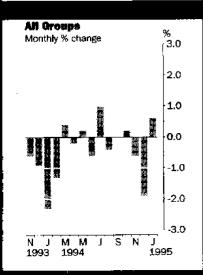


# Index numbers Base:1989-90 = 100.0 125 120 115 110 100 195 Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan 1991 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995



## INQUIRIES

 For further information about these and related statistics, contact Geoff Brown on 06 252 5348, or any ABS Office.

# **IMPORT PRICE INDEX**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM FRI 17 MARCH 1995

# JANUARY KEY FIGURES

	% change Dec 94 to Jan 95	% change Jan 94 to Jan 95
All groups	0.6	-2.7
Food and five animals	0.9	9.3
Beverages and tobacco	0.4	-2.1
Crude materials	-0.3	3.0
Mineral fuels, etc.	-0.2	-5.5
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	3.0	16.7
Chemical products	3.7	3.3
Manufactured goods, by material	0.7	-3.5
Machinery and transport equipment	0.2	-4.1
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.2	-4.3
Commodities and transactions n.e.s.	1.4	-10.5

# JANUARY KEY POINTS

### ALL GROUPS INDEX

Following two months of significant gains the value of the Australian dollar fell
against the major trading currencies in January. This resulted in price increases for
a wide range of items.

### MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- Prices for chemicals and related products rose by 3.7 per cent in January. This
  resulted mainly from large price increases for inorganic chemicals, in particular
  sodium hydroxide, and for chemical fertilizers.
- Partly offsetting the price increases was a fall in prices for data processing machines.

### PRICE INDEX NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

February 1995

19 April 1995

March 1995

18 May 1995

April 1995

16 June 1995

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

RICHARD MADDEN

ACTING AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN

Period	Index numbers <sup>1</sup>	% change from corresponding month of previous year	% change from previous period
* * * * * * *			***********
1991 <del>-9</del> 2	102.7		-0.5
1992- <del>-</del> 93	<b>112</b> .1		9.2
1993-94	115.6		3.1
1993			
November	118.2	5.3	-0.6
December	117.1	3.6	-0.9
1994			
January	114.4	0.2	-2.3
February	112.9	-0.4	-1.3
March	113.3	1.1	0.4
April	113.1	0.7	-0.2
May	113.3	-0.4	0.2
Jun <del>e</del>	112.6	-3.6	-0.6
July	113.7	-2.7	1.0
August	113.2	-3.0	-0.4
September	113.2	-5.1	0.0
October	113.4	-4.6	0.2
November	112.7	<b>-4.</b> 7	-0.6
December	<b>11</b> 0.6	<b>-5.6</b>	-1.9
1995			
January	111.3	-2.7	0.6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, Contribution to All Groups Index<sup>1</sup>

Çate	egory	December 1994	January <b>1</b> 995	Change
-y x	\$ \$ 0 0 0 0 0 7 1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	n na Naza a Kiki w		
All j	groups	110.6	111.3	0.7
e «	SITC SECTIONS: Contribution to A			>>2?
^		4.22	4,26	0.04
0	Food and live animals chiefly for food  Beverages and tobacco	0.85	4.26 0.86	0.04
2	•	3.93	3.92	-0.01 -0.01
3	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels  Minoral fuels, lubricants and other related, materials	3.93 4.4 <b>1</b>	3. <del>92</del> 4.40	-0.01 -0.01
о 4	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	0.35	0.36	-0.01 0.0 <b>1</b>
5	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	10.97	11.37	0.40
ე 6	Chemicals and related products n.e.s.  Manufactured goods classified by material	18.23	18.37	0.40
7	Machinery and transport equipment	52.81	52.90	0.14
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14.39	14.42	0.03
9	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0.45	0.46	0.01
03 24	Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof Cork and wood	1.10 2.03	1.11 2.01	0.0 <b>1</b> -0.02
^-	Fight and all the state of the	4.46	4.44	
24	Cork and wood	2.03	2.01	-0.02
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4.41	4.40	-0.01
51	Organic chemicals	2.54	2.56	0.02
52	Inorganic chemicals	0.62	0.87	0.25
59	Chemical materials and products n.e.s.	1.75	1.76	0.01
64	Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, paper			
	and paperboard	2.60	2.63	0.03
65	Textile yam, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s. and related products	4.47	4.48	0.01
69	Manufactures of metals n.e.s.	3.27	3.28	0.01
	Power generating machinery and equipment	3.47	3.49	0.02
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	6.33	6.40	0.07
74	General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s.	7.18	7.27	0.09
75	Office machines and automatic data processing machines	5.96	5.84	-0.12
76	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment	3.91	3.89	<b>-</b> 0.02
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s.	5.78	5.81	0.03
78	Road vehicles	15.26	15.19	-0.07
79	Other transport equipment	<b>4.9</b> 4	5.03	0.09
87		2.85	2.07	201
00	and apparatus n.e.s.	2.86	2.87	0.01
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	5.76	5.77	0.01
	Other	26.36	26.64	0.28

