

# IMPORT PRICE INDEX

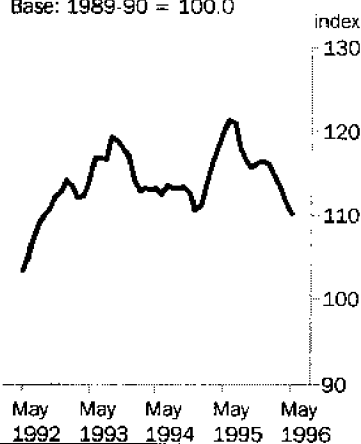
AUSTRALIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM MON 15 JULY 1996

## MAY KEY FIGURES

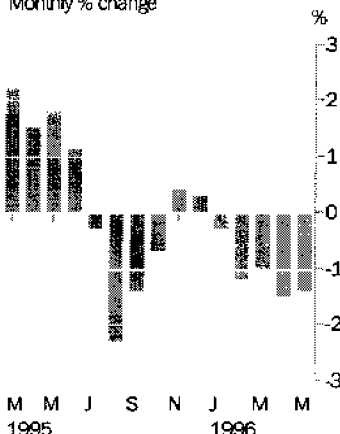
### Index numbers

Base: 1989-90 = 100.0



### All Groups

Monthly % change



	% change Apr 96 to May 96	% change May 95 to May 96
All groups	-1.4	-8.2
Food and live animals	-0.4	-9.5
Beverages and tobacco	-0.5	0.6
Crude materials	-5.5	-11.8
Mineral fuels, etc.	-2.0	-1.5
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-4.5	9.0
Chemical products	-0.8	-7.7
Manufactured goods, by material	-1.4	-1.7
Machinery and transport equipment	-1.3	-12.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-0.8	-4.3
Commodities and transactions n.e.s.	-1.6	-7.2

## MAY KEY POINTS

### ALL GROUPS INDEX

- A continuing increase in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies led to price falls in a wide range of items in May.

### MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- The major contributors to the decrease were lower prices for machinery and transport equipment and manufactured goods by material.
- A worldwide decrease in wood pulp prices led to price falls for pulp and waste paper and paper and paperboard.

## INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Peter Sturgeon on 06 252 5348, or any ABS Office.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
June 1996	15 August 1996
July 1996	17 September 1996
August 1996	17 October 1996

.....

## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

.....

W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX, All Groups

<i>Period</i>	<i>Index numbers(a)</i>	<i>% change from corresponding month of previous year</i>	<i>% change from previous period</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	112.1	9.2	9.2
<b>1993-94</b>	115.6	3.1	3.1
<b>1994-95</b>	114.8	-0.7	-0.7
<b>1995</b>			
March	116.2	2.6	2.2
April	118.0	4.3	1.5
May	120.1	6.0	1.8
June	121.4	7.8	1.1
July	121.0	6.4	-0.3
August	118.2	4.4	-2.3
September	116.5	2.9	-1.4
October	115.7	2.0	-0.7
November	116.2	3.1	0.4
December	116.5	5.3	0.3
<b>1996</b>			
January	116.1	4.3	-0.3
February	114.7	0.9	-1.2
March	113.5	-2.3	-1.0
April	111.8	-5.3	-1.5
May	110.2	-8.2	-1.4

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX, Contribution to All Groups Index(a)

