



Reference No. 9.1

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – DECEMBER QUARTER 1973

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 December quarter 1973 increased by 3.6% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +3.7%, Melbourne +3.7%, Brisbane +3.3%, Adelaide +4.0%, Perth +3.1%, Hobart +4.4%, Canberra +3.8%.

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

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1971-72 –								
December	+2.3	+2.2	+2.7	+1.9	+2.2	+2.8	+3.3	+1.9
March	+1.0	+1.0	+0.8	+1.1	+0.9	+1.1	+0.5	+0.4
June	+0.9	+0.9	+1.0	+0.8	+0.7	+1.1	+0.9	+0.8
1972-73 –								
September	+1.4	+1.4	+1.4	+0.8	+1.6	+1.4	+1.1	+1.4
December	+1.2	+1.3	+1.1	+1.6	+1.1	+0.4	+1.4	+1.5
March	+2.1	+2.0	+2.2	+2.2	+2.2	+2.0	+1.9	+2.1
June	+3.3	+3.1	+3.5	+3.5	+3.6	+2.8	+2.6	+3.0
1973-74 –								
September	+3.6	+3.8	+3.4	+4.1	+3.7	+2.3	+3.4	+3.6
December	+3.6	+3.7	+3.7	+3.3	+4.0	+3.1	+4.4	+3.8

4. Recent annual changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding Year

Quarter	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1971-72 –								
December	+7.2	+8.4	+6.3	+7.1	+6.5	+6.2	+7.0	+5.5
March	+7.1	+8.4	+6.2	+6.5	+6.5	+6.1	+6.8	+5.5
June	+6.2	+7.3	+5.8	+5.5	+4.9	+5.8	+6.5	+4.6
1972-73 –								
September	+5.7	+5.7	+6.1	+4.7	+5.6	+6.5	+5.9	+4.6
December	+4.5	+4.8	+4.4	+4.4	+4.4	+4.0	+4.0	+4.3
March	+5.7	+5.7	+5.9	+5.5	+5.7	+4.9	+5.5	+6.0
June	+8.2	+8.0	+8.5	+8.3	+8.7	+6.7	+7.2	+8.3
1973-74 –								
September	+10.6	+10.6	+10.7	+11.9	+11.0	+7.7	+9.6	+10.6
December	+13.2	+13.2	+13.5	+13.7	+14.2	+10.6	+12.8	+13.1

5. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of the index have been as follows:

Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities
Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

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
1971-72 –						
December	+1.0	+2.0	+2.8	+1.2	+4.4	+2.3
March	+0.7	+0.7	+1.3	+1.1	+1.2	+1.0
June	..	+2.1	+1.9	+0.4	+1.0	+0.9
1972-73 –						
September	+2.2	+0.7	+1.4	+0.6	+1.1	+1.4
December	+1.2	+1.7	+2.0	+0.7	+0.7	+1.2
March	+4.4	+1.1	+1.3	+1.2	+1.0	+2.1
June	+5.6	+4.3	+2.5	+1.5	+1.6	+3.3
1973-74 –						
September	+5.5	+2.9	+2.1	+2.8	+2.9	+3.6
December	+4.0	+4.1	+3.8	+1.7	+3.8	+3.6

