

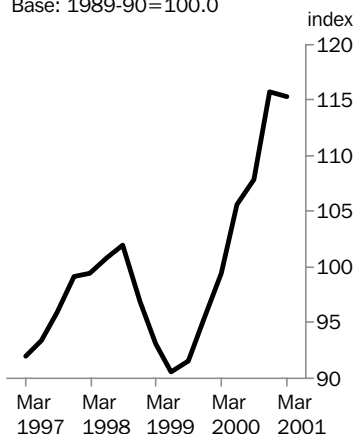
# EXPORT PRICE INDEX

**AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 19 APR 2001

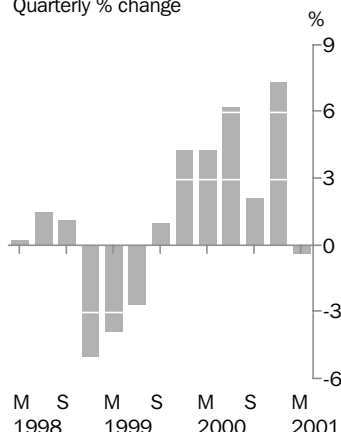
## All groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



## All groups

Quarterly % change



## MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Dec Qtr 2000 to Mar Qtr 2001	% change Mar Qtr 2000 to Mar Qtr 2001
<b>All groups</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>
Live animals, animal products	2.7	18.3
Vegetable products	4.6	23.8
Prepared foodstuffs	0.8	7.5
Mineral products	-2.8	19.8
Products of chemical or allied industries	-1.2	16.1
Wool and cotton fibres	4.0	24.3
Gold, diamonds and coin	-1.9	10.3
Base metals and articles of base metals	-2.5	8.1
Machinery and mechanical appliances	-0.6	4.4
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	-0.2	13.7

## MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

### ALL GROUPS INDEX

- The Export Price Index decreased by 0.4% in the March quarter, the first decrease since June quarter 1999. Price falls associated with lower demand for oils and some metals, resulting from the global slowdown, were partially offset by increases for agricultural products.

**FINAL ISSUE**  
See page 2  
for details.

### MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- Prices for beef, wool and export grains all increased due to greater demand and tight supply. Aluminium prices also increased, whereas prices for most other metals fell.
- High US oil inventories contributed to lower petroleum oil prices.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Jim Armstrong on Canberra 02 6252 5457, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

## FINAL ISSUE

This issue will be the last of this publication. The ABS has reviewed its publication strategy for export and import price indexes with a view to integrating these publications. From June quarter 2001 the key series will be published in a new publication — *International Trade Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6457.0). Subscribers of this publication will be sent details of the new publication and information on arrangements for ensuring that they will continue to receive the series that they are interested in. Others who are interested in receiving details of the new publication should contact Lee Taylor on 1800 155 106.

Dennis Trewin  
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>
<b>1996-1997</b>	92.4		-3.9
<b>1997-1998</b>	98.9		7.0
<b>1998-1999</b>	95.7		-3.2
<b>1999-2000</b>	98.0		2.4
<b>1997</b>			
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
<b>1998</b>			
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
<b>1999</b>			
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
<b>2000</b>			
March	99.5	6.9	4.3
June	105.7	16.7	6.2
September	107.9	17.9	2.1
December	115.8	21.4	7.3
<b>2001</b>			
March	115.3	15.9	-0.4

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

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

Category	December Qtr 2000	March Qtr 2001	Change
All groups index	115.8	115.3	-0.5
SELECTED AHECC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Live animals, animal products	10.81	11.10	0.29
02 Vegetable products	9.18	9.60	0.42
04 Prepared foodstuffs	4.82	4.86	0.04
05 Mineral products	33.45	32.53	-0.92
06 Products of chemical or allied industries	9.40	9.29	-0.11
11 Wool and cotton fibres	6.34	6.59	0.25
14 Gold, diamonds and coin	8.71	8.55	-0.16
15 Base metals and articles of base metals	12.84	12.52	-0.32
16 Machinery and mechanical appliances	7.98	7.94	-0.04
17 Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	5.13	5.12	-0.01
SELECTED ANZSIC SUBDIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Agriculture	17.12	17.55	0.43
11 Coal mining	10.09	10.06	-0.03
13 Metal ore mining	9.25	9.12	-0.13
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	13.73	14.18	0.45
25 Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products	12.98	12.49	-0.49
27 Metal products	12.84	12.52	-0.32
28 Machinery and equipment	5.13	5.12	-0.01

