

# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 28 APR 1999

## MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

	<b>% change Dec Qtr 1998 to Mar Qtr 1999</b>	<b>% change Mar Qtr 1998 to Mar Qtr 1999</b>
<b>Weighted average of eight capital cities</b>		
Food	1.2	4.4
Clothing	-0.6	-1.0
Housing	0.7	3.0
Household equipment and operation	-1.0	-0.7
Transportation	-0.6	-1.4
Alcohol and tobacco	0.8	2.3
Health and personal care	-6.4	-4.3
Recreation and education	1.2	1.9
<b>All groups</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
All groups excluding housing	-0.3	0.8

## MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

### THE ALL GROUPS CPI

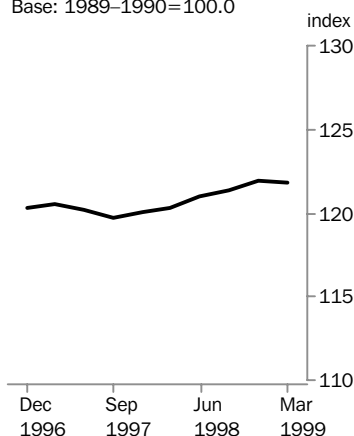
- fell 0.1% in the March quarter 1999, down from an increase of 0.5% in the December quarter 1998.
- rose 1.2% between the March quarters 1998 and 1999.

### OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- the major contributor to the overall decrease this quarter was the fall in the cost of hospital and medical services (-17.8%). This was entirely due to the one-off impact of the introduction of the Federal Government's 30% rebate on private health insurance from 1 January 1999.
- other contributors to the decrease this quarter were falls in the cost of automotive fuel (-2.6%), fresh vegetables (-4.6%), furniture (-1.9%), communication services (-3.1%) and audio, visual and computing equipment (-3.0%).
- largely offsetting the above were increases in the cost of house purchase (+1.5%), fresh fruit (+7.4%), pharmaceuticals (+7.7%), education (+4.4%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+2.8%) and take away and fast foods (+1.5%).

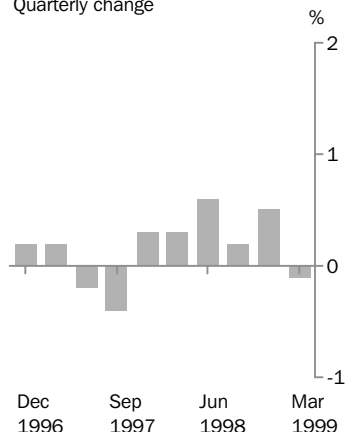
### All Groups

Base: 1989-1990=100.0



### All Groups

Quarterly change



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Client Services on Canberra 02 6252 6627 or refer to the back cover of this publication.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 1999	28 July 1999
September 1999	27 October 1999



## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



## ROUNDING

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this publication are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers in Table 7 do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.



W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

## ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

### MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

#### HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE: -6.4%

The sole contributor to the decrease in health and personal care costs this quarter was a fall in the cost of hospital and medical services (-17.8%), due to the introduction of the Federal Government's 30% rebate on private health insurance from 1 January 1999. Partially offsetting this decrease was a rise in the net cost of pharmaceuticals (+7.7%), due mainly to the cyclical reduction in the effect of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's safety net at the commencement of a calendar year.

Annually, health and personal care costs fell 4.3%. Again, this fall was due to a decrease in the cost of hospital and medical services (-13.1%), in particular the health insurance component.

#### FOOD: +1.2%

The increase in food prices this quarter was mainly due to increases in fresh fruit (+7.4%), take away and fast foods (+1.5%), sweet and savoury snacks (+1.9%), bread (+2.8%), restaurant meals (+1.0%), other dairy products (+3.6%) and milk and cream (+1.3%). Partially offsetting these increases was a fall in the cost of fresh vegetables (-4.6%), the first quarterly decrease for this item since the September quarter 1997.

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1999, food prices increased by 4.4%, the largest annual increase since the year to September quarter 1995. The increase was largely due to increases in the price of fresh fruit (+32.5%) and fresh vegetables (+13.4%).

#### RECREATION AND EDUCATION: +1.2%

The increase in recreation and education costs this quarter was mainly attributable to increases in education fees (+4.4%), which is generally a cyclical increase associated with the new school year, domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+2.8%) and other recreational activities (+1.9%). Partially offsetting these increases were falls in audio, visual and computing equipment (-3.0%), audio, visual and computing media and services (-1.2%), and overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-0.7%).

#### HOUSING: +0.7%

The quarterly increase in the Housing group was due to increases in house purchase (+1.5%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.7%), and electricity (+1.1%). These increases were partially offset by a fall in the cost of gas (-2.0%).

## ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

### MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

**HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION: -1.0%** The decrease in household equipment and operation costs this quarter was largely attributable to falls in the cost of communication services (-3.1%), furniture (-1.9%) and tableware, glassware and cutlery (-4.8%), the latter two being mainly as a result of post-Christmas sales. There were no significant offsets.

**TRANSPORTATION: -0.6%** The fall in transportation costs this quarter has been caused mainly by a reduction in the price of petrol (-2.6%) and to a lesser extent in the price of motor vehicles (-0.5%). The reduction in petrol prices resulted from a rise in October (+2.2%), falls in November (-1.6%) and December 1998 (-2.9%), a rise in January (+0.1%), a fall in February (-0.8%) and a rise in March 1999(+0.8%). Offsetting these falls were increases in motor vehicle repair and servicing (+0.9%) and urban transport fares (+0.8%).

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1999, the price of motor vehicles fell 5.3% and the price of petrol fell 5.4%. The index number for the Transportation group (121.2) is now at its lowest level since the June quarter 1995.

### CPI, All groups index numbers(a) and percentage changes

	INDEX NUMBER(a)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN	
		<i>Dec Qtr 1998 and Mar Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Mar Qtr 1998 and Mar Qtr 1999</i>
	<i>Mar Qtr 1999</i>		
Sydney	122.6	0.2	1.6
Melbourne	121.0	0.2	1.2
Brisbane	122.8	-0.2	0.7
Adelaide	122.7	-0.7	0.8
Perth	119.8	-0.3	1.5
Hobart	122.1	-0.5	0.5
Darwin	122.1	-0.5	0.5
Canberra	121.4	-0.2	0.7
Weighted average of eight capital cities	121.8	-0.1	1.2

(a) Base of each index: 1989-1990 = 100.0

## ALL GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
<b>1994-1995</b>	113.0	114.1	114.7	116.9	112.3	115.2	114.7	115.1	113.9
<b>1995-1996</b>	118.7	118.4	119.1	121.2	116.7	119.6	119.5	120.3	118.7
<b>1996-1997</b>	120.4	119.9	121.0	122.3	118.3	121.4	121.6	121.2	120.3
<b>1997-1998</b>	120.5	119.8	121.6	121.6	118.0	121.3	121.3	120.4	120.3
<b>1995</b>									
March	113.7	115.0	115.8	117.8	113.0	116.1	115.3	116.3	114.7
June	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
September	117.3	117.6	117.9	120.1	115.6	118.4	118.0	119.1	117.6
December	118.3	118.5	118.6	121.1	116.3	119.2	119.2	120.0	118.5
<b>1996</b>									
March	119.1	118.3	119.6	121.6	117.1	120.1	119.8	120.8	119.0
June	119.9	119.2	120.4	122.0	117.9	120.6	120.8	121.4	119.8
September	120.2	119.6	120.6	122.2	118.3	121.1	121.6	121.4	120.1
December	120.4	119.9	120.8	122.6	118.4	121.3	121.7	121.4	120.3
<b>1997</b>									
March	120.6	120.1	121.5	122.6	118.2	121.9	121.6	121.4	120.5
June	120.2	119.9	121.1	121.9	118.1	121.3	121.5	120.4	120.2
September	119.8	119.5	120.7	121.2	117.5	120.6	121.0	119.8	119.7
December	120.1	119.8	121.4	121.2	117.6	121.2	120.8	119.8	120.0
<b>1998</b>									
March	120.7	119.6	121.9	121.7	118.0	121.5	121.5	120.6	120.3
June	121.4	120.3	122.3	122.4	118.9	122.0	121.8	121.2	121.0
September	121.9	120.4	122.5	123.0	119.6	122.8	122.1	121.3	121.3
December	122.4	120.8	123.0	123.6	120.2	122.7	122.7	121.7	121.9
<b>1999</b>									
March	122.6	121.0	122.8	122.7	119.8	122.1	122.1	121.4	121.8

