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**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS
EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES
SEPTEMBER 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 Release 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.

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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 ABS services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

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

Item	Unit	Sydney	Melb.	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra
Dairy products									
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	(a) 1 litre	114	125	114	114	124	120	116	109
Milk, powdered, full cream	750 g	455	481	461	484	464	554	544	479
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	377	349	344	322	348	366	390	354
Butter	(b) 500 g	180	202	172	160	198	214	192	184
Cereal products									
Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	195	192	193	154	184	167	194	182
Biscuits, dry	250 g	152	157	161	151	166	177	177	158
Breakfast cereal, corn based	550 g	316	322	346	309	353	351	353	311
Flour, self raising	2 kg	327	338	259	243	264	288	310	331
Rice, medium grain	1 kg	123	134	121	107	130	132	156	128
Meat and seafoods									
Beef									
Silverside Roast	(c) 1 kg	756	784	770	725	834	680	820	739
Rump steak	1 kg	1221	1107	1056	1123	1082	1074	1289	1048
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	1126	1033	956	1099	1131	984	1302	1044
Chuck steak	1 kg	551	589	623	632	633	641	745	520
Silverside, corned	1 kg	662	643	556	624	677	632	545	647
Lamb									
Leg	1 kg	650	639	603	586	612	618	672	627
Loin chops	1 kg	786	895	822	808	907	783	907	843
Forequarter chops	1 kg	495	504	508	555	611	534	580	506
Pork									
Leg	1 kg	598	536	612	621	600	677	726	555
Loin chops	1 kg	852	755	860	778	825	799	868	856
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	307	352	342	369	346	397	383	322
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	301	299	289	292	349	330	354	292
Beef corned	340 g can	276	295	275	269	285	314	305	301
Sausages	1 kg	341	370	407	351	418	382	385	288
Salmon, pink	210 g can	216	224	228	215	230	267	256	237
Fresh fruit and vegetables									
Oranges	1 kg	198	124	120	102	178	119	187	141
Bananas	1 kg	275	263	255	266	294	276	201	263
Potatoes	1 kg	86	94	90	67	120	78	109	83
Tomatoes	1 kg	316	276	252	393	320	323	427	289
Carrots	1 kg	156	123	109	127	115	127	185	151
Onions	1 kg	115	80	91	83	67	105	140	99
Processed fruit and vegetables									
Peaches	825 g can	190	190	194	174	208	222	253	184
Pineapple, sliced	450 g can	109	93	95	80	107	119	124	108
Pears, frozen	500 g pkt	128	132	140	115	145	160	176	131
Confectionery									
Chocolate, milk, block	250 g	275	278	281	255	281	303	271	297
Other food									
Eggs	(d) 55g, 1 dozen	278	256	284	239	242	289	291	284
Sugar, white	2 kg	223	206	202	182	227	240	260	221
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	244	258	222	226	249	274	279	240
Tea	250 g	186	182	181	168	195	207	210	184
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	572	568	572	509	574	617	565	566
Tomato sauce	600 ml	173	181	199	152	194	199	207	170
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	161	148	152	139	183	162	211	154
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	425 g	94	95	98	86	107	117	116	100
Baby food	125 g can	57	54	57	53	58	65	61	55
Household supplies and services									
Laundry detergent	1 kg	527	491	562	441	529	561	514	535
Dishwashing detergent	1 litre	379	381	356	375	372	414	389	384
Facial tissues	pkt 224	194	183	189	175	190	219	222	198
Toilet paper	4 x 280 sheet rolls	322	327	343	285	315	378	343	329
Pet food	410 g	100	98	103	96	108	116	106	96
Private motoring									
Petrol, super grade	1 litre	72.8	73.6	64.4	73.6	74.6	76.2	79.4	76.2
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	70.7	71.5	62.2	71.3	72.5	74.1	77.4	74.0
Alcoholic drinks									
Beer, low alcohol, unchilled	(e)(f) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2108	1602	2276	2078	2275	2246	2351	2122
Beer, full strength, unchilled	(f) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2663	2606	2516	2698	2629	2748	3095	2679
Draught beer, full strength, public bar	(g) 285 ml glass	167	186	178	196	214	177	225	169
Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar	(g) 285 ml glass	153	160	166	169	209	152	211	146
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	31.7	28.3	25.1	32.9	32.4	24.1	31.0	28.2
Personal care products									
Toilet soap	2 x 125 g	176	171	186	170	174	203	201	170
Toothpaste	140 g	237	234	246	240	260	257	248	246

(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 prices now relate to topside roast and are not comparable with previous periods. (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.

