect purchases and transfers in at the point of entry to the respective ASIC Subdivision, or ASIC Group or Group combination.

## ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**6** The indexes are fixed weights indexes. The items included in the indexes were selected on the basis of values of materials used in 1977-78. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the estimated value of manufacturing usage in 1977-78 except for the following:

- Fuels (e.g. crude petroleum, natural gas and electricity), which were allocated weights on the basis of estimated usage in 1982-83;
- Cereal grains, which were allocated weights based on estimated manufacturing usage in 1977-78 and 1978-79; and
- Live animals, which were allocated weights based on the average value of slaughterings in 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84.

**7** Many of the selected items carry not only the weight of directly priced materials but also the weight of unpriced materials whose prices are considered to move similarly to those of directly priced materials.



ITEMS AND WEIGHTS (continued)

**8** For the Manufacturing Division index, individual materials have been grouped into two broad categories: Imported materials and Home produced materials. Within each of these categories materials have been grouped on the basis of ASIC industry of origin (i.e. the industry in which, in accordance with the classification rules of ASIC, the materials are primarily produced in Australia or the industry in which the materials would be classified had the material been produced in Australia). Percentage contributions, in 1984-85, of individual materials to the relevant commodity groups and to the Manufacturing Division as a whole were shown in Table A1 in the Appendix to the December 1985 issue of this publication.

**9** Percentage contributions, in 1984-85, of each material to each 'sector' index were shown in Table A2 in the Appendix to the December 1985 issue of this publication.

PRICE MEASUREMENT

**10** For those materials subject to significant price variation throughout the month (e.g. agricultural materials, and metal ores and concentrates) average monthly prices are used in compiling these indexes. Other materials are priced at the mid point in the month. Prices of home produced materials are generally obtained from manufacturers who use the material but in some cases prices are obtained from suppliers (producers or wholesalers). Prices of imported materials are generally obtained from importers.

**11** In concept, pricing for these indexes is at the point at which the material physically enters the defined manufacturing 'sector'. Therefore, as far as possible prices are on a 'delivered into store' basis.

**Transferred Goods**

Transfers which do not take place on the open market present problems for the measurement of price change. An example is where a vertically integrated enterprise extracts a mineral (mining activity) and also processes it (manufacturing activity). Since the material is transferred from one part of the enterprise to another there is usually no transaction price. In such instances various methods of imputing changes in market prices have been adopted. Depending on circumstances and the availability of data, these methods include using changes in opportunity cost (based, for example, on the price of the material in an established market) or changes in the cost (based on expenses actually incurred in obtaining the material). Imputations of this kind enter partly into price series for materials such as nickel concentrates, silver-lead concentrates and zinc concentrates.

**Seasonal Materials**

In the case of some seasonal materials such as fruit and vegetables, where deliveries do not occur over the whole year, the previous season's prices are repeated for the months outside the selling season until the subsequent season's prices become operative.

**Estimated Prices**

For items such as sugar cane, where prices are only determined annually, the final prices are sometimes not known until the relevant season or contract period has been at least partly completed. Estimates of the current season or contract period price are used in index calculations until the final price becomes available. Incorporation of such final prices may involve lengthy revisions to index numbers.



PRICE MEASUREMENT (continued)

**Electricity** The index numbers for electricity published in Table 4 are based on prices paid for electricity used by a representative sample of manufacturing establishments. Both 'tariff' prices and special contract prices are included in the calculations.

INDEX NUMBERS

**12** Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of monthly index numbers.

REVISIONS

**13** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision. From time to time index numbers for earlier months may also be revised. This will occur whenever the ABS obtains more complete information or discovers that incorrect prices have been used.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

**14** Care should be exercised when interpreting month-to-month movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

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

Manufacturing Division index numbers —

May 1996	128.8	(see Table 1)
less May 1995	134.0	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	-5.2	
Percentage change	$\frac{-5.2}{134.0} \times 100 = -3.9$	

**16** Table 3 provides an analysis of the contributions which selected categories of materials make to the total Manufacturing Division index. For example, Live animals contributed 15.69 index points to the total Manufacturing Division index number of 128.8 for May 1996 and -0.16 index points to the net change of -0.5 index points. A further explanation is provided in the Appendix to the February 1988 issue of this publication.

FURTHER INFORMATION

**17** The December 1985 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the indexes and their relationship with previous indexes.

**18** Further information on the indexes is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6419.0).

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**19** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Price Index of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Australia* (6415.0)
- *Price Index of Copper Materials, Australia* (6410.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (6407.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (6408.0)
- *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0)
- *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0)





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