



**INQUIRIES**

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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – DECEMBER QUARTER 1976**

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. As announced in the previous issue, this bulletin introduces the ninth Consumer Price Index series. The new series measures price change from September quarter 1976 forwards on the basis of a list of items and weighting pattern incorporating results of the first Household Expenditure Survey (1974-75). In accordance with established practice the ninth series has been linked to its predecessors to form one continuous series. The process of linking ensures that the resultant continuous series reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index. A brief description of the latest link is contained in the Appendix to this bulletin.

3. The indexes for this quarter include the effects of unusual increases in prices for hospital and medical services associated with the recent changes to Medibank. This is due to increases in health fund contributions and to the Medibank levy which, consistent with previous practice, is treated as an increase in price. A detailed description of this treatment is contained in a supplementary statement, which is available on request. In order to facilitate analysis of trends in retail prices excluding these unusual increases (and excluding the unusual decreases associated with the introduction of Medibank in September and December quarters 1975) a special grouping "All Groups excluding hospital and medical services" is shown in the table below.

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities					
	Index Numbers (Base 1966-67=100.0)		Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter		Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding Year	
	All Groups excluding hospital and medical services	All Groups	All Groups excluding hospital and medical services	All Groups	All Groups excluding hospital and medical services	All Groups
			Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1974-75 -						
December	167.6	168.1	+3.6	+3.8	+16.2	+16.3
March	172.4	174.1	+2.9	+3.6	+16.7	+17.6
June	178.8	180.2	+3.7	+3.5	+16.2	+16.9
1975-76 -						
September	184.0	181.6	+2.9	+0.8	+13.7	+12.1
December	195.6	191.7	+6.3	+5.6	+16.7	+14.0
March	201.3	197.4	+2.9	+3.0	+16.8	+13.4
June	206.3	202.4	+2.5	+2.5	+15.4	+12.3
1976-77 -						
September	210.8	206.9	+2.2	+2.2	+14.6	+13.9
December	216.8	219.3	+2.8	+6.0	+10.8	+14.4

4. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for December quarter 1976 increased by 6.0% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. As shown above, the change excluding hospital and medical services was +2.8%. Changes in the All Groups index for individual cities were: Sydney +5.5%, Melbourne +6.0%, Brisbane +6.2%, Adelaide +7.1%, Perth +6.6%, Hobart +5.7%, Canberra +5.5%. Excluding hospital and medical services, the changes were: Sydney +2.7%, Melbourne +2.8%, Brisbane +2.8%, Adelaide +3.1%, Perth +2.5%, Hobart +2.8%, Canberra +3.1%. An analysis of these changes is given in the table on page 4 and in paragraph 15.

## 5. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index are shown below.

Quarter	Percentage Change from Preceding 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
1974-75								
December	+3.8	+3.6	+3.3	+3.2	+4.4	+6.0	+5.1	+3.4
March	+3.6	+3.4	+3.8	+2.7	+4.4	+3.8	+2.3	+2.3
June	+3.5	+3.7	+3.5	+2.6	+3.2	+4.1	+3.1	+4.1
1975-76 -								
September (b)	+0.8	+1.5	+0.6	+1.6	-0.6	-0.1	+0.7	-0.1
December (b)	+5.6	+4.6	+6.0	+6.3	+5.8	+6.3	+7.5	+8.0
March	+3.0	+3.1	+2.7	+3.2	+3.2	+3.3	+2.7	+2.5
June	+2.5	+2.2	+2.5	+2.3	+3.0	+3.4	+3.3	+3.2
1976-77 -								
September	+2.2	+1.7	+2.5	+2.5	+2.5	+2.5	+2.4	+2.1
December (c)	+6.0	+5.5	+6.0	+6.2	+7.1	+6.6	+5.7	+5.5

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (b) Includes effects of price decreases in hospital and medical services with the introduction of Medibank. (c) Includes effects of price increases in hospital and medical services associated with changes to Medibank.

## 6. Recent annual changes in the All Groups index are shown below.

Quarter	Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding Year							
	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
1974-75 -								
December	+16.3	+15.8	+16.0	+15.7	+17.3	+18.0	+17.3	+15.6
March	+17.6	+17.0	+17.6	+15.8	+19.5	+19.5	+17.6	+14.8
June	+16.9	+16.9	+16.3	+14.7	+18.2	+20.1	+16.5	+15.8
1975-76 -								
September	+12.1	+12.7	+11.5	+10.5	+11.8	+14.4	+11.8	+ 9.9
December	+14.0	+13.8	+14.5	+13.8	+13.3	+14.7	+14.3	+14.9
March	+13.4	+13.6	+13.2	+14.3	+12.0	+14.2	+14.7	+15.1
June	+12.3	+11.9	+12.2	+14.0	+11.8	+13.4	+14.9	+14.1
1976-77 -								
September	+13.9	+12.2	+14.4	+15.0	+15.3	+16.4	+16.8	+16.7
December	+14.4	+13.2	+14.3	+14.9	+16.6	+16.7	+14.9	+14.0

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

7. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of goods and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of employee 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). Nine 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. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index up to the link of December quarter 1973 is contained in *Labour Report* No. 58, 1973 (Reference No. 6.7). The Appendix to this bulletin describes the ninth series. A consolidated description of the Consumer Price Index will be prepared and published later.