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

6. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 56, 1971 (Reference No. 6.7).
7. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of goods 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 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.
8. The quarterly prices for food items used in the index are the averages of prices normally collected as at the middle of each of the three months of the quarter. However, for potatoes and for onions from December quarter 1968, weekly prices are averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices of all non-food items are collected at regular quarterly intervals (or at annual intervals with items such as local government rates and seasonal clothing) normally as at the middle of the mid-month of each quarter. However, for furniture, major household appliances and motoring items (other than motor car) the collection is made during the first month of each quarter to facilitate field collection arrangements.
9. 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.
10. Table 1 on page 5 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1961-62 to 1972-73 and for each quarter from September quarter 1967. Table 2 on pages 6 and 7 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December quarter 1970 to December quarter 1973.
11. Table 3 on page 8 shows monthly Food Group index numbers for each month from January 1971. It also contains information of contributions by the Food Group to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points for both September quarter 1973 and December quarter 1973 and each of the three months of this quarter, i.e. October, November and December 1973. A more detailed presentation of information on monthly food price movements can be found in the monthly bulletin *Consumer Price Index, Food Group Index Numbers* (Reference No. 9.11). Since the food group is the only group of the index for which prices are collected monthly, it is not possible to provide monthly indexes for other groups.
12. Table 4 on page 9 shows index numbers for September quarter 1973 and December quarter 1973 for groups and sub-groups of the index and for some special groupings. It also contains information of contributions by index sub-groups to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points for these two quarters. Users of these figures should bear in mind that the Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the proportionate change in retail prices as combined in the five major groups and more particularly the total of the groups. For sub-groups or particular items, the index does not necessarily provide comprehensive and valid measures of price changes in those particular fields. Nor does it necessarily measure the relative influences of those classes of items in aggregate variations in prices. The Consumer Price Index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts.
13. Major changes in the composition of the sub-group indexes published in Table 4 resulting from the latest link in the Consumer Price Index (December quarter 1968), have been indicated in the footnotes on page 10. The old and new combinations have been linked to provide continuous series of index numbers across this point of time (December quarter 1968), but it should be remembered that all sub-groupings were affected by changes at the link and some significantly so. Each series of index numbers links the average price movement shown by one combination of items up to December quarter 1968 to that shown by a different combination from December quarter 1968.
14. 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 2-5. However, the analysis in paragraph 15 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. Table 4 on page 9 shows movements expressed as both percentage changes and changes in 'index points'. 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
December quarter 1973 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0)	144.6	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period $\frac{144.6 - 139.6}{139.6} \times 100 = 3.6\%$
less September quarter 1973 CPI	139.6	
Index points difference	5.0	

15. The following analysis and Table 4 on page 9 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from September quarter 1973 to December quarter 1973.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
Movements from September Quarter 1973 to December Quarter 1973
Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

Group	Six Capitals (c)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
INDEX POINTS (a)								
Food -								
Meat	+0.7	+1.0	+0.6	+0.5	+0.5	-0.1	+1.8	+0.9
Potatoes	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	..	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.2
Onions	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	..	+0.3	+0.2
Dairy Produce	+0.2	+0.3	..	+0.6	+0.2	+0.1
Soft Drinks	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2
Other	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.4
Clothing and Drapery	+0.8	+0.8	+0.7	+0.8	+0.8	+0.9	+0.8	+0.8
Housing -								
Rents, government	+0.1	..	+0.2	+0.1	+0.4	+0.2
Rents, private	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1
Rates	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	..	+0.4	+0.2	+0.3	+0.5
House price	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2
Repairs and maintenance	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	..
Household Supplies and Equipment	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2
Miscellaneous -								
Motoring	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5	+0.4
Cigarettes and tobacco	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6	+0.5	+0.6	+0.5	+0.7	+0.5
Health Services	+0.4	+0.1	+0.7	+0.1	+0.7	+0.2	-0.1	+0.1
Other	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.6	+0.1	+0.3
Total Change (Index Points)	+5.0	+5.3	+5.1	+4.6	+5.4	+4.2	+5.9	+5.2

(a) See explanation in paragraph 14. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

16. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between September quarter 1973 and December quarter 1973 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 prices of these items in each city for this quarter are shown in the table above. The price of onions and soft drinks increased in all capital cities. The price of bread increased in Sydney, Perth and Canberra and that of fresh milk increased in Sydney and Brisbane. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 4.0%, although the monthly rate of increase eased during the quarter (see Table 3).

Clothing and Drapery Group. There were increases in all sections of the group with about half of the increase being contributed by summer seasonal items. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 4.1%, the largest December quarter increase since 1950.

Housing Group. There were increases in house prices in all cities and in private rents in all State capital cities. Local government rates and charges increased in six capital cities and government house rents increased in four capital cities. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 3.8%, the largest quarterly increase ever shown for this group of the index.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.7%.

Miscellaneous Group. There were increases in the price of petrol and of cigarettes and tobacco associated with changes announced in the last Australian Government budget. Prices of motor cars increased in all cities. There were also increases in the price of health services in all capital cities except Hobart. These included increases in hospital charges in Melbourne and Adelaide. Fares increased in Perth. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 3.8%.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Sims on 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

