

**PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA  
FEBRUARY 1994**

**MAIN FEATURES**

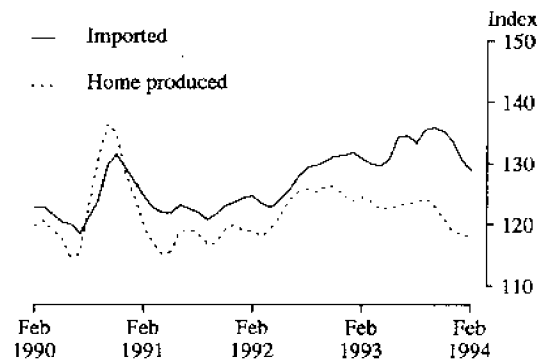
	Change between —	
	January 1994 and February 1994 %	February 1993 and February 1994 %
Imported materials	-1.5	-1.5
Home produced materials	-0.3	-5.3
Manufacturing Division	-0.8	-3.9

The Manufacturing Division index decreased by 0.8 per cent in February 1994 (-1.0 index points). Prices of Home produced materials fell by 0.3 per cent in February, while prices of Imported materials fell by 1.5 per cent.

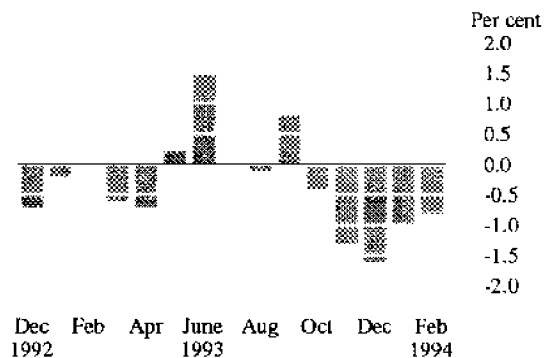
Lower prices for components for machinery and equipment, wheat and the continuing improvement in the Australian dollar against most major trading currencies were the major contributors to the fall in the index this month. These decreases were partly offset by increases in some metal prices, in particular nickel and copper concentrates.

The Manufacturing Division index decreased by 3.9 per cent between February 1993 and February 1994; the Home produced materials index fell by 5.3 per cent and the Imported materials index fell by 1.5 per cent.

**INDEX NUMBERS**  
(Base: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)



**MANUFACTURING DIVISION**  
(Percentage change from previous month)



**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Geoff Brown on Canberra (06) 252 5348 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

NOTE: Explanatory Notes are published at the back of this publication.

TABLE 1. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
 MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEXES  
 (Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Manufacturing Division</i>	<i>Source of materials</i>	
		<i>Imported materials</i>	<i>Home produced materials</i>
INDEX NUMBERS			
1990-91	123.8	124.7	123.3
1991-92	120.7	123.3	119.3
1992-93	126.6	130.6	124.6
<i>1992-93 —</i>			
December	127.0	131.3	124.7
January	126.7	131.8	124.0
February	126.7	130.8	124.6
March	125.9	129.9	123.8
April	125.0	129.6	122.6
May	125.3	130.7	122.5
June	127.2	134.3	123.4
<i>1993-94 —</i>			
July	127.2	134.5	123.4
August	127.1	133.3	123.9
September	128.1	135.5	124.3
October	127.6	135.8	123.2
November	126.0	135.2	121.1
December	124.0	133.6	119.0
January p	122.7	130.7	118.4
February p	121.7	128.8	118.0

TABLE 1. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
 MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEXES — *continued*  
 (Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

