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**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS  
EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES  
MARCH QUARTER 1996**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**Scope of publication**

1. This publication contains average prices for selected items which are included in the Consumer Price Index for the eight capital cities.

2. The CPI covers a wide range of goods and services arranged in eight groups which are in turn divided into subgroups. The selected items for which average prices are shown in this publication fall within the Food Group and the following non-food subgroups: household supplies and services; private motoring; alcoholic drinks; and personal care products. The items and varieties selected, however, do not comprise *all* of the items and varieties which are incorporated in the Food Group or the specified subgroups of the CPI.

**Average prices**

3. Prices shown are the averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc. charged by a number of selected retailers in each city. The specified grades etc. and the retailers have been selected as representative to measure price change over time. Thus the prices do not purport to be the actual averages of all retail sales of these items. They should be regarded as no more than approximate indicators of price levels and price changes for the items concerned. Furthermore, the selected grades, brands, etc. for some items differ between cities and may also differ from one period to the next due to a change in product specification. Thus *the average prices for some items may not be comparable from city to city, nor from quarter to quarter*. Details of differences in specifications are provided in footnotes to the table.

4. Prices for fresh fruit and vegetables are collected weekly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for fresh meat, bread, fish, petrol and alcohol are collected monthly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for fresh milk are collected at the end of the quarter together with details of price changes during the quarter, and average prices calculated for the quarter. Prices for all other items are collected during the mid month of each quarter (i.e. in August, November, February and May).

**Related publications**

5. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on request:

*Consumer Price Index (6401.0) - issued quarterly*

*A Guide to the Consumer Price Index (6440.0)*

*The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods (6461.0)*

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia (1101.0)*. The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice (1105.0)* which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

**Information Consultancy Service**

7. Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

**National Dial-a-Statistic Line – 0055 86 400**

8. This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year for a range of statistics.

**Electronic Data Services**

9. A large range of data is available via on-line services diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact any ABS Office.

**W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician**

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Cheryl Porter on Canberra (06) 252 5754 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and ABS services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, MARCH QUARTER 1996**  
(Cents)