TABLE 1.
 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
 ALL 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)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Six Capitals (b)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
Year -								
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
1969-70	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	107.4
1970-71	114.6	116.8	113.1	114.2	112.5	114.1	112.6	113.0
1971-72	122.4	126.3	119.7	121.6	119.2	120.7	119.9	119.4
1972-73	129.8	133.9	127.2	128.6	126.5	127.3	126.7	126.3
Quarter -								
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
December	114.0	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	113.2
March	115.2	117.4	113.7	115.1	112.9	114.8	113.2	113.6
June	117.2	119.8	115.2	117.2	115.4	116.4	114.6	115.6
1971-72 -								
September	119.4	123.3	116.5	119.0	116.5	117.2	116.5	117.2
December	122.2	126.0	119.7	121.3	119.1	120.5	120.3	119.4
March	123.4	127.3	120.7	122.6	120.2	121.8	120.9	119.9
June	124.5	128.5	121.9	123.6	121.1	123.1	122.0	120.9
1972-73 -								
September	126.2	130.3	123.6	124.6	123.0	124.8	123.4	122.6
December	127.7	132.0	125.0	126.6	124.3	125.3	125.1	124.5
March	130.4	134.6	127.8	129.4	127.0	127.8	127.5	127.1
June	134.7	138.8	132.3	133.9	131.6	131.4	130.8	130.9
1973-74 -								
September	139.6	144.1	136.8	139.4	136.5	134.4	135.2	135.6
December	144.6	149.4	141.9	144.0	141.9	138.6	141.1	140.8

For footnotes see page 10.

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	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
FOOD GROUP								
1970-71 -								
December	112.0	112.2	112.8	112.8	108.8	111.3	110.1	110.7
March	112.3	113.0	112.1	113.9	109.4	112.7	109.5	110.1
June	114.3	115.1	113.7	116.8	111.5	114.9	110.2	112.4
1971-72 -								
September	115.6	116.5	115.2	118.1	112.7	114.6	111.3	114.4
December	116.7	117.7	116.6	118.3	113.2	115.5	113.0	114.8
March	117.5	118.0	117.5	119.7	114.5	117.0	113.5	115.0
June	117.5	117.7	117.7	119.7	114.1	118.5	113.9	115.2
1972-73 -								
September	120.1	120.8	119.8	120.6	117.5	121.2	115.9	118.1
December	121.6	122.5	121.1	123.8	118.7	120.6	117.9	119.9
March	126.9	127.6	127.3	129.2	123.9	124.8	121.4	125.7
June	134.0	133.6	135.3	136.2	132.1	131.5	124.9	132.0
1973-74 -								
September	141.4	142.6	141.1	144.7	140.7	135.1	131.9	140.1
December	147.0	150.0	145.9	150.0	145.1	137.0	139.7	146.0
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP								
1970-71 -								
December	110.9	110.9	110.7	110.9	111.6	111.2	111.0	110.7
March	112.2	112.4	111.8	112.1	112.8	112.7	112.0	111.8
June	115.1	115.3	114.6	114.7	115.8	115.7	115.0	114.9
1971-72 -								
September	115.7	116.0	115.1	115.1	116.4	116.4	115.9	115.2
December	118.0	118.2	117.4	117.7	119.2	118.3	118.2	117.7
March	118.8	119.1	118.3	118.5	119.8	119.2	118.7	118.7
June	121.3	121.5	120.9	120.6	122.5	121.6	121.1	121.2
1972-73 -								
September	122.2	122.4	121.9	121.6	123.3	122.4	121.8	122.0
December	124.3	124.4	123.7	124.0	125.6	124.6	124.6	124.1
March	125.7	125.7	125.3	125.4	126.9	126.2	125.5	125.4
June	131.1	131.1	130.8	130.2	132.8	131.1	130.4	130.7
1973-74 -								
September	134.9	135.3	134.6	133.9	135.9	134.8	134.2	134.1
December	140.4	140.8	139.6	139.5	141.6	140.9	139.8	139.6
HOUSING GROUP								
1970-71 -								
December	122.7	130.1	117.6	116.8	116.0	125.5	117.0	118.8
March	124.4	132.4	118.7	118.9	117.2	126.9	118.2	119.4
June	126.8	135.6	120.6	121.4	118.5	127.6	119.2	120.0
1971-72 -								
September	128.8	138.0	121.8	125.8	120.0	128.4	120.4	118.8
December	132.4	142.3	124.4	128.0	123.9	134.4	124.1	122.1
March	134.1	144.6	125.6	129.6	125.8	135.4	125.3	122.7
June	136.6	147.8	127.9	131.7	127.8	136.7	126.8	124.0
1972-73 -								
September	138.5	150.0	129.5	133.6	129.7	137.4	128.3	124.7
December	141.3	153.4	132.0	135.6	132.5	139.4	131.6	128.5
March	143.1	155.5	133.8	137.2	134.2	140.4	132.7	129.7
June	146.7	160.5	137.0	140.2	136.6	141.7	134.4	130.8
1973-74 -								
September	149.8	164.0	139.5	143.3	140.6	143.9	137.1	133.0
December	155.5	168.8	146.2	148.1	148.1	147.8	146.8	140.5

For footnotes see page 10.

