

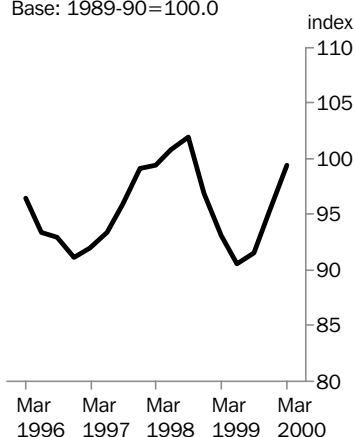
EXPORT PRICE INDEX

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 20 APR 2000

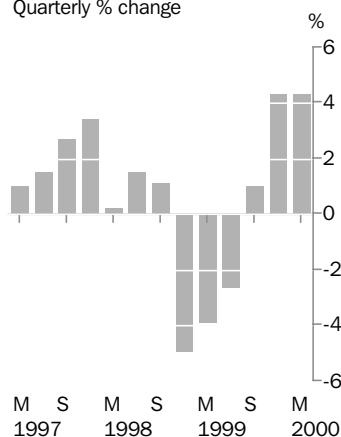
All groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All groups

Quarterly % change



MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Dec Qtr 1999 to Mar Qtr 2000	% change Mar Qtr 1999 to Mar Qtr 2000
All groups	4.3	6.9
Live animals, animal products	2.7	8.2
Vegetable products	-0.4	-6.2
Prepared foodstuffs	0.6	-7.2
Mineral products	6.5	8.2
Products of chemical or allied industries	8.2	11.4
Wool and cotton fibres	-3.1	2.4
Gold, diamonds and coin	1.7	3.8
Base metals and articles of base metals	12.2	30.9
Machinery and mechanical appliances	0.2	-0.2
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.8	0.7

MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

ALL GROUPS INDEX

- The Export Price Index rose by 4.3% in the March quarter. The continued depreciation of the Australian dollar against most major trading currencies contributed to the increase.

MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- Stronger demand for base metals, particularly aluminium and nickel, translated into increased prices for these products.
- Increases in world prices for mineral fuels and oils were reflected in domestic export prices for crude oil, petroleum gases and other petroleum products.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Arthur Barber on Canberra 02 6252 6655, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

June 2000

20 July 2000

September 2000

19 October 2000

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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RELATED STATISTICS

For more information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Arthur Barber on fax (02) 6252 7060, or email arthur.barber@abs.gov.au.

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W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

EXPORT PRICE INDEX, All Groups

<i>Period</i>	<i>Index numbers(a)</i>	<i>% change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>	<i>% change from previous period</i>
1995-1996	96.1		1.5
1996-1997	92.4		-3.9
1997-1998	98.9		7.0
1998-1999	95.7		-3.2
1996			
March	96.5	0.7	0.5
June	93.4	-6.3	-3.2
September	93.0	-5.6	-0.4
December	91.1	-5.1	-2.0
1997			
March	92.0	-4.7	1.0
June	93.4	0.0	1.5
September	95.9	3.1	2.7
December	99.2	8.9	3.4
1998			
March	99.4	8.0	0.2
June	100.9	8.0	1.5
September	102.0	6.4	1.1
December	96.9	-2.3	-5.0
1999			
March	93.1	-6.3	-3.9
June	90.6	-10.2	-2.7
September	91.5	-10.3	1.0
December	95.4	-1.5	4.3
2000			
March	99.5	6.9	4.3

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), AHECC and ANZSIC Contribution to All Groups Index

Category	December Qtr 1999	March Qtr 2000	Change
All groups index	95.4	99.5	4.1
SELECTED AHECC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Live animals, animal products	9.27	9.51	0.24
02 Vegetable products	7.31	7.29	-0.02
04 Prepared foodstuffs	4.19	4.21	0.02
05 Mineral products	29.92	31.84	1.92
06 Products of chemical or allied industries	7.13	7.72	0.59
11 Wool and cotton fibres	8.33	8.07	-0.26
14 Gold, diamonds and coin	6.65	6.77	0.12
15 Base metals and articles of base metals	11.33	12.71	1.38
16 Machinery and mechanical appliances	3.94	3.95	0.01
17 Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	2.32	2.34	0.02
SELECTED ANZSIC SUBDIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Agriculture	16.86	16.64	-0.22
11 Coal mining	10.94	11.14	0.20
13 Metal ore mining	10.70	10.95	0.25
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	12.14	12.30	0.16
25 Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products	11.36	12.66	1.30
27 Metal products	11.33	12.71	1.38
28 Machinery and equipment	2.32	2.34	0.02