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, prices have been collected at weekly intervals and 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 6 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1966-67 to 1975-76 and for each quarter from September quarter 1968. Table 2 on page 7, 8 and 9 shows group index numbers quarterly from December quarter 1973 to December quarter 1976.

11. A presentation of information on monthly food price movements is contained in the monthly bulletins *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 3 on page 10 shows index numbers for September quarter 1976 and December quarter 1976 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 eight major groups and more particularly the total of the groups.

13. 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 3-6. However the analysis in paragraph 14 shows movements in terms of All Groups 'index points'. This analysis shows the contribution of selected items and of the eight groups to movements in the total indexes. Table 3 on page 10 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**

<u>Index Point Change</u>		<u>Percentage Change</u>
Dec. quarter 1976 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0)	219.3	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period $\frac{219.3 - 206.9}{206.9} \times 100 = 6.0\%$
less Sept. quarter 1976 CPI	206.9	
Index points difference	12.4	

14. The following analysis and Table 3 on page 10 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from September quarter 1976 to December quarter 1976.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**Movements from September Quarter 1976 to December Quarter 1976**  
**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								
Fresh fruit and vegetables	+0.7	+0.9	+0.6	+0.7	+0.4	+0.5	+0.5	+0.5
Meat and seafoods	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.2	+0.7	+0.7
Meals out, take-away food	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1
Cereal products	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2
Clothing								
Women's and girls'	+0.9	+0.8	+1.0	+0.7	+1.0	+0.7	+0.9	+0.7
Men's and boys'	+0.4	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.4	+0.4
Other	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Housing								
House price, repairs and maintenance	+0.4	+0.2	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5	+0.6	+0.4	+0.2
Local government rates and charges	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.7	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.2
Rent, private	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1
Rent, government	..	..	..	..	+0.2	+0.2	..	+0.9
Household equipment and operation -								
Furniture and floorcoverings	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3
Other	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3
Transportation -								
Motor vehicle purchase	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2
Motor vehicle operation	+0.3	+0.1	+0.6	+0.1	+0.9	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3
Fares	..	..	..	+0.2	+0.1	..	..	+0.1
Tobacco and Alcohol -								
Alcohol	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Cigarettes and tobacco	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Health and personal care -								
Medical and hospital services	+6.6	+5.9	+6.3	+6.9	+8.3	+8.4	+6.1	+5.0
Other	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1
Recreation -								
Holiday accommodation	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2
Books, newspapers and magazines	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
Other recreation	+0.1	+0.1	..	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2
<b>Total Change (Index Points)(d)</b>	<b>+12.4</b>	<b>+11.7</b>	<b>+12.1</b>	<b>+12.7</b>	<b>+14.5</b>	<b>+13.6</b>	<b>+11.7</b>	<b>+11.1</b>
<b>Total Change (excluding medical and hospital services)(d)</b>	<b>+5.8</b>	<b>+5.8</b>	<b>+5.8</b>	<b>+5.8</b>	<b>+6.3</b>	<b>+5.1</b>	<b>+5.7</b>	<b>+6.2</b>

(a) See explanation in paragraph 13. (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.

15. A summary of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between the pricing dates (see paragraph 8) for September quarter 1976 and December quarter 1976 is shown below:

**Food Group.** There were increases in all sections of this group with the main increases being for meat and fresh fruit and vegetables. The group index increased by 3.8%.

**Clothing Group.** There were increases in all sections of this group with the main increases being for summer seasonal clothing items. The group index increased by 6.4%.

**Housing Group.** All sections of this group registered increases. Government dwelling rents increased in Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. Local government rates and charges increased in all cities. The group index increased by 3.4%.

**Household Equipment and Operation Group.** Higher prices for furniture and floorcoverings accounted for half of the increase in this group which increased by 1.6%.

**Transportation Group.** The major part of the increase in this group was due to increased prices for motor vehicle purchase and operation. Motor vehicle prices increased in all cities and registration charges increased in Brisbane and Adelaide. The group index increased by 1.6%.

**Tobacco and Alcohol Group.** The group index showed a relatively small increase of 1.4%.

**Health and Personal Care Group.** This group increased by 82.9% predominantly because of increases in health fund contributions and the treatment of the Medibank levy as a price increase. These increases were the major element in the total increases (All Groups) for each city, and were also the main factor in the differences in total movements (All Groups) as between cities. The latter occurs because of the effect of different degrees of price change for these items between cities combined with the different proportions that expenditure on these items bears to the totals of expenditure represented in the separate city indexes.

