

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Reference No. 9.1

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – MARCH QUARTER 1973

NOTE. This bulletin contains monthly food group index numbers (see paragraph 13 and Table 4). All index numbers have previously been compiled only for quarterly periods. It is intended that monthly food group index numbers will be published in future as they become available.

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 March quarter 1973 increased by 2.1% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +2.0%, Melbourne +2.2%, Brisbane +2.2%, Adelaide +2.2%, Perth +2.0%, Hobart +1.9%, Canberra +2.1%.

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 |
| 1970-71 – | | | | | | | | |
| March | + 1.1 | + 1.0 | + 1.0 | + 1.6 | + 1.0 | + 1.1 | + 0.7 | + 0.4 |
| June | + 1.7 | + 2.0 | + 1.3 | + 1.8 | + 2.2 | + 1.4 | + 1.2 | + 1.8 |
| 1971-72 – | | | | | | | | |
| September | r+ 1.9 | r+ 2.9 | + 1.1 | + 1.5 | + 1.0 | + 0.7 | r+ 1.7 | r+ 1.4 |
| December | + 2.3 | + 2.2 | + 2.7 | + 1.9 | + 2.2 | + 2.8 | + 3.3 | + 1.9 |
| March | r+ 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 | r+ 1.1 | + 1.4 |
| December | + 1.2 | + 1.3 | + 1.1 | + 1.6 | + 1.1 | + 0.4 | + 1.4 | r+ 1.5 |
| March | + 2.1 | + 2.0 | + 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 2.2 | + 2.0 | + 1.9 | + 2.1 |

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 |
| 1970-71 – | | | | | | | | |
| March | + 4.9 | + 5.5 | + 4.4 | + 5.7 | + 4.2 | + 4.5 | + 3.9 | + 5.2 |
| June | + 5.4 | + 6.1 | + 4.6 | + 6.8 | + 4.9 | + 4.5 | + 4.6 | + 6.1 |
| 1971-72 – | | | | | | | | |
| September | r+ 6.7 | r+ 8.3 | + 5.2 | + 7.1 | + 6.0 | + 5.0 | r+ 5.7 | r+ 6.8 |
| December | r+ 7.2 | r+ 8.4 | + 6.3 | + 7.1 | + 6.5 | + 6.2 | r+ 7.0 | r+ 5.5 |
| March | r+ 7.1 | r+ 8.4 | + 6.2 | + 6.5 | + 6.5 | + 6.1 | r+ 6.8 | r+ 5.5 |
| June | r+ 6.2 | r+ 7.3 | + 5.8 | + 5.5 | + 4.9 | + 5.8 | r+ 6.5 | r+ 4.6 |
| 1972-73 – | | | | | | | | |
| September | r+ 5.7 | + 5.7 | + 6.1 | + 4.7 | + 5.6 | + 6.5 | r+ 5.9 | + 4.6 |
| December | r+ 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 |

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 |
| 1970-71 – | | | | | | |
| March | + 0.3 | + 1.2 | + 1.4 | + 1.1 | + 1.6 | + 1.1 |
| June | + 1.8 | + 2.6 | + 1.9 | + 1.9 | + 1.1 | + 1.7 |
| 1971-72 – | | | | | | |
| September | + 1.1 | + 0.5 | + 1.6 | + 0.2 | r+ 4.1 | r+ 1.9 |
| December | + 1.0 | + 2.0 | + 2.8 | + 1.2 | + 4.4 | + 2.3 |
| March | + 0.7 | + 0.7 | + 1.3 | + 1.1 | + 1.2 | r+ 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 |

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities. r – revised (see paragraph 10).

6. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 56, 1971.

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. This bulletin contains revised index numbers for Sydney, Hobart (and consequently the weighted average of the six State capital cities) and for Canberra for periods between September quarter 1971 and December quarter 1972. These arise from the health services component 'insurance fund, retained portion' and are of some significance in the movement of the index in September quarter 1971. The effect on subsequent quarterly movement is insignificant. As indicated in the full description of the index, measurement of price change for health services is a matter of considerable complexity, and current assessment of the 'insurance fund, retained portion' items has always necessitated some estimation. This is because more comprehensive data is obtained only after conclusion of annual periods. Such data for 1971-72, analysis of which has just been completed, showed that the estimates made at the time of the significant changes to the health scheme in September quarter 1971 warranted revision.

11. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1961-62 to 1971-72 and for each quarter from September quarter 1967. Table 2 on pages 5 and 6 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from September quarter 1970 to March quarter 1973.

12. Table 3 on page 7 shows index numbers for December quarter 1972 and March 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.

13. Table 4 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 December quarter 1972 and March quarter 1973 and each of the three months of this quarter, i.e. January, February and March 1973. A more detailed presentation of information on monthly food price movement can be found in a new monthly bulletin *Consumer Price Index, Food Group Index Numbers* (Reference No. 9.11). Compilation and publication of this information has been facilitated by the recent application of computer processing to some stages of index compilation. It is intended that monthly food group index numbers will be published in future as they become available. 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.

14. Users of figures in Table 3 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.

15. Major changes in the composition of the sub-group indexes published in Table 3 resulting from the latest link in the Consumer Price Index (December quarter 1968), have been indicated in the footnotes on page 9. 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.

16. 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 17 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 3 on page 7 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> |
|--|-------|---|
| March quarter 1973 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0) | 130.4 | Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period $\frac{130.4 - 127.7}{127.7} \times 100 = 2.1\%$ |
| less December quarter 1972 CPI | 127.7 | |
| Index points difference | 2.7 | |

17. The following analysis and Table 3 on page 7 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1972 to March quarter 1973.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
Movements from December Quarter 1972 to March 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 | +1.2 | +1.2 | +1.3 | +1.0 | +1.2 | +1.0 | +0.5 | +1.4 |
| Potatoes | +0.1 | +0.1 | +0.2 | +0.3 | .. | .. | +0.1 | +0.1 |
| Dairy Produce | +0.1 | +0.1 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.1 | .. | +0.2 | +0.1 |
| Other | +0.3 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.4 | +0.4 | +0.3 | +0.2 |
| Clothing and Drapery | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.1 | +0.2 |
| Housing | +0.2 | +0.3 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.1 | +0.2 |
| Household Supplies and Equipment | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.1 | +0.1 |
| Miscellaneous - | | | | | | | | |
| Cigarettes and tobacco | +0.2 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.7 | +0.1 |
| Other | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.3 | +0.2 | +0.3 | +0.3 | +0.2 |
| Total Change (Index Points) | +2.7 | +2.6 | +2.8 | +2.8 | +2.7 | +2.5 | +2.4 | +2.6 |

(a) See explanation in paragraph 16. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

18. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between December quarter 1972 and March 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. For the weighted average of the six State capital cities, meat contributed nearly a half of the total movement in the All Groups index. The price of confectionery increased in all capital cities, eggs and soft drink in six capital cities, bread in five capital cities, and fresh milk in Melbourne and Hobart.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 4.4%, the largest quarterly increase shown by the Food Group since September quarter 1956.

Clothing and Drapery Group. There were increases in the prices of footwear and knitting wool.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.1%.

Housing Group. There were increases in all sections of the group except for Local Government Rates and Charges for which section changes do not normally occur in March quarter.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.3%

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.2%.

