



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CANBERRA

EMBARGO : NOON 24 JANUARY 1975

Reference No. 9.1

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – DECEMBER QUARTER 1974

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein. Following the abolition of radio and television licences a new series deleting the item radio and television licences has been linked to the previous series as at September quarter 1974 (see paragraph 8). The process of linking ensures that the continuous series reflects only price changes and not differences in the cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items.

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for December quarter 1974 increased by 3.8% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +3.6%, Melbourne +3.3%, Brisbane +3.2%, Adelaide +4.4%, Perth +6.0%, Hobart +5.1%, Canberra +3.4%.

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
1972-73 –								
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
March	+2.4	+2.3	+2.3	+2.6	+2.5	+2.5	+2.1	+3.0
June	+4.1	+3.9	+4.6	+3.6	+4.3	+3.5	+4.1	+3.2
1974-75 –								
September	+5.1	+5.2	+4.9	+5.4	+5.1	+4.9	+5.0	+5.2
December	+3.8	+3.6	+3.3	+3.2	+4.4	+6.0	+5.1	+3.4

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
1972-73 –								
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
March	+13.6	+13.5	+13.6	+14.2	+14.5	+11.2	+12.9	+14.1
June	+14.4	+14.3	+14.8	+14.3	+15.3	+11.9	+14.6	+14.3
1974-75 –								
September	+16.0	+15.9	+16.5	+15.8	+16.8	+14.8	+16.4	+16.1
December	+16.3	+15.8	+16.0	+15.7	+17.3	+18.0	+17.3	+15.6

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

5. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of the 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	Miscel- laneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1972-73 -						
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
March	+3.4	+2.0	+2.2	+2.4	+1.7	+2.4
June	+3.7	+7.3	+5.1	+3.5	+3.1	+4.1
1974-75 -						
September	+2.7	+4.9	+4.7	+6.6	+7.0	+5.1
December	-0.2	+7.3	+5.4	+3.5	+5.0	+3.8

6. 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). Eight 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.

7. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7). For periods after December quarter 1973, reference should be made to the appendix of the March quarter 1974 bulletin. This appendix describes the seventh series of the index which was introduced as from December quarter 1973 and is broadly based on the estimated pattern of consumption in 1971-72.

8. As a result of the abolition of radio and television licences with effect from 18 September 1974, the item "radio and television licences" has been deleted from the Consumer Price Index. The movement shown for the index for the current quarter therefore shows the average of price change for the remainder of the previous list of items. Technically this has been implemented by a link (see paragraph 6) to the previous series as at September quarter 1974. The treatment of costs of governmental services and of taxes has always been a problem area in the construction and interpretation of consumer price indexes. In common with widespread practice in other countries, the Consumer Price Index has never included the cost of services supplied by government and financed out of general revenue, nor has it included income tax. On the other hand, the Index does include the effect of indirect taxes such as sales and excise tax which are regarded as an inherent part of the retail price of the relevant goods and services contained in the index. The Index has also included some direct governmental charges such as radio and television licences, local government rates and motor vehicle registration which can be regarded as a price (or part of the price) for certain services. Radio and television licences have now been deleted, consistent with their abolition and the financing of the national broadcasting and television service from general revenue. Had the abolition of radio and television licences been treated as a price drop to zero, change for the current quarter calculated on such a basis would show an increase of 3.4 per cent compared with the 3.8 per cent shown for the All Groups Index (weighted average of the six State capital cities).

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Table 1 on page 5 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1962-63 to 1973-74 and for each quarter from March quarter 1968. Table 2 on pages 6 and 7 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December quarter 1971 to December quarter 1974.

12. Table 3 on page 8 shows monthly Food Group index numbers for each month from April 1971. In Table 4 information of contributions by the Food Group to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points is shown for both September quarter 1974 and December quarter 1974 and each of the three months of this quarter, i.e. October, November and December 1974. 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.

13. Table 5 on page 9 shows index numbers for September quarter 1974 and December quarter 1974 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.