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

## ALL GROUPS, Percentage Changes

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)									
<b>1994-1995</b>	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2
<b>1995-1996</b>	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.2
<b>1996-1997</b>	1.4	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.3
<b>1997-1998</b>	0.1	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
<b>1995</b>									
March	4.2	3.4	4.5	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.4	3.9
June	4.9	3.8	4.8	3.8	5.3	4.2	3.9	5.0	4.5
September	5.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.8	5.1
December	5.8	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.8	5.4	5.1
<b>1996</b>									
March	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.7
June	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.1
September	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.1	1.9	2.1
December	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.5
<b>1997</b>									
March	1.3	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.3
June	0.3	0.6	0.6	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	-0.8	0.3
September	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-0.5	-1.3	-0.3
December	-0.2	-0.1	0.5	-1.1	-0.7	-0.1	-0.7	-1.3	-0.2
<b>1998</b>									
March	0.1	-0.4	0.3	-0.7	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.7	-0.2
June	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.7
September	1.8	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	0.9	1.3	1.3
December	1.9	0.8	1.3	2.0	2.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.6
<b>1999</b>									
March	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
<b>1995</b>									
March	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.7
June	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
September	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2
December	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
<b>1996</b>									
March	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4
June	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
September	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3
December	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2
<b>1997</b>									
March	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.2
June	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2
September	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
December	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.3
<b>1998</b>									
March	0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.3
June	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.6
September	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
December	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5
<b>1999</b>									
March	0.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1

## CPI GROUPS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities—Index Numbers(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Trans- portation</i>	<i>Alcohol and tobacco</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All groups</i>
<b>1994-1995</b>	112.1	106.7	100.0	109.2	117.5	141.0	135.5	114.6	113.9
<b>1995-1996</b>	116.0	107.0	105.9	111.7	122.6	156.1	141.8	117.7	118.7
<b>1996-1997</b>	119.7	107.3	101.6	113.5	124.3	161.4	149.1	119.7	120.3
<b>1997-1998</b>	121.8	107.4	94.5	113.8	123.5	164.6	153.6	123.6	120.3
<b>1995</b>									
March	113.2	106.2	102.8	109.3	117.3	141.1	136.5	115.3	114.7
June	113.7	107.2	104.7	110.2	118.8	146.4	138.5	115.9	116.2
September	115.4	106.7	105.4	111.0	122.0	151.4	139.0	116.1	117.6
December	115.7	107.1	106.1	111.6	122.3	155.3	140.8	117.3	118.5
<b>1996</b>									
March	115.9	106.8	105.7	111.6	122.4	157.8	143.5	119.2	119.0
June	117.1	107.4	106.3	112.5	123.8	159.8	143.7	118.2	119.8
September	118.3	107.2	106.1	113.1	123.4	160.4	145.0	118.2	120.1
December	119.4	107.5	103.2	113.6	124.5	161.2	146.7	118.8	120.3
<b>1997</b>									
March	120.2	107.0	100.2	113.5	125.2	161.7	150.6	121.0	120.5
June	120.8	107.3	96.9	113.9	123.9	162.1	154.0	120.9	120.2
September	120.8	107.1	95.9	113.4	124.4	161.9	148.6	122.0	119.7
December	121.1	107.8	94.2	113.8	124.0	164.3	153.0	122.4	120.0
<b>1998</b>									
March	122.1	107.4	93.4	113.8	122.9	165.4	154.8	124.9	120.3
June	123.1	107.3	94.5	114.0	122.8	166.7	157.9	125.1	121.0
September	124.7	107.0	94.8	113.9	122.3	167.5	159.1	124.7	121.3
December	126.0	106.9	95.5	114.1	121.9	167.9	158.4	125.8	121.9
<b>1999</b>									
March	127.5	106.3	96.2	113.0	121.2	169.2	148.2	127.3	121.8

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

## CPI GROUPS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities—Percentage Changes

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Trans- portation</i>	<i>Alcohol and tobacco</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All groups</i>
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)									
<b>1994-1995</b>	2.5	0.0	6.2	1.3	3.3	5.5	5.0	2.4	3.2
<b>1995-1996</b>	3.5	0.3	5.9	2.3	4.3	10.7	4.6	2.7	4.2
<b>1996-1997</b>	3.2	0.3	-4.1	1.6	1.4	3.4	5.1	1.7	1.3
<b>1997-1998</b>	1.8	0.1	-7.0	0.3	-0.6	2.0	3.0	3.3	0.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
<b>1995</b>									
March	3.1	-0.1	9.7	1.3	3.6	4.9	4.4	2.9	3.9
June	3.8	0.8	10.9	1.8	3.1	7.5	5.0	2.6	4.5
September	4.5	0.1	11.1	2.6	4.3	10.2	4.2	2.8	5.1
December	4.3	0.3	8.8	2.5	4.7	11.6	5.3	2.8	5.1
<b>1996</b>									
March	2.4	0.6	2.8	2.1	4.3	11.8	5.1	3.4	3.7
June	3.0	0.2	1.5	2.1	4.2	9.2	3.8	2.0	3.1
September	2.5	0.5	0.7	1.9	1.1	5.9	4.3	1.8	2.1
December	3.2	0.4	-2.7	1.8	1.8	3.8	4.2	1.3	1.5
<b>1997</b>									
March	3.7	0.2	-5.2	1.7	2.3	2.5	4.9	1.5	1.3
June	3.2	-0.1	-8.8	1.2	0.1	1.4	7.2	2.3	0.3
September	2.1	-0.1	-9.6	0.3	0.8	0.9	2.5	3.2	-0.3
December	1.4	0.3	-8.7	0.2	-0.4	1.9	4.3	3.0	-0.2
<b>1998</b>									
March	1.6	0.4	-6.8	0.3	-1.8	2.3	2.8	3.2	-0.2
June	1.9	0.0	-2.5	0.1	-0.9	2.8	2.5	3.5	0.7
September	3.2	-0.1	-1.1	0.4	-1.7	3.5	7.1	2.2	1.3
December	4.0	-0.8	1.4	0.3	-1.7	2.2	3.5	2.8	1.6
<b>1999</b>									
March	4.4	-1.0	3.0	-0.7	-1.4	2.3	-4.3	1.9	1.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
<b>1995</b>									
March	2.1	-0.6	5.4	0.4	0.4	1.4	2.1	1.1	1.7
June	0.4	0.9	1.8	0.8	1.3	3.8	1.5	0.5	1.3
September	1.5	-0.5	0.7	0.7	2.7	3.4	0.4	0.2	1.2
December	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	2.6	1.3	1.0	0.8
<b>1996</b>									
March	0.2	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.4
June	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.7
September	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3
December	0.9	0.3	-2.7	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.2
<b>1997</b>									
March	0.7	-0.5	-2.9	-0.1	0.6	0.3	2.7	1.9	0.2
June	0.5	0.3	-3.3	0.4	-1.0	0.2	2.3	-0.1	-0.2
September	0.0	-0.2	-1.0	-0.4	0.4	-0.1	-3.5	0.9	-0.4
December	0.2	0.7	-1.8	0.4	-0.3	1.5	3.0	0.3	0.3
<b>1998</b>									
March	0.8	-0.4	-0.8	0.0	-0.9	0.7	1.2	2.0	0.3
June	0.8	-0.1	1.2	0.2	-0.1	0.8	2.0	0.2	0.6
September	1.3	-0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.5	0.8	-0.3	0.2
December	1.0	-0.1	0.7	0.2	-0.3	0.2	-0.4	0.9	0.5
<b>1999</b>									
March	1.2	-0.6	0.7	-1.0	-0.6	0.8	-6.4	1.2	-0.1