Category	April 1996	May 1996	Change
All groups	111.8	110.2	-1.6
SITC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
0 Food and live animals chiefly for food	4.03	4.01	-0.02
1 Beverages and tobacco	0.89	0.88	-0.01
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	4.05	3.83	-0.22
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	5.00	4.90	-0.10
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.47	0.44	-0.03
5 Chemicals and related products n.e.s.	11.91	11.81	-0.10
6 Manufactured goods classified by material	19.27	19.00	-0.27
7 Machinery and transport equipment	51.13	50.45	-0.68
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14.52	14.41	-0.11
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0.46	0.45	-0.01
SITC DIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof	1.09	1.07	-0.02
24 Cork and wood	1.80	1.77	-0.03
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	5.00	4.90	-0.10
51 Organic chemicals	2.29	2.29	0.00
52 Inorganic chemicals	1.30	1.31	0.01
59 Chemical materials and products n.e.s.	1.79	1.76	-0.03
64 Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, paper and paperboard	3.19	3.11	-0.08
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s. and related products	4.55	4.50	-0.05
69 Manufactures of metals n.e.s.	3.28	3.24	-0.04
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	3.42	3.39	-0.03
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	6.44	6.35	-0.09
74 General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s.	7.28	7.23	-0.05
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	4.77	4.70	-0.07
76 Telecommunications and sound recording equipment	3.59	3.51	-0.08
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s.	5.65	5.57	-0.08
78 Road vehicles	15.08	14.93	-0.15
79 Other transport equipment	4.94	4.78	-0.16
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus n.e.s.	2.89	2.86	-0.03
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	5.83	5.78	-0.05
Other	27.62	27.15	-0.47

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By SITC Section

Period	Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	Beverages and tobacco (1)	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials (3)	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (4)	Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere (9)
<b>1992-93</b>	104.7	121.8	101.1	100.1	126.6	106.2	109.3	116.8	114.9	98.7
<b>1993-94</b>	106.8	111.5	116.3	93.5	120.9	103.3	112.1	123.1	117.0	110.4
<b>1994-95</b>	116.6	106.6	121.9	90.1	140.4	108.8	110.4	121.1	113.4	104.4
<b>1995</b>										
March	120.5	106.2	127.3	89.4	145.3	113.7	111.3	121.9	113.6	104.8
April	120.3	106.0	127.9	90.0	151.8	116.7	112.4	124.5	114.5	107.1
May	122.4	108.3	131.0	93.9	157.3	119.9	114.0	126.3	115.7	106.8
June	123.6	109.8	133.8	94.3	171.1	121.3	115.7	127.4	117.1	108.5
July	122.6	109.6	131.8	90.7	163.0	122.1	117.1	126.5	117.2	106.5
August	121.1	109.1	130.1	84.2	165.4	118.2	117.3	122.9	114.7	104.7
September	119.5	110.1	129.4	84.3	160.7	118.3	117.1	119.7	114.2	102.6
October	117.6	110.1	127.4	83.1	164.1	115.7	117.3	118.7	114.7	101.9
November	117.6	110.6	128.4	86.2	168.4	116.6	117.3	118.6	115.9	104.4
December	117.6	109.8	129.2	89.7	171.3	116.3	117.5	118.8	116.0	105.2
<b>1996</b>										
January	115.4	110.1	129.3	94.4	174.1	116.1	116.5	118.0	115.7	109.0
February	113.9	109.8	129.1	92.8	173.4	113.9	115.6	116.5	114.4	108.5
March	112.4	110.7	123.7	94.2	178.4	112.3	115.4	114.8	113.8	103.5
April	111.2	109.6	122.3	94.4	179.4	111.6	113.7	112.6	111.6	100.7
May	110.8	109.0	115.6	92.5	171.4	110.7	112.1	111.1	110.7	99.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division

Period	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (33)	Organic chemicals (51)	Paper, paperboard and articles made of paper (64)	Textile yarn, fabrics, and related products (65)	Power generating machinery and equipment (71)	Machinery specialised for particular industries (72)
<b>1992-93</b>	100.1	97.0	100.7	106.9	122.3	119.3
<b>1993-94</b>	93.5	98.1	99.6	110.7	132.8	122.2
<b>1994-95</b>	90.1	111.6	97.6	110.2	131.5	120.0
<b>1995</b>						
March	89.4	115.3	98.7	110.9	130.8	121.7
April	90.0	115.4	100.1	112.1	133.5	124.0
May	93.9	121.8	102.0	113.8	137.6	124.6
June	94.3	123.5	106.1	115.5	137.4	127.0
July	90.7	123.6	112.9	115.9	137.5	126.3
August	84.2	112.7	114.8	115.1	135.5	122.7
September	84.3	112.6	117.1	116.1	134.2	121.4
October	83.1	102.3	120.1	115.3	133.2	121.0
November	86.2	103.8	120.4	115.6	134.2	121.7
December	89.7	103.9	119.8	116.0	131.5	122.1
<b>1996</b>						
January	94.4	103.4	118.8	113.8	131.8	121.5
February	92.8	99.2	118.2	112.1	131.6	119.5
March	94.2	99.2	117.9	111.1	128.5	118.6
April	94.4	99.9	116.4	109.8	126.0	116.8
May	92.5	100.1	113.3	108.6	125.0	115.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division *continued*

