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**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS
EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES
MARCH QUARTER 1997**

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).

5. Commencing with the December quarter 1996, average retail prices are calculated using the geometric mean of the individual observations.

Related publications

6. 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), available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concept Reference Library* (1361.0)

7. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (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 Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

Information Consultancy Service

8. 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

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

Electronic Data Services

10. 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.

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INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Sue Lewis on Canberra (06) 252 5754 or any ABS State office.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

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, MARCH QUARTER 1997 (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>
Dairy products									
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	(a) 1 litre	115	130	116	116	127	125	117	112
Milk, powdered, full cream	750 g	467	495	469	500	466	548	568	491
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	396	359	390	318	342	370	390	356
Butter	(b) 500 g	182	204	173	167	191	208	199	190
Cereal products									
Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	201	193	194	153	177	175	194	193
Biscuits, dry	250 g	153	159	158	152	167	178	176	159
Breakfast cereal, corn based	550 g	329	329	300	304	362	350	342	320
Flour, self raising	2 kg	318	336	268	240	265	270	308	323
Rice, long grain	1 kg	142	145	140	126	157	161	163	141
Meat and seafoods									
Beef									
Silverside Roast	(c) 1 kg	742	759	756	594	729	665	869	672
Rump steak	1 kg	1202	1079	1053	1157	1094	1051	1272	1071
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	1146	995	1011	1091	1107	1024	1247	1008
Chuck steak	1 kg	519	571	569	602	604	586	782	476
Silverside, corned	1 kg	599	634	572	597	652	602	548	605
Lamb									
Leg	1 kg	626	580	587	572	623	603	655	575
Loin chops	1 kg	758	858	811	799	888	742	910	764
Forequarter chops	1 kg	484	501	489	568	593	513	554	452
Pork									
Leg	1 kg	584	555	602	616	620	660	719	581
Loin chops	1 kg	901	791	863	799	825	818	853	900
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	361	379	343	351	357	393	416	362
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	299	309	304	325	355	324	378	312
Beef corned	340 g can	273	286	295	263	286	311	304	272
Sausages	1 kg	326	361	335	359	410	349	419	301
Salmon, pink	210 g can	206	220	220	211	226	267	247	221
Fresh fruit and vegetables									
Oranges	1 kg	223	130	130	89	265	122	167	99
Bananas	1 kg	248	207	194	224	253	217	210	231
Potatoes	1 kg	105	115	93	78	119	89	112	98
Tomatoes	1 kg	260	195	220	289	282	272	419	239
Carrots	1 kg	169	119	145	113	121	135	174	156
Onions	1 kg	135	97	117	134	92	106	167	122
Processed fruit and vegetables									
Peaches	825 g can	190	187	199	182	235	209	246	203
Pineapple, sliced	450 g can	111	99	102	84	112	121	123	109
Peas, frozen	500 g pkt	132	128	137	119	148	148	172	123
Confectionery									
Chocolate, milk, block	250 g	279	276	271	258	270	287	278	273
Other food									
Eggs	(d) 55g, 1 dozen	271	263	281	246	246	288	310	275
Sugar, white	2 kg	223	206	193	183	226	237	255	218
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	234	245	234	217	251	276	283	242
Tea	250 g	193	185	189	169	202	212	213	190
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	552	533	546	500	561	573	538	559
Tomato sauce	600 ml	175	177	189	158	204	200	206	178
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	164	139	145	141	153	162	191	160
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	425 g	92	92	99	88	105	104	105	101
Baby food	125 g can	58	56	58	55	58	67	61	60
Household supplies and services									
Laundry detergent	1 kg	538	504	553	458	503	562	576	500
Dishwashing detergent	1 litre	382	377	365	369	371	409	367	385
Facial tissues	pkt 224	191	182	190	173	194	209	189	191
Toilet paper	4 x 280 sheet rolls	313	318	347	316	337	336	310	312
Pet food	410 g	98	99	97	94	110	111	99	95
Private motoring									
Petrol, super grade	1 litre	77.1	75.2	68.2	77.5	77.4	80.0	82.0	80.3
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	74.9	73.0	66.0	75.2	75.2	77.9	80.0	78.1
Alcoholic drinks									
Beer, low alcohol, unchilled	(e) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2099	1602	2355	2067	2323	2299	2314	2027
Beer, full strength, unchilled	(e) (f) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2742	2643	2570	2686	2660	2713	3086	2625
Draught beer, full strength, public bar	285 ml glass	167	193	179	194	221	179	227	175
Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar	(g) 285 ml glass	151	164	168	171	216	154	213	152
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	318	285	252	345	340	247	315	287
Personal care products									
Toilet soap	2 x 125 g	181	169	186	174	176	197	206	173
Toothpaste	140 g	232	235	258	236	247	240	250	238

(a) Darwin price relates to blended milk. (b) Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra: 2 x 250 g. (c) Adelaide price relates to blade bolar roast. Darwin price relates to topside roast. (d) Eggs in Sydney have a net carton weight of 700 g per dozen. Eggs in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra have a minimum weight of 55g. Eggs in Brisbane and Hobart have a minimum net weight of 52 g. Eggs in Perth have a minimum net weight of 50g. Eggs in Darwin have a minimum net weight of 54g. (e) Darwin, chilled. (f) Alcoholic content of full strength beer is greater than 3.9%. (g) Hobart glass size 225 ml.