## CPI GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD									
<b>1997</b>									
December	121.6	119.7	121.2	122.0	122.0	121.7	122.3	124.9	121.1
<b>1998</b>									
March	122.8	120.7	122.6	122.9	122.7	121.7	124.4	125.3	122.1
June	123.7	121.6	123.3	123.7	124.6	122.3	125.0	126.9	123.1
September	125.1	123.6	123.9	125.9	126.5	124.7	125.2	127.6	124.7
December	126.8	124.3	125.0	128.2	127.6	125.0	126.9	129.1	126.0
<b>1999</b>									
March	129.1	125.8	126.4	128.0	128.4	125.5	125.6	129.0	127.5
CLOTHING									
<b>1997</b>									
December	107.9	109.2	105.6	106.2	106.8	106.0	105.6	106.9	107.8
<b>1998</b>									
March	107.8	109.0	104.7	105.1	105.9	105.5	105.3	107.2	107.4
June	106.8	108.9	105.7	105.9	106.4	105.3	105.4	107.9	107.3
September	106.7	108.9	105.2	105.3	105.5	105.1	105.1	107.7	107.0
December	106.7	108.2	105.7	105.4	105.8	105.7	105.0	108.1	106.9
<b>1999</b>									
March	106.9	107.5	104.6	103.7	104.6	104.7	103.7	107.2	106.3
HOUSING									
<b>1997</b>									
December	100.1	86.9	100.2	90.2	88.8	95.5	111.3	93.7	94.2
<b>1998</b>									
March	100.3	84.1	100.0	89.9	88.5	95.3	111.6	93.3	93.4
June	101.3	86.2	100.3	90.3	88.9	95.5	112.2	93.4	94.5
September	102.5	85.3	101.0	91.2	89.6	95.6	113.9	93.8	94.8
December	102.6	86.6	101.3	91.9	90.4	95.4	114.5	93.9	95.5
<b>1999</b>									
March	103.8	87.3	101.6	92.2	90.6	95.8	116.0	94.3	96.2
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION									
<b>1997</b>									
December	111.5	115.4	115.8	113.6	113.6	119.7	107.5	114.2	113.8
<b>1998</b>									
March	111.7	115.1	115.8	113.7	113.7	119.4	107.6	114.5	113.8
June	111.7	115.1	116.4	113.9	114.2	119.5	107.2	115.5	114.0
September	111.5	115.3	116.3	113.7	114.0	120.4	107.3	115.5	113.9
December	111.7	115.3	116.4	113.9	114.3	120.8	107.5	116.0	114.1
<b>1999</b>									
March	110.4	114.7	116.0	112.3	112.7	119.5	105.3	115.4	113.0
TRANSPORTATION									
<b>1997</b>									
December	124.7	124.4	124.0	122.3	121.5	122.1	122.4	129.0	124.0
<b>1998</b>									
March	124.2	122.1	122.8	121.2	121.2	121.7	122.0	129.0	122.9
June	124.1	122.0	122.8	121.8	121.2	120.5	121.2	129.1	122.8
September	123.6	121.0	120.9	121.8	122.6	120.4	120.7	128.0	122.3
December	123.4	120.6	121.0	121.3	122.2	118.6	119.8	126.9	121.9
<b>1999</b>									
March	122.5	119.9	120.5	120.9	121.1	118.4	119.1	126.5	121.2

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
<b>ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO</b>									
<b>1997</b>									
December	169.4	161.2	165.5	168.8	154.5	155.6	159.6	159.0	164.3
<b>1998</b>									
March	170.4	162.0	166.3	170.7	156.2	158.0	161.4	159.9	165.4
June	171.6	163.9	167.2	170.5	157.5	160.2	160.8	161.3	166.7
September	172.5	165.0	168.1	170.7	158.1	159.6	160.4	161.8	167.5
December	172.9	166.0	168.2	171.4	157.7	159.1	160.1	161.7	167.9
<b>1999</b>									
March	173.9	167.6	169.5	171.8	159.4	161.5	162.1	164.2	169.2
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>									
<b>1997</b>									
December	144.8	162.2	149.7	164.1	144.9	160.9	143.0	150.7	153.0
<b>1998</b>									
March	146.2	163.6	152.7	167.8	146.5	162.7	145.1	152.5	154.8
June	150.3	165.8	152.8	171.1	152.3	166.1	146.7	154.3	157.9
September	150.8	166.7	156.0	171.8	153.1	171.5	147.1	155.6	159.1
December	151.0	165.3	155.2	170.9	152.3	169.5	147.5	154.9	158.4
<b>1999</b>									
March	141.1	155.7	144.2	156.6	145.0	154.4	140.6	145.2	148.2
<b>RECREATION AND EDUCATION</b>									
<b>1997</b>									
December	120.4	126.2	123.1	123.6	118.4	120.6	111.4	117.6	122.4
<b>1998</b>									
March	122.3	129.4	126.1	125.5	119.7	121.7	110.9	121.7	124.9
June	123.5	128.8	125.8	126.1	119.2	122.6	112.5	121.0	125.1
September	122.8	128.4	126.1	125.9	119.1	122.5	112.5	120.8	124.7
December	124.2	129.0	127.6	126.5	120.8	124.2	113.4	122.2	125.8
<b>1999</b>									
March	125.4	131.0	128.8	128.6	122.0	125.2	112.7	123.2	127.3