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 5 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

<i>Index Point Change</i>		<i>Percentage Change</i>
Dec. quarter 1974 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0)	168.1	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period
less Sept. quarter 1974 CPI	162.0	$\frac{168.1 - 162.0}{162.0} \times 100 = 3.8\%$
Index points difference	6.1	

15. The following analysis and Table 5 on page 9 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from September quarter 1974 to December quarter 1974.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
Movements from September Quarter 1974 to December Quarter 1974
Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Six Capitals (c)</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>
INDEX POINTS (a)								
Food -								
Butcher's Meat	-1.0	-0.9	-1.1	-1.5	-1.0	-0.5	-0.9	-1.2
Potatoes	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.9	-0.3	+0.1	+0.3	-0.6
Dairy Produce	+0.5	+0.6	+0.3	+0.6	+0.5	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4
Soft Drinks, Ice								
Cream and Confectionery	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	+0.4
Other	+0.5	+0.6	+0.5	+0.4	+0.7	+0.7	+0.6	+0.3
Clothing and Drapery	+1.5	+1.5	+1.4	+1.6	+1.5	+1.5	+1.4	+1.5
Housing -								
House Price	+0.4	+0.5	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5	+0.3	+0.5	+0.3
Repairs and Maintenance	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1
Rents	+0.4	+0.5	+0.5	+0.3	+0.3	+0.5	+0.5	+0.1
Rates	+0.3	..	+0.4	+0.2	+0.5	+0.7	+0.9	+0.4
Household Supplies and Equipment -								
Furniture and Floorcoverings	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.2
Fuel and Light	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.3	..	+0.5	+0.7	+0.6
Other	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.5	+0.6	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4
Miscellaneous -								
Motoring	+1.0	+1.1	+0.7	+1.1	+1.2	+1.4	+1.0	+1.0
Health Services	+0.4	+0.1	+0.4	+0.6	+0.8	+1.5	+0.5	+0.3
Postal and Telephone Services	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4
Beer	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1
Fares	+0.2	+0.5
Other	+0.6	+0.6	+0.5	+0.4	+0.5	+0.7	+0.7	+0.7
Total Change (Index Points) (d)	+6.1	+6.0	+5.2	+5.2	+7.0	+9.3	+8.1	+5.3

(a) See explanation in paragraph 14. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (d) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

16. A summary of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between September quarter 1974 and December quarter 1974 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. Price falls in meat and potatoes more than offset increases in all other sections of the Food Group. Prices of bread, milk, butter, soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery rose in all cities. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities *decreased* by 0.2%.

Clothing and Drapery Group. There were widespread increases in all sections with more than half of the total group 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 7.3%.

Housing Group. There were increases in all sections of this group. Local government rates and charges increased in all cities except Sydney. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 5.4%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. There were increases in all sections of this group, the main increases being for furniture, household appliances and utensils in all cities and electricity charges in Brisbane, Perth, Hobart and Canberra. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 3.5%.

Miscellaneous Group. This group showed widespread increases, the main ones being for motoring, postal services and health services. A significant part of the large increase in prices of hospital bed days in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra, which occurred in the latter half of 1974, has so far been offset in the index by the effect of increases in benefits paid by insurance funds without corresponding increases in contributions paid by most fund members. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 5.0%.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr T. Travers 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)

Period	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
Year -								
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
1973-74	146.6	151.3	144.0	146.1	143.9	140.6	142.6	142.8
Quarter -								
1967-68 -								
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
March	148.1	152.8	145.2	147.8	145.4	142.1	144.0	145.0
June	154.1	158.7	151.9	153.1	151.7	147.1	149.9	149.6
1974-75 -								
September	162.0	167.0	159.4	161.4	159.4	154.3	157.4	157.4
December	168.1	173.0	164.6	166.6	166.4	163.6	165.5	162.7

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)

<i>Quarter</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>
FOOD GROUP								
1971-72 -								
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
March	152.0	154.3	150.8	155.7	149.7	144.8	144.2	151.6
June	157.6	159.0	157.2	159.7	157.8	149.7	149.7	156.7
1974-75 -								
September	161.9	164.3	161.1	165.1	160.3	152.2	155.1	160.6
December	161.6	164.5	159.6	161.4	161.2	156.1	158.0	158.1
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP								
1971-72 -								
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
March	143.2	144.1	142.2	142.1	144.2	143.8	142.7	143.0
June	153.6	154.1	152.9	152.5	155.0	153.7	152.9	152.7
1974-75 -								
September	161.1	162.4	160.0	159.3	161.8	162.2	160.3	160.1
December	172.8	174.0	171.5	171.7	173.4	174.0	171.6	172.4
HOUSING GROUP								
1971-72 -								
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
March	158.9	172.0	149.7	151.9	152.7	149.8	149.8	142.2
June	167.0	181.3	157.8	157.7	161.0	155.0	153.9	145.1
1974-75 -								
September	174.8	187.9	166.7	167.5	169.9	160.5	163.6	157.1
December	184.3	195.5	176.9	175.5	181.6	173.4	179.8	162.8