Miscellaneous Group. There were increases in the prices of cigarettes and tobacco in all capital cities, including a substantial increase in Hobart where a State Tobacco Act became operative on 1 January 1973. The price of beer increased in Brisbane, Perth and Hobart and the price of hospital services increased in Hobart.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.0%

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.
CONSUMER PRICE 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 | r122.4 | r126.3 | 119.7 | 121.6 | 119.2 | 120.7 | r119.9 | r119.4 |
| 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 | r119.4 | r123.3 | 116.5 | 119.0 | 116.5 | 117.2 | r116.5 | r117.2 |
| December | r122.2 | r126.0 | 119.7 | 121.3 | 119.1 | 120.5 | r120.3 | r119.4 |
| March | r123.4 | r127.3 | 120.7 | 122.6 | 120.2 | 121.8 | r120.9 | r119.9 |
| June | r124.5 | r128.5 | 121.9 | 123.6 | 121.1 | 123.1 | r122.0 | r120.9 |
| 1972-73 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | r126.2 | r130.3 | 123.6 | 124.6 | 123.0 | 124.8 | r123.4 | r122.6 |
| December | r127.7 | r132.0 | 125.0 | 126.6 | 124.3 | 125.3 | r125.1 | r124.5 |
| March | 130.4 | 134.6 | 127.8 | 129.4 | 127.0 | 127.8 | 127.5 | 127.1 |

For footnotes see page 9.

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 | | | | | | | | |
| 1970-71 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | 110.9 | 110.8 | 112.2 | 110.5 | 108.2 | 111.2 | 108.4 | 109.5 |
| 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 |
| CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP | | | | | | | | |
| 1970-71 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | 109.2 | 109.2 | 109.0 | 109.2 | 110.0 | 109.4 | 109.5 | 109.2 |
| 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 |
| HOUSING GROUP | | | | | | | | |
| 1970-71 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | 120.2 | 128.1 | 114.4 | 115.9 | 111.7 | 122.7 | 115.0 | 106.9 |
| 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 |

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 SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP | | | | | | | | |
| 1970-71 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | 105.4 | 106.5 | 104.4 | 106.5 | 103.5 | 105.8 | 107.6 | 104.0 |
| 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 |
| MISCELLANEOUS GROUP | | | | | | | | |
| 1970-71 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | 113.7 | 116.4 | 111.6 | 112.9 | 114.2 | 110.9 | 112.2 | 114.7 |
| 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 | r125.7 | r132.6 | 121.1 | 122.9 | 123.6 | 119.0 | r123.8 | r126.7 |
| December | r131.2 | r137.1 | 127.7 | 127.8 | 128.6 | 125.4 | r130.3 | r130.5 |
| March | r132.8 | r139.3 | 129.2 | 129.4 | 129.7 | 126.3 | r130.8 | r131.6 |
| June | r134.1 | r140.7 | 130.3 | 130.6 | 131.2 | 127.1 | r132.1 | r132.7 |
| 1972-73 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | r135.6 | r141.8 | 132.5 | 131.3 | 132.4 | 129.0 | r133.5 | r134.0 |
| December | r136.5 | r142.8 | 133.6 | 131.9 | 132.8 | 129.4 | r134.0 | r135.4 |
| March | 137.8 | 144.0 | 134.8 | 133.7 | 134.0 | 131.1 | 137.7 | 136.5 |
| ALL GROUPS | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | r119.4 | r123.3 | 116.5 | 119.0 | 116.5 | 117.2 | r116.5 | r117.2 |
| December | r122.2 | r126.0 | 119.7 | 121.3 | 119.1 | 120.5 | r120.3 | r119.4 |
| March | r123.4 | r127.3 | 120.7 | 122.6 | 120.2 | 121.8 | r120.9 | r119.9 |
| June | r124.5 | r128.5 | 121.9 | 123.6 | 121.1 | 123.1 | r122.0 | r120.9 |
| 1972-73 - | | | | | | | | |
| September | r126.2 | r130.3 | 123.6 | 124.6 | 123.0 | 124.8 | r123.4 | r122.6 |
| December | r127.7 | r132.0 | 125.0 | 126.6 | 124.3 | 125.3 | r125.1 | r124.5 |
| March | 130.4 | 134.6 | 127.8 | 129.4 | 127.0 | 127.8 | 127.5 | 127.1 |

For footnotes see page 9.