Period	Manufacturing Division	Source of materials	
		Imported materials	Home produced materials
PERCENTAGE CHANGES			
<i>Change from previous year</i>			
1990-91	4.0	3.0	4.6
1991-92	-2.5	-1.1	-3.2
1992-93	4.9	5.9	4.4
<i>Change from corresponding month of previous year</i>			
<i>1992-93 —</i>			
December	4.8	6.1	4.0
January	4.8	5.9	4.2
February	4.8	4.9	4.8
March	4.9	5.1	4.8
April	3.7	5.5	2.8
May	2.4	5.2	0.9
June	2.1	6.8	-0.5
<i>1993-94 —</i>			
July	0.8	5.3	-1.6
August	—	3.0	-1.6
September	0.9	4.5	-0.9
October	-0.2	4.1	-2.5
November	-1.5	3.0	-4.0
December	-2.4	1.8	-4.6
January p	-3.2	-0.8	-4.5
February p	-3.9	-1.5	-5.3
<i>Change from previous month</i>			
<i>1992-93 —</i>			
December	-0.7	0.1	-1.2
January	-0.2	0.4	-0.6
February	—	-0.8	0.5
March	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6
April	-0.7	-0.2	-1.0
May	0.2	0.8	-0.1
June	1.5	2.8	0.7
<i>1993-94 —</i>			
July	—	0.1	—
August	-0.1	-0.9	0.4
September	0.8	1.7	0.3
October	-0.4	0.2	-0.9
November	-1.3	-0.4	-1.7
December	-1.6	-1.2	-1.7
January p	-1.0	-2.2	-0.5
February p	-0.8	-1.5	-0.3

**TABLE 2. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**  
**CONTRIBUTION OF SELECTED CATEGORIES OF MATERIALS TO MANUFACTURING DIVISION INDEX**  
 (Expressed in terms of total Manufacturing Division index points) (a)

<i>Category</i>	<i>January 1994 p</i>	<i>February 1994 p</i>	<i>Change</i>
Manufacturing Division	122.7	121.7	-1.0
<i>Contribution to Manufacturing Division index (in index points) —</i>			
All Imported materials	45.14	44.49	-0.65
Selected Imported materials			
Crude petroleum and condensates	3.49	3.61	0.12
Textile fibres, yarns and fabrics	5.76	5.65	-0.11
Pulp, paper and materials made of paper	3.19	3.13	-0.06
Chemicals and chemical based materials	9.15	9.02	-0.13
Basic iron and steel	2.70	2.68	-0.02
Components for machinery and equipment	10.86	10.54	-0.32
All Home produced materials	77.50	77.24	-0.26
Selected Home produced materials			
Live animals	18.61	18.53	-0.08
Other agricultural materials	16.57	16.39	-0.18
Hardwood and softwood logs	1.87	1.88	0.01
Fish, prawns and lobsters	1.82	1.83	0.01
Metal ores and concentrates	9.37	9.42	0.05
Coal, crude petroleum and gas	18.14	18.08	-0.06
Electricity	5.83	5.80	-0.03

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 27 of the Explanatory Notes and the Appendix to the February 1988 issue of this publication.

TABLE 3. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
INDEXES FOR SELECTED CATEGORIES OF IMPORTED MATERIALS  
(Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Agricultural materials (a)</i>	<i>Crude petroleum and condensates</i>	<i>Mining materials (a)</i>	<i>Textile fibres, yarns and fabrics</i>	<i>Pulp, paper and materials made of paper</i>
1990-91	83.5	73.5	79.7	138.2	129.7
1991-92	85.0	61.8	70.2	140.0	124.5
1992-93	89.6	67.2	72.5	148.7	125.1
<i>1992-93 —</i>					
December	87.5	68.0	73.0	150.2	127.8
January	87.0	65.7	71.0	151.1	129.4
February	93.6	63.8	69.4	150.4	128.6
March	94.2	65.7	70.8	148.5	126.4
April	93.4	65.2	70.4	147.9	122.9
May	93.7	64.8	70.2	149.7	123.6
June	91.2	65.0	70.7	152.6	121.5
<i>1993-94 —</i>					
July	90.8	63.3	69.2	153.2	124.6
August	91.5	59.4	64.8	152.8	125.0
September	92.1	61.9	67.2	154.2	123.7
October	93.0	62.0	67.6	155.0	124.8
November	93.0	62.1	67.6	155.5	125.1
December	92.6	57.5	63.5	154.0	123.5
January p	92.5	52.5	59.0	152.4	123.0
February p	91.3	54.3	60.3	149.5	120.9

For footnotes, see end of Table 4.

