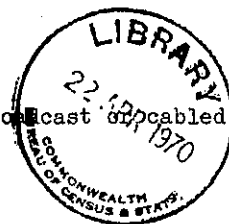


COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - MARCH QUARTER 1970

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March Quarter 1970 increased by 1.0% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were : Sydney +1.6%, Melbourne +0.6%, Brisbane +0.9%, Adelaide +1.0%, Perth +1.1%, Hobart +0.7%, Canberra +1.2%.

3. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							Canberra
	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1967-68 -								
March	+0.4	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.5	+0.6	-0.4	+0.2
June	+0.8	+0.8	+1.0	..	+1.6	+0.9	..	+0.6
1968-69 -								
September	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	+1.0	..	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3
December	+1.1	+1.4	+0.9	+0.6	+1.0	+0.6	+0.8	+0.4
March	+0.7	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	+0.3	+0.7	+0.7	+0.9
June	+0.8	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	+0.9	+1.3	+0.5	+0.4
1969-70 -								
September	+0.6	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8	+0.5	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8
December	+0.8	+1.1	+0.7	+0.7	+0.4	+0.9	+0.7	+0.7
March	+1.0	+1.6	+0.6	+0.9	+1.0	+1.1	+0.7	+1.2

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 3.2% over the year ended March Quarter 1970. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscel- laneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1967-68 -						
March	+0.7	+0.2	+0.5	..	+0.3	+0.4
June	+1.0	+0.5	+1.2	+0.8	+0.5	+0.8
1968-69 -						
September	-0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.2	+1.4	+0.4
December	+0.2	+0.8	+1.9	+0.6	+2.1	+1.1
March	+0.2	+0.3	+0.9	+0.3	+1.1	+0.7
June	+0.9	+0.8	+1.4	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8
1969-70 -						
September	..	+0.8	+1.4	..	+1.0	+0.6
December	+0.5	+1.1	+1.7	+0.2	+0.8	+0.8
March	+1.5	+0.7	+1.3	+0.1	+1.0	+1.0

5. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 52, 1965 and 1966. For periods after December Quarter 1968, reference should also be made to the appendix of the statistical bulletin on the Consumer Price Index for the March Quarter 1969.

6. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). Six series, for short periods, viz., September Quarter 1948 to June Quarter 1952; June Quarter 1952 to June Quarter 1956; June Quarter 1956 to March Quarter 1960; March Quarter 1960 to December Quarter 1963; December Quarter 1963 to December Quarter 1968; and from December Quarter 1968 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern was altered and, in addition, new items (mainly ones that had become significant in household expenditure) were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

7. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

8. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1959-60 to 1968-69 and for each quarter from December Quarter 1966. Table 2 on pages 5 and 6 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December Quarter 1967 to March Quarter 1970.

9. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December Quarter 1969 to March Quarter 1970. A supplement (Reference No. 9.7) containing more detailed information for the weighted average of the six State capital cities is available on request.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from December Quarter 1969 to March Quarter 1970

Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

Group	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							
	Six Capitals	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	(c)							
	Index Points (a)							
Food - Meat	+0.3	+0.5(d)	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4	..	+0.2
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	-0.1	..	+0.1	..
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2
Clothing and Drapery	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Housing	+0.2	+0.4	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.4
Household Supplies and Equipment	..	+0.1	..	..	..	..	+0.1	..
Miscellaneous	+0.3	+0.4	+0.1	+0.3	+0.6	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4
Total Change (Index Points)	+1.1	+1.7	+0.6	+1.0	+1.1	+1.2	+0.8	+1.3

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups Index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities: December Quarter 1969, 108.7, March Quarter 1970, 109.8; difference of +1.1 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (d) Meat supplies in Sydney at the middle of March were affected by an industrial dispute, and a second collection of prices, made after supplies had returned to normal, was used for that month in the index.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - MARCH QUARTER 1970

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March Quarter 1970 increased by 1.0% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were : Sydney +1.6%, Melbourne +0.6%, Brisbane +0.9%, Adelaide +1.0%, Perth +1.1%, Hobart +0.7%, Canberra +1.2%.

3. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							Canberra
	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1967-68 -								
March	+0.4	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.5	+0.6	-0.4	+0.2
June	+0.8	+0.8	+1.0	..	+1.6	+0.9	..	+0.6
1968-69 -								
September	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	+1.0	..	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3
December	+1.1	+1.4	+0.9	+0.6	+1.0	+0.6	+0.8	+0.4
March	+0.7	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	+0.3	+0.7	+0.7	+0.9
June	+0.8	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	+0.9	+1.3	+0.5	+0.4
1969-70 -								
September	+0.6	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8	+0.5	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8
December	+0.8	+1.1	+0.7	+0.7	+0.4	+0.9	+0.7	+0.7
March	+1.0	+1.6	+0.6	+0.9	+1.0	+1.1	+0.7	+1.2