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

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
<b>Food</b>	0.44	0.30	0.25	-0.02	0.15	0.09	-0.24	-0.02	0.29
Dairy and related products	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.04
Milk and cream	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.02
Cheese	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Other dairy products	0.02	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.02	-0.01	—	0.02
Cereal products	0.07	0.05	-0.01	-0.02	0.09	-0.01	-0.01	—	0.05
Bread	0.04	0.06	-0.02	-0.01	0.08	—	0.01	0.01	0.03
Cakes and biscuits	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01
Breakfast cereals	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Other cereal products	0.02	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01
Meat and seafoods	0.07	0.04	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03
Beef and veal	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	0.03	-0.01	—	0.01
Lamb and mutton	0.02	0.01	0.02	—	—	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Pork	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Poultry	0.01	0.02	-0.02	—	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	—
Bacon and ham	—	—	—	-0.02	—	-0.01	—	0.02	—
Processed meat	0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	—
Fish and other seafood	0.02	—	-0.02	—	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	—
Fresh fruit and vegetables	0.08	0.02	0.11	-0.06	-0.05	-0.12	-0.11	-0.04	0.03
Fresh fruit	0.10	0.12	0.16	0.06	0.12	-0.03	0.07	0.07	0.10
Fresh vegetables	-0.02	-0.10	-0.05	-0.13	-0.17	-0.10	-0.18	-0.11	-0.08
Processed fruit and vegetables	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	-0.02	—	0.01
Processed fruit	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—
Processed vegetables	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	0.01
Fruit and vegetable juices	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	-0.03	—	0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.03	—	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.03
Soft drinks and cordials	—	0.02	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	—	0.02	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—
Sweet and savoury snacks	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03
Meals out and take away foods	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.07	0.12	-0.10	0.02	0.08
Restaurant meals	0.04	0.05	—	—	0.03	0.04	-0.07	-0.02	0.02
Take away and fast foods	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.07	-0.04	0.03	0.06
Other food	0.05	0.03	—	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	—	-0.06	0.02
Eggs	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	0.02	—	—	—	-0.02	-0.01	—	-0.03	—
Food additives and condiments	0.01	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	0.01
Fats and oils	0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—
Food n.e.c.	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.02	—
<b>Clothing</b>	0.01	-0.05	-0.07	-0.11	-0.07	-0.06	-0.05	-0.06	-0.04
Men's clothing	0.01	0.01	-0.02	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	—
Men's outerwear	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	-0.02	—
Men's shirts	—	—	-0.02	—	—	-0.02	—	—	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01	—
Women's clothing	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.04	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01
Women's outerwear	—	-0.01	—	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01
Children's and infants' clothing	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.01	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01
Boys' clothing	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01
Girls' clothing	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Footwear	—	-0.01	-0.04	-0.01	-0.05	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02
Men's footwear	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—
Women's footwear	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	—	-0.03	—	-0.01
Children's footwear	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services	0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Clothing accessories	0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	—	-0.01	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
<b>Housing</b>	0.29	0.19	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.36	0.10	0.18
Rents	0.08	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.31	0.03	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.09	0.03	—	0.01	0.03	0.01	—	0.02	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.32	—	0.01
Utilities	—	0.03	—	—	—	0.07	—	—	—
Electricity	—	0.08	—	—	—	0.07	—	—	0.03
Gas	—	-0.06	—	—	—	—	—	—	-0.02
Other household fuel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water and sewerage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other housing	0.20	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.12
House purchase	0.20	0.14	0.05	0.09	0.03	—	0.04	—	0.12
Property rates and charges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House repairs and maintenance	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01
House insurance	-0.01	—	—	-0.04	—	—	—	0.06	—
<b>Household Equipment and Operation</b>	-0.18	-0.08	-0.04	-0.23	-0.24	-0.18	-0.30	-0.08	-0.14
Furniture and floor coverings	-0.13	-0.03	0.03	-0.11	-0.11	0.02	0.02	—	-0.07
Furniture	-0.13	-0.03	0.03	-0.06	-0.09	0.03	0.02	—	-0.07
Floor coverings	0.01	—	—	-0.05	-0.02	—	—	—	—
Household textiles	—	0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	—	0.01	—
Bedding	-0.01	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Towels, linen and curtains	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
Household appliances, utensils and tools	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07	—	-0.01
Appliances	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.05	0.01	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	—	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02
Household utensils	—	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—
Tools	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01
Household supplies	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.09	-0.02	-0.04	—
Household cleaning agents	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	-0.02	0.01	—
Pet foods, pets and supplies	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.05	0.01	-0.02	-0.01
Other household supplies	0.03	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.04	-0.01	-0.03	0.01
Household services	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	-0.04	0.03	—
Pet services including veterinary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
House contents insurance	—	—	—	-0.03	—	—	0.01	0.03	—
Repairs to household durables	—	—	—	0.03	—	0.01	0.02	—	—
Domestic services	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	-0.07	0.01	0.01
Postal and communication services	-0.07	-0.06	-0.07	-0.07	-0.08	-0.08	-0.17	-0.08	-0.06
Postal services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communication services	-0.07	-0.05	-0.07	-0.07	-0.07	-0.08	-0.17	-0.09	-0.07
<b>Transportation</b>	-0.11	-0.09	-0.06	-0.06	-0.16	-0.03	-0.08	-0.05	-0.10
Private motoring	-0.11	-0.13	-0.08	-0.07	-0.16	-0.03	-0.09	-0.06	-0.11
Motor vehicles	—	-0.06	0.01	-0.01	-0.06	—	-0.03	0.04	-0.02
Automotive fuel	-0.15	-0.11	-0.12	-0.09	-0.14	-0.04	-0.09	-0.13	-0.13
Vehicle insurance	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Other motoring charges	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urban transport fares	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
<b>Alcohol and tobacco</b>	0.06	0.09	0.09	0.03	0.12	0.17	0.18	0.14	0.08
Alcoholic drinks	0.02	0.05	0.05	—	0.01	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.03
Beer	0.02	0.03	0.03	—	—	0.08	0.07	0.04	0.02
Wine	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.04	—
Spirits	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.10	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.05

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
<b>Health and personal care</b>	-0.56	-0.47	-0.61	-0.86	-0.40	-0.84	-0.30	-0.48	-0.55
Health services	-0.66	-0.60	-0.74	-1.02	-0.52	-0.95	-0.36	-0.58	-0.67
Hospital and medical services	-0.67	-0.61	-0.75	-1.02	-0.52	-0.95	-0.37	-0.59	-0.68
Optical services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dental services	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Personal care products	0.10	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.11	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.11
Pharmaceuticals	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.10
Toiletries and personal products	0.02	0.03	—	0.05	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	0.02
Hairdressing and personal care services	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	0.01
<b>Recreation and education</b>	0.17	0.27	0.17	0.29	0.15	0.14	-0.09	0.15	0.20
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	0.05	0.02	-0.01	—	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.02
Books	0.04	0.01	—	-0.01	0.02	0.07	0.02	—	0.02
Newspapers and magazines	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	—
Stationery	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	—	0.04	—	—
Recreation	0.01	-0.05	-0.02	0.07	0.10	—	-0.06	-0.02	—
Audio, visual and computing equipment	-0.05	-0.06	-0.03	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.06	-0.06	-0.04
Audio, visual and computing media and services	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	—	—	—	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01
Sports and recreational equipment	—	—	-0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—
Toys, games and hobbies	0.01	0.01	—	0.05	0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	0.01
Repairs to recreational goods	—	—	0.01	0.02	—	—	—	—	—
Sports participation	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.02	—	0.01
Other recreational activities	0.06	—	0.04	0.05	0.11	0.06	—	0.04	0.04
Holiday travel and accommodation	0.02	0.16	0.06	0.11	-0.04	-0.03	-0.14	0.07	0.07
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	0.04	0.17	0.12	0.06	-0.02	-0.07	-0.11	0.06	0.07
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	-0.02	-0.01	-0.05	0.04	-0.02	0.05	-0.03	0.01	-0.01
Education and child care	0.09	0.14	0.12	0.11	0.07	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.11
Education	0.09	0.13	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.07	0.09
Child care	—	0.02	0.02	—	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>-0.20</b>	<b>-0.90</b>	<b>-0.40</b>	<b>-0.60</b>	<b>-0.60</b>	<b>-0.30</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

(a) All groups index points.