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								
1971-72 -								
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
March	125.9	129.3	122.5	127.2	123.6	126.9	128.4	120.3
June	130.3	133.7	128.1	130.9	126.6	129.4	132.5	123.3
1974-75 -								
September	138.9	143.9	134.5	142.4	135.2	137.1	139.1	130.0
December	143.7	147.8	138.9	149.5	140.2	143.8	148.3	138.9
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1971-72 -								
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
March	152.1	157.0	150.5	149.7	148.6	142.9	150.7	152.6
June	156.8	161.6	155.8	154.4	152.1	146.9	156.6	156.2
1974-75 -								
September	167.7	172.7	166.6	164.2	163.9	158.1	165.8	166.3
December	176.1	181.6	173.2	172.3	173.5	170.7	174.2	173.8
ALL GROUPS								
1971-72 -								
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
March	148.1	152.8	145.2	147.8	145.4	142.1	144.0	145.0
June	154.1	158.7	151.9	153.1	151.7	147.1	149.9	149.6
1974-75 -								
September	162.0	167.0	159.4	161.4	159.4	154.3	157.4	157.4
December	168.1	173.0	164.6	166.6	166.4	163.6	165.5	162.7

For footnotes see page 10.

TABLE 3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
INDEX NUMBERS - MONTHLY - 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 - 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
1974 - January	150.4	153.4	149.0	154.3	147.2	142.0	143.0	150.1
February	152.0	154.1	150.8	155.3	150.4	145.2	144.7	152.1
March	153.5	155.4	152.5	157.4	151.4	147.3	145.0	152.7
April	155.2	156.7	154.9	157.5	154.5	147.9	147.4	154.2
May	158.1	159.3	157.8	160.5	159.3	149.8	149.6	157.1
June	159.4	161.0	158.9	161.1	159.7	151.5	152.1	158.8
July	158.6	160.4	158.2	160.8	158.6	149.9	152.6	158.4
August	163.0	165.7	162.4	166.3	160.6	152.4	155.1	161.3
September	164.0	166.8	162.6	168.1	161.6	154.4	157.7	162.3
October	163.5	166.2	162.2	165.0	162.8	154.9	159.3	161.1
November	160.9	163.8	158.8	160.3	161.1	155.7	157.7	157.9
December	160.3	163.5	157.7	158.9	159.8	157.8	156.9	155.4

TABLE 4.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
POINTS CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX
FOOD GROUP: (IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)

NOTE: These figures are on the basis of the current series excluding the item radio and television licences and are therefore not comparable with index points contributions previously published. See paragraph 8 on page 2.

<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>
September Quarter 1974	45.26	45.97	43.98	47.35	46.10	43.07	45.63	44.46
October 1974	45.71	46.49	44.29	47.34	46.82	43.83	46.86	44.59
November 1974	44.98	45.82	43.35	45.99	46.34	44.05	46.37	43.71
December 1974	44.82	45.74	43.07	45.58	45.95	44.64	46.14	43.02
December Quarter 1974	45.17	46.02	43.57	46.30	46.37	44.17	46.46	43.77