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 3.2% over the year ended March Quarter 1970. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscel- laneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1967-68 -						
March	+0.7	+0.2	+0.5	..	+0.3	+0.4
June	+1.0	+0.5	+1.2	+0.8	+0.5	+0.8
1968-69 -						
September	-0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.2	+1.4	+0.4
December	+0.2	+0.8	+1.9	+0.6	+2.1	+1.1
March	+0.2	+0.3	+0.9	+0.3	+1.1	+0.7
June	+0.9	+0.8	+1.4	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8
1969-70 -						
September	..	+0.8	+1.4	..	+1.0	+0.6
December	+0.5	+1.1	+1.7	+0.2	+0.8	+0.8
March	+1.5	+0.7	+1.3	+0.1	+1.0	+1.0

5. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 52, 1965 and 1966. For periods after December Quarter 1968, reference should also be made to the appendix of the statistical bulletin on the Consumer Price Index for the March Quarter 1969.

6. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). Six series, for short periods, viz., September Quarter 1948 to June Quarter 1952; June Quarter 1952 to June Quarter 1956; June Quarter 1956 to March Quarter 1960; March Quarter 1960 to December Quarter 1963; December Quarter 1963 to December Quarter 1968; and from December Quarter 1968 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern was altered and, in addition, new items (mainly ones that had become significant in household expenditure) were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

7. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

8. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1959-60 to 1968-69 and for each quarter from December Quarter 1966. Table 2 on pages 5 and 6 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December Quarter 1967 to March Quarter 1970.

9. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December Quarter 1969 to March Quarter 1970. A supplement (Reference No. 9.7) containing more detailed information for the weighted average of the six State capital cities is available on request.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from December Quarter 1969 to March Quarter 1970

Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

Group	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							
	Six	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Capitals (c)							
Index Points (a)								
Food - Meat	+0.3	+0.5(d)	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4	..	+0.2
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	-0.1	..	+0.1	..
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2
Clothing and Drapery	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Housing	+0.2	+0.4	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.4
Household Supplies and Equipment	..	+0.1	..	..	..	..	+0.1	..
Miscellaneous	+0.3	+0.4	+0.1	+0.3	+0.6	+0.2	+0.2	+0.4
Total Change (Index Points)	+1.1	+1.7	+0.6	+1.0	+1.1	+1.2	+0.8	+1.3

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups Index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities: December Quarter 1969, 108.7, March Quarter 1970, 109.8; difference of +1.1 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (d) Meat supplies in Sydney at the middle of March were affected by an industrial dispute, and a second collection of prices, made after supplies had returned to normal, was used for that month in the index.

10. summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between December Quarter 1969 and March Quarter 1970 is shown below:

Food Group. Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index and of disparate movements between cities. The effects of changes in the price of these items in each city for this quarter are shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this bulletin.

The price of chocolate confectionery increased in all cities and the price of bread increased in five cities.

The Food Group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed an overall quarterly increase of 1.5%.

Clothing and Drapery Group. The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.7%.

Housing Group. Rents of privately owned houses and flats increased in all State capital cities. Increases also occurred in all cities in the items, house price and repairs and maintenance. Rates increased in Canberra.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.3%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.1%.

Miscellaneous Group. The price of motor cars and motor repairs increased in all cities. Cinema prices increased in all cities. Fares increased in Sydney and Adelaide. The price of dental services increased in six cities. the price of newspapers increased in Sydney and Canberra and the price of beer increased in Adelaide.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.0%.

J. P. O'NEILL
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

17 APRIL 1970

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXALL GROUPS - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :
Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							Canberra
	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Year -								
1959-60	85.7	86.5	85.3	84.2	86.2	84.8	85.6	87.6
1960-61	89.2	89.6	89.5	87.1	89.8	87.9	90.3	90.3
1961-62	89.6	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	91.6
1962-63	89.8	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	91.8
1963-64	90.6	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	92.5
1964-65	94.0	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	95.3
1965-66	97.4	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	98.1
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	103.3	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	102.6
1968-69	106.0	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	104.4
Quarter -								
1966-67 -								
December	99.7	99.9	99.6	99.7	99.7	99.3	99.2	99.7
March	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.3	100.2	100.3	100.6	100.1
June	101.3	101.1	101.6	101.0	101.5	101.6	101.5	101.3
1967-68 -								
September	102.7	102.5	102.9	102.8	102.6	102.0	104.3	102.2
December	103.0	102.9	103.3	103.0	102.1	102.5	105.0	102.4
March	103.4	103.2	103.8	103.7	102.6	103.1	104.6	102.6
June	104.2	104.0	104.8	103.7	104.2	104.0	104.6	103.2
1968-69 -								
September	104.6	104.4	105.1	104.7	104.2	104.3	105.0	103.5
December	105.7	105.9	106.0	105.3	105.2	104.9	105.8	103.9
March	106.4	106.7	106.6	105.8	105.5	105.6	106.5	104.8
June	107.2	107.6	107.2	106.3	106.4	107.0	107.0	105.2
1969-70 -								
September	107.8	108.4	107.6	107.2	106.9	107.7	107.4	106.0
December	108.7	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	106.7
March	109.8	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	108.0

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

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