

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - SEPTEMBER 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 September Quarter 1970 increased by 0.6% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +0.9%, Melbourne +0.5%, Brisbane +1.3%, Adelaide -0.1%, Perth +0.2%, Hobart +0.5%, Canberra +0.6%.

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
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
June	+1.3	+1.4	+1.1	+0.7	+1.5	+1.4	+0.6	+0.9
1970-71 -								
September	+0.6	+0.9	+0.5	+1.3	-0.1	+0.2	+0.5	+0.6

(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 3.8% between September Quarter 1969 and September 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	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
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
June	+1.3	+0.9	+1.8	+0.7	+1.3	+1.3
1970-71 -						
September	+0.7	+0.3	+1.6	+0.7	+0.2	+0.6

5. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 53, 1967.

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 5 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1960-61 to 1969-70 and for each quarter from June Quarter 1967. Table 2 on pages 6 and 7 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from June Quarter 1968 to September Quarter 1970.

9. Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percentage changes rather than changes in the "index points" because "index point" changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percentage changes are not. In this bulletin details are given in terms of percentage changes in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. However, the analysis in paragraph 10 shows movements in terms of All Groups "index points". This analysis shows the contribution of selected items and of the five groups to movements in the total indexes. The following example illustrates the computation of "index point" and percentage changes:

All Groups : Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities

Index Point Change	Percentage Change
September Quarter 1970 CPI (1966-67 = 100) 111.9	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period
less June Quarter 1970 CPI 111.2	$\frac{111.9 - 111.2}{111.2} \times 100 = 0.6\%$
Index points difference 0.7	

10. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from June Quarter 1970 to September 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

Movements from June Quarter 1970 to September Quarter 1970

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

Group	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							Canberra
	Six Capitals (c)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
	Index Points (a)							
Food - Meat	-0.1	-0.1	..	..	-0.4	-0.1	+0.3	-0.1
Potatoes	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.5	+0.3	+0.1	+0.1	+0.3
Other	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	..	..	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Clothing & Drapery	..	..	..	..	..	+0.1	..	..
Housing	+0.2	+0.5	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2
Miscellaneous -								
Health Services	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Fares	+0.1	..	..	+0.6	..	..	..	..
Other	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.3
Total Change (Index Points)	+0.7	+1.0	+0.6	+1.4	-0.1	+0.2	+0.6	+0.7

(a) See explanation in paragraph 9 on page 2. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base.

(c) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

11. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between June Quarter 1970 and September Quarter 1970, is shown below. In accordance with customary procedure, prices of most food index items were collected at the middle of each month and those of virtually all other items were collected as at the middle of the mid-month of the current quarter. Price changes associated with the changes in sales tax and customs and excise duties following the Commonwealth Budget, which was introduced on 18 August 1970, are therefore not reflected in the index numbers for September Quarter.

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 10 of this bulletin.

The prices of soft drinks increased in six cities and prices of eggs decreased in five cities. Increases of less significance occurred in most other sections of the group.

The Food Group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed an overall quarterly increase of 0.7%.

Clothing and Drapery Group. The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.3%.

Housing Group. Local government rates and charges increased in Brisbane. Rents of privately owned houses and flats increased in Sydney and to a lesser degree in the other State capital cities. Rents of government owned houses increased in five cities. Increases also occurred in all cities in the items house price and repairs and maintenance.

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

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.7%.

Miscellaneous Group. Fares increased in Brisbane, and prices of newspapers increased in Sydney and Canberra. There were also increases in most other sections of this group. Increases in this group, however, were offset, in varying degree between cities by a decrease in the net price payable by households for medical services following increases in the amounts of Commonwealth medical benefits.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.2%.

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CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600 19 OCTOBER 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 -								
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	91.5
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
1969-70	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	107.4
Quarter -								
1966-67 -								
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
June	111.2	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	109.0
1970-71 -								
September	111.9	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	109.7

(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.