Period	General industrial machinery, equipment and parts (74)	Office machines and ADP machines (75)	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment (76)	Electrical machinery, etc. and parts thereof (77)	Road vehicles (78)	Other transport equipment (79)
<b>1992-93</b>	125.0	89.5	104.4	109.0	130.0	122.4
<b>1993-94</b>	130.0	88.7	110.4	112.3	145.4	124.9
<b>1994-95</b>	127.4	82.9	104.7	109.5	149.8	118.5
<b>1995</b>						
March	129.4	81.7	104.2	110.2	151.5	120.4
April	131.9	83.0	105.2	111.2	157.5	120.2
May	133.7	84.6	105.5	112.0	160.9	121.6
June	135.2	84.7	106.4	114.7	161.1	122.9
July	134.5	83.6	105.7	113.9	159.8	121.9
August	131.5	77.1	104.9	111.2	155.8	119.3
September	128.7	76.4	101.9	109.2	147.9	117.7
October	127.7	71.3	101.6	109.0	148.7	117.0
November	128.0	70.3	100.9	109.9	147.3	119.0
December	128.0	69.6	101.2	109.4	148.6	120.3
<b>1996</b>						
January	127.0	69.2	100.8	108.0	147.1	120.1
February	125.3	67.4	99.4	106.1	146.7	118.0
March	125.0	66.1	95.8	105.3	144.2	115.5
April	122.8	64.2	94.5	103.2	141.7	113.1
May	122.0	63.3	92.3	101.7	140.3	109.6

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0



IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ATSN Section

Period	Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco (4)	Mineral products (5)	Chemical industry products (6)	Plastics and rubber, and articles thereof (7)	Wood pulp, paper and paper products (10)	Textiles and textile articles (11)	Base metals and articles thereof (15)	Machinery and electrical equipment (16)	Transport equipment (17)	Instruments, clocks and watches, optical and photographic apparatus (18)
<b>1992-93</b>	112.3	108.8	104.6	106.8	99.5	106.2	108.9	107.4	128.2	120.5
<b>1993-94</b>	108.7	101.2	99.2	111.4	98.0	109.5	110.5	110.5	140.2	125.9
<b>1994-95</b>	110.9	98.9	103.9	114.1	98.0	108.4	108.2	106.3	141.9	124.9
<b>1995</b>										
March	113.4	98.7	109.6	115.2	98.7	108.8	109.7	106.5	143.8	125.0
April	114.2	99.1	112.7	117.2	99.9	109.5	110.4	107.8	148.1	128.5
May	116.7	103.3	114.6	119.6	101.6	111.8	112.1	109.0	151.0	130.5
June	118.1	103.6	115.4	122.4	106.2	113.0	113.6	110.2	151.5	131.9
July	118.1	99.9	115.8	124.2	110.4	113.1	114.0	109.5	150.1	131.5
August	117.2	92.8	112.2	123.3	111.7	112.2	115.0	106.2	146.3	127.8
September	116.6	93.6	111.5	123.3	113.7	111.9	115.3	104.6	140.0	125.8
October	116.1	92.4	109.6	122.5	116.5	111.0	116.1	102.6	140.4	127.1
November	116.2	95.7	110.4	123.2	116.9	111.3	114.8	102.9	140.0	127.3
December	115.9	99.1	110.6	122.3	118.9	111.5	115.2	102.5	141.2	127.5
<b>1996</b>										
January	114.7	103.9	110.1	121.9	118.2	110.0	114.0	102.0	140.1	127.1
February	114.2	101.9	109.5	120.4	117.4	108.7	113.4	100.3	139.1	124.8
March	113.2	102.7	108.7	118.1	115.2	107.7	113.6	99.0	136.7	123.5
April	110.9	103.5	107.7	116.9	113.1	106.2	110.9	97.1	134.2	121.0
May	111.0	101.3	106.6	115.9	107.9	105.0	110.2	95.8	132.3	119.9

