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**PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS, AUSTRALIA  
FEBRUARY 1997**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**Introduction**

This publication contains index numbers for copper materials used in the manufacture of three types of electrical equipment (namely *Industrial electric motors*; *Distribution transformers*; and *Power transformers*). Each index is presented on *reference base: Year 1983-84 = 100.0*.

2. A detailed description of these indexes was shown in the Appendix to the June 1984 issue of this publication.

**Items and weights**

3. These indexes are *fixed weights indexes*. The items included in the indexes were allocated weights in accordance with the estimated average values of copper material used in the manufacture of each type of equipment in 1982-83. The weights do not necessarily reflect the relative values of materials used by particular manufacturers.

**Prices**

4. The prices used in these indexes relate to the mid-point of each month. Prices are those charged by major manufacturers or distributors of copper materials to electrical equipment manufacturers for materials delivered into store. The prices used relate to materials of fixed specifications.

5. The index for *Industrial electric motors* is intended to measure price movements of copper materials used in electric motors for industrial applications only. This index does not necessarily reflect the price movements of copper used in the manufacture of other smaller types of electric motors, such as those used as components in white goods or other domestic appliances.

**Index numbers**

6. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the monthly index numbers.

7. Index numbers for the latest month are preliminary and subject to revision. However, it may be necessary to revise index numbers for earlier periods, from time to time, where incorrect prices for those periods are detected later on.

**Analysis of index changes**

8. Care should be exercised when interpreting month-to-month movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

9. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in 'index points' or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating index points changes and percentage changes between any two periods:

*Industrial electric motors index numbers —*

February 1997	180.3 (see Table 1)
less February 1996	189.6 (see Table 1)
Change in index points	-9.3

Percentage change =  $-9.3 / 189.6 \times 100 = -4.9$

10. In this publication percentage changes are shown in respect of movements between:

- consecutive financial years
- corresponding months of consecutive years
- consecutive months.

**Related publications**

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

*Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0) — issued monthly*

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Margaret Hayes on Canberra (06) 252 5541 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

*Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0) – issued monthly*

*Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Australia (6415.0) – issued monthly*

*Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities (6407.0) – issued monthly*

*Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (6408.0) – issued monthly*

*Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0) – issued monthly.*

12. 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.

#### **Unpublished statistics**

13. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS has a large range of other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be directed to the contact in the phone inquiries box at the front of this publication.

#### **Symbols and other usages**

- p preliminary – figures subject to revision.
- r figure revised since previous issue.
- nil or rounded to zero.

#### **Electronic services**

14. 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**

**TABLE 1. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE  
OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**  
(Base of each index: Year 1983-84 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Copper materials used in the manufacture of—</i>		
	<i>Industrial electric motors</i>	<i>Distribution transformers</i>	<i>Power transformers</i>
INDEX NUMBERS			
1993-94	166.4	158.7	193.7
1994-95	178.9	170.7	199.0
1995-96	196.7	185.4	218.6
<i>1995-96 —</i>			
December	205.0	194.7	226.5
January	198.3	187.7	220.7
February	189.6	178.4	212.7
March	188.3	177.2	211.5
April	183.9	172.6	207.7
May	190.5	179.3	213.6
June	180.1	168.9	204.9
<i>1996-97 —</i>			
July	162.8	151.8	190.5
August	166.5	155.9	194.3
September	163.8	153.0	189.7
October	160.9	148.9	187.1
November	164.8	153.1	189.7
December	176.7	165.0	198.2
January	174.2	162.6	196.9
February p	180.3	170.4	200.7

TABLE 1. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE  
OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT- *continued*  
(Base of each index: Year 1983-84 = 100.0)

Period	<i>Copper materials used in the manufacture of</i>		
	<i>Industrial electric motors</i>	<i>Distribution transformers</i>	<i>Power transformers</i>
PERCENTAGE CHANGES			
<i>Change from previous year</i>			
1993-94	-6.7	-6.8	-3.8
1994-95	7.5	7.6	2.7
1995-96	9.9	8.6	9.8
<i>Change from corresponding month of previous year</i>			
<i>1995-96 —</i>			
December	3.1	2.3	2.7
January	-1.2	-3.0	-0.8
February	-5.5	-6.3	-4.6
March	-6.7	-7.9	-5.5
April	-10.9	-11.7	-8.7
May	-4.5	-4.9	-2.7
June	-14.0	-14.6	-10.3
<i>1996-97 —</i>			
July	-24.1	-25.1	-18.1
August	-19.3	-19.9	-13.8
September	-19.5	-20.1	-15.5
October	-19.1	-20.7	-15.5
November	-18.3	-19.4	-14.7
December	-13.8	-15.3	-12.5
January	-12.2	-13.4	-10.8
February p	-4.9	-4.5	-5.6
<i>Change from previous month</i>			
<i>1995-96 —</i>			
December	1.7	2.5	1.9
January	-3.3	-3.6	-2.6
February	-4.4	-5.0	-3.6
March	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6
April	-2.3	-2.6	-1.8
May	3.6	3.9	2.8
June	-5.5	-5.8	-4.1
<i>1996-97 —</i>			
July	-9.6	-10.1	-7.0
August	2.3	2.7	2.0
September	-1.6	-1.9	-2.4
October	-1.8	-2.7	-1.4
November	2.4	2.8	1.4
December	7.2	7.8	4.5
January	-1.4	-1.5	-0.7
February p	3.5	4.8	1.9