TABLE 3. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
INDEXES FOR SELECTED CATEGORIES OF IMPORTED MATERIALS — *continued*  
(Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Chemicals and chemical based materials</i>	<i>Basic iron and steel</i>	<i>Components for machinery and equipment</i>	<i>Manufactured materials (a)</i>	<i>All imported materials (a)</i>
1990-91	158.7	131.2	144.3	140.3	124.7
1991-92	162.6	128.2	145.5	141.3	123.3
1992-93	165.4	125.6	162.7	150.2	130.6
<i>1992-93 —</i>					
December	166.7	126.8	161.7	151.1	131.3
January	168.0	124.6	163.8	152.4	131.8
February	163.7	123.4	164.9	151.2	130.8
March	160.4	122.7	164.9	149.6	129.9
April	159.8	121.9	164.9	149.3	129.6
May	161.2	124.1	169.1	150.9	130.7
June	170.0	122.9	176.6	155.7	134.3
<i>1993-94 —</i>					
July	169.0	122.9	178.3	156.4	134.5
August	164.9	122.8	180.9	156.1	133.3
September	168.4	123.9	183.4	158.3	135.5
October	167.3	123.8	184.6	158.5	135.8
November	165.8	124.3	183.5	157.8	135.2
December	164.7	124.4	182.6	156.8	133.6
January p	161.4	124.4	178.4	154.3	130.7
February p	159.0	123.3	173.0	151.4	128.8

For footnotes, see end of Table 4.

**TABLE 4. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
INDEXES FOR SELECTED CATEGORIES OF HOME PRODUCED MATERIALS**  
(Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Live animals</i>	<i>Other agricultural materials</i>	<i>Hardwood and softwood logs</i>	<i>Fish, prawns and lobsters</i>	<i>Agricultural, forestry and fishing materials (a)</i>
1990-91	118.7	130.1	153.6	175.2	126.9
1991-92	120.8	131.1	155.8	182.6	128.7
1992-93	129.5	135.3	155.3	198.9	135.2
<i>1992-93 —</i>					
December	132.3	135.7	154.6	184.9	136.2
January	135.2	135.0	155.6	186.2	137.4
February	134.7	136.2	155.4	186.9	137.8
March	130.8	135.3	154.2	193.2	135.6
April	128.7	133.5	155.0	194.9	133.8
May	124.9	137.1	154.2	205.8	133.9
June	130.6	136.7	156.1	230.9	137.2
<i>1993-94 —</i>					
July	136.6	135.0	154.1	240.7	139.6
August	139.7	135.6	155.0	250.2	141.7
September	140.9	134.8	153.7	254.4	141.9
October	138.6	133.6	154.2	255.6	140.4
November	139.1	133.8	154.6	260.9	140.9
December	140.6	135.2	154.0	251.6	142.0
January p	139.7	136.3	153.4	235.9	141.5
February p	139.1	134.8	153.9	237.3	140.6

For footnotes, see end of table.

**TABLE 4. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
INDEXES FOR SELECTED CATEGORIES OF HOME PRODUCED MATERIALS — continued**  
(Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Metal ores and concentrates</i>	<i>Coal, crude petroleum and gas</i>	<i>Mining materials (a)</i>	<i>Electricity (a)</i>	<i>All home produced materials (a)</i>
1990-91	149.4	105.8	119.1	128.9	123.3
1991-92	139.2	93.3	108.7	133.0	119.3
1992-93	141.6	99.3	113.6	133.2	124.6
<i>1992-93 —</i>					
December	142.2	98.4	113.1	132.3	124.7
January	140.6	95.6	110.7	132.4	124.0
February	140.9	96.6	111.6	132.9	124.6
March	137.5	97.9	111.7	132.5	123.8
April	136.1	97.1	110.8	132.8	122.6
May	136.2	96.7	110.5	132.7	122.5
June	133.9	96.1	109.6	132.9	123.4
<i>1993-94 —</i>					
July	134.6	93.6	107.3	133.6	123.4
August	131.7	93.6	106.6	133.3	123.9
September	129.6	95.1	107.2	133.2	124.3
October	128.7	94.3	106.4	133.1	123.2
November	126.8	88.2	101.7	133.3	121.1
December	126.3	81.1	96.6	133.0	119.0
January p	129.0	79.2	95.9	133.0	118.4
February p	129.8	78.9	95.9	132.5	118.0

(a) Index numbers are available for these series back to July 1968. Annual index numbers for the period 1968-69 to 1984-85, on reference base: Year 1984-85 = 100.0, are shown in Table A5 in the Appendix to the December 1985 issue of this publication.