TABLE 5. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1974 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1974
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 unless otherwise noted) (a)			All Groups Index Points Contributed by Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (c)		
	Sept. qtr 1974	Dec. qtr 1974	Percentage change since Sept. qtr (d)	Sept. qtr 1974	Dec. qtr 1974	Change in All Groups Index Points since Sept. qtr (d)
FOOD GROUP						
Cereal products	167.7	180.6	+7.7	4.97	5.35	+0.38
Dairy produce	139.8	148.6	+6.3	7.39	7.86	+0.47
Preserved fruit and vegetables	133.1	138.3	+3.9	1.96	2.03	+0.07
Potatoes and onions	338.9	267.6	-21.0	2.72	2.15	-0.57
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	173.3	183.7	+6.0	6.50	6.89	+0.39
Meat	166.1	155.3	-6.5	16.18	15.13	-1.05
Beef	154.5	141.0	-8.7	5.97	5.45	-0.52
Mutton	189.5	160.3	-15.4	0.69	0.58	-0.11
Lamb	175.7	150.6	-14.3	3.16	2.71	-0.45
Pork	163.3	171.9	+5.3	1.40	1.47	+0.07
Processed meat (e)	153.1	151.7	-0.9	4.97	4.92	-0.05
Snacks, take away food (f)(g)	(115.0)	(119.4)	+3.8	1.52	1.58	+0.06
Other food	131.9	137.3	+4.1	4.02	4.18	+0.16
Food Group	161.9	161.6	-0.2	45.26	45.17	-0.09
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP						
Predominantly summer seasonal (h)	151.7	187.9	+23.9	3.60	4.46	+0.86
Predominantly winter seasonal (i)	169.5	169.5	..	4.05	4.05	..
Predominantly non-seasonal	152.6	160.1	+4.9	8.54	8.95	+0.41
Footwear	190.4	199.4	+4.7	3.95	4.13	+0.18
Clothing and Drapery Group	161.1	172.8	+7.3	20.14	21.60	+1.46
HOUSING GROUP						
Rent, privately owned dwellings (j)	173.0	180.3	+4.2	9.92	10.34	+0.42
Rent, government owned houses	157.1	160.7	+2.3	0.89	0.91	+0.02
Home ownership (k)	179.1	190.9	+6.6	12.63	13.46	+0.83
House price and repairs and maintenance	175.1	186.1	+6.3	9.06	9.62	+0.56
Local government rates and charges	185.4	199.2	+7.4	3.57	3.84	+0.27
Housing Group	174.8	184.3	+5.4	23.43	24.70	+1.27
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP						
Fuel and light	130.5	133.6	+2.4	4.72	4.83	+0.11
Electricity	128.5	131.8	+2.6	3.08	3.16	+0.08
Gas	132.4	132.7	+0.2	1.17	1.17	..
Other (l)	137.7	146.8	+6.6	0.47	0.50	+0.03
Household appliances	110.3	113.3	+2.7	3.39	3.48	+0.09
Furniture and floor coverings	171.2	180.3	+5.3	3.36	3.53	+0.17
Other household utensils, sundries and stationery	150.1	156.8	+4.5	3.32	3.47	+0.15
Personal requisites and proprietary medicines	154.4	158.9	+2.9	3.76	3.87	+0.11
Household Supplies and Equipment Group	138.9	143.7	+3.5	18.55	19.19	+0.64
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP						
Fares (m)	172.9	184.8	+6.9	2.74	2.93	+0.19
Motoring	156.6	163.9	+4.7	21.34	22.33	+0.99
Goods (n)	139.5	144.7	+3.7	15.94	16.53	+0.59
Services and charges (o)	207.1	222.3	+7.3	5.41	5.80	+0.39
Cigarettes and tobacco	167.9	167.9	..	5.73	5.73	..
Beer	155.1	159.7	+3.0	7.23	7.45	+0.22
Wines and spirits (f)	(117.6)	(122.6)	+4.3	2.11	2.20	+0.09
Postal and telephone services	141.1	171.5	+21.5	1.88	2.28	+0.40
Newspapers and magazines	171.7	189.1	+10.1	1.65	1.82	+0.17
Recreational goods and services (f)(p)	(112.2)	(115.4)	+2.9	2.77	2.85	+0.08
Health services (q)	(167.9)	(179.1)	+6.7	6.50	6.94	+0.44
Other services (s)	223.1	238.1	+6.7	2.71	2.89	+0.18
Miscellaneous Group	167.7	176.1	+5.0	54.66	57.41	+2.75
All Groups	162.0	168.1	+3.8	(c)162.0	(c)168.1	(c)+6.1
ALL GROUPS						
Excluding food group	161.9	170.4	+5.3	116.79	122.91	+6.12
Excluding housing group	160.1	165.6	+3.4	138.61	143.38	+4.77
Goods component (t)	156.8	161.3	+2.9	125.20	128.76	+3.56
Services component (t)	183.5	195.8	+6.7	36.84	39.32	+2.48

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) 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.
- (d) See paragraph 14 on page 3.
- (e) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968 and sausages as from December quarter 1973 (previously included in Beef sub-group)
- (f) Base : December quarter 1973 = 100.0.
- (g) Includes fried chicken, meat pies, hamburgers and sandwiches.
- (h) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's and girls' summerweight underwear.
- (i) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets.
- (j) Includes flats as from December quarter 1968.
- (k) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase.
- (l) Firewood and kerosene. Includes heating oil and briquettes as from December quarter 1968.
- (m) City and suburban rail, bus and tram.
- (n) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading and battery.
- (o) Repairs, registration, third party insurance and driver's licence.
- (p) Includes cameras, film, film processing, phonograph records, television maintenance and cinema admission. Radio and television licences excluded as from September quarter 1974. See paragraph 8 on page 2.
- (q) Base : December quarter 1968 = 100.0.
- (s) Hairdressing, drycleaning and shoe repairs.
- (t) The Special grouping "Goods" is composed of the Food Group; Clothing Group; Household Supplies and Equipment Group, house price and maintenance, motoring goods, cigarettes and tobacco, beer, wines and spirits, photographic goods, records, newspapers and magazines and television replacement parts. The remaining items are classified as "Services".