**Recreation Group.** There were increases in most sections of this group with the main increase being for holiday accommodation charges. The group index increased by 1.6%.

#### Related Publications

16. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

*Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index Numbers* (Ref. No. 9.11)

*Average Retail Prices of Selected Food and Grocery Items, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (Ref. No. 9.3)

*Labour Report* (Ref. No. 6.7). Chapter 1 contains a detailed description of previous C.P.I. series, together with long term price index series.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8).

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 -								
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
1974-75	171.1	176.1	167.9	168.7	169.7	166.1	166.7	164.9
1975-76	193.3	199.0	189.5	190.9	190.5	189.6	190.0	187.3
Quarter -								
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
March	174.1	178.8	170.8	171.1	173.8	169.8	169.3	166.4
June	180.2	185.5	176.7	175.6	179.3	176.7	174.6	173.2
1975-76 -								
September	181.6	188.2	177.7	178.4	178.2	176.5	175.9	173.0
December	191.7	196.9	188.4	189.6	188.6	187.7	189.1	186.9
March	197.4	203.1	193.4	195.6	194.6	193.9	194.2	191.6
June	202.4	207.6	198.3	200.1	200.4	200.4	200.6	197.7
1976-77 -								
September	206.9	211.1	203.2	205.1	205.5	205.4	205.5	201.9
December	219.3	222.8	215.3	217.8	220.0	219.0	217.2	213.0

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid 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	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
FOOD GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
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
March	163.4	166.2	159.8	163.9	163.4	164.2	158.1	160.5
June	168.9	170.3	166.2	168.7	170.0	171.2	163.1	167.7
1975-76 -								
September	171.6	173.1	170.1	170.4	171.5	171.9	168.8	171.1
December	176.9	179.0	175.1	176.6	176.0	175.4	174.8	178.8
March	185.7	187.7	182.8	187.9	185.9	183.8	181.6	187.5
June	186.6	187.2	183.3	188.1	189.0	189.6	184.7	187.9
1976-77 -								
September	192.3	191.9	189.9	192.1	197.4	194.6	192.0	193.0
December	199.6	199.5	197.0	199.8	203.8	201.8	200.4	201.8
CLOTHING GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
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
March	175.2	176.2	174.1	173.7	176.2	176.5	174.0	174.3
June	182.9	183.6	182.2	181.2	183.9	184.1	181.3	182.2
1975-76 -								
September	187.1	187.4	186.2	185.6	189.6	188.5	186.1	185.7
December	200.0	200.3	199.0	198.7	202.2	201.1	199.7	200.1
March	202.6	202.6	201.9	201.8	205.0	203.8	202.4	202.7
June	214.4	213.5	214.3	213.9	217.4	215.9	215.2	215.1
1976-77 -								
September	218.1	217.6	217.7	217.1	220.7	219.8	218.5	218.3
December	232.1	231.3	232.3	230.0	235.8	232.7	231.8	232.2
HOUSING GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
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
March	190.2	200.1	184.2	179.2	191.3	178.4	186.0	165.0
June	200.3	213.2	194.7	183.4	198.2	184.6	194.2	168.2
1975-76 -								
September	207.5	220.5	201.4	193.7	204.0	191.2	199.7	172.3
December	218.4	230.9	210.5	200.9	221.3	207.5	214.5	194.3
March	224.6	236.2	217.5	205.5	228.0	215.8	221.4	198.5
June	233.9	247.3	226.6	211.3	235.0	224.4	230.1	211.2
1976-77 -								
September	241.1	254.5	232.4	225.2	241.3	230.9	235.5	214.7
December	249.4	262.3	239.1	235.1	252.5	242.9	244.0	226.4

For footnotes see page 9.