TABLE 5. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
 MANUFACTURING SUBDIVISION INDEXES  
 (Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food, beverages and tobacco (21)</i>	<i>Textiles (23)</i>	<i>Clothing (244-245)</i>	<i>Footwear (246)</i>	<i>Wood, wood products and furniture (25)</i>	<i>Paper, paper products, printing and publishing (26)</i>	<i>Basic chemicals and other chemical products (275-276)</i>
1990-91	126.1	131.1	142.3	146.1	148.3	138.8	133.7
1991-92	128.8	126.4	146.2	143.5	148.4	137.5	137.7
1992-93	134.3	128.2	151.3	142.9	153.9	138.0	137.0
<i>1992-93 —</i>							
December	134.6	131.2	151.4	141.0	152.4	139.4	137.9
January	135.5	130.9	152.3	141.8	153.9	140.6	138.7
February	136.1	128.7	152.5	143.8	153.9	139.8	137.0
March	134.8	125.4	151.6	143.8	153.9	138.2	134.9
April	133.7	123.4	151.4	143.8	156.9	136.4	134.5
May	133.9	123.0	152.4	145.3	158.2	136.9	132.1
June	136.1	126.7	154.3	145.1	162.3	136.1	136.2
<i>1993-94 —</i>							
July	137.8	125.8	154.3	145.2	162.3	137.7	136.3
August	139.2	127.5	153.6	145.0	162.7	137.7	133.9
September	139.6	127.8	155.6	146.9	163.4	137.0	135.5
October	138.4	128.9	154.2	147.2	163.0	137.8	137.1
November	138.4	131.0	151.0	146.7	162.6	138.0	136.7
December	139.0	130.9	150.3	147.2	163.8	136.8	134.9
January p	138.3	129.9	149.2	146.9	162.5	136.0	133.4
February p	137.3	129.6	147.6	146.7	161.0	134.5	132.8

TABLE 5. PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES  
 MANUFACTURING SUBDIVISION INDEXES — *continued*  
 (Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Petroleum and coal products (277-278)</i>	<i>Non-metallic mineral products (28)</i>	<i>Basic metal products (29)</i>	<i>Fabricated metal products (31)</i>	<i>Transport equipment (32)</i>	<i>Other machinery and equipment (33)</i>	<i>Miscellaneous manufacturing (34)</i>
1990-91	94.9	140.9	142.1	148.2	146.0	143.8	132.4
1991-92	81.6	147.2	136.5	146.9	145.3	140.2	125.4
1992-93	88.2	149.0	135.5	146.3	154.1	143.1	131.5
<i>1992-93 —</i>							
December	87.6	149.4	136.0	146.9	153.6	142.9	131.2
January	84.7	149.5	135.2	145.8	154.1	143.5	132.4
February	85.1	149.5	134.4	145.6	155.1	143.5	132.2
March	86.6	149.0	132.0	145.2	155.7	142.8	132.9
April	85.8	148.4	130.9	144.5	155.9	142.0	132.5
May	85.4	148.2	131.0	144.9	158.1	142.9	133.4
June	84.9	147.8	130.1	145.6	161.9	144.2	134.3
<i>1993-94 —</i>							
July	82.4	141.9	130.4	145.7	163.5	144.3	131.8
August	81.4	141.3	126.8	146.4	165.0	145.1	132.9
September	83.3	140.6	125.4	146.4	166.7	145.8	134.1
October	82.7	140.8	125.0	145.7	167.5	144.6	133.5
November	77.6	140.4	123.4	145.7	166.5	144.2	133.3
December	70.5	140.4	122.7	145.8	165.8	144.3	133.6
January p	67.7	139.8	124.1	146.3	164.0	144.0	132.6
February p	68.0	139.7	124.5	146.0	161.2	143.5	132.2

**TABLE 6. SELECTED METALLIC MATERIALS USED IN THE FABRICATED  
METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (ASIC Subdivision 31)**  
(Base of each index: Year 1984-85 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Iron and steel (a)</i>	<i>Aluminium (a)</i>	<i>Copper and brass (a)</i>	<i>Zinc (a)</i>
1990-91	145.7	152.0	176.0	161.0
1991-92	146.4	141.0	171.0	143.6
1992-93	145.4	135.8	180.0	155.0
<i>1992-93 —</i>				
December	146.1	136.7	180.7	151.2
January	144.5	135.4	185.4	152.1
February	143.9	136.9	185.3	153.0
March	144.1	135.5	179.4	152.7
April	144.0	133.9	172.3	143.7
May	145.8	130.1	165.6	142.8
June	146.4	129.7	169.0	142.3
<i>1993-94 —</i>				
July	146.4	130.8	171.0	141.1
August	146.5	134.8	173.4	138.8
September	146.5	135.1	174.5	135.8
October	146.5	133.4	163.1	138.1
November	147.0	132.3	160.2	140.0
December	147.4	130.1	159.8	140.5
January p	147.8	130.5	163.0	143.2
February p	147.7	129.6	164.9	142.1

