

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICSCANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXSEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1960

1. Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities of Australia are shown herein.
2. For current statistical purposes the Consumer Price Index replaces both the "C" Series Retail Price Index first compiled in 1921 and the Interim Retail Price Index constructed as a transitional index in 1954. The "C" Series Index will continue to be available for industrial tribunals who desire it.
3. A brief account of the Consumer Price Index was given in Statistical Bulletin 837 published on 12th August, 1960. A more comprehensive bulletin to be published later this year will give a full description and will deal also with the question of linking the Consumer Price Index and the "C" Series Index to provide an approximate measure of long term retail price movements.
4. 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. 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 remain unchanged throughout the period). Four series for short periods viz., June Quarter, 1949 to June Quarter, 1952; June Quarter, 1952 to June Quarter, 1956; June Quarter, 1956 to March Quarter, 1960; and from March Quarter, 1960 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series (1949 to 1960) published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern has been altered and, in addition, new items that had become significant in household expenditure have been introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting remain unchanged.
5. 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. Individual city weights are used for fares (rail, tram and bus), for fuel and light, and for combining the three sections of the Housing Group according to mode of occupancy of houses in each city; for the proportionate weighting of beef, mutton, lamb and pork in Brisbane and Hobart; and for some minor items in one or more cities.
6. Table 1 on page 3 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1949-50 to 1959-60, for June quarters of each year from 1949 to 1958 and for subsequent quarters to September, 1960. Table 2 on page 4 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from June, 1959 to September, 1960.

7. The following analysis is provided to assist interpretation of movement shown by the Consumer Price Index from June Quarter, 1960 to September Quarter, 1960.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX POINTS

Approximate Change, June Quarter, 1960 to September Quarter, 1960

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Brisbane</u>	<u>Adelaide</u>	<u>Perth</u>	<u>Hobart</u>	<u>Weighted Average of Six Capitals</u>
Food	+1.0	+1.5	+0.5	+0.7	+0.4	+2.3	+1.1
Clothing and Drapery	-	-	+0.1	-	+0.1	-	-
Housing	+0.1	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2
Household Supplies and Equipment	+0.1	+0.1	-	-	+0.1	+0.2	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	+0.5	-	+0.1	+0.5	+0.1
<u>Total Change (Index Points)</u>	<u>+1.2</u>	<u>+1.9</u>	<u>+1.3</u>	<u>+0.9</u>	<u>+0.8</u>	<u>+3.2</u>	<u>+1.4</u>
<u>Quarterly Percentage Change in Total Index</u>	<u>+1.0%</u>	<u>+1.5%</u>	<u>+1.1%</u>	<u>+0.7%</u>	<u>+0.7%</u>	<u>+2.6%</u>	<u>+1.2%</u>

The rise in the food group was predominantly due to substantial increases in meat prices in all capital cities except Perth. In addition the price of butter increased in all capitals, prices of potatoes and of bacon in four capitals and the price of bread in two capital cities. Prices of eggs, tea and onions decreased in all capitals. The food group of the index (average of six capital cities) showed a quarterly increase of +2.8%.

The index of prices of the clothing and drapery group for the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.2%.

In the housing group of the index, there were increases in all capital cities in house price, repairs and maintenance and in rents of privately owned houses. The movement of the housing group as a whole was +1.4% for the weighted average of the six capital cities.

In the household supplies and equipment group, the main changes were increases in prices of fuel and light in Sydney and Hobart. For the weighted average of the six capital cities the overall group movement was an increase of +0.4%.

In the miscellaneous group, the main changes were increased fares in Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart and increased beer prices in Brisbane. The overall group movement for the weighted average of the six capital cities was an increase of 0.2%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 19TH OCTOBER, 1960