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 - 100.0



## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Division

Period	Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	Mining (B)	Manufacturing (C)
<b>1992-93</b>	102.6	113.7	111.7
<b>1993-94</b>	107.3	97.8	115.5
<b>1994-95</b>	141.7	102.5	113.8
<b>1995</b>			
March	157.1	105.7	114.8
April	154.6	105.5	116.6
May	153.5	111.7	118.4
June	157.1	111.1	119.8
July	151.7	104.4	119.5
August	147.0	99.2	116.8
September	140.1	101.3	115.1
October	134.0	99.8	114.4
November	139.3	100.2	114.8
December	139.9	105.1	114.9
<b>1996</b>			
January	136.2	112.2	114.4
February	133.9	106.4	113.2
March	131.3	106.0	112.0
April	129.5	109.0	110.2
May	127.6	106.5	108.7

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Subdivision

Period	Agriculture (1)	Oil and gas extraction (12)	Food, beverages and tobacco (21)	Textiles (221-222)	Clothing, footwear and leather (223-226)	Wood and paper products (23)	Printing, publishing and recorded media (241-243)
<b>1992-93</b>	102.6	115.8	111.7	105.6	111.3	101.4	115.5
<b>1993-94</b>	107.3	98.6	109.5	109.2	109.5	113.0	116.2
<b>1994-95</b>	141.6	102.8	112.9	110.9	103.8	110.4	111.4
<b>1995</b>							
March	156.9	105.6	114.6	112.4	103.2	111.1	112.0
April	154.4	105.8	116.1	113.7	103.2	111.7	112.9
May	153.3	112.7	119.0	116.6	104.8	113.3	113.9
June	156.9	112.2	120.9	118.0	105.1	116.8	114.8
July	151.5	104.3	120.6	118.4	104.6	119.7	115.2
August	146.8	98.5	119.7	117.2	102.9	121.5	113.8
September	139.9	99.3	119.1	117.4	102.0	122.1	113.2
October	133.9	97.6	119.0	116.3	101.7	122.9	115.7
November	139.1	97.9	118.6	116.5	102.6	123.3	116.3
December	139.8	103.9	118.4	116.9	102.8	123.3	117.0
<b>1996</b>							
January	136.0	112.4	118.0	115.2	102.9	122.6	116.7
February	133.7	105.8	117.5	114.0	102.0	121.9	115.6
March	131.2	105.7	117.1	112.8	101.9	119.3	116.7
April	129.4	108.4	115.4	111.3	100.9	117.8	113.7
May	127.4	105.7	114.4	110.0	100.1	113.0	112.8

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

Period	<i>Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)</i>	<i>Non-metallic mineral products (26)</i>	<i>Basic metal products (271-273)</i>	<i>Fabricated metal products (274-276)</i>	<i>Transport equipment (281-282)</i>	<i>Other machinery and equipment (283-286)</i>	<i>Other manufacturing (29)</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	104.6	118.8	99.2	120.0	125.4	108.2	111.8
<b>1993-94</b>	104.0	117.9	101.7	123.6	136.8	111.3	114.4
<b>1994-95</b>	104.8	116.5	100.3	117.2	137.9	107.4	111.3
<b>1995</b>							
March	106.9	116.9	102.0	118.0	139.4	107.8	112.5
April	108.9	117.7	104.1	116.9	143.5	109.3	112.6
May	111.3	120.6	104.9	117.5	146.4	110.4	113.8
June	112.9	122.5	106.7	119.4	147.0	111.6	115.0
July	113.5	121.9	106.7	119.4	145.8	110.9	114.2
August	110.2	118.4	106.0	120.1	142.4	107.2	111.7
September	109.7	117.5	107.0	119.2	136.7	105.6	110.7
October	108.2	117.1	107.8	118.5	137.0	103.9	110.4
November	109.9	118.1	108.8	116.9	136.7	104.1	112.3
December	110.1	118.2	108.8	117.7	137.8	103.7	112.5
<b>1996</b>							
January	110.0	119.4	108.4	117.3	136.8	103.3	112.6
February	109.2	118.0	108.2	116.4	136.0	101.6	111.4
March	108.9	116.1	106.3	117.9	133.6	100.2	110.6
April	107.7	116.0	104.1	114.7	131.1	98.3	109.5
May	106.6	112.7	103.3	114.7	129.3	96.9	109.3