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}\,$  For an explanation of this table see paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes



# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By SITC Section<sup>1</sup>

Period	Food and five animats chiefly for food (0)	Beverages and tobacco (1)	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials (3)	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (4)	Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere (9)
			*****			• 4 * * * * & * * *			, • ¥ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	<b>,,</b> ,,,,,,,
1991–92 1992–93 1993–94	98.1 104.7 106.8	115.7 121.8 111.5	90.8 101.1 116.3	92.5 100.1 93.5	116.6 126.6 120.9	100.5 106.2 103.3	103.3 109.3 112.1	104.8 116.8 123.1	105.7 114.9 117.0	91.4 98.7 110.4
<b>1993</b> November December	108.1 108.3	110.3 109.0	120.9 119.6	98.4 94. <b>1</b>	127.6 125.4	105.1 104.5	114.9 113.9	125.6 124.6	119.4 118.5	114.4 114.6
<b>1994</b> January	107.6	108.2	114.9	87.9 89.0	119.4 117.0	103.2 101.5	112.3 110.5	121.5 120.0	115.8 114.1	111.8 107.0
February March April	105.5 105.5 105.0	107.8 107.6 107.3	113.7 113.6 114.0	87.5 85.3	114.6 113.2	100.4 99.5	110.1 110.0	121.3 121.5	114.7 114.6	109.6 106.0
May June	105.3 105.3	107.0 106.8	114.7 113.1	93.8 93.8	115.7 117.1	100. <b>1</b> 100.4	109.5 109.0	121.1 120.1	114.1 113.2	106.2 106.0
July August	105.8 107.3	105.5 105.5	114.7 114.6	96.6 97.7	117.8 121.1	101.6 101.8	109.3 109.0	121.4 120.3 120.0	113.9 113.4 112.8	105.7 103.2 106.0
September October	110.1 117.4	107.0 107.3 106.5	117.5 117.0 120.1	95.1 86.5 85.2	132.6 134.8 135.8	102.2 103.6 103.6	109.1 109.9 108.6	120.0 120.2 119.3	113.4 112.3	106.3 103.0
November December 1995	118.0 116.6	105.5	118.7	83.3	135.3	102.8	107.6	116.3	110.6	98.7
January	117.6	105.9	118.3	83.1	139.3	106.6	108.4	116.5	110.8	100.1

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0



# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By Selected SITC Division<sup>1</sup>

Period	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (33)	Organic chemicals (51)	Paper, paperboard and articles made of paper (64)	Textile yarn, fabrics and related products (65)	Power generating machinery and equipment (71)	Machinery specialised for particular industries (72)
>>> <del>**********************************</del>	*******		; • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
199192	92.5	90.5	99.8	103.5	111.6	105.0
1992-93	100.1	97.0	100.7	106.9	122.3	119.3
1993-94	93.5	98.1	99.6	110.7	132.8	122.2
1993						
November	98.4	100.5	<b>101</b> .7	114.9	135.8	124.5
December	94.1	98.6	101.8	111.5	134.5	123.9
1994						
January	87.9	97.5	100.6	110.5	132.9	120.3
February	89.0	95.8	98.8	108.3	130.6	118.4
March	87.5	- 98.1	97.6	108.0	131.8	120.5
April	85.3	96.4	96.7	107.9	131.4	120.2
May	93.8	97.4	95.8	108.3	131.6	119.8
June	93.8	100.1	95.4	108.0	130.9	118.4
July	96.6	101.8	95.0	108.2	131.5	119.1
August	97,7	102.7	95.4	108.1	130.6	118.6
September	<b>9</b> 5.1	104.5	95.2	109.3	130.5	118.3
October	86.5	10 <b>8.1</b>	95.6	109.9	130.9	118.9
November	85.2	110.1	95.5	109.3	129.4	117.4
December	83.3	111.1	95.0	107.9	127.9	114.8
1995						
January	83.1	111.7	95.8	108.0	128.6	116.1