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Change between
	1998	1998	1999	1998 and	1998 and	1998	1999	Dec Qtr 1998 and Mar Qtr 1999
<b>Food</b>	122.1	126.0	127.5	1.2	4.4	23.77	24.06	0.29
Dairy and related products	134.0	134.7	137.3	1.9	2.5	1.78	1.82	0.04
Milk and cream	148.6	150.2	152.1	1.3	2.4	1.08	1.10	0.02
Cheese	111.7	112.9	115.4	2.2	3.3	0.41	0.42	0.01
Other dairy products	127.8	125.8	130.3	3.6	2.0	0.29	0.31	0.02
Cereal products	135.8	138.0	140.1	1.5	3.2	2.97	3.02	0.05
Bread	150.1	155.6	160.0	2.8	6.6	1.26	1.29	0.03
Cakes and biscuits	125.5	127.4	128.2	0.6	2.2	1.14	1.15	0.01
Breakfast cereals	128.0	125.1	123.3	-1.4	-3.7	0.31	0.31	—
Other cereal products	124.2	120.9	124.2	2.7	—	0.26	0.27	0.01
Meat and seafoods	109.6	109.5	110.6	1.0	0.9	3.42	3.45	0.03
Beef and veal	104.6	103.5	104.4	0.9	-0.2	0.76	0.77	0.01
Lamb and mutton	120.8	120.7	123.9	2.7	2.6	0.38	0.39	0.01
Pork	114.3	109.7	111.8	1.9	-2.2	0.20	0.20	—
Poultry	96.3	94.5	95.6	1.2	-0.7	0.58	0.58	—
Bacon and ham	114.2	112.2	112.7	0.4	-1.3	0.35	0.35	—
Processed meat	114.7	115.4	115.7	0.3	0.9	0.63	0.63	—
Fish and other seafood	106.1	110.9	111.7	0.7	5.3	0.53	0.53	—
Fresh fruit and vegetables	100.8	121.8	123.0	1.0	22.0	3.16	3.19	0.03
Fresh fruit	106.0	130.7	140.4	7.4	32.5	1.47	1.57	0.10
Fresh vegetables	98.2	116.8	111.4	-4.6	13.4	1.70	1.62	-0.08
Processed fruit and vegetables	117.4	119.3	120.9	1.3	3.0	0.93	0.94	0.01
Processed fruit	122.0	126.5	128.5	1.6	5.3	0.18	0.18	—
Processed vegetables	107.7	105.5	107.0	1.4	-0.6	0.30	0.31	0.01
Fruit and vegetable juices	122.7	127.2	128.5	1.0	4.7	0.44	0.45	0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	136.9	140.0	141.4	1.0	3.3	2.98	3.01	0.03
Soft drinks and cordials	132.2	132.9	133.4	0.4	0.9	1.23	1.23	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	150.1	151.5	151.5	—	0.9	0.39	0.39	—
Sweet and savoury snacks	138.6	144.4	147.2	1.9	6.2	1.36	1.39	0.03
Meals out and take away foods	121.6	122.9	124.5	1.3	2.4	6.38	6.46	0.08
Restaurant meals	123.1	124.9	126.2	1.0	2.5	2.93	2.95	0.02
Take away and fast foods	121.7	122.7	124.6	1.5	2.4	3.45	3.51	0.06
Other food	126.8	127.8	128.8	0.8	1.6	2.14	2.16	0.02
Eggs	143.0	142.8	145.3	1.8	1.6	0.19	0.19	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	142.1	139.6	139.7	0.1	-1.7	0.20	0.20	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	140.3	137.4	139.1	1.2	-0.9	0.46	0.46	—
Food additives and condiments	118.2	121.9	123.7	1.5	4.7	0.38	0.39	0.01
Fats and oils	113.6	117.6	118.0	0.3	3.9	0.32	0.32	—
Food n.e.c.	121.8	123.3	123.7	0.3	1.6	0.60	0.60	—
<b>Clothing</b>	107.4	106.9	106.3	-0.6	-1.0	6.89	6.85	-0.04
Men's clothing	109.9	108.8	108.9	0.1	-0.9	1.41	1.41	—
Men's outerwear	109.9	108.1	107.8	-0.3	-1.9	0.77	0.77	—
Men's shirts	108.0	108.2	108.0	-0.2	—	0.40	0.40	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	113.6	112.0	113.9	1.7	0.3	0.24	0.24	—
Women's clothing	108.9	108.8	108.5	-0.3	-0.4	2.85	2.84	-0.01
Women's outerwear	105.1	104.7	104.5	-0.2	-0.6	2.36	2.35	-0.01
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	122.7	124.5	123.2	-1.0	0.4	0.49	0.48	-0.01
Children's and infant's clothing	111.2	110.7	108.8	-1.7	-2.2	0.64	0.63	-0.01
Boys' clothing	113.4	113.1	110.0	-2.7	-3.0	0.37	0.36	-0.01
Girls' clothing	108.7	107.7	107.6	-0.1	-1.0	0.26	0.26	—
Footwear	97.9	97.0	95.8	-1.2	-2.1	1.06	1.04	-0.02
Men's footwear	94.6	92.9	92.1	-0.9	-2.6	0.25	0.25	—
Women's footwear	101.3	101.1	99.5	-1.6	-1.8	0.61	0.60	-0.01
Children's footwear	97.2	96.8	95.9	-0.9	-1.3	0.19	0.19	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services (b)	..	100.1	99.2	-0.9	..	0.94	0.93	-0.01
Accessories (b)	..	99.3	98.3	-1.0	..	0.48	0.47	-0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	99.6	99.9	97.9	-2.0	-1.7	0.20	0.20	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	133.6	135.8	136.0	0.1	1.8	0.27	0.27	—

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Change between
	1998	1999	1999	1998 and	1998 and	1998	1999	Dec Qtr 1998 and Mar Qtr 1999
<b>Housing</b>	93.4	95.5	96.2	0.7	3.0	23.66	23.84	0.18
Rents	118.8	121.5	122.3	0.7	2.9	7.11	7.15	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	118.3	121.0	121.8	0.7	3.0	6.28	6.32	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	122.7	126.1	126.5	0.3	3.1	0.82	0.83	0.01
Utilities	122.5	121.3	121.5	0.2	-0.8	4.27	4.27	—
Electricity	120.1	116.0	117.3	1.1	-2.3	2.08	2.11	0.03
Gas	131.5	131.2	128.6	-2.0	-2.2	0.83	0.81	-0.02
Other household fuel	112.8	114.9	115.0	0.1	2.0	0.17	0.17	—
Water and sewerage (b)	..	102.6	102.6	—	..	1.19	1.19	—
Other housing	83.3	85.7	86.6	1.1	4.0	12.29	12.41	0.12
House purchase (b)	..	101.5	103.0	1.5	..	8.45	8.57	0.12
Property rates and charges (b)	..	103.4	103.4	—	..	1.48	1.48	—
House repairs and maintenance	120.2	122.4	122.6	0.2	2.0	2.09	2.10	0.01
House insurance	157.0	162.5	159.9	-1.6	1.8	0.26	0.26	—
<b>Household equipment and operation</b>	113.8	114.1	113.0	-1.0	-0.7	15.21	15.07	-0.14
Furniture and floor coverings	119.2	120.5	118.6	-1.6	-0.5	4.37	4.30	-0.07
Furniture	122.1	123.1	120.8	-1.9	-1.1	3.51	3.44	-0.07
Floor coverings	110.9	113.3	112.7	-0.5	1.6	0.86	0.86	—
Household textiles	120.4	121.4	121.7	0.2	1.1	0.60	0.60	—
Bedding	123.3	121.7	120.2	-1.2	-2.5	0.32	0.32	—
Towels, linen and curtains	118.5	122.3	124.6	1.9	5.1	0.28	0.29	0.01
Household appliances, utensils and tools	107.2	106.8	106.4	-0.4	-0.7	3.33	3.32	-0.01
Appliances	108.5	106.5	106.2	-0.3	-2.1	1.91	1.90	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	98.3	100.9	96.1	-4.8	-2.2	0.31	0.29	-0.02
Household utensils	106.1	106.6	107.3	0.7	1.1	0.46	0.46	—
Tools	108.5	110.9	112.1	1.1	3.3	0.66	0.67	0.01
Household supplies	121.9	124.0	123.9	-0.1	1.6	3.00	3.00	—
Household cleaning agents	120.1	120.1	120.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.73	0.73	—
Pet foods, pets and supplies	129.8	132.4	130.8	-1.2	0.8	0.88	0.87	-0.01
Other household supplies	119.9	122.5	123.5	0.8	3.0	1.39	1.40	0.01
Household services	149.6	152.0	152.8	0.5	2.1	1.51	1.51	—
Pet services including veterinary	146.4	147.9	149.0	0.7	1.8	0.26	0.27	0.01
House contents insurance	157.1	161.0	158.6	-1.5	1.0	0.26	0.26	—
Repairs to household durables	139.3	140.2	141.8	1.1	1.8	0.36	0.36	—
Domestic services (b)	..	101.5	102.4	0.9	..	0.62	0.63	0.01
Postal and communication services	106.8	104.1	101.2	-2.8	-5.2	2.40	2.34	-0.06
Postal services	111.4	111.5	111.5	—	0.1	0.22	0.22	—
Communication services	106.2	103.2	100.0	-3.1	-5.8	2.19	2.12	-0.07
<b>Transportation</b>	122.9	121.9	121.2	-0.6	-1.4	16.97	16.87	-0.10
Private motoring	120.9	119.8	119.0	-0.7	-1.6	15.86	15.75	-0.11
Motor vehicles	111.4	106.0	105.5	-0.5	-5.3	4.56	4.54	-0.02
Automotive fuel	117.0	113.7	110.7	-2.6	-5.4	4.71	4.58	-0.13
Vehicle insurance	145.4	154.5	154.5	—	6.3	0.72	0.72	—
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	118.8	121.7	122.8	0.9	3.4	3.20	3.23	0.03
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	105.9	107.0	107.5	0.5	1.5	1.37	1.38	0.01
Other motoring charges	149.8	157.6	158.0	0.3	5.5	1.30	1.30	—
Urban transport fares	154.0	155.7	157.0	0.8	1.9	1.11	1.12	0.01
<b>Alcohol and tobacco</b>	165.4	167.9	169.2	0.8	2.3	9.92	10.00	0.08
Alcoholic drinks	133.1	134.5	135.2	0.5	1.6	6.16	6.19	0.03
Beer	133.9	135.5	136.4	0.7	1.9	3.26	3.28	0.02
Wine	128.8	129.8	130.0	0.2	0.9	1.67	1.67	—
Spirits	134.5	136.2	137.0	0.6	1.9	1.23	1.24	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	242.4	247.2	250.3	1.3	3.3	3.77	3.82	0.05