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 EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
December	127.0	131.9	122.0	128.8	123.5	129.0	130.9	122.7
March	130.6	136.3	125.1	131.3	128.2	131.7	133.1	124.5
June	135.7	141.2	131.5	135.9	132.0	134.9	138.0	128.4
1974-75 -								
September	143.5	149.9	137.7	146.5	140.1	142.1	144.2	133.5
December	151.8	158.1	145.0	157.5	147.8	152.0	157.0	145.7
March	157.4	163.8	151.3	159.8	153.3	158.3	161.0	148.6
June	162.4	171.4	154.9	162.3	155.7	165.5	163.4	152.0
1975-76 -								
September	166.4	174.1	158.2	170.1	159.9	173.4	167.1	154.6
December	178.4	185.9	169.6	181.7	173.9	185.3	186.8	165.9
March	181.9	189.8	173.1	185.5	177.2	187.1	188.7	168.7
June	186.5	196.0	176.9	189.3	181.4	190.5	192.8	175.3
1976-77 -								
September	189.9	198.7	181.0	192.4	184.2	194.2	196.2	178.4
December	193.0	202.7	184.0	194.8	187.0	195.3	198.5	181.5
TRANSPORTATION GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
December	143.4	152.9	137.3	141.1	139.4	133.1	138.8	134.1
March	146.8	156.3	140.0	146.9	142.6	135.1	141.6	144.1
June	150.2	158.6	144.6	150.1	147.7	137.1	143.7	149.1
1974-75 -								
September	161.9	170.4	156.0	163.3	159.7	148.2	155.4	158.6
December	169.9	181.5	160.3	170.4	167.6	157.8	162.2	164.9
March	177.1	190.8	167.3	172.8	178.1	159.8	168.1	166.4
June	182.9	195.6	173.9	179.0	182.3	166.8	175.6	175.7
1975-76 -								
September	192.3	207.1	184.3	185.0	188.5	172.7	181.2	181.1
December	203.0	218.1	194.6	199.6	194.6	183.5	193.6	197.5
March	208.7	228.2	196.7	204.1	198.7	188.1	202.8	201.8
June	211.2	226.4	200.8	210.1	203.1	195.3	209.1	207.0
1976-77 -								
September	215.2	225.9	207.9	214.9	207.6	203.4	215.2	211.3
December	218.6	228.0	212.5	217.6	213.5	204.9	217.7	214.0
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL GROUP (c)								
1973-74 -								
December	145.1	145.5	147.2	143.8	141.5	139.7	153.0	142.1
March	145.6	146.0	147.3	144.1	143.5	139.8	153.2	142.4
June	152.6	156.0	154.0	151.5	143.9	144.4	159.9	143.6
1974-75 -								
September	162.8	163.5	165.6	159.7	157.2	159.1	164.2	158.1
December	166.1	166.6	169.3	162.5	161.0	162.0	167.2	159.7
March	174.5	173.8	178.5	170.3	171.7	171.3	172.1	164.2
June	178.0	176.5	181.5	172.7	178.0	177.9	173.9	169.6
1975-76 -								
September	181.7	178.7	185.9	178.5	182.9	180.4	182.8	173.3
December	216.1	222.3	217.4	205.8	208.5	208.2	212.0	199.6
March	220.6	224.1	224.5	207.8	214.2	217.3	212.2	200.8
June	225.8	232.0	228.1	211.4	219.2	219.8	218.2	203.3
1976-77 -								
September	226.1	232.9	225.7	213.4	220.7	223.1	218.9	210.3
December	229.2	236.4	228.4	216.6	224.7	225.1	220.9	212.0

For footnotes see page 9.



TABLE 2. — *continued*  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**GROUP INDEXES — SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA**

<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>
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE GROUP (c)</b>								
(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : December quarter 1968 = 100.0) (a)								
1973-74 —								
December	148.1	148.2	150.9	140.6	150.2	144.0	136.6	155.3
March	151.4	151.3	155.0	143.8	152.9	147.1	138.5	159.5
June	155.4	154.2	158.7	148.9	156.8	154.6	151.3	162.3
1974-75 —								
September	167.5	172.0	168.1	155.2	166.9	160.8	161.7	169.5
December	176.7	174.3	177.4	168.6	182.4	188.2	170.6	178.1
March	199.5	195.5	204.3	191.6	208.1	201.0	180.8	199.2
June	202.4	205.2	202.7	187.6	207.9	202.8	183.1	212.5
1975-76 —								
September	155.6	177.3	141.7	155.0	136.3	143.4	125.5	147.1
December	144.3	136.7	147.5	160.7	141.2	154.1	136.9	155.1
March	149.6	144.2	149.9	167.5	145.2	161.2	141.0	159.2
June	156.9	150.9	157.9	173.3	153.4	167.5	150.4	166.3
1976-77 —								
September	161.5	154.9	163.7	178.5	156.7	172.3	153.4	169.6
December	295.4	272.1	295.0	329.8	310.2	348.0	277.0	289.4

**RECREATION GROUP (c)**

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : September quarter 1976 = 100.0) (a)

1976-77 —								
September	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
December	101.6	102.0	101.2	102.0	101.0	101.4	102.1	102.8

(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) The composition of groups and the group structure of the index has been altered with the introduction of the current series. See paragraphs 7 and 11 of the Appendix.