 $<sup>^{-1}</sup>$  Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By Selected SITC Division<sup>1</sup> continued

Period	General industrial machinery, equipment and parts (74)	Office machines and ADP machines (75)	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment (76)	Electrical machiner etc. and parts thereof (77)	y, Road vehicles (78)	Other transport equipment (79)
* * * * * * * * * * * *	::»>:.:°°°		***********	8 X (	* x (, r * 7 % \$ \$ * * * * *	~ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
1991-92	109.5	89.6	95.3	100.1	110.5	109.1
1992-93	125.0	89.5	104.4	109.0	130.0	122.4
1993-94	130.0	88.7	<b>11</b> 0.4	112.3	145.4	124.9
1993						
November	132.9	90.9	<b>1</b> 12.9	115.3	146.9	129.4
December	131.8	90.2	111.9	114.6	145.7	128.1
1994						
January	128.2	87.3	108.9	111.9	142.8	123.9
February	126.4	85.7	<b>1</b> 07.0	109.7	143.2	120.3
March	127.2	86.5	108.3	109.7	145.1	121.8
April	127.0	87.6	107.9	109.3	146.4	121.0
May	. 127.3	86.8	107.5	110.0	145.5	119.7
June	126.5	86.4	106.5	109.5	144.2	118.3
July	127.7	85.8	106.7	109.8	148.4	119.0
August	126.2	85.1	105.3	109.5	146.6	118.1
September	125.6	83.7	105.3	109.3	146.7	118.1
October	125.9	83.5	105.2	109.9	146.8	<b>1</b> 18.7
November	124.3	82.8	104.4	108.5	147.3	116.7
December	121.1	80.2	102.9	105.6	143.4	113.1
1995						
January	122.6	78.6	102.5	106.1	142.7	115.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0



# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By Selected ATSN Section<sup>1</sup>

Period	Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco (4)	Mineral products (5)	Chemical industry products (6)	Plastics and rubber, and articles thereof (7)	Wood pulp, paper and paper products (10)	Textiles and textile articles (11)	Base metals and articles thereof (15)	Machinery and electrical equipment (16)	Transport equipment (17)	Instruments, clocks and watches, optical and photographic apparatus (18)
*	× × × * * * * * * * *	****	* \$ \$ / * * * * *		. « > >					* 4 2 5 4 1 * * * * * *
1 <del>991</del> –92	104.9	100.7	1 <b>01</b> .0	99.4	97.7	101.2	103.1	99.4	110.3	105.0
<b>1992-9</b> 3	112.3	108.8	104.6	106.8	99.5	106.2	108.9	107.4	128.2	120.5
1993-94	108.7	101.2	99.2	111.4	98.0	109.5	110.5	110.5	140.2	125.9
1993										
November	109.5	106.0	100.5	113.7	99.9	112.5	112.7	113.1	142.5	128.9
December	109.1	101.7	100.0	112.8	99.7	110.8	112.1	112.3	141.4	127,5
1994										
January	107.2	95.4	98.7	111.2	98.8	109.4	110.9	109.4	138.0	123.5
February	105.7	96.6	97.3	109.7	97.3	107.3	109.1	107.4	137.3	122.2
March	105.6	95.2	96.7	109.4	95.6	107.5	108.3	108.4	139.2	123.3
Apri⊦	105.6	93.0	96.1	109.4	95.4	107.3	108.5	108.3	139.9	123.3
May	106.3	101.4	96.6	108.5	94.7	107.5	107.5	108.1	138.9	123.2
June	106.0	101.4	96.1	109.7	94.8	107.4	106.9	107.4	137.5	122.5
July	106.3	104.3	96.3	111.5	95.5	107.7	107.3	107.6	140.7	124.5
August	106.2	105.4	96.6	111.3	96.3	107.4	106.7	106.6	139.3	124.1
September	106.8	103.6	97.2	111.3	95.5	107.6	106.2	106.1	139.3	123.2
October	109.6	95.2	98.7	112.1	96.0	108.0	107.2	106.4	139.5	123.5
November	109.4	93.8	98.6	111.4	96.9	107.4	<b>1</b> 05. <del>6</del>	105.0	139.4	122.6
December	107.8	92.0	97.6	110.4	95.9	105.6	105.3	102.6	135.6	120.8
1995										
January	109.9	91.8	101.6	111.6	96.3	106.0	106.8	102.8	135.7	120.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0