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Change between
	1998	1998	1999	1998 and	1998 and	1998	1999	Dec Qtr 1998 and Mar Qtr 1999
<b>Health and personal care</b>	154.8	158.4	148.2	-6.4	-4.3	8.47	7.92	-0.55
Health services	174.9	183.4	157.2	-14.3	-10.1	4.70	4.03	-0.67
Hospital and medical services	186.4	197.0	161.9	-17.8	-13.1	3.80	3.12	-0.68
Optical services	123.1	124.3	124.5	0.2	1.1	0.22	0.22	—
Dental services	147.3	150.0	151.4	0.9	2.8	0.68	0.69	0.01
Personal care products	128.6	126.4	131.6	4.1	2.3	2.83	2.94	0.11
Pharmaceuticals	132.5	124.8	134.4	7.7	1.4	1.21	1.31	0.10
Toiletries and personal products	126.3	128.5	130.2	1.3	3.1	1.62	1.64	0.02
Hairdressing and personal care services	130.7	133.1	134.3	0.9	2.8	0.94	0.95	0.01
<b>Recreation and education</b>	124.9	125.8	127.3	1.2	1.9	16.96	17.16	0.20
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	146.0	151.4	153.0	1.1	4.8	2.38	2.40	0.02
Books (b)	..	102.4	104.9	2.4	..	0.74	0.76	0.02
Newspapers and magazines (b)	..	102.8	103.2	0.4	..	0.95	0.95	—
Stationery	121.4	126.8	127.5	0.6	5.0	0.69	0.69	—
Recreation	117.7	117.5	117.6	0.1	-0.1	7.00	7.00	—
Audio, visual and computing equipment	73.8	70.5	68.4	-3.0	-7.3	1.53	1.49	-0.04
Audio, visual and computing media and services	106.9	109.2	107.9	-1.2	0.9	0.90	0.89	-0.01
Sports and recreational equipment (b)	..	101.7	101.7	—	..	0.72	0.72	—
Toys, games and hobbies (b)	..	97.8	99.8	2.0	..	0.41	0.42	0.01
Repairs to recreational goods	126.0	126.7	127.1	0.3	0.9	0.16	0.16	—
Sports participation (b)	..	100.5	101.5	1.0	..	1.02	1.03	0.01
Other recreational activities (b)	..	101.2	103.1	1.9	..	2.25	2.29	0.04
Holiday travel and accommodation	107.8	108.3	109.8	1.4	1.9	4.76	4.83	0.07
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	115.4	115.1	118.3	2.8	2.5	2.76	2.83	0.07
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	98.3	100.0	99.3	-0.7	1.0	2.01	2.00	-0.01
Education and child care	160.0	161.5	167.5	3.7	4.7	2.82	2.93	0.11
Education	170.3	170.3	177.8	4.4	4.4	2.21	2.30	0.09
Child care	133.0	139.0	140.9	1.4	5.9	0.62	0.63	0.01
<b>All groups</b>	<b>120.3</b>	<b>121.9</b>	<b>121.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>121.9</b>	<b>121.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989-1990 = 100.0

(b) Base: June quarter 1998 = 100.0



## SPECIAL SERIES, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	<i>Mar Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Mar Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Mar Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Mar Qtr</i>	<i>Change between</i>
	1998	1998	1999	1998 and Mar Qtr 1999	1998 and Mar Qtr 1999	1998	1999	Dec Qtr 1998 and Mar Qtr 1999
<b>All groups</b>	120.3	121.9	121.8	-0.1	1.2	121.9	121.8	-0.1
<b>Selected components</b>								
Goods component (b)	122.6	123.7	124.2	0.4	1.3	80.83	81.13	0.30
Services component (b)	116.8	119.2	118.1	-0.9	1.1	41.04	40.65	-0.39
<b>All groups excluding</b>								
Food	120.0	121.0	120.5	-0.4	0.4	98.09	97.72	-0.37
Clothing	121.2	122.9	122.8	-0.1	1.3	114.97	114.92	-0.05
Housing	125.7	127.1	126.7	-0.3	0.8	98.20	97.94	-0.26
Household equipment and operation	121.8	123.6	123.7	0.1	1.6	106.65	106.71	0.06
Transportation	119.9	121.9	121.9	0.0	1.7	104.90	104.91	0.01
Alcohol and tobacco	116.9	118.4	118.2	-0.2	1.1	111.94	111.77	-0.17
Health and personal care	118.2	119.6	120.1	0.4	1.6	113.39	113.85	0.46
Recreation and education	119.8	121.5	121.1	-0.3	1.1	104.90	104.62	-0.28
Hospital and medical services	118.6	119.9	120.5	0.5	1.6	118.06	118.65	0.59