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected AHECC Section

Period	Live animals, animal products (01)	Vegetable products (02)	Prepared foodstuffs (04)	Mineral products (05)	Products of chemical or allied industries (06)	Wool and cotton fibres (11)	Gold, diamonds and coin (14)	Base metals and articles of base metals (15)	Machinery and mechanical appliances (16)	Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels (17)
1995-1996	98.8	101.2	101.3	100.9	89.5	72.7	102.3	97.0	95.8	107.3
1996-1997	92.7	98.1	99.8	103.0	86.9	67.6	92.1	86.1	88.5	103.6
1997-1998	100.0	96.3	109.7	113.7	94.9	75.8	89.8	94.1	89.1	110.0
1998-1999	100.7	90.9	102.8	114.6	95.6	61.4	93.1	85.6	90.3	113.0
1996										
March	99.5	107.7	101.9	102.1	91.1	68.6	105.1	94.5	96.0	106.9
June	90.9	108.0	98.8	100.4	90.9	65.0	97.7	89.9	94.5	104.4
September	90.3	109.7	99.6	100.9	89.1	67.2	96.7	84.5	92.0	104.1
December	91.9	97.2	99.8	101.7	86.9	65.5	93.8	80.7	88.3	103.1
1997										
March	93.0	92.7	99.8	104.3	85.1	66.7	89.5	88.2	86.6	103.1
June	95.6	92.6	99.9	105.1	86.5	70.9	88.4	90.8	87.0	104.2
September	96.3	91.7	104.1	107.9	88.4	77.8	86.7	96.0	87.6	105.8
December	100.9	95.2	110.1	113.7	93.5	77.2	88.5	96.8	89.7	109.0
1998										
March	102.2	97.2	112.0	114.5	97.6	75.9	88.5	92.7	89.3	111.4
June	100.5	101.0	112.7	118.5	100.0	72.3	95.4	91.0	89.7	113.9
September	103.7	100.2	109.5	122.4	100.7	67.6	98.0	93.3	90.8	117.1
December	100.9	90.9	104.4	117.8	98.5	59.2	95.8	86.1	90.3	112.9
1999										
March	99.6	88.6	103.3	110.8	93.5	58.8	92.5	80.6	90.9	111.6
June	98.5	83.9	94.0	107.4	89.8	60.0	86.2	82.3	89.3	110.2
September	102.7	80.8	93.1	108.3	93.2	60.5	83.1	87.3	89.3	110.5
December	105.0	83.4	95.3	112.6	96.3	62.1	94.4	94.0	90.5	111.5
2000										
March	107.8	83.1	95.9	119.9	104.2	60.2	96.0	105.5	90.7	112.4

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Section

Period	<i>Food and live animals (0)</i>	<i>Crude materials (2)</i>	<i>Mineral fuels (3)</i>	<i>Chemicals and related products (5)</i>	<i>Manufactured goods by material (6)</i>	<i>Machinery and transport equipment (7)</i>	<i>Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)</i>
1995-1996	100.3	83.4	108.0	91.0	97.4	99.6	106.2
1996-1997	95.6	81.8	110.8	88.6	86.5	93.4	103.2
1997-1998	99.6	90.3	121.8	96.0	93.7	95.9	108.2
1998-1999	96.6	84.0	119.7	96.2	86.8	97.7	111.7
1996							
March	103.4	81.6	109.6	92.6	95.0	99.6	105.8
June	99.3	79.2	107.5	92.9	90.3	97.8	102.1
September	99.5	80.9	108.2	90.7	85.5	95.9	103.2
December	95.0	80.0	110.0	88.5	81.6	93.1	103.1
1997							
March	93.5	81.8	112.3	86.8	88.3	92.0	103.4
June	94.5	84.5	112.7	88.5	90.6	92.6	102.9
September	95.2	89.1	115.1	90.0	95.1	93.5	104.5
December	99.5	90.3	123.1	95.0	96.2	96.0	108.5
1998							
March	101.4	90.2	123.4	98.2	92.3	96.5	109.1
June	102.1	91.4	125.6	100.7	91.2	97.6	110.7
September	102.8	90.9	128.6	101.0	93.9	99.4	114.1
December	96.9	84.4	123.8	99.4	87.2	97.7	109.6
1999							
March	95.3	81.7	113.8	93.8	82.3	97.7	112.7
June	91.3	79.1	112.5	90.4	83.7	96.1	110.2
September	91.5	79.2	114.5	93.5	88.6	96.3	110.0
December	94.8	81.2	121.2	97.2	95.7	98.2	111.5
2000							
March	95.9	81.8	131.9	105.3	106.6	98.6	112.0