(a) These index numbers replace series previously published in Table 1 of the Price Indexes of Metallic Minerals, Australia (6410.0). Except for Zinc, index numbers are available for these series back to July 1968. Zinc index numbers are only available back to July 1976. Annual index numbers for the period 1968-69 to 1984-85, on reference base: Year 1984-85 = 100.0, are shown in Table A6 in the Appendix to the December 1985 issue of this publication.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication contains a set of price indexes relating to materials used in Australian manufacturing industries. Each index is presented on *reference base: Year 1984-85 = 100.0*.

2. Table 1 contains index numbers for materials used in the Manufacturing Industry as a whole (Division C of the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (ASIC)) and for Imported materials and Home produced materials contributing to the Division index.

3. Table 2 provides an analysis of the contributions which selected categories of materials make to the total Manufacturing Division index (*see* paragraph 27).

4. Tables 3 and 4 contain index numbers for selected groups of commodities used in the Manufacturing Division. These include index numbers for Imported materials and Home produced materials and for selected commodity groupings within each of these categories.

5. Table 5 contains index numbers for materials used in 14 Manufacturing 'sectors'. These 'sectors' are defined in terms of ASIC Subdivisions, ASIC Groups or combinations of ASIC Groups.

6. Table 6 contains index numbers for selected commodities used in the Fabricated Metal Products index (ASIC Subdivision 31).

7. Some of the index number series in Tables 3, 4, 5 and 6 replace series that were included in this publication prior to the December 1985 issue. The index numbers in Table 6 replace series previously published in Table 1 of *Price Indexes of Metallic Materials, Australia* (6410.0). Details of the relationship between new and old series are set out in paragraphs 20 to 25 of, and the Appendix to, the December 1985 issue of this publication.

8. The Appendix to the December 1985 issue provides details of the composition and weighting of each index included in this publication. It also advises users about linking (new) index number series on the *reference base: Year 1984-85 = 100.0* and (old) index number series on the *reference base: Year 1968-69 = 100.0*. The Appendix also contains tables of linked annual index numbers for the period from 1968-69 to 1984-85 on *reference base: Year 1984-85 = 100.0*.

### Scope and composition

9. The composition of each of the indexes in this publication is based on materials (including fuels) used by establishments classified to designated 'sectors' of Australian manufacturing industry (i.e. ASIC Division C, Manufacturing). The indexes are on a *net 'sector'*

*basis*; that is, each relates only to those materials which are used in the defined 'sector' of Australian manufacturing industry and which have been produced by establishments outside that 'sector'. These establishments are either Australian manufacturing establishments classified to other manufacturing 'sectors' or to other Divisions of Australian industry (e.g. 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting' or 'Mining') or are overseas producers (including overseas manufacturing establishments).

10. The Manufacturing Division index measures changes in prices of materials (including fuels) used by establishments classified to ASIC Division C, Manufacturing, which have been purchased or transferred in from establishments outside the Manufacturing Division. It excludes semi-processed materials which have been produced by establishments within the Manufacturing Division and are sold or transferred to other establishments within the Manufacturing Division. The index reflects purchases of materials at the point of entry to the Manufacturing Division.

11. The indexes for ASIC Subdivisions 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33 and 34 and the indexes for ASIC Groups 244-245, 246, 275-276 and 277-278 measure changes in prices of materials (including fuels) used by establishments classified to each defined ASIC manufacturing 'sector' which have been purchased or transferred in from establishments outside that 'sector'. Each excludes semi-processed materials which have been produced by establishments within that specific 'sector' and sold or transferred to establishments in the same 'sector'. The pricing and weights for these *net 'sector'* indexes therefore reflect purchases and transfers in at the point of entry to the respective ASIC Subdivision, or ASIC Group or Group combination.