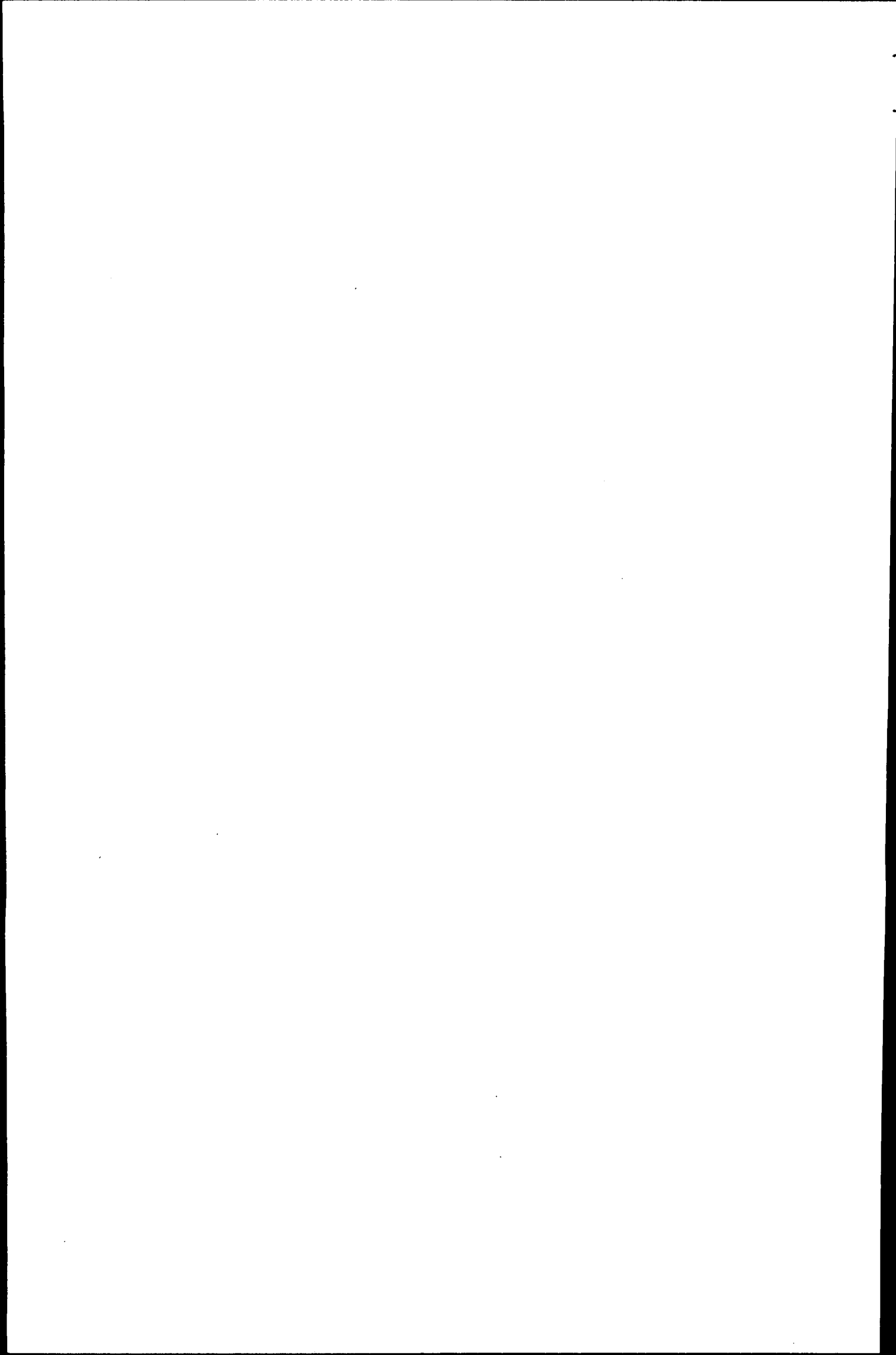
**TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1976 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1976**  
 Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities : Base - Year 1966-67 = 100.0