TABLE 2.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

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

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							Canberra
	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
FOOD GROUP								
1967-68 -								
June	105.6	104.1	107.6	103.7	107.7	104.2	105.1	104.8
1968-69 -								
September	105.3	104.1	107.0	103.9	106.8	103.7	105.1	105.3
December	105.5	104.4	107.4	104.1	106.3	103.3	105.3	105.0
March	105.7	105.0	107.1	105.1	105.8	104.1	105.1	104.8
June	106.6	105.9	107.8	105.5	106.7	106.9	105.8	105.3
1969-70 -								
September	106.6	105.5	107.9	106.2	106.3	106.9	105.6	105.7
December	107.1	106.7	108.2	106.9	106.3	106.1	106.0	106.3
March	108.7	109.0	109.2	108.6	107.1	108.4	106.9	107.4
June	110.1	110.0	110.9	109.1	108.6	111.0	106.9	108.5
1970-71 -								
September	110.9	110.8	112.2	110.5	108.2	111.2	108.4	109.5
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP								
1967-68 -								
June	102.8	102.9	102.8	103.1	102.9	102.8	103.1	102.8
1968-69 -								
September	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.6	103.4	103.4	103.5	103.4
December	104.1	104.0	104.1	104.1	104.3	104.4	104.5	104.0
March	104.4	104.4	104.3	104.4	104.6	104.7	104.7	104.3
June	105.2	105.0	105.1	105.2	105.6	105.5	105.3	105.0
1969-70 -								
September	106.0	106.0	105.9	105.8	106.2	106.4	106.2	105.9
December	107.2	107.1	107.0	107.0	107.8	107.5	107.6	107.0
March	107.9	107.9	107.6	107.7	108.4	108.0	108.2	107.9
June	108.9	108.8	108.8	108.8	109.8	109.1	109.4	109.0
1970-71 -								
September	109.2	109.2	109.0	109.2	110.0	109.4	109.5	109.2
HOUSING GROUP								
1967-68 -								
June	106.0	107.0	105.4	106.5	102.5	107.8	104.7	101.2
1968-69 -								
September	106.7	107.5	105.8	108.6	102.9	109.7	105.5	101.4
December	108.7	110.0	107.7	109.2	104.2	112.3	108.4	101.5
March	109.7	111.2	108.4	110.0	105.3	113.7	109.4	102.1
June	111.2	113.3	109.7	110.7	106.3	115.1	110.1	102.4
1969-70 -								
September	112.8	115.7	110.5	112.7	107.4	117.0	110.6	102.7
December	114.7	118.3	111.8	113.0	108.9	119.9	112.3	103.2
March	116.2	120.8	112.6	113.6	109.9	121.2	113.2	106.0
June	118.3	124.8	113.7	114.1	111.0	122.1	114.1	106.4
1970-71 -								
September	120.2	128.1	114.4	115.9	111.7	122.7	115.0	106.9

(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.

TABLE 2. - continued

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

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

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately							Canberra
	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP								
1967-68 -								
June	101.9	102.1	102.2	101.7	100.5	101.3	103.7	100.3
1968-69 -								
September	102.1	102.0	102.2	103.5	100.6	101.5	104.1	100.3
December	102.7	102.3	103.1	104.2	101.0	101.9	104.1	100.5
March	103.0	103.3	102.8	104.7	101.4	102.3	104.7	100.7
June	103.7	104.3	103.6	104.8	101.5	102.6	105.2	101.0
1969-70 -								
September	103.7	104.3	103.5	105.2	101.5	102.7	105.5	101.4
December	103.9	104.5	103.6	105.2	101.6	103.6	105.8	101.7
March	104.0	105.0	103.1	105.5	101.9	103.8	106.3	101.9
June	104.7	105.5	103.8	105.9	102.9	104.8	106.9	102.5
1970-71 -								
September	105.4	106.5	104.4	106.5	103.5	105.8	107.6	104.0
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1967-68 -								
June	103.6	103.8	103.4	103.7	103.0	104.0	105.3	103.9
1968-69 -								
September	105.1	105.2	105.3	105.0	103.8	104.5	106.3	104.5
December	107.3	108.7	106.6	106.1	107.0	105.4	107.3	105.7
March	108.5	109.8	108.6	106.3	107.9	105.9	109.0	108.7
June	108.9	110.2	108.6	106.6	109.2	106.5	109.4	108.9
1969-70 -								
September	110.0	111.6	109.1	107.9	110.4	107.5	110.0	110.4
December	110.9	112.8	109.9	108.5	110.5	109.8	110.4	111.6
March	112.0	114.3	110.3	109.5	112.4	110.5	111.2	113.1
June	113.5	116.1	111.5	110.7	114.8	111.5	112.5	114.3
1970-71 -								
September	113.7	116.4	111.6	112.9	114.2	110.9	112.2	114.7
ALL GROUPS								
1967-68 -								
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
June	111.2	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	109.0
1970-71 -								
September	111.9	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	109.7

(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.