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXSIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six Capitals : Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
Year ended June-							
1950	65.6	66.2	67.1	66.2	66.2	64.7	66.0
1951	74.5	74.6	75.1	74.7	74.4	73.3	74.6
1952	91.9	91.0	91.8	91.4	90.4	90.4	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.0
1955	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	102.6
1956	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	106.9
1957	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1958	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1959	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1960	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
Quarter -							
1949 - June	62.6	62.9	63.8	63.2	63.1	62.8	62.9
1950 "	68.0	68.8	69.0	68.7	68.6	66.3	68.4
1951 "	80.7	80.7	80.5	81.2	80.3	79.6	80.7
1952 "	98.0	96.4	96.8	97.5	96.0	95.5	97.2
1953 "	101.2	101.6	100.9	101.4	101.7	102.3	101.4
1954 "	101.5	102.0	102.1	102.4	104.3	104.4	102.1
1955 "	103.0	103.1	103.9	104.7	106.6	105.9	103.6
1956 "	108.8	112.0	109.5	109.9	110.5	113.6	110.2
1957 "	113.7	114.2	112.6	111.3	114.2	117.5	113.7
1958 "	115.1	114.6	115.9	112.7	114.1	117.3	114.8
Sept.	114.8	114.9	116.7	113.5	114.4	117.7	114.9
Dec.	115.2	116.4	117.9	114.2	114.3	118.7	115.8
1959 - March	115.5	117.1	119.0	115.0	114.7	119.1	116.3
June	115.8	117.9	119.1	115.3	115.5	119.3	116.8
Sept.	116.3	118.2	120.2	116.3	115.9	119.7	117.3
Dec.	117.2	118.8	120.8	116.9	115.7	120.1	118.0
1960 - March	118.2	119.8	121.6	118.3	117.1	120.8	119.0
June	119.6	123.0	122.3	120.6	119.0	122.6	121.1
Sept.	120.8	124.9	123.6	121.5	119.8	125.8	122.5

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

(b) Weighted average.

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TABLE 2.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXGROUP INDEXES - SIX CAPITAL CITIES SEPARATELY AND COMBINED(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six Capital Cities :Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
FOOD GROUP							
1959 - June	114.3	118.5	121.5	119.8	117.1	117.3	117.1
Sept.	115.3	118.8	123.4	120.2	117.8	117.5	117.9
Dec.	116.7	119.2	123.4	120.2	115.7	117.2	118.4
1960 - March	118.4	120.8	124.6	123.7	118.4	117.8	120.3
June	119.7	124.2	125.3	128.1	121.6	121.4	122.6
Sept.	122.8	129.1	126.9	130.4	122.9	128.4	126.0
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1959 - June	107.2	109.3	109.6	104.8	106.9	109.1	107.9
Sept.	107.5	109.7	110.2	105.7	107.3	109.9	108.3
Dec.	108.4	110.6	111.4	106.5	107.7	110.4	109.2
1960 - March	108.6	110.9	112.2	107.0	108.0	110.8	109.5
June	109.4	111.6	113.9	108.1	109.6	111.6	110.5
Sept.	109.6	111.9	114.1	108.3	109.8	111.6	110.7
HOUSING GROUP							
1959 - June	131.5	130.9	129.0	137.9	131.4	143.4	131.9
Sept.	131.7	131.5	131.5	138.7	131.5	144.7	132.5
Dec.	133.2	133.0	132.2	139.5	132.6	147.4	133.9
1960 - March	133.9	134.3	132.7	140.3	134.2	150.1	134.8
June	136.5	144.3	134.0	141.3	135.6	151.7	139.4
Sept.	138.0	147.2	136.1	143.4	137.0	153.7	141.4
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1959 - June	109.3	109.8	109.6	105.3	106.4	117.2	109.1
Sept.	109.4	110.2	110.1	105.7	106.8	117.5	109.4
Dec.	109.5	110.4	110.5	105.9	107.0	117.8	109.6
1960 - March	110.0	110.9	111.0	106.2	107.4	118.4	110.0
June	109.6	111.9	110.9	106.0	107.0	120.1	110.2
Sept.	110.2	112.3	110.6	106.0	107.4	121.3	110.6
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1959 - June	122.2	123.5	124.6	114.9	118.9	122.7	121.9
Sept.	122.6	123.6	124.7	117.2	118.8	122.8	122.3
Dec.	123.1	124.1	125.6	118.2	120.4	123.2	123.0
1960 - March	123.8	125.3	125.9	118.8	121.2	123.3	123.8
June	126.4	128.9	126.2	121.0	123.3	123.7	126.4
Sept.	126.5	128.9	128.3	121.2	123.7	125.7	126.7

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