	Agriculture, forestry		
Period	and fishing	Mining	Manufacturing
	(A)	(B)	(C)
.,2224******			************
1991-92	99.7	105.5	102.6
1992-93	102.6	113.7	111.7
19 <del>9</del> 3–94	107.3	97.8	115.5
1993			
November	107.3	105.0	118.0
December	106.6	98.3	117.2
1994			
January	107.9	91.0	114.5
February	106.1	93.5	112.9
March	105,7	89.7	113.4
April	106.4	87.0	113.4
May	106.7	94.5	113.3
June	110.6	96.4	112.5
July	109.9	100.9	113.4
August	116.0	104.5	112.7
September	126.3	99.9	112.6
October	142.5	98.4	112.7
November	146.3	97.9	111.8
December	146.3	96.9	109.7
1995			
January	142.5	95.7	110.3

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0



# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Subdivision<sup>1</sup>

Period	Agriculture (1)	Oil and gas extraction (12)	Food, beverage and tobacco (21)	Textiles <sup>2</sup> (221-222)	Clothing, footwear and leather (223-226)	Wood and paper products <sup>2</sup> (23)	Printing, publishing and recorded media <sup>2</sup> (241-243)
*******		******		* * * * * * * * * * *	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		***********
1991-92	99.7	106.6	103.6	101.7	103.7	94.4	109.4
1992-93	102.6	115.8	111.7	105.6	111.3	10 <b>1</b> .4	115.5
1993-94	107.3	98.6	109.5	109.2	109.5	113.0	116.2
1993	407.0	107.0	110,9	112.6	110.9	116.4	118.9
November	107.3		110.9	112.6	110.1	117.1	118.1
December	106.6	99.2	110.8	110.1	110.1	TTL'T	110.1
1994	407.0	00 C	400.0	109.1	107.7	113.8	116.6
January	107.9	90.6	109.0		106.1	112.0	115.0
February	106.1	93.6	107.4	107.0			
March	105.7	89.1	107.3	106.8	106.9	111.2	113.1
April	106.4	<b>8</b> 5.9	106.6	106.7	106.9	110.8	113.3
May	<b>106.</b> 7	95.0	107.5	107.3	106.6	110.5	112.6
June	110.6	97.3	107.3	107.5	105.9	108.4	112.0
July	109.9	102.7	107.9	107.9	106.4	109.0	111.8
August	116.0	106.9	108.1	107.7	105.8	109.1	112.2
September	126.3	99.8	108.8	109.2	104.1	108.6	110.7
October	142.5	98.0	111.9	109.8	104.5	108.5	111.1
November	146.3	97.5	111.4	109.5	103.1	109.8	110.7
December	146.1	96.4	110.1	108.1	100.7	108.4	108.8
1995							
January	142.3	95.0	112.3	108.3	101.3	108.8	108.6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0 <sup>2</sup> ANZSIC Sub-division series not directly comparable to earlier ASIC based



Period	Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products <sup>2</sup> (25)	Non-metallic mineral products (26)	Basic metal products (271-273)	Fabricated metal products (274-276)	Transport equipment (281-282)	Other machinery and equipment <sup>2</sup> (283-286)	Other manufacturing <sup>2</sup> (29)
					* * * * * * * * * * * *		
1991-92	99.0	110.7	96.6	108.4	108.6	99.5	103.0
1992-93	104.6	118.8	99.2	120.0	125.4	108.2	111.8
19 <del>9</del> 3–94	104.0	<b>11</b> 7.9	101.7	123.6	136.8	111.3	114.4
1993							
November	106.0	121.2	104.2	126.3	139.3	113.9	116.6
December	105.0	121.4	104.2	125.3	138.1	113.1	116.0
1994							
January	102.9	118.0	102.3	123.6	135.0	109.9	113.8
February	101.8	116.6	100.5	121.3	134.1	108.0	112.1
March	. 101.7	115.4	100.3	120.9	135.6	109.0	112.2
April	101.0	115.3	99.5	120.7	136.2	109.1	112.2
May	102.6	115.6	98.1	121.4	135.3	108.7	111.5
June	102.1	114.9	97.9	119.9	134.1	108.0	110.9
July	103.1	115.9	98.2	120.0	137.0	108.4	111.1
August	102.9	116.1	97.9	117.8	135.5	107.6	110.6
September	103.2	115.7	98.0	117.6	135.6	107.0	110.6
October	101.3	117.4	98.9	117.9	135.8	107.4	110.9
November	100.5	114.7	97.3	116.5	<b>13</b> 5.5	106.1	109.6
December	99.3	113.0	96.7	114.0	132.0	103.7	108.3
1995							
January	101.9	113.3	98.7	114.5	132.2	103.7	108.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