### Items and weights

12. These indexes are *fixed weights indexes*. The items included in the indexes were selected on the basis of values of materials used in 1977-78. With a few exceptions the selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the estimated value of manufacturing usage in 1977-78.

The exceptions are:

- (a) *Fuels* (e.g. crude petroleum, natural gas and electricity), which were allocated weights on the basis of estimated usage in 1982-83;
- (b) *Cereal grains*, which were allocated weights based on estimated manufacturing usage in 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

- (c) *Live animals*, which were allocated weights based on the average value of slaughtering in 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84.

13. Many of the selected items carry not only the weight of directly priced materials but also the weight of unpriced materials whose prices are considered to move similarly to those of directly priced materials.

14. For the Manufacturing Division index, individual materials have been grouped into two broad categories: Imported materials and Home produced materials. Within each of these categories materials have been grouped on the basis of ASIC *industry of origin* (i.e. the industry in which, in accordance with the classification rules of ASIC, the materials are primarily produced in Australia or the industry in which the materials would be classified had the materials been produced in Australia). Percentage contributions in 1984-85, of individual materials to the relevant commodity groups and to the Manufacturing Division as a whole are set out in Table A1 in the Appendix to the December 1985 issue of this publication.

15. Percentage contributions, in 1984-85, for each material to each 'sector' index are set out in Table A2 in the Appendix to the December 1985 issue of this publication.

#### Prices

16. For those materials subject to significant price variation throughout the month (e.g. agricultural materials, metal ores and concentrates and imported materials generally) average monthly prices are used in compiling these indexes. All other materials are priced at the mid-point in the month. Prices of home produced materials are generally obtained from manufacturers who use the material but in some cases prices are obtained from suppliers (producers or wholesalers). Prices of imported materials are generally obtained from importers.

17. In concept, pricing for these indexes is at the point at which the material physically enters the defined manufacturing 'sector'. Therefore, as far as possible, prices are on a *delivered into store* basis.

#### Prices of transferred goods

18. Transfers which do not take place on the open market present problems in the measurement of price change. An example is where a vertically integrated enterprise extracts a mineral (mining activity) and also processes it (manufacturing activity). Since the material is transferred from one part of the enterprise to another there is usually no transaction price. In such instances various methods of imputing changes in market prices have been adopted. Depending on circumstances and the availability of data, these methods include using

changes in opportunity cost (based, for example, on the price of the material in an established market) or changes in cost (based on expenses actually incurred in obtaining the material). Imputations of this kind enter partly into price series for materials such as nickel concentrates, silver-lead concentrates and zinc concentrates.

#### Seasonal materials

19. In the case of some seasonal materials such as fruit and vegetables, where deliveries do not occur over the whole year, the previous season's prices are repeated for the months outside the selling season until the subsequent season's prices become operative.

#### Estimated prices

20. For items such as sugar cane, where prices are only determined annually, the final prices are sometimes not known until during or after the relevant season or contract period, and sometimes not for many months after the close of the season or contract period. Estimates of the current season or contract period price are used in index calculations until the final price becomes available. Incorporation of such final prices may involve lengthy revisions of index numbers.

#### Electricity

21. The index numbers for electricity published in Table 4 are based on prices paid for electricity used by a representative sample of manufacturing establishments. Both 'tariff' prices and special contract prices are included in the calculations.

#### Index numbers

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

23. Index numbers for the latest month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision. Index numbers which include estimated prices for materials (e.g. sugar cane) are also preliminary until actual prices are obtained at the end of the season or contract period (see paragraph 20 above). 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

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

25. 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:

*Manufacturing Division index numbers —*

February 1994	121.7 (see Table 1)
less February 1993	126.7 (see Table 1)
Change in index points	-5.0

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{-5.0}{126.7} \times 100 = -3.9$$

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

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

27. Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of materials make to the total Manufacturing Division index. For example, Imported components for machinery and equipment contributed +10.54 index points to the total Manufacturing Division index number of 121.7 for February 1994 and -0.32 index points to the net change of -1.0 index points. A further explanation is provided in the Appendix to the February 1988 issue of this publication.

**Related publications**

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

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

*Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Australia (6410.0) — issued monthly*

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

*Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0) — issued monthly*

*Price Index of Materials Used in House building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0) — issued monthly*

*Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0) — issued monthly*

*Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0) — issued monthly*

29. 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 *Publications 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.

**Unpublished statistics**

30. 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.

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