| <i>Item</i>                                 | <i>Unit</i>                | <i>Sydney</i> | <i>Melb.</i> | <i>Brisbane</i> | <i>Adelaide</i> | <i>Perth</i> | <i>Hobart</i> | <i>Darwin</i> | <i>Canberra</i> |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Dairy products</b>                       |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales             | (a) 1 litre                | 113           | 120          | 114             | 114             | 120          | 120           | 111           | 106             |
| Milk, powdered, full cream                  | 750 g                      | 432           | 445          | 444             | 467             | 431          | 524           | 524           | 456             |
| Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped          | 500 g                      | 344           | 362          | 368             | 334             | 336          | 391           | 396           | 390             |
| Butter                                      | (b) 500 g                  | 168           | 182          | 161             | 165             | 198          | 213           | 203           | 178             |
| <b>Cereal products</b>                      |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales | 680 g                      | 185           | 164          | 179             | 152             | 170          | 152           | 190           | 179             |
| Biscuits, dry                               | 250 g                      | 145           | 156          | 134             | 156             | 157          | 176           | 181           | 141             |
| Breakfast cereal, corn based                | 550 g                      | 309           | 333          | 307             | 310             | 371          | 353           | 350           | 316             |
| Flour, self-raising                         | 2 kg                       | 314           | 345          | 262             | 228             | 253          | 285           | 295           | 332             |
| Rice, medium grain                          | 1 kg                       | 121           | 125          | 119             | 107             | 133          | 138           | 148           | 133             |
| <b>Meat and seafoods</b>                    |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| <b>Beef</b>                                 |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Silverside Roast                            | (c) 1 kg                   | 774           | 782          | 871             | 749             | 853          | 734           | 1172          | 738             |
| Rump steak                                  | 1 kg                       | 1307          | 1150         | 1101            | 1122            | 1091         | 1177          | 1230          | 1143            |
| T-bone steak, with fillet                   | 1 kg                       | 1197          | 1051         | 989             | 1152            | 1135         | 1076          | 1249          | 1071            |
| Chuck steak                                 | 1 kg                       | 570           | 632          | 644             | 654             | 621          | 643           | 808           | 539             |
| Silverside, corned                          | 1 kg                       | 677           | 627          | 619             | 637             | 672          | 674           | 647           | 687             |
| <b>Lamb</b>                                 |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Leg   | 1 kg                       | 647           | 605          | 608             | 608             | 608          | 589           | 634           | 588             |
| Loin chops                                  | 1 kg                       | 800           | 878          | 840             | 799             | 922          | 718           | 886           | 824             |
| Forequarter chops                           | 1 kg                       | 501           | 514          | 490             | 566             | 627          | 518           | 612           | 484             |
| <b>Pork</b>                                 |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Leg   | 1 kg                       | 589           | 530          | 595             | 598             | 585          | 653           | 724           | 536             |
| Loin chops                                  | 1 kg                       | 836           | 735          | 839             | 764             | 802          | 786           | 858           | 828             |
| Chicken, frozen                             | 1 kg                       | 277           | 337          | 269             | 350             | 333          | 340           | 380           | 310             |
| Bacon, middle rashers                       | 250 g pkt                  | 287           | 294          | 299             | 303             | 335          | 328           | 359           | 262             |
| Beef corned                                 | 340 g can                  | 264           | 278          | 285             | 250             | 266          | 300           | 281           | 292             |
| Sausages                                    | 1 kg                       | 335           | 370          | 413             | 356             | 396          | 393           | 389           | 311             |
| Salmon, pink                                | 210 g can                  | 236           | 228          | 240             | 218             | 227          | 274           | 257           | 253             |
| <b>Fresh fruit and vegetables</b>           |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Oranges                                     | 1 kg                       | 233           | 148          | 123             | 101             | 163          | 124           | 181           | 83              |
| Bananas                                     | 1 kg                       | 210           | 194          | 191             | 209             | 237          | 213           | 200           | 198             |
| Potatoes                                    | 1 kg                       | 96            | 112          | 101             | 72              | 117          | 88            | 124           | 93              |
| Tomatoes                                    | 1 kg                       | 321           | 236          | 253             | 287             | 296          | 319           | 445           | 277             |
| Carrots                                     | 1 kg                       | 156           | 112          | 119             | 100             | 104          | 129           | 194           | 150             |
| Onions                                      | 1 kg                       | 138           | 105          | 113             | 108             | 117          | 145           | 186           | 115             |
| <b>Processed fruit and vegetables</b>       |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Peaches                                     | 825 g can                  | 191           | 190          | 190             | 186             | 207          | 225           | 249           | 183             |
| Pineapple, sliced                           | 450 g can                  | 105           | 95           | 96              | 94              | 105          | 119           | 122           | 106             |
| Peas, frozen                                | 500 g pkt                  | 130           | 139          | 134             | 122             | 140          | 145           | 181           | 133             |
| <b>Confectionery</b>                        |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Chocolate, milk, block                      | 250 g                      | 274           | 253          | 273             | 257             | 257          | 285           | 271           | 285             |
| <b>Other food</b>                           |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Eggs  | (d) 55g, 1 dozen           | 249           | 239          | 278             | 232             | 227          | 269           | 280           | 257             |
| Sugar, white                                | 2 kg                       | 219           | 205          | 200             | 189             | 220          | 240           | 253           | 212             |
| Jam, strawberry                             | 500 g jar                  | 237           | 239          | 226             | 242             | 247          | 274           | 270           | 246             |
| Tea   | 250 g                      | 195           | 176          | 191             | 175             | 191          | 212           | 201           | 197             |
| Coffee, instant                             | 150 g jar                  | 575           | 572          | 584             | 552             | 556          | 638           | 581           | 586             |
| Tomato sauce                                | 600 ml                     | 175           | 198          | 202             | 173             | 192          | 205           | 217           | 168             |
| Margarine, poly-unsaturated                 | 500 g                      | 168           | 158          | 145             | 141             | 178          | 170           | 199           | 160             |
| Baked beans, in tomato sauce                | 440 g                      | 85            | 91           | 101             | 97              | 103          | 112           | 109           | 100             |
| Baby food                                   | 125 g can                  | 58            | 56           | 57              | 55              | 56           | 65            | 61            | 54              |
| <b>Household supplies and services</b>      |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Laundry detergent                           | 1 kg                       | 500           | 474          | 514             | 489             | 486          | 536           | 556           | 521             |
| Dishwashing detergent                       | 1 litre                    | 368           | 368          | 331             | 371             | 359          | 401           | 377           | 370             |
| Facial tissues                              | pkt 224                    | 192           | 189          | 192             | 194             | 196          | 224           | 198           | 204             |
| Toilet paper                                | 4 x 280 sheet rolls        | 314           | 333          | 333             | 318             | 330          | 370           | 335           | 328             |
| Pet food                                    | 410 g                      | 99            | 93           | 92              | 95              | 99           | 105           | 103           | 91              |
| <b>Private motoring</b>                     |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Petrol, super grade                         | 1 litre                    | 72.5          | 71.9         | 64.1            | 73.6            | 75.2         | 76.0          | 76.9          | 75.6            |
| Petrol, unleaded                            | 1 litre                    | 70.5          | 69.8         | 62.1            | 71.3            | 73.1         | 74.0          | 74.9          | 73.5            |
| <b>Alcoholic drinks</b>                     |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Beer, low alcohol, unchilled                | (c)(f) 24 x 375 ml bottles | 2010          | 1651         | 2311            | 2012            | 2260         | 2270          | 2313          | 1919            |
| Beer, full strength, unchilled              | (f) 24 x 375 ml bottles    | 2658          | 2558         | 2580            | 2642            | 2556         | 2609          | 3049          | 2623            |
| Draught beer, full strength, public bar     | (g) 285 ml glass           | 163           | 179          | 175             | 192             | 203          | 171           | 222           | 165             |
| Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar       | (g) 285 ml glass           | 149           | 155          | 163             | 167             | 197          | 146           | 210           | 141             |
| Scotch nip, public bar                      | 30 ml                      | 313           | 269          | 249             | 318             | 376          | 218           | 306           | 270             |
| <b>Personal care products</b>               |                            |               |              |                 |                 |              |               |               |                 |
| Toilet soap                                 | 2 x 125 g                  | 163           | 168          | 174             | 167             | 167          | 195           | 187           | 170             |
| Toothpaste                                  | 140 g                      | 226           | 220          | 251             | 250             | 247          | 249           | 248           | 242             |

(a) Darwin price relates to blended milk. (b) Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra: 2 x 250 g. (c) Adelaide price relates to blade bolar roast. (d) Eggs in Sydney have a net carton weight of 700 g per dozen. Eggs in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra have a minimum net weight of 55 g. Eggs in Brisbane and Hobart have a minimum net weight of 52 g. Eggs in Perth have a minimum net weight of 50 g. Eggs in Darwin have a minimum net weight of 54 g. (e) Alcoholic content of low alcohol beer ranges from 1.5% to 3.8%. (f) Darwin, chilled. (g) Hobart glass size 225 ml.