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) (b)		
	Sept. qtr 1976	Dec. qtr 1976	Percentage change since Sept. qtr (c)	Sept. qtr 1976	Dec. qtr 1976	Change in All Groups Index Points since Sept. qtr (c)
<b>FOOD GROUP</b>						
Dairy produce	174.8	176.0	+0.7	4.42	4.45	+0.03
Cereal products	225.0	229.3	+1.9	4.93	5.03	+0.10
Meat and seafoods -	179.0	185.4	+3.6	10.25	10.62	+0.37
Beef and veal	151.6	156.1	+3.0	4.20	4.32	+0.12
Lamb and mutton	204.0	218.7	+7.2	1.88	2.01	+0.13
Pork	205.7	211.8	+3.0	0.52	0.54	+0.02
Poultry	151.8	153.5	+1.1	1.06	1.07	+0.01
Other meat	118.5	120.5	+1.7	1.73	1.76	+0.03
Fish (d)	100.0	105.6	+5.6	0.87	0.92	+0.05
Fruit and vegetables (d) -	100.0	111.4	+11.4	6.01	6.70	+0.69
Fresh fruit and vegetables (d)	100.0	115.9	+15.9	4.17	4.84	+0.67
Processed fruit and vegetables	170.6	172.6	+1.2	1.84	1.86	+0.02
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	232.3	238.9	+2.8	4.30	4.43	+0.13
Meals out, take-away food (d)	100.0	102.0	+2.0	9.11	9.29	+0.18
Other food	166.6	173.1	+3.9	4.46	4.64	+0.18
<i>Food group</i>	<i>192.3</i>	<i>199.6</i>	<i>+3.8</i>	<i>43.50</i>	<i>45.15</i>	<i>+1.65</i>
<b>CLOTHING GROUP</b>						
Men's and boys'	207.7	219.7	+5.8	6.06	6.41	+0.35
Women's and girls'	215.2	235.7	+9.5	9.29	10.17	+0.88
Piecegoods and other clothing	181.0	186.4	+3.0	1.11	1.15	+0.04
Footwear	254.0	257.7	+1.5	3.42	3.46	+0.04
Clothing and footwear services (e)	289.8	298.4	+3.0	1.11	1.14	+0.03
<i>Clothing Group</i>	<i>218.1</i>	<i>232.1</i>	<i>+6.4</i>	<i>20.98</i>	<i>22.33</i>	<i>+1.35</i>
<b>HOUSING GROUP</b>						
Rent -	228.3	235.0	+2.9	10.85	11.17	+0.32
Privately-owned dwellings	226.8	233.1	+2.8	9.89	10.16	+0.27
Government-owned dwellings	262.0	274.5	+4.8	0.97	1.01	+0.04
Home ownership (f) -	253.2	262.7	+3.8	17.16	17.81	+0.65
Local government rates and charges	284.5	307.2	+8.0	3.64	3.93	+0.29
House price, repairs and maintenance	239.2	245.4	+2.6	13.53	13.88	+0.35
<i>Housing Group</i>	<i>241.1</i>	<i>249.4</i>	<i>+3.4</i>	<i>28.02</i>	<i>28.98</i>	<i>+0.96</i>
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION GROUP</b>						
Fuel and light	169.5	171.2	+1.0	4.62	4.67	+0.05
Furniture and floor coverings	226.7	234.9	+3.6	6.66	6.91	+0.25
Appliances (g)	121.7	122.7	+0.8	3.95	3.98	+0.03
Draperies	230.3	231.3	+0.4	2.23	2.24	+0.01
Household utensils and tools	195.8	197.6	+0.9	3.12	3.15	+0.03
Household supplies and services (h)	179.5	182.5	+1.7	6.87	6.98	+0.11
Postal and telephone services	242.4	244.7	+0.9	3.09	3.12	+0.03
<i>Household Equipment and Operation Group</i>	<i>189.9</i>	<i>193.0</i>	<i>+1.6</i>	<i>30.54</i>	<i>31.04</i>	<i>+0.50</i>
<b>TRANSPORTATION GROUP</b>						
Private transport -	210.4	213.9	+1.7	33.74	34.31	+0.57
Motor vehicle purchase	191.2	195.0	+2.0	11.43	11.65	+0.22
Motor vehicle operation (i)	222.5	225.9	+1.5	22.32	22.66	+0.34
Public transport fares (j)	210.7	212.3	+0.8	4.43	4.47	+0.04
<i>Transportation Group</i>	<i>215.2</i>	<i>218.6</i>	<i>+1.6</i>	<i>38.17</i>	<i>38.78</i>	<i>+0.61</i>
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL GROUP</b>						
Alcoholic beverages	216.4	219.3	+1.3	14.48	14.68	+0.20
Cigarettes and tobacco	235.7	239.2	+1.5	6.71	6.82	+0.11
<i>Tobacco and Alcohol Group</i>	<i>226.1</i>	<i>229.2</i>	<i>+1.4</i>	<i>21.20</i>	<i>21.49</i>	<i>+0.29</i>
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE GROUP</b>						
Health services (k)(l)	112.4	355.9	+216.6	3.07	9.72	+6.65
Personal care products (m)	194.2	198.5	+2.2	3.72	3.80	+0.08
Personal care services (n)	376.7	387.8	+2.9	1.38	1.42	+0.04
<i>Health and Personal Care Group (k)</i>	<i>161.5</i>	<i>295.4</i>	<i>+82.9</i>	<i>8.17</i>	<i>14.94</i>	<i>+6.77</i>
<b>RECREATION GROUP</b>						
Books, newspapers, magazines (d)	100.0	102.3	+2.3	2.95	3.02	+0.07
Other recreation goods (d)(o)	100.0	100.4	+0.4	6.65	6.68	+0.03
Holiday accommodation (d)	100.0	106.7	+6.7	1.90	2.03	+0.13
Other recreation services (d)(p)	100.0	100.8	+0.8	4.79	4.82	+0.03
<i>Recreation Group (d)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>101.6</i>	<i>+1.6</i>	<i>16.30</i>	<i>16.56</i>	<i>+0.26</i>
<b>All Groups</b>	<b>206.9</b>	<b>219.3</b>	<b>+6.0</b>	<b>(b)206.9</b>	<b>(b)219.3</b>	<b>(b)+12.4</b>
<b>SPECIAL GROUPINGS</b>						
All groups, excluding food group	212.3	226.3	+6.6	163.38	174.12	+10.74
All groups, excluding housing group	201.6	214.4	+6.3	178.86	190.29	+11.43
All groups, excluding hospital and medical services	210.8	216.8	+2.8	205.03	210.83	+5.80
All groups, goods component (q)	200.3	206.0	+2.8	156.80	161.24	+4.44

For footnotes see page 11.

