



AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS

EIGHT
CAPITAL
CITIES

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NOTES

INTRODUCTION

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

The CPI covers a wide range of goods and services arranged in eight groups which are in turn divided into subgroups. 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; household 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

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.

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

Commencing with the December quarter 1996, average retail prices are calculated using the geometric mean of the individual observations.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *Consumer Price Index* (6401.0)
- *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0)
- *The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods* (6461.0) available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concepts Reference Library* (1361.0).

FORTHCOMING ISSUE

The March quarter 1999 issue is expected to be released on 12 May 1999.

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Australian Statistician

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Steve Whennan on 02 6252 6251, or any ABS Office.

Item (Unit)	Sydney cents	Melbourne cents	Brisbane cents	Adelaide cents	Perth cents	Hobart cents	Darwin cents	Canberra cents
Dairy products								
Milk, carton, supermarket sales (1 litre) (a)	116	135	120	132	135	125	122	115
Milk, powdered, full cream (750 g)	465	484	481	489	479	569	556	481
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped (500 g)	389	358	357	312	335	371	369	374
Butter (500 g) (b)	181	205	164	175	196	216	210	189
Cereal products								
Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales (680 g)	210	201	199	167	196	204	217	210
Biscuits, dry (250 g)	163	164	159	160	161	180	181	163
Breakfast cereal, corn based (550 g)	295	295	299	301	358	363	312	295
Flour, self raising (2 kg)	327	321	271	249	268	252	305	328
Rice, long grain (1 kg)	152	153	153	140	170	173	168	156
Meat and seafoods								
Beef								
Silverside roast (1 kg) (c)	752	802	720	726	807	701	878	780
Rump steak (1 kg)	1 163	1 031	1 041	1 156	1 018	881	1 229	1 166
T-bone steak, with fillet (1 kg)	1 124	1 005	940	1 079	1 116	960	1 181	1 022
Chuck steak (1 kg)	575	582	590	634	624	596	783	549
Silverside, corned (1 kg)	634	611	543	638	686	531	649	647
Lamb								
Leg (1 kg)	605	523	546	565	589	554	616	521
Loin chops (1 kg)	782	864	840	846	871	751	925	769
Forequarter chops (1 kg)	441	497	481	582	563	511	621	422
Pork								
Leg (1 kg)	540	517	536	571	591	616	690	539
Loin chops (1 kg)	858	791	815	803	837	808	882	850
Chicken, frozen (1 kg)	366	345	338	332	349	380	351	346
Bacon, middle rashers (250 g pkt)	336	305	320	293	359	381	373	315
Beef corned (340 g can)	268	288	282	266	279	317	297	289
Sausages (1 kg)	311	356	332	372	398	387	383	338
Salmon, pink (210 g can)	240	259	246	252	270	305	269	262
Fresh fruit and vegetables								
Oranges (1 kg)	276	175	149	108	257	138	333	230
Bananas (1 kg)	195	182	189	226	229	215	288	187
Potatoes (1 kg)	127	137	134	86	135	77	123	149
Tomatoes (1kg)	429	384	359	439	398	421	578	440
Carrots (1 kg)	198	175	171	178	135	180	234	203
Onions (1 kg)	183	152	107	188	174	134	233	173
Processed fruit and vegetables								
Peaches (825 g can)	199	192	191	206	199	221	245	201
Pineapple, sliced (450 g can)	115	111	110	102	120	120	121	117
Peas, frozen (500 g pkt)	123	115	119	122	134	163	168	132
Confectionery								
Chocolate, milk, block (250 g)	295	293	272	266	304	320	286	294
Other food								
Eggs (55 g, 1 dozen) (d)	280	297	259	245	246	290	291	288
Sugar, white (2 kg)	236	221	218	202	254	265	218	233
Jam, strawberry (500 g jar)	235	243	242	224	246	262	257	239
Tea (250 g)	230	240	251	220	264	273	267	229
Coffee, instant (150 g jar)	573	610	600	563	679	671	605	615
Tomato sauce (600 ml)	176	188	179	164	214	208	210	170
Margarine, poly-unsaturated (500 g)	178	158	177	172	169	188	200	192
Baked beans, in tomato sauce (420 g)	96	94	100	101	106	110	108	102
Baby food (120 g can)	61	59	64	62	63	70	66	60

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, Dec Qtr 1998 *continued*

Item (Unit)	Sydney cents	Melbourne cents	Brisbane cents	Adelaide cents	Perth cents	Hobart cents	Darwin cents	Canberra cents
Household supplies and services								
Laundry detergent (1 kg)	453	468	491	446	478	515	487	469
Dishwashing detergent (500ml)	312	330	345	321	339	372	349	333
Facial tissues (pkt 224)	184	187	195	186	187	213	184	182
Toilet paper (4 x 270 sheet rolls)	334	325	339	311	334	372	326	345
Pet food (400 g)	97	99	106	99	116	119	101	100
Private motoring								
Petrol, super grade (1 litre)	71.1	68.3	61.8	69.5	70.8	74.8	77.2	74.0
Petrol, unleaded (1 litre)	68.8	66.1	59.5	67.2	68.6	72.8	75.2	71.7
Alcoholic drinks								
Beer, low alcohol (24 x 375 ml bottles)	2 039	1 661	2 341	2 082	2 407	2 283	2 306	1 925
Beer, full strength (24 x 375 ml bottles) (e)	2 621	2 723	2 646	2 715	2 685	2 699	2 897	2 477
Draught beer, full strength, public bar (285 ml glass) (e)	172	201	185	210	234	228	233	178
Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar (285 ml glass)	156	170	173	182	230	200	217	159
Scotch nip, public bar (30 ml)	353	316	270	362	384	264	327	270
Personal care products								
Toilet soap (4 x 125 g)	306	271	296	265	287	331	290	318
Toothpaste (140 g)	243	225	260	247	258	260	245	245

(a) Darwin price relates to blended milk.

(e) Alcoholic content of full strength beer is greater than 3.9%.

(b) Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra:
2 x 250 g.

(c) Brisbane and Darwin prices relate to
topside roast. Adelaide price relates to
blade bolar roast.

(d) Eggs in Sydney have a net carton weight of
700 g per dozen. Eggs in Melbourne,
Adelaide and Canberra have a minimum
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.

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

DIAL-A-STATISTIC For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074.
For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400.
These calls cost 75c per minute.

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