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Division and Subdivision

Period	Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	Coal mining (11)	Metallic ore mining (13)	Mining (B)	Food, beverages and tobacco (21)	Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)	Manufacturing (C)
1995-1996	85.1	103.6	93.5	100.0	94.3	107.0	98.0
1996-1997	80.6	102.9	94.9	101.3	90.2	107.1	92.5
1997-1998	84.8	116.9	105.2	112.7	98.7	114.0	97.7
1998-1999	73.8	116.4	110.4	114.4	98.3	112.6	95.6
1996							
March	85.0	103.3	94.3	100.3	95.4	110.8	98.7
June	82.7	101.4	93.4	99.1	88.8	109.0	94.4
September	84.7	102.9	93.4	99.8	88.5	107.1	92.6
December	78.9	101.5	92.9	99.4	90.0	108.5	91.7
1997							
March	78.0	103.0	95.9	102.5	90.7	106.2	92.4
June	80.8	104.3	97.3	103.6	91.6	106.6	93.2
September	84.7	108.1	100.8	106.7	92.9	108.5	94.9
December	86.0	117.0	103.4	112.1	97.8	114.7	98.0
1998							
March	84.5	119.3	104.8	113.8	102.3	115.1	98.3
June	83.8	123.3	111.8	118.1	101.9	117.8	99.4
September	81.3	128.8	116.8	122.9	102.0	117.1	100.4
December	72.6	122.4	112.4	117.5	99.3	115.9	97.2
1999							
March	71.3	110.9	109.5	111.0	98.1	109.0	93.4
June	70.0	103.4	103.0	106.2	93.9	108.5	91.5
September	69.6	99.5	102.3	105.7	95.7	115.2	93.8
December	72.3	100.6	103.4	110.0	96.4	120.4	98.8
2000							
March	71.4	102.5	105.8	115.1	97.7	134.1	104.9

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of exports of merchandise from Australia—the Export Price Index. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989–90=100.0.

SCOPE

2 The Export Price Index includes re-exports of merchandise (that is, goods which are imported into Australia and exported at a later date without physical transformation). The index numbers for each quarter relate to prices of those exports of merchandise that are physically shipped from Australia during that quarter.

CLASSIFICATION

3 Index numbers for selected sections of the Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) are provided in Table 3 while index numbers for selected sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3 are provided in Table 4.

4 Table 5 contains 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 exported commodity is primarily produced, determined in accordance with the classification rules of the ANZSIC. It is therefore not necessarily identical with the industry from which the export transactions are actually made. For instance, many exports are made by traders or by marketing authorities, but these exports are classified to the appropriate producing industries, rather than to the wholesale trading industries from which they are actually exported.

ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

5 The index is a fixed weights index. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their export values in 1988–89. They constituted approximately 95% of the total value of exports of merchandise from Australia that year. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of exports for each item in 1988–89. 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 Export Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, was shown in the September 1990 issue of this publication.

PRICE MEASUREMENT

6 In general, prices are obtained from major exporters of the selected items included in the index. The point of pricing for the Export Price Index is the point at which the goods physically leave Australia, i.e. prices are on ‘free on board’ basis (f.o.b.) at main Australian ports of export.

7 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 sold in currencies other than Australian dollars. Where exports are sold at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices in the index *exclude* forward exchange cover.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

PRICE MEASUREMENT *continued*

8 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 exports of representative goods of constant quality. Wherever possible, prices to predominant export markets 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 market destinations. In most cases prices are combined using fixed weights between markets. Weights between markets are reviewed from time to time and revised where necessary.

INDEX NUMBERS

9 Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of quarterly index numbers.

REVISIONS

10 In cases where more complete information is obtained after index numbers for a period have been published, or it is discovered that incorrect prices have been used in compiling the indexes, revisions to index numbers may occur in subsequent issues of this publication.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

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

12 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—

March Quarter 2000	99.5	(see Table 1)
less March Quarter 1999	93.1	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	6.4	
Percentage change	$\frac{6.4}{93.1}$	$\times 100 = 6.9$

13 Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of exports make to the All groups index. For example, Mineral products contributed 31.84 index points to the All groups index number of 99.5 for March Quarter 2000 and 1.92 index points to the net change of 4.1 index points.

FURTHER INFORMATION

14 The September 1990 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index.

15 Further information on the index is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 6419.0).

16 A detailed description of previous Export Price Indexes is contained in *Year Book Australia* No. 55, 1969, pages 256–7 and in *Year Book Australia* No. 58, 1972, pages 240–2 and in the July 1979 issue of this publication.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- *Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6411.0).

18 Other ABS publications that may be of interest include *Balance of Payments, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0).

19 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

20 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 Arthur Barber on 02 6252 6655 or any ABS office.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

AHECC	Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
f.o.b.	free on board
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
r	revised

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