ANZSIC Sub-division series not directly comparable to earlier ASIC based



# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By BEC Category<sup>1</sup>

Period	Food and beverages	Industrial supplies n.e.s.	Fuels and lubricants	Capital goods, and parts and accessories thereof	Transport equipm and parts and accessories thereof	ent, Consumer goods n.e.s.
5 % & 9 & 4 \$ \$ <b># # F % #</b>	****		: ^ - ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ * * * * * * * *		• • • • <b>•</b> • •	***********
1991-92	102.1	98.8	94.7	102.3	108.5	106.0
1992-93	108.0	104.1	103.2	110.9	124.6	114.6
1993–94	107.8	105.0	95.4	114.0	135.9	117.7
1993						
November	108.6	107.3	100.6	<b>116</b> .5	138.4	120.4
December	108.8	106.8	95.8	115.6	137.2	119.2
1994						
January	108.1	105. <b>1</b>	89.1	112.4	134.2	116.8
February	106.4	103.1	90.8	110.5	133.3	115.2
March	106.2	102.5	89.0	111.6	134.8	115.6
April	105.9	102.3	86.8	111.7	135.3	115.3
May	106.2	102.0	96.0	111.4	134.5	115.1
June	106.3	101.8	96.1	110.7	133.3	<b>1</b> 14.4
July	107.0	102.5	99.4	111.2	<b>136</b> .0	114.6
August	108.9	102.4	100.8	110.3	<b>134</b> .6	114.2
September	112.6	102.9	97.7	109.6	134.7	113.8
October	120.0	103.8	89.0	109.9	134.9	114.2
November	121.0	103.6	87.7	108.7	134.5	112.9
December	119.9	102.6	85.8	106.1	131.1	111.0
1995						
January	120.7	104.5	85.6	106.1	131.3	111.4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0



# IMPORT PRICE INDEX, By BEC End Use Class<sup>1</sup>

Period	Capital goods	Intermediate goods	Consumption goods
: > • • • • •	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		****************
1991-92	105.1	98.6	107.0
1992-93	117.0	105.1	11 <del>6</del> .9
1993–94	122.8	106.6	121.1
1993			
November	125.3	109.2	123.3
December	124.2	108.2	122.4
1994			
January	120.6	106.1	119.9
February	119.1	104.5	118.5
March	120.8	104.0	119.2
April	121.2	103.5	119.1
May	120.8	104.1	119.0
June	119.8	103.7	118.4
July -	120.7	104.9	119.2
August	119.7	104.9	118.5
September	119.1	105.1	118.5
October	119.4	105.4	11 <b>8</b> .7
November	118.2	105.0	117.9
December	115.4	103.5	115.7
1995			
January	115.4	104.6	116.2

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

- **1** This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of imports of merchandise landed in Australia the Import Price Index. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989-90 = 100.0.
- **2** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.

SCOPE

- **3** The Import Price Index, either directly or indirectly, covers about ninety five per cent of merchandise imported during 1988-89 and 1989-90.
- **4** The remaining imports are not represented because of the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality. These unrepresented items include:
  - live animals (not for food)
  - jewellery and other articles of precious metal n.e.s.
  - military equipment
- special transactions
- · commodities not classified according to kind
- · works of art, collectors' pieces, antiques
- ships of various types.
- **5** The index numbers for each month relate to prices of those imports of merchandise that are physically landed in Australia during that month.