TABLE 3.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS
DECEMBER QUARTER 1972 AND MARCH 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 (c) | | |
|--|---|---------------------|---|---|---------------------|--|
| | Dec. qtr 1972 | Mar. qtr 1973 | Percentage change since Dec. qtr (d) | Dec. qtr 1972 | Mar. qtr 1973 | Change in Index Points since Dec. qtr (d) |
| | | | % | | | - Index Points - |
| FOOD GROUP | | | | | | |
| Cereal products | 133.4 | 135.8 | +1.8 | 5.23 | 5.32 | +0.09 |
| Dairy produce | 114.5 | 116.9 | +2.1 | 7.17 | 7.31 | +0.14 |
| Preserved fruit and vegetables | 106.7 | 107.5 | +0.7 | 1.58 | 1.59 | +0.01 |
| Potatoes and onions | 142.2 | 155.7 | +9.5 | 1.23 | 1.34 | +0.11 |
| Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery | 134.6 | 137.7 | +2.3 | 5.50 | 5.63 | +0.13 |
| Other food (except meat) | 113.6 | 114.1 | +0.4 | 3.79 | 3.81 | +0.02 |
| Meat | 119.4 | 129.7 | +8.6 | 13.58 | 14.76 | +1.18 |
| Beef | 128.9 | 136.9 | +6.2 | 6.01 | 6.38 | +0.37 |
| Mutton | 112.9 | 138.9 | +23.0 | 1.59 | 1.96 | +0.37 |
| Lamb | 113.6 | 131.4 | +15.7 | 2.28 | 2.64 | +0.36 |
| Pork | 109.3 | 113.2 | +3.6 | 0.84 | 0.87 | +0.03 |
| Processed meat (e) | 112.2 | 114.1 | +1.7 | 2.86 | 2.91 | +0.05 |
| Food Group | 121.6 | 126.9 | +4.4 | 38.08 | 39.76 | +1.68 |
| CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP | | | | | | |
| Predominantly summer seasonal (f) | 130.7 | 130.7 | .. | 2.48 | 2.48 | .. |
| Predominantly winter seasonal (g) | 121.8 | 121.8 | .. | 4.41 | 4.41 | .. |
| Predominantly non-seasonal | 118.6 | 120.2 | +1.3 | 7.53 | 7.63 | +0.10 |
| Footwear | 137.1 | 141.4 | +3.1 | 3.42 | 3.52 | +0.10 |
| Clothing and Drapery Group | 124.3 | 125.7 | +1.1 | 17.82 | 18.03 | +0.21 |
| HOUSING GROUP | | | | | | |
| Rent, privately owned dwellings (h) | 147.3 | 149.7 | +1.6 | 7.39 | 7.51 | +0.12 |
| Rent, government owned houses | 128.1 | 129.2 | +0.9 | 1.14 | 1.15 | +0.01 |
| Home ownership (i) | 139.3 | 140.8 | +1.1 | 10.99 | 11.11 | +0.12 |
| House price and repairs and maintenance | 130.1 | 132.2 | +1.6 | 7.08 | 7.19 | +0.11 |
| Local government rates and charges | 159.8 | 159.8 | .. | 3.92 | 3.92 | .. |
| Housing Group | 141.3 | 143.1 | +1.3 | 19.53 | 19.78 | +0.25 |
| HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP | | | | | | |
| Fuel and light | 111.4 | 111.5 | +0.1 | 4.48 | 4.49 | +0.01 |
| Electricity | 113.7 | 113.7 | .. | 2.72 | 2.72 | .. |
| Gas | 103.7 | 103.7 | .. | 1.07 | 1.07 | .. |
| Other (j) | 115.0 | 115.8 | +0.7 | 0.70 | 0.70 | .. |
| Household appliances | 99.1 | 99.2 | +0.1 | 2.88 | 2.88 | .. |
| Furniture and floor coverings | 127.7 | 131.0 | +2.6 | 2.50 | 2.56 | +0.06 |
| Other household utensils, sundries and stationery | 118.5 | 120.6 | +1.8 | 2.20 | 2.24 | +0.04 |
| Personal requisites and proprietary medicines | 126.0 | 129.1 | +2.5 | 2.67 | 2.74 | +0.07 |
| Household Supplies and Equipment Group | 114.5 | 115.9 | +1.2 | 14.73 | 14.91 | +0.18 |
| MISCELLANEOUS GROUP | | | | | | |
| Fares (k) | 157.2 | 158.7 | +1.0 | 3.72 | 3.76 | +0.04 |
| Motoring | 128.1 | 128.4 | +0.2 | 11.47 | 11.50 | +0.03 |
| Goods (l) | 117.5 | 117.4 | -0.1 | 7.66 | 7.66 | .. |
| Services and charges (m) | 154.5 | 155.9 | +0.9 | 3.81 | 3.84 | +0.03 |
| Cigarettes and tobacco | 131.6 | 136.0 | +3.3 | 4.88 | 5.05 | +0.17 |
| Beer | 129.5 | 130.2 | +0.5 | 4.79 | 4.82 | +0.03 |
| Postal and telephone services | 141.1 | 141.1 | .. | 1.51 | 1.51 | .. |
| Radio and television operations | 133.8 | 134.4 | +0.4 | 1.52 | 1.53 | +0.01 |
| Newspapers and magazines | 146.8 | 146.8 | .. | 1.70 | 1.70 | .. |
| Other services (n) | | | | 7.97 | 8.08 | +0.11 |
| Health | | | | 4.57 | 4.61 | +0.04 |
| Other | 147.5 | 149.6 | +1.4 | 3.40 | 3.46 | +0.06 |
| Miscellaneous Group | 136.5 | 137.8 | +1.0 | 37.56 | 37.93 | +0.37 |
| All Groups | 127.7 | 130.4 | +2.1 | 127.7 | 130.4 | +2.7 |
| SPECIAL GROUPINGS | | | | | | |
| All Groups, excluding Food Group | 130.5 | 132.0 | +1.1 | 89.64 | 90.65 | +1.01 |
| All Groups, excluding Housing Group | 125.6 | 128.4 | +2.2 | 108.19 | 110.64 | +2.45 |

TABLE 4.
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 (d)</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 |

POINTS CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| December quarter 1972 (e) | 38.08 | 38.20 | 36.93 | 39.85 | 38.56 | 39.27 | 37.83 | 38.08 |
| January 1973 | 38.28 | 38.24 | 37.05 | 40.47 | 38.91 | 39.85 | 37.96 | 38.29 |
| February 1973 | 40.08 | 40.32 | 38.96 | 41.88 | 40.61 | 40.58 | 39.23 | 40.62 |
| March 1973 | 40.93 | 40.81 | 40.39 | 42.41 | 41.24 | 41.51 | 39.64 | 40.91 |
| March quarter 1973 (e) | 39.76 | 39.79 | 38.80 | 41.59 | 40.25 | 40.65 | 38.94 | 39.94 |

For footnotes see page 9.

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 15 on page 2.
- (e) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968.
- (f) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's and girls' summerweight underwear.
- (g) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets.
- (h) Includes flats as from December quarter 1968.
- (i) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase.
- (j) Firewood and kerosene. Includes heating oil and briquettes as from December quarter 1968.
- (k) City and suburban rail, bus and tram.
- (l) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading and battery.
- (m) Lubrication service, repairs, registrations, third party insurance and driver's licence.
- (n) Hairdressing, drycleaning, shoe repairs and cinema admission. Includes health services from December quarter 1968.
- (o) Average of three months
- r — revised (see paragraph 10).