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC Category

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food and beverages</i>	<i>Industrial supplies n.e.s.</i>	<i>Fuels and lubricants</i>	<i>Capital goods, and parts and accessories thereof</i>	<i>Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof</i>	<i>Consumer goods n.e.s.</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	108.0	104.1	103.2	110.9	124.6	114.6
<b>1993-94</b>	107.8	105.0	95.4	114.0	135.9	117.7
<b>1994-95</b>	119.5	106.6	93.0	110.0	136.8	114.0
<b>1995</b>						
March	123.9	109.7	92.4	110.3	138.1	114.3
April	123.5	111.5	93.0	111.9	142.0	114.9
May	125.9	113.6	97.3	113.2	144.8	116.0
June	127.8	115.1	97.9	114.3	145.5	117.4
July	126.2	116.2	93.7	113.6	144.4	117.2
August	124.9	115.2	85.3	109.4	141.6	114.9
September	123.1	115.2	84.9	107.6	135.9	114.6
October	121.4	114.6	83.7	105.3	136.1	114.5
November	121.6	115.1	87.2	105.3	135.8	115.3
December	121.6	115.2	91.1	104.9	136.8	115.4
<b>1996</b>						
January	119.3	114.5	96.8	104.3	135.8	115.4
February	117.5	113.7	93.8	102.3	135.0	114.3
March	116.6	112.4	94.0	101.0	132.8	113.8
April	115.8	111.2	94.6	98.9	130.4	111.9
May	114.7	109.2	92.4	97.6	128.7	110.9

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC End Use Class

<i>Period</i>	<i>Capital goods</i>	<i>Intermediate goods</i>	<i>Consumption goods</i>
<b>1992-93</b>	117.0	105.1	116.9
<b>1993-94</b>	122.8	106.6	121.1
<b>1994-95</b>	119.8	107.6	119.2
<b>1995</b>			
March	120.5	109.8	119.8
April	122.5	111.5	121.3
May	124.0	113.8	122.9
June	125.1	115.1	124.2
July	124.1	115.2	123.7
August	120.4	112.6	121.5
September	117.8	111.3	120.1
October	117.8	109.3	120.2
November	117.8	110.0	120.6
December	117.6	110.5	121.0
<b>1996</b>			
January	116.9	110.2	120.6
February	115.3	108.8	119.8
March	113.5	107.7	119.0
April	111.3	106.4	116.9
May	109.7	104.6	116.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of imports of merchandise landed in Australia — the Import Price Index. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989–90 = 100.0.
- 2** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.

## SCOPE

- 3** The Import Price Index, either directly or indirectly, covers about ninety five per cent of merchandise imported during 1988–89 and 1989–90.
- 4** The remaining imports are not represented because of the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality. These unrepresented items include:
  - live animals (not for food)
  - jewellery and other articles of precious metal n.e.s.
  - military equipment
  - special transactions
  - commodities not classified according to kind
  - works of art, collectors' pieces, antiques
  - ships of various types.
- 5** The index numbers for each month relate to prices of those imports of merchandise that are physically landed in Australia during that month.

## CLASSIFICATION

- 6** Index numbers for sections and selected divisions of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3 are provided in Tables 3 and 4, while index numbers for selected sections of the Combined Australian Customs Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature (ATSN) are provided in Table 5.
- 7** Tables 6 and 7 contain index numbers for selected Divisions and Subdivisions, on an 'industry of origin' basis, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). The 'industry of origin' is the industry in which the imported commodity would be classified as primarily produced had it been produced in Australia, determined in accordance with the classification rules of the ANZSIC.
- 8** Table 8 contains index numbers for categories of the United Nations' Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). Table 9 contains index numbers for these categories rearranged to form the broader end use classes: Capital goods, Intermediate goods and Consumption goods. Each category has been allocated wholly to one of these classes except for:
  - category 321, Motor spirit (which has been allocated in part to Intermediate goods and in part to Consumption goods)
  - category 51, Passenger motor cars (which has been allocated in part to Capital goods and in part to Consumption goods)

## ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

- 9** The index is a fixed weights index. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their import values during 1988–89 and 1989–90. They constituted approximately 95 per cent of the total value of imports of merchandise to Australia during these years. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of imports for each item during 1988–89 and 1989–90. These weights were then revalued to reflect 1989–90 price levels. Many of the items carry not only their own weight but also the weight of unpriced commodities whose prices are considered to move in a similar manner. The weighting pattern of the Import Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, was shown in the September 1991 issue of this publication.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## PRICE MEASUREMENT

**10** Prices of individual shipments are obtained from importers of the selected items and relate to the month in which the goods arrive in Australia. Imports are priced on a 'free on board' (f.o.b.), country of origin basis. Freight and insurance charges involved in shipping goods from foreign to Australian ports are therefore excluded from the prices used in the index, as are Australian import duties.

**11** As the prices used in the index are expressed in Australian currency, changes in the relative value of the Australian dollar and overseas currencies can have a direct impact on price movements for the many commodities that are bought in currencies other than Australian dollars. Prices reported in a foreign currency are converted to Australian dollars using the exchange rate prevailing at the time of departure from the foreign port. Where imports are purchased at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices in the index *exclude* the forward exchange cover.

**12** The price series used relate to specified standards, grades, types, etc. of each commodity. The aim is to incorporate in the index price changes for imports of representative goods of constant quality. Wherever possible, prices from predominant countries of origin are used for each of the specified goods priced in order to lessen the impact of price variations attributable solely to changes, over time, in the mix of countries of origin. In most cases prices are combined using fixed weights between markets. Weights between countries are reviewed from time to time and revised where necessary.

## INDEX NUMBERS

**13** Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of monthly index numbers.

## REVISIONS

**14** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision. From time to time index numbers for earlier months may also be revised. This will occur whenever the ABS obtains more complete information or discovers that incorrect prices have been used.

## ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

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

**16** 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:

All groups index numbers —

May 1996	110.2	(see Table 1)
less May 1995	120.1	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	-9.9	
Percentage change =	$\frac{-9.9}{120.1} \times 100 = -8.2$	

**17** Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of imports make to the All groups index. For example, Road vehicles contributed 14.93 index points to the All groups index number of 110.2 for May 1996 and -0.15 index points to the net change of -1.6 index points.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**18** The September 1991 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index. A detailed description of the previous Import Price Index is contained in the December Quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

**19** Further information on the index is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6419.0).

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**20** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0)

**21** Other ABS publications that may be of interest include *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5302.0).

**22** 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

**23** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Peter Sturgeon on 06 252 5348 or to any ABS office.

## SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

A'ISN	Combined Australian Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
BEC	Classification by Broad Economic Categories
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
f.o.b.	free on board
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified or included
r	figure or series revised since previous issue





## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our offices (see below).

### INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

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

### ABS PRODUCTS

A large number of ABS products is available from the ABS Bookshops (see below). The ABS also provides a subscription service – you can telephone the ABS Subscription Service Australia wide toll free on 1800 0206 08.

### ELECTRONIC SERVICES

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 (see below) or email us at:

X.400 (C:Australia,PUB:Telememo,O:ABS,FN:STAT,SN:INFO)  
Internet Stat.info@abs.telememo.au  
Keylink STAT.INFO/ABS

You can visit us on the Internet at: <http://www.statistics.gov.au>

### GENERAL SALES AND INQUIRIES

- \* Sydney 02 268 4611
- \* Melbourne 03 9615 7755
- \* Brisbane 07 3222 6351
- \* Perth 09 360 5140
- \* Adelaide 08 237 7100
- \* Hobart 002 20 5800
- \* Darwin 089 43 2111
- \* Canberra 06 252 6627
- Information Services, ABS



2641400005967  
ISSN 0812-7247

RRP \$14.00