CLASSIFICATION

- **6** Index numbers for sections and selected divisions of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3 are provided in Tables 3 and 4, while index numbers for selected sections of the Combined Australian Customs Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature (ATSN) are provided in Table 5.
- **7** Tables 6 and 7 contain index numbers for selected Divisions and Subdivisions, on an 'industry of origin' basis, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). The 'industry of origin' is the industry in which the imported commodity would be classified as primarily produced had it been produced in Australia, determined in accordance with the classification rules of the ANZSIC.
- **8** Table 8 contains index numbers for categories of the United Nations' Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). Table 9 contains index numbers for these categories rearranged to form the broader end use classes: Capital goods, Intermediate goods and Consumption goods. Each category has been allocated wholly to one of these classes except for:
  - category 321, Motor spirit (which has been allocated in part to Intermediate goods and in part to Consumption goods)
  - category 51, Passenger motor cars (which has been allocated in part to Capital goods and in part to consumption goods)

ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**9** The index is a fixed weights index. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their import values during 1988–89 and 1989–90. They constituted approximately 95 per cent of the total value of imports of merchandise to Australia during these years. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of imports for each item during 1988–89 and 1989–90. These weights were then revalued to reflect 1989–90 price levels. Many of the items carry not only their own weight but also the weight of unpriced commodities whose prices are considered to move in a similar manner. The weighting pattern of the Import Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, was shown in the September 1991 issue of this publication.

PRICE MEASUREMENT

- **10** Prices of individual shipments are obtained from importers of the selected items and relate to the month in which the goods arrive in Australia. Imports are priced on a 'free on board' (f.o.b.), country of origin basis. Freight and insurance charges involved in shipping goods from foreign to Australian ports are therefore excluded from the prices used in the index, as are Australian import duties.
- 11 As the prices used in the index are expressed in Australian currency, changes in the relative value of the Australian dollar and overseas currencies can have a direct impact on price movements for the many commodities that are bought in currencies other than Australian dollars. Prices reported in a foreign currency are converted to Australian dollars using the exchange rate prevailing at the time of departure from the foreign port. Where imports are purchased at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices in the index *exclude* the forward exchange cover.
- **12** The price series used relate to specified standards, grades, types, etc. of each commodity. The aim is to incorporate in the index price changes for imports of representative goods of constant quality. Wherever possible, prices from predominant countries of origin are used for each of the specified goods priced in order to lessen the impact of price variations attributable solely to changes, over time, in the mix of countries of origin. In most cases prices are combined using fixed weights between markets. Weights between countries are reviewed from time to time and revised where necessary.

INDEX NUMBERS

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

REVISIONS

14 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

- **15** Care should be exercised when interpreting month-to-month movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.
- **16** 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:

All groups index numbers —

January 1995 111,3 (see Table 1) less January 1994 114.4 (see Table 1) Change in index points 
$$-3.1$$
Percentage change =  $\frac{-3.1}{114.4}$  x  $100 = -2.7$ 

17 Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of imports make to the All groups index. For example, Other transport equipment contributed 5.03 index points to the All groups index number of 111.3 for January 1995 and 0.09 index points to the net change of 0.7 index points.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **18** The September 1991 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index. A detailed description of the previous Import Price Index is contained in the December Quarter 1982 issue of this publication.
- **19** Further information on the index is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6419.0).

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- **20** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:
  - Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)
  - Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)
  - Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)
- **21** Other ABS publications that may be of interest include *Balance of Payments*, *Australia* (5302.0).
- **22** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

**23** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Geoff Brown on 06 252 5348 or to any ABS office.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

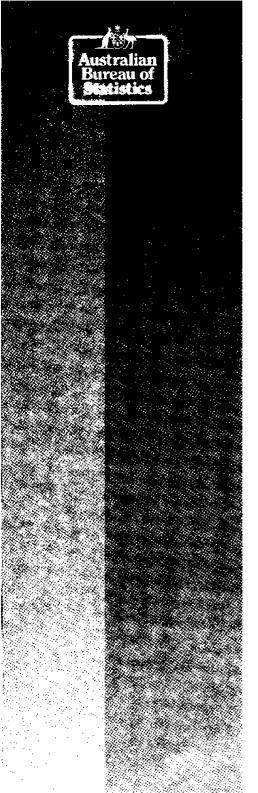
ATSN Combined Australian Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature
ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
BEC Classification by Broad Economic Categories
SITC Standard International Trade Classification
f.o.b. free on board
n.e.s. not elsewhere specified or included

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