## FOOTNOTES TO TABLE 3

- (a) Figures appearing after the decimal point have little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding the figures to the nearest whole number.
- (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by subgroup or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.
- (c) See paragraph 13 on page 3.
- (d) Base: September quarter 1976 = 100.0.
- (e) Dry cleaning, clothing repairs and shoe repairs.
- (f) Does not include cost of land and interest charges on house purchase.
- (g) Stoves, refrigerators, washing machines and other household appliances. From September Quarter 1976, television sets, radios and sound equipment are included in other recreation goods.
- (h) Household cleaning agents and paper products, gardening supplies, stationery, pet food, travel goods, umbrellas, insurance of dwellings and contents, repairs to household goods.
- (i) Petrol, tyres, tubes, parts, repairs, motor vehicle insurance, registration, driver's licence, motoring organisation fees.
- (j) Bus, tram, rail, taxi and air fares.
- (k) Base: December quarter 1968 = 100.0.
- (l) Medical practitioners' fees (net), hospital charges, dental charges, and hospital and medical insurance contributions.
- (m) Pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics.
- (n) Hair and beauty services.
- (o) Television sets, radios, sound equipment, photographic goods, sunglasses, records, cassettes, tapes, sports equipment, bicycles, toys, games, caravans.
- (p) Cinema and live theatre admission, other entertainment and recreation, spectator admission to sports, other sports services, television hire, photographic services and repairs to television sets.
- (q) The special grouping "All groups, goods component" comprises: the Food group except meals out; Clothing group (except clothing and footwear services); Household equipment and operation group (except insurance of dwellings and contents, repairs to household goods and postal and telephone services); Tobacco and alcohol group; house price; house repair materials; motor vehicle purchase; petrol, tyres, tubes, vehicle replacement parts; personal care products; books, newspapers, magazines; other recreation goods; replacement parts for television sets. The remaining items are classified as "Services".



APPENDIX  
NINTH SERIES OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a chain of "fixed weight aggregative" linked indexes with significant changes in composition and weighting effected at relatively short intervals. Links have previously been effected at June quarter 1952, June quarter 1956, March quarter 1960, December quarter 1963, December quarter 1968 and December quarter 1973 with a minor link at September quarter 1974. A further link in the series has now been made as at September quarter 1976. Price change between September and December quarters 1976 has thus been measured on the basis of the new (ninth series) list of items and weights.

2. During each period between links the weighting pattern remains unchanged. At times of linking the weighting pattern is brought up-to-date and the content of the index is reviewed. Under this method, in effect, average percentage price movements are assessed on one pattern up to the time of the link and on another pattern thereafter. The process of linking ensures that the series reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index.

3. There are no ideal points of time for linking the various series since, particularly in times of disparate and large price movements, the application of different weights to the same price series over the same periods of time would cause differences in aggregative changes. The ninth series has been introduced as from September quarter 1976, the earliest possible stage following availability of detailed data from the Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75.

4. The structure of the new series is derived from this Survey which was the first Survey of this type conducted by the ABS. This enables the index to be related more specifically to a "target group" of the population (see paragraph 5); and to have appropriate separate weighting patterns for each of the 7 cities for which index numbers are compiled. The new series measures variations in retail prices for goods and services representing more than 90 per cent of defined household expenditure by the target group.

5. The target group for the ninth CPI series comprises metropolitan wage and salary earner households with total income of more than the minimum adult wage but excluding the top 10 per cent of such households. 'Metropolitan wage and salary earner households' are those households (as defined in the Household Expenditure Survey) which derive at least 75 per cent of total income from wages and salaries. The minimum adult wage is that for each capital city separately. The 'top 10 per cent' of households excluded were those whose incomes are more than the ninth decile of the population of wage and salary earner households in all metropolitan areas combined.

6. This target group was determined as a suitable current basis which was also in keeping with the past general description of the CPI as a measure of variations in prices of goods and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage earner households in the aggregate. A special tabulation from the Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75 for households within this target group supplied the basic weighting pattern for the index. The households included had average weekly total household incomes which ranged from approximately \$60 to \$370 in 1974-75.

7. The structure of the new index is shown in Table A which describes the weights of the sub-groups into which the index has been subdivided in the form of percentages contributed by each sub-group to the total index aggregate for September quarter 1976. These percentages indicate the relative influence given to the various components in measuring the degree of price change from September quarter 1976 (ie. from the beginning of the new linked series). These proportions represent the amounts of expenditure shown by the 1974-75 Household Expenditure Survey (for the target group) revalued at the price levels of September quarter 1976. Each sub-group has been further sub-divided into expenditure classes (totalling 101) and a detailed table showing percentage contributions by each expenditure class will be prepared and published. More than 300 "items" are allocated to relevant expenditure classes. The weighting of the index is held constant at the level of the expenditure classes.

8. The Household Expenditure Survey did not supply a suitable basis for estimating a weight for the item "house price" as such. This is not only because the results of a single survey would have extreme sampling variability for an item of such longevity as a house, but also because much of the relevant expenditure reported is associated with expenditure on mortgage interest and/or land, and the experience was that most respondents could not dissect such payments into components. The weight for this expenditure class has therefore been estimated along the same lines as for the preceding series. The expenditure amount as at September quarter 1976 was determined by applying the longer term estimated acquisition rate (of a constant population) adopted in the previous series to an average value of new Houses and adding expenditure on alterations and additions as reported at the Household Expenditure Survey (adjusted to the prices of September quarter 1976).

9. The Household Expenditure Survey estimates of expenditures on tobacco and alcohol were adjusted upwards, using estimates derived from figures of sales and consumption, to compensate for the well-known phenomenon of under-reporting of these items in such surveys. Other adjustments were made to Household Expenditure Survey estimates in a few cases where it was judged that differences between the separate cities were due to high sampling variability.

10. The new series adds the following to the directly represented areas of expenditure:

Food Group. Meals out; fresh and frozen fish; cakes; oils and fats; fresh fruit and fresh vegetables (in addition to the existing items of potatoes and onions). Fresh fruit and vegetables are priced on the basis of a selection of items commonly available throughout the year. Prices of these items are combined using fixed weights in common with the standard approach for the remainder of the index.

Household Equipment and Operation Group. Fertiliser, seeds, etc; insurance of dwelling and contents; travel goods; and repairs to household goods.

Transportation Group. Motor vehicle comprehensive and third party property insurance; taxi and air fares; and motor cycle.

Recreation Group. Books; sound equipment; sports equipment; caravans; bicycles; toys; games; holiday accommodation; television hire; spectator admission; and charges for sports services.

11. A new group and sub-group structure, more consistent with international convention, has been adopted. The main changes are:

Sub-division of the former Miscellaneous Group into four groups: Transportation; Health and Personal Care; Recreation; Tobacco and Alcohol.

Transfer of dry cleaning and shoe repairs to the Clothing Group.

Transfer of postal and telephone services to the Household Equipment and Operation Group.

Transfer of drapery sub-group from former Clothing and Drapery Group to the Household Equipment and Operation Group.

12. As with the previous series, the cost of land and interest charges on house purchase are not included in the new series. This is on the grounds that, in addition to acute pricing problems, land is not a consumption good and interest charges present special difficulties of concept and measurement for which no generally acceptable solution has been found.

TABLE A. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED  
COMPOSITION AS AT SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1976

Group, Sub-Group, etc.	Percentage contribution to total index aggregate (a)	
	Sub-group etc.	Group
FOOD		21.026
Dairy produce	2.138	
Cereal products	2.384	
Meat and seafoods -	4.957	
Beef and veal	2.028	
Lamb and mutton	0.908	
Pork	0.252	
Poultry	0.514	
Other meat	0.835	
Fish	0.420	
Fruit and vegetables -	2.906	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	2.017	
Processed fruit and vegetables	0.889	
Soft drinks, ice-cream and confectionery	2.080	
Meals out, takeaway food	4.403	
Other food	2.158	
CLOTHING		10.141
Men's and boys'	2.928	
Women's and girls'	4.489	
Piecegoods and other clothing	0.538	
Footwear	1.651	
Clothing and footwear services	0.535	
HOUSING		13.544
Rent -	5.247	
Privately-owned dwellings	4.779	
Government-owned dwellings	0.468	
Home ownership -	8.297	
Local government rates and charges	1.759	
House price, repairs and maintenance	6.538	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION		14.761
Fuel and light	2.235	
Furniture and floorcoverings	3.222	
Appliances	1.909	
Drapery	1.077	
Household utensils and tools	1.507	
Household supplies and services	3.319	
Postal and telephone services	1.492	
TRANSPORTATION		18.453
Private transport -	16.311	
Motor vehicle purchase	5.523	
Motor vehicle operation	10.788	
Public transport fares	2.142	
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE		3.950
Health services	1.484	
Personal care products	1.799	
Personal care services	0.667	
RECREATION		7.878
Books, newspapers, magazines	1.428	
Other recreation goods	3.215	
Holiday accommodation	0.921	
Other recreation services	2.314	
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL		10.247
Alcoholic Beverages	7.001	
Cigarettes and tobacco	3.246	
ALL GROUPS	100.000	100.000

(a) Percentage contributions shown are in proportion to expenditure in 1974-75 valued at relevant prices of September quarter 1976.

NOTE. Similar information showing data for the series which commenced at December quarter 1973 is shown on pages 354 to 359 of Labour Report No. 58. However, the changes in composition have been significant and the two sets of data cannot be compared directly.