(a) Base of each index: 1989-1990 = 100.0

(b) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, All Groups Excluding Housing—Index Numbers(a)(b)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Korea, Republic of</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Taiwan</i>	<i>Canada</i>	<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>
<b>1994-1995</b>	116.5	110.5	151.4	150.3	107.8	138.0	114.5	119.1	113.4	118.0	115.2	124.8
<b>1995-1996</b>	121.1	111.9	160.8	163.7	107.3	144.4	116.0	122.5	116.0	120.9	116.3	128.3
<b>1996-1997</b>	123.9	113.7	168.2	174.1	108.2	151.3	118.1	125.7	118.8	124.3	117.7	131.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	125.4	114.9	175.1	232.7	112.4	162.1	119.4	127.2	120.6	125.8	119.2	134.6
<b>1995</b>												
March	116.9	110.6	152.9	152.6	107.4	138.4	114.5	118.8	113.9	118.2	115.3	125.1
June	118.3	111.3	155.5	155.9	107.8	140.7	115.3	121.0	115.1	119.4	115.8	126.6
September	119.8	111.2	158.6	157.9	107.3	141.8	115.4	121.4	115.3	119.7	116.1	127.0
December	120.8	111.6	159.6	161.6	107.3	142.3	115.6	122.0	115.3	120.2	115.7	127.7
<b>1996</b>												
March	121.5	112.0	160.7	167.0	106.9	145.2	116.3	122.3	116.0	121.2	116.4	128.5
June	122.3	112.8	164.1	168.1	107.8	148.1	116.8	124.3	117.3	122.6	116.9	130.0
September	122.7	113.0	165.5	168.5	107.3	149.6	117.3	126.1	117.5	123.1	117.3	130.3
December	123.6	113.8	167.4	173.1	107.5	149.5	117.7	126.3	118.5	124.1	117.1	131.2
<b>1997</b>												
March	124.5	113.9	168.9	177.1	107.2	152.4	118.4	124.7	119.2	124.7	118.0	131.6
June	124.8	114.1	170.8	177.7	110.7	153.8	118.8	125.7	119.8	125.1	118.2	132.8
September	124.4	114.5	173.7	183.3	112.3	155.4	119.9	127.6	120.3	125.3	119.3	133.5
December	125.2	114.9	174.2	195.7	112.5	157.9	120.0	125.7	120.1	125.9	118.9	134.3
<b>1998</b>												
March	125.7	115.0	175.7	254.5	112.0	167.3	119.1	127.1	120.9	125.6	119.1	134.5
June	126.3	115.3	176.9	297.4	112.6	167.7	118.7	128.2	121.2	126.3	119.5	136.1
September	126.6	116.4	176.6	360.6	111.9	167.8	118.3	128.0	121.4	126.4	119.9	136.1
December	127.1	116.5	175.1	363.2	113.2	163.9	117.8	129.9	121.4	126.8	119.2	136.9
<b>1999</b>												
March	126.7	117.1	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	127.5	121.7	127.1	n.y.a	137.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-1990 = 100

(b) Refer to paragraphs 14-18 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, All Groups Excluding Housing—Percentage Changes(a)

Period	Australia	New Zealand	Hong Kong	Indonesia	Japan	Korea, Republic of	Singapore	Taiwan	Canada	United States of America	Germany	United Kingdom
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)												
<b>1994-1995</b>	2.6	1.0	8.1	9.1	-0.1	5.8	3.2	4.3	1.3	2.8	1.8	2.3
<b>1995-1996</b>	3.9	1.3	6.2	8.9	-0.5	4.6	1.3	2.9	2.3	2.5	1.0	2.8
<b>1996-1997</b>	2.3	1.6	4.6	6.4	0.8	4.8	1.8	2.6	2.4	2.8	1.2	2.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	1.2	1.1	4.1	33.7	3.9	7.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)												
<b>1995</b>												
March	2.9	1.2	8.6	8.3	-0.3	4.7	2.8	3.8	1.9	2.7	1.5	2.7
June	3.4	1.6	8.2	10.1	-0.3	5.0	2.5	3.8	3.2	3.0	1.5	2.5
September	4.1	1.3	7.5	8.7	-0.4	3.8	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.0	2.9
December	4.4	1.1	6.7	9.6	-0.8	4.5	1.1	4.1	2.6	2.4	1.0	3.1
<b>1996</b>												
March	3.9	1.3	5.1	9.4	-0.5	4.9	1.6	2.9	1.8	2.5	1.0	2.7
June	3.4	1.3	5.5	7.8	0.0	5.3	1.3	2.7	1.9	2.7	0.9	2.7
September	2.4	1.6	4.4	6.7	0.0	5.5	1.6	3.9	1.9	2.8	1.0	2.6
December	2.3	2.0	4.9	7.1	0.2	5.1	1.8	3.5	2.8	3.2	1.2	2.7
<b>1997</b>												
March	2.5	1.7	5.1	6.0	0.3	5.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	2.9	1.4	2.4
June	2.0	1.2	4.1	5.7	2.7	3.8	1.7	1.1	2.1	2.0	1.1	2.2
September	1.4	1.3	5.0	8.8	4.7	3.9	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.8	1.7	2.5
December	1.3	1.0	4.1	13.1	4.7	5.6	2.0	-0.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	2.4
<b>1998</b>												
March	1.0	1.0	4.0	43.7	4.5	9.8	0.6	1.9	1.4	0.7	0.9	2.2
June	1.2	1.1	3.6	67.4	1.7	9.0	-0.1	2.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	2.5
September	1.8	1.7	1.7	96.7	-0.4	8.0	-1.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.9
December	1.5	1.4	0.5	85.6	0.6	3.8	-1.8	3.3	1.1	0.7	0.3	1.9
<b>1999</b>												
March	0.8	1.8	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.3	0.7	1.2	n.y.a.	1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
<b>1995</b>												
March	1.0	0.2	2.2	3.5	-0.7	1.6	0.1	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.6	1.0
June	1.2	0.6	1.7	2.2	0.4	1.7	0.7	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.4	1.2
September	1.3	-0.1	2.0	1.3	-0.5	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
December	0.8	0.4	0.6	2.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4	-0.3	0.6
<b>1996</b>												
March	0.6	0.4	0.7	3.3	-0.4	2.0	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6
June	0.7	0.7	2.1	0.7	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.2
September	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.2	-0.5	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
December	0.7	0.7	1.1	2.7	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.8	-0.2	0.7
<b>1997</b>												
March	0.7	0.1	0.9	2.3	-0.3	1.9	0.6	-1.3	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.3
June	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.3	3.3	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.9
September	-0.3	0.4	1.7	3.2	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.5
December	0.6	0.3	0.3	6.8	0.2	1.6	0.1	-1.5	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.6
<b>1998</b>												
March	0.4	0.1	0.9	30.0	-0.4	6.0	-0.8	1.1	0.7	-0.2	0.2	0.1
June	0.5	0.3	0.7	16.9	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.2
September	0.2	1.0	-0.2	21.3	-0.6	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0
December	0.4	0.1	-0.8	0.7	1.2	-2.3	-0.4	1.5	0.0	0.3	-0.6	0.6
<b>1999</b>												
March	-0.3	0.5	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-1.8	0.2	0.2	n.y.a.	0.1

(a) Refer to paragraphs 14–18 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

## ANALYTICAL SERIES, Index Numbers(a)(b)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS  
AND SERVICES(c).....

<i>Period</i>	<i>All groups</i>	<i>All groups excluding Housing</i>	<i>All groups excluding 'volatile items'(c)</i>	<i>Goods</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Treasury Underlying Rate(c)</i>
<b>1994-1995</b>	113.9	116.5	118.1	116.2	114.0	115.7	115.1
<b>1995-1996</b>	118.7	121.1	122.4	120.6	118.6	120.1	118.8
<b>1996-1997</b>	120.3	123.9	125.2	122.5	122.1	122.4	121.2
<b>1997-1998</b>	120.3	125.4	127.2	123.5	126.1	124.2	123.0
<b>1995</b>							
March	114.7	116.9	118.3	116.3	114.2	115.7	115.2
June	116.2	118.3	119.7	117.9	115.5	117.3	116.3
September	117.6	119.8	121.0	119.4	116.8	118.7	117.7
December	118.5	120.8	122.1	120.3	118.4	119.9	118.5
<b>1996</b>							
March	119.0	121.5	122.8	120.8	119.7	120.5	119.0
June	119.8	122.3	123.5	121.9	119.6	121.3	119.9
September	120.1	122.7	124.1	122.2	120.4	121.7	120.5
December	120.3	123.6	124.8	122.5	121.6	122.3	121.0
<b>1997</b>							
March	120.5	124.5	125.6	122.6	122.8	122.7	121.5
June	120.2	124.8	126.1	122.8	123.4	123.0	121.9
September	119.7	124.4	126.1	122.8	124.7	123.3	122.3
December	120.0	125.2	126.9	123.3	125.6	123.9	122.7
<b>1998</b>							
March	120.3	125.7	127.6	123.8	126.7	124.5	123.3
June	121.0	126.3	128.2	124.0	127.4	124.9	123.8
September	121.3	126.6	128.6	124.3	127.7	125.2	124.3
December	121.9	127.1	129.0	124.5	129.0	125.7	124.7
<b>1999</b>							
March	121.8	126.7	129.0	125.1	130.1	126.4	125.4

(a) Base of each index: 1989-1990 = 100.0

(b) Refer to paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(c) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series.