(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)
<b>1996-1997</b>	92.7	98.1	99.8	103.0	86.9	67.6	92.1	86.1	88.5	103.6
<b>1997-1998</b>	100.0	96.3	109.7	113.7	94.9	75.8	89.8	94.1	89.1	110.0
<b>1998-1999</b>	100.7	90.9	102.8	114.6	95.6	61.4	93.1	85.6	90.3	113.0
<b>1999-2000</b>	107.8	83.9	94.9	117.0	101.5	62.5	93.5	99.3	90.9	113.2
<b>1997</b>										
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
<b>1998</b>										
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
<b>1999</b>										
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
<b>2000</b>										
March	107.8	83.1	95.9	119.9	104.2	60.2	96.0	105.5	90.7	112.4
June	115.6	88.1	95.4	127.3	112.4	67.3	100.5	110.3	93.1	118.4
September	116.6	90.9	97.9	133.1	114.9	69.6	102.1	109.0	92.2	121.0
December	124.1	98.4	102.3	147.7	122.5	71.9	107.9	116.9	95.3	128.0
<b>2001</b>										
March	127.5	102.9	103.1	143.6	121.0	74.8	105.9	114.0	94.7	127.8

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

## EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Section

Period	Food and live animals (0)	Crude materials (2)	Mineral fuels (3)	Chemicals and related products (5)	Manufactured goods by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)
<b>1996-1997</b>	95.6	81.8	110.8	88.6	86.5	93.4	103.2
<b>1997-1998</b>	99.6	90.3	121.8	96.0	93.7	95.9	108.2
<b>1998-1999</b>	96.6	84.0	119.7	96.2	86.8	97.7	111.7
<b>1999-2000</b>	95.7	82.6	127.1	102.5	101.0	98.8	112.5
<b>1997</b>							
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
<b>1998</b>							
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
<b>1999</b>							
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
<b>2000</b>							
March	95.9	81.8	131.9	105.3	106.6	98.6	112.0
June	100.7	88.3	140.8	114.1	113.0	102.2	116.6
September	101.4	89.2	148.3	114.8	111.6	100.8	113.1
December	108.3	94.7	166.7	122.1	119.5	105.1	120.3
<b>2001</b>							
March	111.3	96.3	161.1	120.9	116.8	104.7	119.2

(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)
<b>1996-1997</b>	80.6	102.9	94.9	101.3	90.2	107.1	92.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	84.8	116.9	105.2	112.7	98.7	114.0	97.7
<b>1998-1999</b>	73.8	116.4	110.4	114.4	98.3	112.6	95.6
<b>1999-2000</b>	72.6	102.2	105.7	113.1	98.2	129.0	102.2
<b>1997</b>							
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
<b>1998</b>							
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
<b>1999</b>							
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
<b>2000</b>							
March	71.4	102.5	105.8	115.1	97.7	134.1	104.9
June	77.2	106.0	111.4	121.4	103.0	146.1	111.1
September	80.3	107.0	114.6	125.3	103.2	151.3	110.6
December	85.6	115.7	123.3	138.8	108.9	163.1	117.3
<b>2001</b>							
March	87.8	115.4	121.5	136.2	112.4	156.9	116.6

(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** Commencing with the September quarter 2000, the index is annually reweighted and chained. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their export values in recent years. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of exports for each item in 1998–99 and 1999–2000. These weights were then revalued to reflect link period (June quarter 2000) 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 selected items constituted approximately 95% of the value of exports of merchandise from Australia during the weighting period. The weighting pattern of the Export Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, is shown in the September quarter 2000 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. Note that exports are exempt from indirect tax.

**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 2001	115.3	(see Table 1)
less March Quarter 2000	99.5	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	15.8	
Percentage change	$\frac{15.8}{99.5}$	$\times 100 = 15.9$

**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 32.53 index points to the All groups index number of 115.3 for March Quarter 2001 and -0.92 index points to the net change of -0.5 index points.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

**14** The September 1990 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index prior to the introduction of chaining and annual reweighting.

**15** Further information on recent price index developments in the ABS is presented in the following publications:

- *Information Paper: An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia* (Cat. no. 6421.0)
- *Information Paper: Producer Price Index Developments* (Cat. no. 6422.0) (Comprises detailed discussion of Stage of Production concept and detail of selected Service Industries indexes.)
- *Information Paper: Review of the Import Price Index and Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6424.0)
- *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System 2000* (Cat. no. 6425.0).

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### FURTHER INFORMATION

*continued*

**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.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**17** Users may also wish to refer to the following Producer Price Index publications, which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6407.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6408.0)
- *Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Australia* (Cat. no. 6410.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6411.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials used in Coal Mining, Australia* (Cat. no. 6415.0)
- *Producer Price Indexes for Selected Service Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6423.0)
- *Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6426.0).

**18** Other ABS publications that may be of interest include:

- *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0)
- *Consumer Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6401.0)
- *Wage Cost Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6345.0)
- *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (Cat. no. 6302.0)
- *Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables* (Cat. no. 5209.0)

**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 Jim Armstrong on 02 6252 5457 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



## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET** [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY** A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE** For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC** 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 (call cost 77c per minute).

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