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	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP								
1970-71 —								
December	106.6	108.6	105.1	107.5	104.3	106.7	108.4	104.2
March	107.8	109.6	106.1	109.2	105.6	108.4	109.1	104.5
June	109.8	112.4	107.4	110.6	108.1	109.7	111.6	106.0
1971-72 —								
September	110.0	112.9	107.2	111.0	108.1	109.9	112.4	106.4
December	111.3	113.8	108.9	112.4	109.2	111.4	117.4	107.6
March	112.5	115.5	109.3	113.2	109.6	114.9	117.7	107.7
June	113.0	116.1	110.0	114.1	110.0	114.7	118.1	108.3
1972-73 —								
September	113.7	116.6	110.6	114.8	110.9	115.5	118.9	109.5
December	114.5	117.5	111.2	116.4	111.6	116.2	119.6	110.6
March	115.9	118.9	112.4	117.6	113.4	117.9	120.3	111.5
June	117.6	120.5	114.0	118.9	116.0	120.0	122.5	115.9
1973-74 —								
September	120.9	123.8	117.9	123.3	117.6	121.8	125.5	117.7
December	122.9	125.9	119.6	125.0	119.6	124.8	126.7	118.8
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1970-71 —								
December	117.5	120.4	115.0	116.6	117.3	115.2	116.3	119.3
March	119.4	121.4	118.0	119.5	118.9	116.1	118.3	120.7
June	120.7	123.1	118.7	120.3	121.9	116.9	119.4	122.5
1971-72 —								
September	125.7	132.6	121.1	122.9	123.6	119.0	123.8	126.7
December	131.2	137.1	127.7	127.8	128.6	125.4	130.3	130.5
March	132.8	139.3	129.2	129.4	129.7	126.3	130.8	131.6
June	134.1	140.7	130.3	130.6	131.2	127.1	132.1	132.7
1972-73 —								
September	135.6	141.8	132.5	131.3	132.4	129.0	133.5	134.0
December	136.5	142.8	133.6	131.9	132.8	129.4	134.0	135.4
March	137.8	144.0	134.8	133.7	134.0	131.1	137.7	136.5
June	140.0	146.2	136.9	137.2	135.6	132.1	141.0	137.5
1973-74 —								
September	144.0	149.8	141.8	141.9	139.3	134.9	144.2	141.9
December	149.5	154.2	148.1	146.2	146.1	141.5	148.6	146.9
ALL GROUPS								
1970-71 —								
December	114.0	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	113.2
March	115.2	117.4	113.7	115.1	112.9	114.8	113.2	113.6
June	117.2	119.8	115.2	117.2	115.4	116.4	114.6	115.6
1971-72 —								
September	119.4	123.3	116.5	119.0	116.5	117.2	116.5	117.2
December	122.2	126.0	119.7	121.3	119.1	120.5	120.3	119.4
March	123.4	127.3	120.7	122.6	120.2	121.8	120.9	119.9
June	124.5	128.5	121.9	123.6	121.1	123.1	122.0	120.9
1972-73 —								
September	126.2	130.3	123.6	124.6	123.0	124.8	123.4	122.6
December	127.7	132.0	125.0	126.6	124.3	125.3	125.1	124.5
March	130.4	134.6	127.8	129.4	127.0	127.8	127.5	127.1
June	134.7	138.8	132.3	133.9	131.6	131.4	130.8	130.9
1973-74 —								
September	139.6	144.1	136.8	139.4	136.5	134.4	135.2	135.6
December	144.6	149.4	141.9	144.0	141.9	138.6	141.1	140.8

For footnotes see page 10.

TABLE 3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP - 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)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Six Capitals (b)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
1971 - January	111.9	112.4	111.8	112.9	109.4	111.6	110.1	109.6
February	112.6	113.2	112.3	114.4	109.5	113.0	109.1	110.2
March	112.6	113.3	112.2	114.3	109.2	113.6	109.4	110.5
April	113.7	114.5	112.8	116.4	110.8	114.7	110.0	111.4
May	114.7	115.3	114.1	117.0	112.3	115.2	110.6	112.6
June	114.7	115.5	114.1	116.9	111.4	115.0	109.9	113.2
July	114.5	115.2	114.2	117.1	111.6	114.2	109.8	113.1
August	115.8	116.7	115.5	117.7	112.9	114.7	111.6	114.7
September	116.6	117.7	115.9	119.4	113.7	114.8	112.6	115.4
October	116.7	117.8	116.3	118.9	113.1	115.5	113.3	115.2
November	116.5	117.5	116.6	117.6	113.3	115.1	113.4	114.9
December	116.8	117.8	116.7	118.4	113.2	115.9	112.3	114.4
1972 - January	117.5	118.2	117.7	119.6	113.7	116.6	113.0	114.5
February	117.6	118.2	117.4	119.7	114.7	116.9	113.8	115.6
March	117.5	117.6	117.6	119.7	115.1	117.5	113.6	114.8
April	117.2	117.1	117.7	119.7	114.0	117.6	113.4	114.3
May	117.5	118.0	117.6	119.7	113.8	118.3	114.1	115.7
June	117.7	117.9	117.8	119.6	114.3	119.6	114.4	115.7
July	118.9	119.5	118.6	119.8	116.4	120.2	115.1	116.2
August	120.2	120.9	120.1	120.5	117.3	121.8	115.9	118.5
September	121.1	122.1	120.7	121.4	118.7	121.4	116.6	119.5
October	121.6	122.8	120.8	122.9	119.0	121.1	117.6	120.0
November	121.7	122.6	121.3	124.3	119.0	120.3	117.9	119.7
December	121.4	122.1	121.2	124.1	118.0	120.3	118.3	119.9
1973 - January	122.2	122.6	121.5	125.7	119.8	122.4	118.4	120.5
February	127.9	129.3	127.8	130.1	125.0	124.6	122.3	127.8
March	130.6	130.8	132.5	131.7	126.9	127.5	123.6	128.7
April	132.8	132.6	134.6	135.1	129.7	128.8	124.4	131.2
May	133.8	133.6	134.9	136.4	132.2	131.7	124.6	132.1
June	135.3	134.5	136.5	137.3	134.4	134.1	125.6	132.5
July	137.6	138.3	137.6	140.4	136.5	134.4	128.0	136.5
August	141.5	142.5	141.4	145.4	140.5	134.8	132.0	139.9
September	145.1	146.9	144.4	148.3	145.0	136.2	135.8	144.0
October	145.9	148.7	144.7	149.3	144.8	137.1	136.3	144.5
November	147.1	150.1	146.2	149.8	145.0	136.3	141.6	145.9
December	147.9	151.1	146.7	150.9	145.5	137.7	141.2	147.6

POINTS CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX

September quarter 1973(c)	44.29	44.47	43.04	46.59	45.70	44.01	42.31	44.53
October	45.72	46.38	44.11	48.07	47.04	44.66	43.71	45.93
November	46.08	46.83	44.58	48.22	47.12	44.38	45.40	46.35
December	46.33	47.13	44.73	48.58	47.28	44.86	45.29	46.90
December Quarter 1973(c)	46.04	46.78	44.47	48.29	47.15	44.63	44.80	46.39

For footnotes see page 10.

TABLE 4.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1973 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1973
Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities : Base - Year 1966-67 = 100.0

Group and sub-Group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)			All Groups Index Points Contributed by Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (d)		
	Sept. qtr 1973	Dec. qtr 1973	Percentage change since Sept. qtr (e)	Sept. qtr 1973	Dec. qtr 1973	Change in Index Points since Sept. qtr (e)
			%	- Index Points -		
FOOD GROUP						
Cereal products	142.4	145.4	+2.1	5.58	5.69	+0.11
Dairy produce	121.8	125.4	+3.0	7.62	7.84	+0.22
Preserved fruit and vegetables	112.9	113.2	+0.3	1.67	1.68	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	241.6	285.0	+18.0	2.09	2.46	+0.37
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	145.2	152.7	+5.2	5.93	6.24	+0.31
Other food (except meat)	115.8	116.9	+0.9	3.87	3.90	+0.03
Meat	154.1	160.1	+3.9	17.54	18.22	+0.68
Beef	158.0	164.0	+3.8	7.36	7.64	+0.28
Mutton	189.4	193.1	+2.0	2.67	2.73	+0.06
Lamb	162.9	166.2	+2.0	3.28	3.34	+0.06
Pork	123.2	140.5	+14.0	0.95	1.08	+0.13
Processed meat (f)	128.5	134.7	+4.8	3.27	3.43	+0.16
Food Group	141.4	147.0	+4.0	44.29	46.04	+1.75
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP						
Predominantly summer seasonal (g)	130.7	151.7	+16.1	2.48	2.88	+0.40
Predominantly winter seasonal (h)	135.3	135.3	..	4.89	4.89	..
Predominantly non-seasonal	127.9	132.4	+3.5	8.11	8.40	+0.29
Footwear	155.4	159.0	+2.3	3.87	3.96	+0.09
Clothing and Drapery Group	134.9	140.4	+4.1	19.36	20.13	+0.77
HOUSING GROUP						
Rent, privately owned dwellings (i)	154.6	158.8	+2.7	7.76	7.97	+0.21
Rent, government owned houses	134.7	145.7	+8.2	1.20	1.30	+0.10
Home ownership (j)	148.9	154.9	+4.0	11.75	12.22	+0.47
House price and repairs and maintenance	141.1	146.6	+3.9	7.68	7.98	+0.30
Local government rates and charges	166.2	173.4	+4.3	4.07	4.25	+0.18
Housing Group	149.8	155.5	+3.8	20.71	21.50	+0.79
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP						
Fuel and light	116.8	116.9	+0.1	4.70	4.71	+0.01
Electricity	118.1	118.1	..	2.82	2.82	..
Gas	111.2	111.2	..	1.14	1.14	..
Other (k)	121.2	121.6	+0.3	0.74	0.74	..
Household appliances	101.3	102.3	+1.0	2.94	2.97	+0.03
Furniture and floor coverings	139.4	144.7	+3.8	2.73	2.83	+0.10
Other household utensils, sundries and stationery	126.4	129.1	+2.1	2.35	2.40	+0.05
Personal requisites and proprietary medicines	134.0	137.0	+2.2	2.84	2.90	+0.06
Household Supplies and Equipment Group	120.9	122.9	+1.7	15.56	15.81	+0.25
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP						
Fares (l)	162.3	163.6	+0.8	3.84	3.87	+0.03
Motoring	132.6	137.5	+3.7	11.87	12.31	+0.44
Goods (m)	120.2	126.1	+4.9	7.84	8.22	+(n)0.38
Services and charges (o)	163.8	165.9	+1.3	4.04	4.09	+0.05
Cigarettes and tobacco	136.1	151.4	+11.2	5.05	5.62	+0.57
Beer	138.8	138.8	..	5.14	5.14	..
Postal and telephone services	141.1	141.1	..	1.51	1.51	..
Radio and television operations	138.4	139.7	+0.9	1.57	1.59	+0.02
Newspapers and magazines	163.7	163.7	..	1.90	1.90	..
Other services (p)				8.77	9.21	+0.44
Health	162.4	170.6	+5.0	5.05	5.40	+0.35
Other				3.72	3.81	+0.09
Miscellaneous Group	144.0	149.5	+3.8	39.65	41.14	+1.49
All Groups	139.6	144.6	+3.6	(d)139.6	(d)144.6	(d)+5.0
SPECIAL GROUPINGS						
All Groups, excluding Food Group	138.7	143.6	+3.5	95.27	98.58	+3.31
All Groups, excluding Housing Group	138.0	142.9	+3.6	118.85	123.12	+4.27

For footnotes see page 10.

FOOTNOTES TO TABLES

- (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.
- (c) Average of three months.
- (d) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.
- (e) See paragraph 14 on page 2.
- (f) Includes poultry as from December quarter, 1968.
- (g) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's and girls' summerweight underwear.
- (h) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets.
- (i) Includes flats as from December quarter 1968.
- (j) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase.
- (k) Firewood and kerosene. Includes heating oil and briquettes as from December quarter 1968.
- (l) City and suburban rail, bus and tram.
- (m) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading and battery.
- (n) Includes 0.28 all groups index points contributed by increase in price of petrol.
- (o) Lubrication service, repairs, registration, third party insurance and driver's licence.
- (p) Hairdressing, drycleaning, shoe repairs and cinema admission. Includes health services from December quarter 1968.