

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

MORNING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY, 1955

EVENING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY, 1955

BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, 19TH JULY, 1955

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEXJUNE QUARTER, 1955.

1. This summary contains the Interim Retail Price Index for the six State capital cities for June quarter, 1955, in comparison with earlier periods.
2. The index was described in S.S. 265 of 24th March, 1954. It has been compiled for the years 1950-51 to 1954-55 and for each quarter from September quarter, 1952. The list of items covered by the index is representative of a high proportion of expenditure of wage earner households. The weighting pattern and the list of component items in the Interim Index relate to current conditions. Those of the "C" Series Retail Price Index relate to the pre-war pattern of wage earner expenditure and consumption.
3. The list of items in the Interim Index is more comprehensive than that of the "C" Series Index and some of the principal food weights and group weights differ substantially from those used in the "C" Series Index.
4. Group and aggregate Interim Retail Price Index Numbers are shown below:-

TABLE I : INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX - GROUP INDEXES

Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
(Base : Year 1952-53 = 100)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing & Drapery	Rent	Other Items	Total All Groups
Year ended June -					
1951	67.9	78.1	90.3	76.3	74.9
1952	89.4	93.8	92.6	91.3	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	103.7	101.6	105.0	100.9	102.5
1955	104.6	102.3	109.6	101.4	103.6
Quarter -					
1952 September	99.8	98.0	97.0	98.7	98.8
December	98.5	99.6	99.0	100.0	99.3
1953 March	100.0	100.4	101.4	100.6	100.4
June	101.7	102.0	102.6	100.7	101.6
September	103.9	101.5	103.3	101.0	102.4
December	103.4	101.6	103.9	100.5	102.2
1954 March	104.0	101.8	104.9	101.2	102.7
June	103.7	101.5	107.7	100.9	102.7
September	103.0	101.6	108.9	101.2	102.7
December	103.7	102.3	109.3	101.2	103.2
1955 March	105.3	102.3	109.7	101.2	103.8
June	106.4	103.2	110.5	101.9	104.7

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point in the tables herein possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the minor distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number.

5. The next table shows aggregate Interim Retail Price Index Numbers for each of the six State capital cities individually in comparison with the weighted average index for the six State capitals combined:-

TABLE 2 : INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX
FOR SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED
(Base of Index for Each City and for Six Capital Cities:
Year 1952-53 = 100) (a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
Year ended June -							
1951	74.6	75.2	76.4	74.7	74.5	73.1	74.9
1952	91.7	91.0	92.7	90.9	90.7	89.9	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	102.2	102.4	103.0	102.0	103.9	106.6	102.5
1955	103.0	102.7	104.0	103.6	109.6	105.6	103.6
Quarter -							
1952 September	98.6	98.6	99.3	99.7	98.8	97.2	98.8
December	99.4	99.2	99.4	99.0	97.3	97.8	99.3
1953 March	100.5	100.3	100.2	100.1	100.4	101.8	100.4
June	101.5	101.8	101.1	101.2	101.6	103.2	101.6
September	102.2	102.6	102.0	102.1	102.7	106.9	102.4
December	101.8	102.2	103.1	101.7	102.2	107.4	102.2
1954 March	102.6	102.4	103.8	102.0	103.3	106.7	102.7
June	102.2	102.3	103.3	102.0	107.6	105.3	102.7
September	102.2	101.8	102.8	102.5	109.0	105.1	102.7
December	102.9	102.2	103.6	102.8	108.7	104.9	103.2
1955 March	103.3	102.9	104.4	103.5	109.3	105.8	103.8
June	103.7	103.9	105.1	105.4	111.2	106.6	104.7

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

6. The above indexes measure price movements for each city individually and the difference in degree of price movement in respective cities over the periods shown. But they do not provide a comparison of absolute retail price levels in any city with the retail price levels of any other city.

7. The following table shows for each of the past five fiscal years and for each of the twelve quarters September, 1952 to June, 1955 the Interim Index for the Six Capital Cities combined, with the year 1952-53 as base = 100, in comparison with the "C" Series Index recomputed to the same base:-

TABLE 3 : COMPARATIVE MOVEMENTS (Base : Year 1952-53 = 100) (a)

Period	Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average)	
	"C" Series Index	Interim Index
Year ended June -		
1951	74.8	74.9
1952	91.7	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0
1954	102.8	102.5
1955	103.7	103.6
Quarter -		
1952 September	99.0	98.8
December	99.2	99.3
1953 March	100.3	100.4
June	101.4	101.6
September	102.7	102.4
December	102.9	102.2
1954 March	102.9	102.7
June	102.8	102.7
September	102.6	102.7
December	103.2	103.2
1955 March	103.9	103.8
June	105.0	104.7

(a) See note to Table 2 above.

S.R. CARVER
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN