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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1963

1. Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities of Australia are shown herein.
2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for September Quarter, 1963 increased by +0.2% for the weighted average of the six capital cities. Changes in individual cities were : Sydney no change, Melbourne +0.2%, Brisbane +0.4%, Adelaide +0.2%, Perth -0.1%, Hobart +0.5%.
3. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Quarter	Each Capital City and Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter						
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1961 September	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2
December	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.4
1962 March	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.2
June	- 0.1	..	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.2	..	- 0.1
September	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
December	+ 0.4	..	+ 0.1	..	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.1
1963 March	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1
June	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
September	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.2

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six capital cities increased by 0.6% over the year ended September Quarter, 1963. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1961 September	- 1.0	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2
December	- 2.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.4
1962 March	- 0.5	..	+ 0.3	..	- 0.2	- 0.2
June	- 0.8	..	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
September	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
December	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
1963 March	- 0.2	..	+ 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
June	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
September	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	- 1.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.2

5. A full description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 48, 1960.

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 remain unchanged throughout the period). Four 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; and from March Quarter, 1960 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 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 1948-49 to 1962-63 and for each quarter from June Quarter, 1960. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from June Quarter, 1962 to September Quarter, 1963.

9. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from June Quarter, 1963 to September Quarter, 1963.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from June Quarter, 1963 to September Quarter, 1963

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

Group	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
Food							
Meat	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.2
Potatoes	- 0.1	..	+ 0.2	..	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..	..	+ 0.1	- 0.1	..
Clothing and Drapery	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1
Housing	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Miscellaneous	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	..	..	+ 0.1
Total Change (Index Points)	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.2

(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. Melbourne : June Quarter, 1963, 126.4; September Quarter, 1963, 126.7; difference of + 0.3 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement.

10. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between June Quarter, 1963 and September Quarter, 1963 is shown below:-

Food Group

Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index. The effects of changes in prices of these items in each capital city are shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this and preceding Bulletins.

The food group of the index (average of the six capital cities) showed a quarterly increase of 0.4%.

Clothing and Drapery Group

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.3%, mainly due to increases in prices of footwear.

Housing Group

Rents of privately owned houses increased in all capital cities and those of Government owned houses increased in Sydney and Melbourne.

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.7%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

For major household appliances, the index includes the effect of decreases in transaction prices which have occurred over recent quarters. The price of fuel increased in Hobart.

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly decrease of 1.6%.

Miscellaneous Group

Charges for motoring repairs increased in all capital cities. The price of beer increased in Melbourne.

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.4%.

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K.M. ARCHER  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 18TH OCTOBER, 1963

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 70413 Extension 455 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXALL GROUPS - SIX 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	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
Year ended June -							
1949	60.5	61.0	62.1	61.6	60.6	60.7	60.9
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
1961	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1962	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
1963	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	124.5
Quarter -							
1960 - 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
Dec.	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3
1961 - March	122.5	126.1	126.7	123.4	121.9	128.3	124.2
June	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
Sept.	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8
Dec.	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.3
1962 - March	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	124.1
June	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0
Sept.	122.7	126.2	127.5	121.9	122.1	127.6	124.3
Dec.	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	124.4
1963 - March	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	124.5
June	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	124.9
Sept.	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	125.1

(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.

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TABLE 2.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

## GROUP 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	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
FOOD GROUP							
1962 - June	120.0	125.6	129.4	125.7	124.2	126.5	123.7
Sept.	120.7	126.5	129.3	125.6	124.7	126.6	124.2
Dec.	121.4	126.1	129.5	125.7	122.8	128.0	124.3
1963 - March	121.1	125.5	130.3	125.7	123.7	127.2	124.1
June	121.3	125.8	130.2	126.8	124.4	127.0	124.5
Sept.	121.2	126.7	131.5	128.0	124.6	128.7	125.0
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1962 - June	111.5	114.2	116.8	111.5	111.5	114.2	112.9
Sept.	111.6	114.3	116.9	111.5	111.7	114.4	113.0
Dec.	111.8	114.4	117.0	111.5	111.8	114.4	113.2
1963 - March	111.8	114.4	117.0	111.6	112.0	114.4	113.2
June	112.0	114.6	117.0	112.1	112.4	114.8	113.4
Sept.	112.3	114.9	117.4	112.4	112.6	115.0	113.7
HOUSING GROUP							
1962 - June	150.2	159.2	141.9	153.9	147.8	166.1	152.6
Sept.	151.1	159.5	143.2	154.3	148.8	166.3	153.3
Dec.	152.8	160.8	144.1	154.7	150.9	168.7	154.7
1963 - March	153.8	161.3	144.2	154.7	151.2	169.4	155.3
June	155.9	162.7	144.5	156.0	152.6	170.3	156.8
Sept.	157.4	163.7	145.1	156.5	153.3	170.7	157.9
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1962 - June	113.3	114.4	113.0	106.7	107.2	124.2	112.8
Sept.	113.3	114.2	113.1	106.8	107.2	124.2	112.8
Dec.	112.6	114.1	112.8	106.0	106.9	123.7	112.4
1963 - March	112.4	113.8	112.5	105.9	106.9	123.6	112.1
June	112.7	114.0	112.9	106.0	107.0	123.8	112.4
Sept.	111.0	112.1	111.2	104.0	105.0	123.4	110.6
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1962 - June	128.0	129.5	134.3	121.6	124.9	126.9	128.2
Sept.	128.4	129.5	134.3	121.5	124.8	126.9	128.4
Dec.	129.1	129.5	134.4	121.5	124.9	126.9	128.7
1963 - March	129.8	129.6	134.3	121.6	126.0	127.1	129.0
June	129.8	130.1	134.4	121.7	126.1	127.2	129.2
Sept.	130.0	130.7	135.2	122.2	126.2	127.3	129.7
ALL GROUPS							
1962 - June	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0
Sept.	122.7	126.2	127.5	121.9	122.1	127.6	124.3
Dec.	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	124.4
1963 - March	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	124.5
June	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	124.9
Sept.	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	125.1

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