## ANALYTICAL SERIES, Percentage Changes(a)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS  
AND SERVICES(b).....

Period	All groups	All groups excluding Housing	All groups excluding 'volatile items'(b)	Goods	Services	Total	Treasury underlying rate(b)
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)							
<b>1994-1995</b>	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1
<b>1995-1996</b>	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.2
<b>1996-1997</b>	1.3	2.3	2.3	1.6	3.0	1.9	2.0
<b>1997-1998</b>	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.8	3.3	1.5	1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)							
<b>1995</b>							
March	3.9	2.9	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.1	1.9
June	4.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.1	2.5
September	5.1	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.1
December	5.1	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.2
<b>1996</b>							
March	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.3
June	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1
September	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.4
December	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.1
<b>1997</b>							
March	1.3	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.6	1.8	2.1
June	0.3	2.0	2.1	0.7	3.2	1.4	1.7
September	-0.3	1.4	1.6	0.5	3.6	1.3	1.5
December	-0.2	1.3	1.7	0.7	3.3	1.3	1.4
<b>1998</b>							
March	-0.2	1.0	1.6	1.0	3.2	1.5	1.5
June	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.0	3.2	1.5	1.6
September	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.2	2.4	1.5	1.6
December	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.0	2.7	1.5	1.6
<b>1999</b>							
March	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.1	2.7	1.5	1.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)							
<b>1995</b>							
March	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
June	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.0
September	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
December	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.0	0.7
<b>1996</b>							
March	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.7	0.8
September	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5
December	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4
<b>1997</b>							
March	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.4
June	-0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
September	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2	0.3
December	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.3
<b>1998</b>							
March	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.5
June	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4
September	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
December	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.3
<b>1999</b>							
March	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.6

(a) Refer to paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CPI

**1** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (i.e. metropolitan households). This 'basket' covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups:

- food
- clothing
- housing
- household equipment and operation
- transportation
- alcohol and tobacco
- health and personal care and recreation and education.

The inclusion in the CPI of a ninth group, financial services, has been announced, and it is expected to be introduced into the CPI during 2000.

**2** The capital city indexes measure price movements over time in each city individually. They do not measure differences in retail price levels between cities.

**3** In *Information Paper: Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (Cat no. 6453.0), the purpose of the CPI is explained, while the current weighting pattern is given in *Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6454.0).

### PRICES

**4** Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are generally collected quarterly. However, some important items are priced monthly or more frequently (e.g. bread, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, petrol, alcohol and tobacco) and a small number annually (e.g. seasonal clothing).

**5** In order to facilitate a more even spread of field collection workload the bulk of the items for which prices are collected quarterly are priced in the first two months of each quarter (i.e. July/August, October/November, January/February, April/May). With a few exceptions items priced in the third month are those subject to price changes at discrete points of time (e.g. electricity and postal charges); in these cases information about any changes in price during the quarter is obtained so that an average price for the whole quarter can be calculated.

### WEIGHTING PATTERN

**6** There are 101 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) in the thirteenth series CPI and each expenditure class has its own weight, or measure of relative importance. In calculating the index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights.

**7** Changes in the weighting pattern have been made at approximately five-yearly intervals to take account of changes in household spending patterns. The CPI now comprises thirteen series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### ANALYSIS OF CPI CHANGES

**8** 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 changes in index points and percentage changes between any two periods:

All groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities.

	Index numbers:	
March Quarter 1999	121.8	(see Table 1)
less December Quarter 1998	121.9	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	-0.1	
Percentage change =	$\frac{-0.1}{121.9}$	x 100 = -0.1%

**9** Percentage changes are calculated to illustrate three different kinds of movements in index numbers:

- movements between consecutive financial years (where the index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers),
- movements between corresponding quarters of consecutive years, and
- movements between consecutive quarters.

**10** Table 7 provides a detailed analysis, for the weighted average of eight capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy and related products sub-group contributed 1.82 index points to the total All groups index number of 121.8 for March Quarter 1999. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group, sub-group and expenditure class.

**11** Table 8 provides summary information about a range of Special series in a similar format to that provided in Table 7.

### SPECIAL SERIES

**12** Various series are presented in this publication which are helpful for analytical purposes. These series are compiled by taking subsets of the CPI basket. A complete list of CPI groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes is contained in Tables 6 and 7.

**13** Some of the compiled series are self explanatory, such as 'All groups, excluding food'. Other series and their composition are described below:

*All Groups, goods component:* comprises the Food group (except Restaurant meals), Clothing group (except Clothing services and shoe repair), Household equipment and operation group (except Household services and Postal and communication services), Alcohol and tobacco group, House purchase, Motor vehicles, Automotive fuel, Motor Vehicle parts and accessories, Personal care products, Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery, Audio, visual and computing equipment, Audio, visual and computing media and services, Sports and recreational equipment and Toys, games and hobbies.

*All Groups, services component:* comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'.

*All groups excluding 'volatile items':* comprises the All groups CPI excluding: Fresh fruit and vegetables and Automotive fuel.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### SPECIAL SERIES *continued*

*Private sector goods and services*: in addition to the items excluded from the series "All groups excluding 'volatile items'", also excludes: Government-owned dwelling rents, Utilities, Property rates and charges, Postal and communication services, Other motoring charges, Urban transport fares, Health services, Pharmaceuticals, and Education and child care.

*Treasury underlying rate*: excludes items from the CPI basket whose prices are highly volatile, exhibit marked seasonal patterns or are largely affected by policy decisions—in addition to the items excluded from the series 'Private sector goods and services', the Treasury underlying rate also excludes Meat and seafoods, Clothing group, Alcohol and tobacco group; and Holiday travel and accommodation; but includes Other motoring charges.

### INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

**14** In analysing price movements in Australia, an important consideration is Australia's performance relative to other countries. However, due to the many differences in the structure of the housing sector in different countries and in the way that housing is treated in their CPIs, a simple comparison of All groups (or headline) CPIs is often inappropriate. To provide a better basis for international comparisons, the Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a resolution which called for countries to 'provide for dissemination at the international level of an index which excludes shelter, in addition to the all-items index'.

**15** Table 9 presents indexes for selected countries on a basis consistent with the above resolution and comparable to the Australian series 'All groups excluding housing'. To facilitate comparisons all indexes in this table have, where necessary, been converted to a quarterly basis and re-referenced to a base of 1989–90 = 100.0.

**16** The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) before the unification of Germany.

**17** From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

**18** From 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became part of China. It is now known as: The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is now officially referred to as: Taiwan (Province of China)

**19** In producing Table 9, the ABS is grateful for the assistance of the relevant national statistical agencies which have either directly supplied indexes for all items excluding shelter or data to enable their derivation.

### ANALYTICAL SERIES

**20** Table 11 presents the All groups CPI, All groups excluding housing (the series recommended for international comparisons), and a number of other analytical series, including the Treasury measure of underlying inflation. A description of the Treasury 'underlying' inflation rate was published in the Appendix to the September quarter 1994 issue of this publication.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**21** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

**22** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6440.0)
- *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6403.0)
- *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6416.0)
- *Information Paper: Issues to be Considered During the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (Cat. no. 6451.0)
- *Information Paper: Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (Cat. no. 6453.0)
- *Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6454.0)

### 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 Steve Whennan on 02 6252 6251 or to any ABS office.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available
- n.y.a. not yet available
- r revised
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

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*DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074.  
For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400.  
These calls cost 75c per minute.

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2640100003990  
ISSN 1031-0207

RRP \$17.50

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Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics