

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 28 OCT 1998

SEPTEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Jun Qtr 1998 to Sep Qtr 1998	% change Sep Qtr 1997 to Sep Qtr 1998
Weighted average of eight capital cities		
Food	1.3	3.2
Clothing	-0.3	-0.1
Housing	0.3	-1.1
Household equipment and operation	-0.1	0.4
Transportation	-0.5	-1.7
Alcohol and tobacco	0.5	3.5
Health and personal care	0.8	7.1
Recreation and education	-0.3	2.2
All groups	0.2	1.3
All groups excluding housing	0.2	1.8

SEPTEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- rose 0.2% in September quarter 1998, down from 0.6% in June quarter 1998.
- rose 1.3% between the September quarters 1997 and 1998.

NOTE:
13th Series CPI commences this quarter - see page 2 for details.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

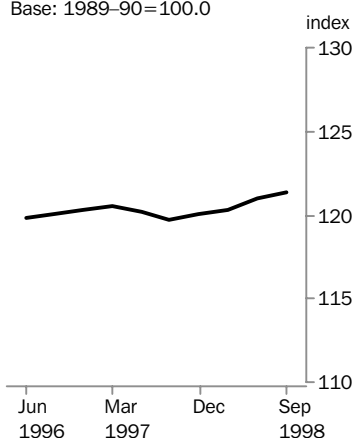
- contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were the cost of fresh vegetables (+6.7%), hospital and medical services (+2.3%), other motoring charges (+4.8%), fresh fruit (+3.9%), house purchases (+0.6%), sweet and savoury snacks (+3.9%) and property rates and charges (+3.1%).
- partially offsetting the above were falls in the cost of motor vehicles (-2.0%), automotive fuel (-2.2%) and electricity (-3.9%).

Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation

The index of underlying inflation, as defined by the Commonwealth Treasury, increased by 0.4% between the June and September quarters 1998, and by 1.6% between the September quarters 1997 and 1998.

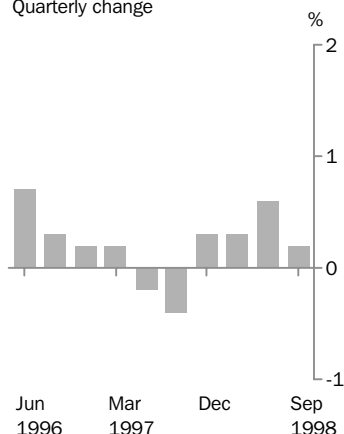
All Groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All Groups

Quarterly change



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Steve Whennan on Canberra 02 6252 6251, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
December 1998	28 January 1999
March 1999	28 April 1999

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This issue introduces the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index which, among other things, incorporates an updated commodity classification and weighting pattern. For more details of changes resulting from the introduction of the 13th Series CPI, and as a consequence to this issue of the publication, refer to the Appendix to the June quarter 1998 issue of this publication and also to *Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6454.0) which was released on 29 September 1998.

The concordance between the 12th and 13th Series CPI, shown in the Appendix to the June quarter 1998 issue of this publication, is repeated on pages 26 to 29.

Included in this issue is an appendix describing the treatment of the Victorian Winter Power Bonus and Winter Energy Concession in the CPI, see page 30.

The release date for the December quarter 1998 issue of this publication will be Thursday 28 January 1999, not 27 January as previously advertised.

CHANGE IN NEXT ISSUE

Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation has been presented on the front page of this publication since the September quarter 1994. The Reserve Bank of Australia announced in the Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin, which was released on 19 October 1998, that in future 'the target for monetary policy can now be presented simply as maintaining an average rate of inflation, as measured by *the CPI*, of 2-3% over the medium term'.

Henceforth, Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation will no longer be presented on the front page of this publication, but will continue to appear in Table 11.

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

FOOD: +1.3%

The increase in food costs this quarter is mainly attributable to increases in fresh vegetables (+6.7%), sweet and savoury snacks (+3.9%), fresh fruit (+3.9%) and bread (+3.4%). For fresh vegetables, this is the fourth consecutive quarterly rise. There were no significant offsets. This quarter's increase (+1.3%) is the largest quarterly increase since September quarter 1995 (+1.5%).

Over the 12 months to September quarter 1998, the price of fresh vegetables rose by 26.1%, soft drinks and cordials by 5.4%, sweet and savoury snacks by 5.9% and restaurant meals by 2.5%.

HOUSING: +0.3%

The quarterly increase in the Housing group results from increases in property rates and charges (+3.1%), house purchase (+0.6%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.7%) and water and sewerage (+1.9%). Partially offsetting these rises were falls in electricity (-3.9%) and gas (-2.7%).

See Appendix 2 on page 30 for an explanation of the treatment in the CPI of the Victorian Winter Power Bonus and Winter Energy Concession schemes.

TRANSPORTATION: -0.5%

The fall in transportation costs this quarter has been caused by a combination of reductions in the prices of motor vehicles (-2.0%) and petrol (-2.2%). The reduction in petrol prices resulted from rises in April (+1.8%), in May (+3.1%), and falls in June (-1.1%), July (-0.8%), August (-1.8%) and again in September (-1.6%). Offsetting these falls were increases in other motoring charges (+4.8%), motor vehicle repair and servicing costs (+1.1%), vehicle insurance premiums (+2.6%) and urban transport fares (+1.1%).

Over the 12 months to September quarter 1998, the price of motor vehicles fell by 6.3% and the price of petrol by 4.5%. This is the first quarter since December quarter 1976 (when "transportation" became a separate Group in the CPI) that there have been 4 successive quarterly falls in transportation costs.

HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE: +0.8%

The main contributor to the quarterly increase was hospital and medical services (+2.3%) reflecting a flow on effect from rises in health fund premiums last quarter. This increase was partially offset by a fall in pharmaceuticals prices (-3.8%) due largely to the cyclical effects of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's safety net.

Annually, the health and personal care index rose by 7.1%, the largest increase since June quarter 1997. This rise was also mainly due to increases in health fund premiums.

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO: +0.5% This rise was mainly due to increases in the price of cigarettes and tobacco (+0.8%), spirits (+0.7%) and wine (+0.4%). These increases were largely attributable to an increase in excise duties.

All four components of this index, cigarettes and tobacco (+6.1%), wine (+2.4%), spirits (+1.6%) and beer (+1.1%) contributed to the annual increase of 3.5%.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION: -0.3% The decrease in the recreation and education index this quarter is the first fall for this group since the June quarter 1997. It is mainly attributable to a seasonal decrease in the domestic holiday travel and accommodation charges (-2.0%), and a decrease in audio, visual and computing equipment prices (-3.1%). The most significant offsetting movements to these decreases were increases in newspapers and magazines prices (+2.2%) and child care fees (+2.6%).

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

	INDEX NUMBER(a)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN	
	Sep Qtr 1998	<i>Jun Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1998</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1997 and Sep Qtr 1998</i>
	Sydney	121.9	0.4
Melbourne	120.4	0.1	0.8
Brisbane	122.5	0.2	1.5
Adelaide	123.0	0.5	1.5
Perth	119.6	0.6	1.8
Hobart	122.8	0.7	1.8
Darwin	122.1	0.2	0.9
Canberra	121.3	0.1	1.3
Weighted average of eight capital cities	121.3	0.2	1.3

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 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>
1994-95	113.0	114.1	114.7	116.9	112.3	115.2	114.7	115.1	113.9
1995-96	118.7	118.4	119.1	121.2	116.7	119.6	119.5	120.3	118.7
1996-97	120.4	119.9	121.0	122.3	118.3	121.4	121.6	121.2	120.3
1997-98	120.5	119.8	121.6	121.6	118.0	121.3	121.3	120.4	120.3
1994									
September	111.0	112.2	112.5	114.9	110.1	113.3	113.0	112.6	111.9
December	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
1995									
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
1996									
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
1997									
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
1998									
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

(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)									
1994-95	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2
1995-96	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.2
1996-97	1.4	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.3
1997-98	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)									
1994									
September	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.9
December	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.5
1995									
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
1996									
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
1997									
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
1998									
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
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1994									
September	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
December	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
1995									
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
1996									
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
1997									
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
1998									
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

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>
1994-95	112.1	106.7	100.0	109.2	117.5	141.0	135.5	114.6	113.9
1995-96	116.0	107.0	105.9	111.7	122.6	156.1	141.8	117.7	118.7
1996-97	119.7	107.3	101.6	113.5	124.3	161.4	149.1	119.7	120.3
1997-98	121.8	107.4	94.5	113.8	123.5	164.6	153.6	123.6	120.3
1994									
September	110.4	106.6	94.9	108.2	117.0	137.4	133.4	112.9	111.9
December	110.9	106.8	97.5	108.9	116.8	139.1	133.7	114.1	112.8
1995									
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
1996									
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
1997									
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
1998									
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

(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)									
1994-95	2.5	0.0	6.2	1.3	3.3	5.5	5.0	2.4	3.2
1995-96	3.5	0.3	5.9	2.3	4.3	10.7	4.6	2.7	4.2
1996-97	3.2	0.3	-4.1	1.6	1.4	3.4	5.1	1.7	1.3
1997-98	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)									
1994									
September	1.5	-0.5	0.0	0.7	3.4	5.0	5.5	2.0	1.9
December	1.3	0.0	4.2	1.4	2.9	4.5	5.3	2.0	2.5
1995									
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
1996									
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
1997									
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
1998									
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
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1994									
September	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.9	1.1	-0.1	0.6
December	0.5	0.2	2.7	0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.8
1995									
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
1996									
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
1997									
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
1998									
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	-0.5	0.5	0.8	-0.3	0.2

CPI GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD									
1997									
June	121.5	119.6	119.9	121.9	121.9	121.0	122.0	122.5	120.8
September	121.4	119.8	118.7	122.0	122.4	121.0	121.8	122.9	120.8
December	121.6	119.7	121.2	122.0	122.0	121.7	122.3	124.9	121.1
1998									
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
CLOTHING									
1997									
June	107.6	108.4	105.8	105.2	106.3	105.3	104.9	106.9	107.3
September	107.3	108.5	105.3	105.4	105.8	104.8	105.6	105.7	107.1
December	107.9	109.2	105.6	106.2	106.8	106.0	105.6	106.9	107.8
1998									
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
HOUSING									
1997									
June	101.8	90.1	103.0	94.1	91.8	98.4	114.6	98.7	96.9
September	101.3	88.7	102.4	92.2	90.4	97.7	113.6	97.0	95.9
December	100.1	86.9	100.2	90.2	88.8	95.5	111.3	93.7	94.2
1998									
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
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION									
1997									
June	112.1	115.0	115.7	113.6	113.6	120.1	107.8	114.9	113.9
September	111.0	114.6	115.6	113.6	113.1	119.7	107.7	114.1	113.4
December	111.5	115.4	115.8	113.6	113.6	119.7	107.5	114.2	113.8
1998									
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
TRANSPORTATION									
1997									
June	124.6	123.8	123.7	122.7	122.2	121.7	122.4	130.7	123.9
September	125.2	124.6	123.7	123.2	121.8	122.2	122.4	130.6	124.4
December	124.7	124.4	124.0	122.3	121.5	122.1	122.4	129.0	124.0
1998									
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

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO									
1997									
June	166.8	159.4	162.3	166.5	153.0	153.5	160.1	156.4	162.1
September	166.7	158.6	162.9	167.2	152.7	153.6	159.4	156.8	161.9
December	169.4	161.2	165.5	168.8	154.5	155.6	159.6	159.0	164.3
1998									
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
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE									
1997									
June	145.1	162.7	146.8	168.0	151.0	162.6	146.4	150.4	154.0
September	140.7	157.3	143.8	158.6	144.4	153.0	139.9	147.0	148.6
December	144.8	162.2	149.7	164.1	144.9	160.9	143.0	150.7	153.0
1998									
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
RECREATION AND EDUCATION									
1997									
June	118.4	124.8	122.3	122.9	116.4	119.2	109.6	116.5	120.9
September	119.6	126.0	122.8	123.7	117.4	119.2	111.0	116.6	122.0
December	120.4	126.2	123.1	123.6	118.4	120.6	111.4	117.6	122.4
1998									
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

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

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES—Sep Qtr 1998(a)

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	0.28	0.39	0.11	0.42	0.35	0.45	0.04	0.13	0.31
Dairy and related products (b)	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	—
Milk and cream	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	—
Cheese	0.01	—	0.02	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Other dairy products	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—
Cereal products	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.09	-0.01	0.16	0.02	0.06	0.04
Bread	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.13	0.01	0.05	0.04
Cakes and biscuits	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—
Breakfast cereals	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	—
Other cereal products	—	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—
Meat and seafoods	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	—	0.01	0.04	—	-0.03	—
Beef and veal	—	—	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—
Lamb and mutton	-0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.01	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	—
Pork	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Poultry	—	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Bacon and ham	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.02	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	—
Processed meat	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—
Fish and other seafood (c)	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	-0.01	0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	0.11	0.24	-0.01	0.19	0.22	0.13	-0.04	0.08	0.15
Fresh fruit	0.03	0.09	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.09	-0.08	0.03	0.05
Fresh vegetables (d)	0.08	0.14	-0.04	0.13	0.19	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.10
Processed fruit and vegetables	0.03	—	—	0.02	-0.03	0.03	—	0.01	0.01
Processed fruit	—	-0.01	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	-0.01	—
Processed vegetables	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.02	—	—	—
Fruit and vegetable juices (c)	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—	0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.08
Soft drinks and cordials	0.04	-0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Ice cream and ice confectionery	—	—	—	—	—	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	—
Sweet and savoury snacks (c)	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.05
Meals out and take away foods	0.03	-0.04	0.03	-0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04	—	—
Restaurant meals (c)	0.04	-0.05	0.02	0.01	-0.03	—	0.03	0.02	—
Take away and fast foods (c)	-0.01	0.01	—	-0.03	0.07	0.02	0.02	-0.01	—
Other food	0.03	0.02	—	0.03	0.01	0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.02
Eggs	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	—	—	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.01	—
Food additives and condiments (d)	0.01	—	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	0.01
Fats and oils (d)	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	0.01
Food n.e.c. (c)	-0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01
Clothing	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.04	-0.05	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Men's clothing (d)	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	—
Men's outerwear (d)	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Men's shirts	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01
Women's clothing (d)	-0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—
Women's outerwear (d)	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01	—
Children's and infants' clothing (d)	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	—	—
Boys' clothing (f)	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—
Girls' clothing (f)	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	0.01	—	—
Footwear	—	-0.02	-0.02	-0.04	-0.04	0.01	-0.01	—	-0.02
Men's footwear	0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Women's footwear	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	—	-0.02
Children's footwear	0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services (e)	0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	0.02	—	—	—
Clothing accessories (e)	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—
Fabrics and knitting wool (f)	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—
Clothing services and shoe repair (c)	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.01

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Housing	0.27	-0.26	0.17	0.21	0.18	0.02	0.41	0.11	0.09
Rents	0.11	0.03	—	0.08	0.01	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.06
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.08	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.03	—	—	0.05	—	-0.01	0.02	—	0.01
Utilities (b)	0.02	-0.43	0.13	0.09	0.02	-0.01	0.33	0.09	-0.08
Electricity (f)	—	-0.33	—	0.05	—	—	0.14	0.07	-0.09
Gas (f)	0.01	-0.10	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	-0.02
Other household fuel (f)	—	—	—	—	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.01
Water and sewerage (e)	0.01	—	0.14	0.04	—	-0.01	0.19	—	0.02
Other housing (b)	0.14	0.13	0.03	0.04	0.15	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.12
House purchase (e)	0.07	0.05	-0.01	-0.01	0.12	—	0.03	—	0.05
Property rates and charges (e)	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.03	—	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.05
House repairs and maintenance	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	-0.02	—	0.01
House insurance	—	0.01	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	—
Household Equipment and Operation	-0.02	0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	0.11	0.02	—	-0.01
Furniture and floor coverings	-0.02	0.01	—	-0.06	-0.06	—	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Furniture	-0.03	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	—	0.02	-0.03	-0.02
Floor coverings	—	0.01	—	-0.03	-0.01	0.01	-0.03	—	—
Household textiles	—	—	-0.01	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Bedding	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.02	—	0.01	—
Towels, linen and curtains	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	—	0.01
Household appliances, utensils and tools (d)	0.01	—	-0.02	-0.03	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	—
Appliances (f)	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	—	—	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.01
Household utensils (d)	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—
Tools	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01
Household supplies (d)	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.10	0.02	—	0.03
Household cleaning agents	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01
Pet foods, pets and supplies (c)	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.05	-0.01	-0.01	—
Other household supplies (d)	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.02
Household services (d)	—	—	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Pet services including veterinary (c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
House contents insurance	—	—	—	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	—	—
Repairs to household durables (c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.03	—
Domestic services (e)	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.01	—
Postal and communication services (c)	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Postal services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communication services (c)	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Transportation	-0.06	-0.13	-0.29	0.01	0.21	-0.02	-0.07	-0.18	-0.08
Private motoring	-0.08	-0.14	-0.32	-0.06	0.20	-0.03	-0.09	-0.18	-0.09
Motor vehicles	-0.08	-0.06	-0.15	-0.09	-0.15	-0.08	-0.04	-0.15	-0.10
Automotive fuel	-0.04	-0.09	-0.21	-0.15	-0.22	-0.01	-0.13	-0.07	-0.10
Vehicle insurance	0.01	—	—	0.08	0.05	—	0.08	0.01	0.01
Motor vehicle repair and servicing (d)	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03
Motor vehicle parts and accessories (d)	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.01	—	—
Other motoring charges (c)	—	—	—	0.06	0.48	—	—	0.02	0.06
Urban transport fares	—	—	0.03	0.06	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.01
Alcohol and tobacco (c)	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.04	-0.04	-0.04	0.03	0.05
Alcoholic drinks	0.02	0.03	0.04	—	0.01	-0.07	-0.07	-0.01	0.02
Beer	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.02	—	-0.07	-0.05	-0.01	—
Wine	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.01
Spirits	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Health and personal care	0.03	0.05	0.17	0.04	0.05	0.30	0.02	0.06	0.06
Health services	0.07	0.07	0.19	0.01	0.09	0.33	0.04	0.09	0.09
Hospital and medical services	0.08	0.07	0.19	—	0.08	0.31	0.05	0.09	0.08
Optical services	—	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Dental services	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	—
Personal care products	-0.05	-0.03	-0.03	0.02	-0.07	-0.03	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04
Pharmaceuticals	-0.06	-0.05	-0.04	-0.04	-0.05	-0.05	-0.05	-0.05	-0.05
Toiletries and personal products	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.06	-0.01	0.01	0.02	—	0.02
Hairdressing and personal care services (c)	—	0.01	—	0.02	0.01	—	—	0.02	—
Recreation and education	-0.10	-0.05	0.05	-0.04	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.04	-0.04
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery (d)	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.04
Books (e)	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Newspapers and magazines (e)	0.03	—	0.02	0.02	0.04	—	—	0.01	0.02
Stationery (f)	0.02	—	0.03	0.01	—	—	-0.03	0.01	0.01
Recreation (d)	-0.05	-0.03	0.03	-0.05	-0.03	-0.07	—	-0.07	-0.03
Audio, visual and computing equipment (b)	-0.05	-0.05	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04	-0.08	-0.05
Audio, visual and computing media and services (d)	0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	—
Sports and recreational equipment (e)	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Toys, games and hobbies (e)	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—	—
Repairs to recreational goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sports participation (e)	—	—	0.02	—	-0.02	—	0.02	0.01	—
Other recreational activities (e)	0.01	0.02	0.03	—	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation	-0.13	-0.06	-0.09	-0.03	-0.05	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.08
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation (c)	-0.05	-0.05	-0.07	-0.07	-0.03	-0.01	0.06	-0.10	-0.05
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation (c)	-0.08	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	-0.02	—	-0.08	0.07	-0.03
Education and child care	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Education (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child care (c)	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
All groups	0.50	0.10	0.20	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.30	0.10	0.3

(a) All groups index points.

(b) Series renamed and minor change to composition (linked to the 12th series equivalent), see Appendix A1 for further information.

(c) Series renamed only (linked to the 12th series equivalent), see Appendix A1 for further information.

(e) New series, see Appendix A1 for further information.

(d) New series, combination of previously published series, see Appendix A1 for further information.

(f) Change of position in classification, see Appendix A1 for further information.

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Sep Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Change between
	1997	1998	1998	1998 and Sep Qtr 1998	1997 and Sep Qtr 1998	1998(g)	1998	Jun Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1998
Food	120.8	123.1	124.7	1.3	3.2	23.22	23.53	0.31
Dairy and related products (b)	131.9	134.1	134.5	0.3	2.0	1.78	1.78	—
Milk and cream	145.3	148.9	149.1	0.1	2.6	1.07	1.07	—
Cheese	112.9	110.8	112.5	1.5	-0.4	0.40	0.41	0.01
Other dairy products	123.8	129.4	128.6	-0.6	3.9	0.30	0.30	—
Cereal products	135.0	136.9	138.8	1.4	2.8	2.95	2.99	0.04
Bread	149.1	151.0	156.1	3.4	4.7	1.22	1.26	0.04
Cakes and biscuits	125.0	126.5	126.3	-0.2	1.0	1.14	1.14	—
Breakfast cereals	128.7	130.6	130.7	0.1	1.6	0.33	0.33	—
Other cereal products	121.2	124.7	125.5	0.6	3.5	0.27	0.27	—
Meat and seafoods	109.7	109.5	109.4	-0.1	-0.3	3.42	3.42	—
Beef and veal	103.8	104.4	104.3	-0.1	0.5	0.77	0.77	—
Lamb and mutton	125.7	122.7	122.0	-0.6	-2.9	0.38	0.38	—
Pork	114.1	110.0	110.7	0.6	-3.0	0.20	0.20	—
Poultry	97.7	94.9	93.9	-1.1	-3.9	0.58	0.57	-0.01
Bacon and ham	112.4	114.2	112.2	-1.8	-0.2	0.35	0.35	—
Processed meat	114.3	115.1	115.9	0.7	1.4	0.63	0.63	—
Fish and other seafood (c)	103.1	106.3	107.8	1.4	4.6	0.51	0.52	0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	99.5	106.0	111.7	5.4	12.3	2.75	2.90	0.15
Fresh fruit	117.2	111.6	115.9	3.9	-1.1	1.25	1.30	0.05
Fresh vegetables (d)	87.4	103.3	110.2	6.7	26.1	1.50	1.60	0.10
Processed fruit and vegetables	116.0	117.6	118.9	1.1	2.5	0.91	0.92	0.01
Processed fruit	120.0	125.6	127.5	1.5	6.3	0.18	0.18	—
Processed vegetables	106.0	107.9	106.7	-1.1	0.7	0.31	0.31	—
Fruit and vegetable juices (c)	121.6	121.7	124.9	2.6	2.7	0.43	0.44	0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	133.8	137.7	141.1	2.5	5.5	2.93	3.01	0.08
Soft drinks and cordials	128.4	133.0	135.3	1.7	5.4	1.23	1.25	0.02
Ice cream and ice confectionery	144.1	150.4	150.9	0.3	4.7	0.39	0.39	—
Sweet and savoury snacks (c)	136.7	139.3	144.8	3.9	5.9	1.31	1.36	0.05
Meals out and take away foods	120.7	122.5	122.6	0.1	1.6	6.36	6.36	—
Restaurant meals (c)	121.6	124.6	124.6	—	2.5	2.92	2.92	—
Take away and fast foods (c)	121.1	122.2	122.4	0.2	1.1	3.44	3.44	—
Other food	124.1	126.6	127.8	0.9	3.0	2.12	2.14	0.02
Eggs	143.9	143.6	145.6	1.4	1.2	0.19	0.19	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	137.9	139.4	140.1	0.5	1.6	0.20	0.20	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	133.3	138.1	139.0	0.7	4.3	0.46	0.46	—
Food additives and condiments (d)	115.2	119.5	122.5	2.5	6.3	0.37	0.38	0.01
Fats and oils (d)	112.1	114.3	119.0	4.1	6.2	0.31	0.32	0.01
Food n.e.c. (c)	120.7	121.8	120.0	-1.5	-0.6	0.59	0.58	-0.01
Clothing	107.1	107.3	107.0	-0.3	-0.1	6.92	6.90	-0.02
Men's clothing (d)	110.3	110.9	110.9	—	0.5	1.44	1.44	—
Men's outerwear (d)	110.5	110.9	110.2	-0.6	-0.3	0.79	0.78	-0.01
Men's shirts	107.7	109.6	110.2	0.5	2.3	0.41	0.41	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	113.7	113.3	114.4	1.0	0.6	0.24	0.25	0.01
Women's clothing (d)	107.9	108.5	108.4	-0.1	0.5	2.84	2.84	—
Women's outerwear (d)	104.1	104.9	104.7	-0.2	0.6	2.36	2.36	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	121.3	121.2	121.2	—	-0.1	0.48	0.48	—
Children's and infant's clothing (d)	110.9	110.6	110.6	—	-0.3	0.64	0.64	—
Boys' clothing (f)	113.4	112.5	112.6	0.1	-0.7	0.37	0.37	—
Girls' clothing (f)	108.0	108.4	108.2	-0.2	0.2	0.26	0.26	—
Footwear	98.6	97.3	95.8	-1.5	-2.8	1.06	1.04	-0.02
Men's footwear	97.3	92.3	93.1	0.9	-4.3	0.25	0.25	—
Women's footwear	100.4	102.1	99.0	-3.0	-1.4	0.62	0.60	-0.02
Children's footwear	97.9	96.2	96.2	—	-1.7	0.19	0.19	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services (e)	..	100.0	100.3	0.3	..	0.94	0.94	—
Accessories (e)	..	100.0	100.1	0.1	..	0.48	0.48	—
Fabrics and knitting wool (f)	99.3	99.7	100.0	0.3	0.7	0.20	0.20	—
Clothing services and shoe repair (c)	132.5	133.9	134.9	0.7	1.8	0.26	0.27	0.01

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Sep Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Change between
	1997	1998	1998	1998 and	1997 and	1998(g)	1998	Jun Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1998
Housing	95.9	94.5	94.8	0.3	-1.1	23.41	23.50	0.09
Rents	117.2	120.0	121.0	0.8	3.2	7.02	7.08	0.06
Privately-owned dwelling rents	116.6	119.6	120.4	0.7	3.3	6.21	6.25	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	122.7	123.8	126.2	1.9	2.9	0.81	0.82	0.01
Utilities (b)	122.6	122.6	120.3	-1.9	-1.9	4.31	4.23	-0.08
Electricity (f)	120.1	120.1	115.4	-3.9	-3.9	2.16	2.07	-0.09
Gas (f)	131.5	131.5	128.0	-2.7	-2.7	0.83	0.81	-0.02
Other household fuel (f)	114.1	114.2	117.1	2.5	2.6	0.16	0.17	0.01
Water and sewerage (e)	..	100.0	101.9	1.9	..	1.16	1.18	0.02
Other housing (b)	87.3	84.3	85.1	0.9	-2.5	12.08	12.20	0.12
House purchase (e)	..	100.0	100.6	0.6	..	8.32	8.37	0.05
Property rates and charges (e)	..	100.0	103.1	3.1	..	1.43	1.48	0.05
House repairs and maintenance	119.8	121.3	122.0	0.6	1.8	2.08	2.09	0.01
House insurance	155.2	158.0	161.1	2.0	3.8	0.26	0.26	—
Household equipment and operation	113.4	114.0	113.9	-0.1	0.4	15.20	15.19	-0.01
Furniture and floor coverings	116.8	119.6	119.1	-0.4	2.0	4.34	4.32	-0.02
Furniture	119.3	122.2	121.5	-0.6	1.8	3.48	3.46	-0.02
Floor coverings	109.6	112.3	112.4	0.1	2.6	0.86	0.86	—
Household textiles	118.8	120.2	120.7	0.4	1.6	0.59	0.60	0.01
Bedding	122.0	122.7	121.4	-1.1	-0.5	0.32	0.32	—
Towels, linen and curtains	116.7	118.6	121.2	2.2	3.9	0.27	0.28	0.01
Household appliances, utensils and tools (d)	107.0	107.4	107.3	-0.1	0.3	3.35	3.35	—
Appliances (f)	109.4	108.5	108.1	-0.4	-1.2	1.94	1.93	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	96.6	100.7	99.3	-1.4	2.8	0.31	0.30	-0.01
Household utensils (d)	102.6	105.0	105.0	—	2.3	0.45	0.45	—
Tools	108.5	109.4	110.9	1.3	2.2	0.65	0.66	0.01
Household supplies (d)	121.2	122.9	123.9	0.8	2.2	2.97	3.00	0.03
Household cleaning agents	120.4	120.4	121.5	0.9	0.9	0.73	0.74	0.01
Pet foods, pets and supplies (c)	127.8	130.1	130.3	0.2	2.0	0.86	0.86	—
Other household supplies (d)	119.1	121.5	123.0	1.2	3.3	1.38	1.40	0.02
Household services (d)	147.9	150.5	151.1	0.4	2.2	1.49	1.50	0.01
Pet services including veterinary (c)	144.9	147.6	147.1	-0.3	1.5	0.26	0.26	—
House contents insurance	155.5	158.2	160.5	1.5	3.2	0.26	0.26	—
Repairs to household durables (c)	137.0	139.9	140.2	0.2	2.3	0.36	0.36	—
Domestic services (e)	..	100.0	100.4	0.4	..	0.61	0.61	—
Postal and communication services (c)	106.5	106.1	105.2	-0.8	-1.2	2.45	2.43	-0.02
Postal services	111.3	111.4	111.4	—	0.1	0.22	0.22	—
Communication services (c)	105.9	105.4	104.4	-0.9	-1.4	2.23	2.21	-0.02
Transportation	124.4	122.8	122.3	-0.5	-1.7	17.09	17.01	-0.08
Private motoring	122.6	120.9	120.2	-0.6	-2.0	15.99	15.90	-0.09
Motor vehicles	114.1	109.1	106.9	-2.0	-6.3	4.70	4.60	-0.10
Automotive fuel	120.9	118.0	115.4	-2.2	-4.5	4.88	4.78	-0.10
Vehicle insurance	143.4	146.5	150.3	2.6	4.8	0.69	0.70	0.01
Motor vehicle repair and servicing (d)	119.0	119.4	120.7	1.1	1.4	3.14	3.17	0.03
Motor vehicle parts and accessories (d)	106.4	106.0	105.8	-0.2	-0.6	1.36	1.36	—
Other motoring charges (c)	148.7	150.2	157.4	4.8	5.9	1.23	1.29	0.06
Urban transport fares	153.5	154.3	156.0	1.1	1.6	1.10	1.11	0.01
Alcohol and tobacco (c)	161.9	166.7	167.5	0.5	3.5	9.85	9.90	0.05
Alcoholic drinks	132.2	133.8	134.1	0.2	1.4	6.12	6.14	0.02
Beer	133.3	134.6	134.7	0.1	1.1	3.24	3.24	—
Wine	127.3	129.9	130.4	0.4	2.4	1.67	1.68	0.01
Spirits	133.6	134.7	135.7	0.7	1.6	1.21	1.22	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	232.6	244.9	246.9	0.8	6.1	3.73	3.76	0.03

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Sep Qtr 1997	Jun Qtr 1998	Sep Qtr 1998	Jun Qtr 1998 and	Sep Qtr 1997 and	Jun Qtr 1998(g)	Sep Qtr 1998	Change between Jun Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1998
				Sep Qtr 1998	Sep Qtr 1998			
Health and personal care	148.6	157.9	159.1	0.8	7.1	8.45	8.51	0.06
Health services	164.5	179.4	182.9	2.0	11.2	4.60	4.69	0.09
Hospital and medical services	173.7	192.0	196.4	2.3	13.1	3.71	3.79	0.08
Optical services	122.0	124.0	123.9	-0.1	1.6	0.22	0.22	—
Dental services	144.1	148.6	149.5	0.6	3.7	0.68	0.68	—
Personal care products	128.2	130.5	128.9	-1.2	0.5	2.92	2.88	-0.04
Pharmaceuticals	131.5	135.5	130.3	-3.8	-0.9	1.32	1.27	-0.05
Toiletries and personal products	126.1	127.4	128.5	0.9	1.9	1.60	1.62	0.02
Hairdressing and personal care services (c)	128.1	131.2	132.2	0.8	3.2	0.93	0.93	—
Recreation and education	122.0	125.1	124.7	-0.3	2.2	16.85	16.81	-0.04
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery (d)	143.2	147.5	150.4	2.0	5.0	2.32	2.36	0.04
Books (e)	..	100.0	101.9	1.9	..	0.73	0.74	0.01
Newspapers and magazines (e)	..	100.0	102.2	2.2	..	0.92	0.94	0.02
Stationery (f)	120.5	123.5	125.5	1.6	4.1	0.67	0.68	0.01
Recreation (d)	116.7	117.9	117.4	-0.4	0.6	7.02	6.99	-0.03
Audio, visual and computing equipment (b)	75.4	74.0	71.7	-3.1	-4.9	1.61	1.56	-0.05
Audio, visual and computing media and services (b)	105.2	107.2	107.2	—	1.9	0.89	0.89	—
Sports and recreational equipment (e)	..	100.0	101.0	1.0	..	0.71	0.72	0.01
Toys, games and hobbies (e)	..	100.0	99.6	-0.4	..	0.42	0.42	—
Repairs to recreational goods	124.4	126.2	126.3	0.1	1.5	0.16	0.16	—
Sports participation (e)	..	100.0	100.2	0.2	..	1.02	1.02	—
Other recreational activities (e)	..	100.0	100.6	0.6	..	2.22	2.23	0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation	104.7	107.1	105.3	-1.7	0.6	4.71	4.63	-0.08
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation (c)	106.7	110.8	108.6	-2.0	1.8	2.65	2.60	-0.05
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation (c)	102.2	102.5	101.1	-1.4	-1.1	2.06	2.03	-0.03
Education and child care	151.8	160.5	161.4	0.5	6.3	2.81	2.82	0.01
Education (b)	160.8	170.3	170.3	—	5.9	2.21	2.21	—
Child care (c)	128.6	135.3	138.8	2.6	7.9	0.60	0.62	0.02
All groups	119.7	121.0	121.3	0.2	1.3	121.0	121.3	0.3

(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

(b) Series renamed and minor change to composition (linked to 12th series equivalent) see Appendix A1 for further information.

(c) Series renamed only (linked to 12th series equivalent) see Appendix A1 for further information.

(d) New series, combination of previously published series, see Appendix A1 for further information.

(e) New series, base June quarter 1998 = 100.0, see Appendix A1 for further information.

(f) Change of position in classification, see Appendix A1 for further information.

(g) Differs from previously published June quarter 1998 due to 13th Series CPI reweighting.

SPECIAL SERIES, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Sep Qtr 1997	Jun Qtr 1998	Sep Qtr 1998	Jun Qtr 1998 and	Sep Qtr 1997 and	Jun Qtr 1998(c)	Sep Qtr 1998	Change between Jun Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1998
				Sep Qtr 1998	Sep Qtr 1998			
All groups	119.7	121.0	121.3	0.2	1.3	121.0	121.3	0.3
Selected components								
Goods component (b)	122.0	123.1	123.3	0.2	1.1	81.93	82.04	0.11
Services component (b)	116.2	117.8	118.5	0.6	2.0	39.07	39.31	0.24
All groups excluding								
Food	119.5	120.6	120.6	0.0	0.9	97.78	97.82	0.04
Clothing	120.6	121.9	122.3	0.2	1.4	114.08	114.44	0.36
Housing	124.4	126.3	126.6	0.2	1.8	97.59	97.84	0.25
Household equipment and operation	121.2	122.6	123.0	0.3	1.5	105.80	106.15	0.35
Transportation	118.9	120.7	121.2	0.4	1.9	103.91	104.33	0.42
Alcohol and tobacco	116.5	117.5	117.8	0.3	1.1	111.15	111.44	0.29
Health and personal care	117.9	118.7	119.0	0.3	0.9	112.55	112.84	0.29
Recreation and education	119.5	120.6	121.0	0.3	1.3	104.15	104.54	0.39
Hospital and medical services	118.3	119.2	119.4	0.2	0.9	117.29	117.55	0.26
				(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0				(b) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series
				(c) Differs from previously published June quarter 1998 due to 13th Series CPI reweighting.				

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>
1994-95	116.5	110.5	151.4	150.3	107.8	138.0	114.5	119.1	113.4	118.0	115.2	124.8
1995-96	121.1	111.9	160.8	163.7	107.3	144.4	116.0	122.5	116.0	120.9	116.3	128.3
1996-97	123.9	113.7	168.2	174.1	108.2	151.3	118.1	125.7	118.8	124.3	117.7	131.5
1997-98	125.4	114.9	175.1	232.7	112.4	162.1	119.4	127.2	120.6	125.8	119.2	134.6
1994												
September	115.1	109.8	147.6	145.3	107.7	136.6	113.6	119.3	112.2	116.9	114.9	123.4
December	115.7	110.4	149.6	147.5	108.2	136.2	114.4	117.2	112.4	117.4	114.6	123.9
1995												
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
1996												
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
1997												
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
1998												
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	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	128.0	121.4	126.4	n.y.a.	136.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 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)												
1994-95	2.6	1.0	8.1	9.1	-0.1	5.8	3.2	4.3	1.3	2.8	1.8	2.3
1995-96	3.9	1.3	6.2	8.9	-0.5	4.6	1.3	2.9	2.3	2.5	1.0	2.8
1996-97	2.3	1.6	4.6	6.4	0.8	4.8	1.8	2.6	2.4	2.8	1.2	2.5
1997-98	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)												
1994												
September	2.2	0.5	8.2	8.8	-0.4	7.4	3.8	6.3	0.1	2.8	2.0	1.9
December	2.2	0.9	7.4	9.3	0.6	6.2	3.7	3.4	-0.2	2.4	2.0	2.1
1995												
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
1996												
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
1997												
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
1998												
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	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.3	0.9	0.9	n.y.a.	1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
1994												
September	0.6	0.3	2.7	2.6	-0.4	1.9	1.0	2.3	0.6	0.9	0.7	-0.1
December	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.5	0.5	-0.3	0.6	-1.8	0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.4
1995												
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
1996												
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
1997												
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
1998												
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	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-0.2	0.2	0.1	n.y.a.	0.0

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

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>
1994-95	113.9	116.5	118.1	116.2	114.0	115.7	115.1
1995-96	118.7	121.1	122.4	120.6	118.6	120.1	118.8
1996-97	120.3	123.9	125.2	122.5	122.1	122.4	121.2
1997-98	120.3	125.4	127.2	123.5	126.1	124.2	123.0
1994							
September	111.9	115.1	116.7	115.0	112.7	114.4	114.2
December	112.8	115.7	117.5	115.7	113.7	115.2	114.8
1995							
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
1996							
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
1997							
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
1998							
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

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

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

(c) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

ANALYTICAL SERIES, Percentage Changes(a)

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>All groups</i>	<i>All groups excluding Housing</i>	<i>All groups excluding 'volatile items'(b)</i>	<i>Goods</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Treasury underlying rate(b)</i>
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)							
1994-95	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1
1995-96	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.2
1996-97	1.3	2.3	2.3	1.6	3.0	1.9	2.0
1997-98	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.8	3.3	1.5	1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)							
1994							
September	1.9	2.2	2.3	1.7	2.8	2.0	2.0
December	2.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.0	2.1
1995							
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
1996							
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
1997							
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
1998							
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
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)							
1994							
September	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.6
December	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5
1995							
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
1996							
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
1997							
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
1998							
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

(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:		
September Quarter 1998	121.3	(see Table 1)	
less June Quarter 1998	121.0	(see Table 1)	
Change in index points	0.3		
Percentage change =	$\frac{0.3}{121.3}$	x 100 =	0.2%

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 1.78 index points to the total All groups index number of 121.3 for September Quarter 1998. 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. The measures in this table have been defined to be as consistent as possible with those presented in Table 10 of the 12th Series publication. 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 (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.

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

- *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities* (6403.0)
- *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0)
- *Information Paper: Issues to be Considered During the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (6451.0)
- *Information Paper: Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (6453.0)
- *Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (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

CONCORDANCE BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH SERIES CPI(a)

12TH SERIES (Old)	13TH SERIES (New)	Base period
Group, subgroup, and expenditure class	Group, subgroup, and expenditure class	
	Concordance with 13th series	Concordance with 12th series
ALL GROUPS	ALL GROUPS	
1 FOOD	1 FOOD	
1.1 Dairy products	1.1 Dairy and related products	renamed, Old 1.1.3 moved to New 1.8.5 (d)
1.1.1 Milk and cream	1.1.1 Milk and cream	
1.1.2 Cheese	1.1.2 Cheese	
1.1.3 Butter	1.1.3 Other dairy products	
1.1.4 Other dairy products		
1.2 Cereal products	1.2 Cereal products	
1.2.1 Bread	1.2.1 Bread	
1.2.2 Cakes and biscuits	1.2.2 Cakes and biscuits	
1.2.3 Breakfast cereals	1.2.3 Breakfast cereals	
1.2.4 Other cereal products	1.2.4 Other cereal products	
1.3 Meat and seafoods	1.3 Meat and seafoods	
1.3.1 Beef and veal	1.3.1 Beef and veal	
1.3.2 Lamb and mutton	1.3.2 Lamb and mutton	
1.3.3 Pork	1.3.3 Pork	
1.3.4 Poultry	1.3.4 Poultry	
1.3.5 Bacon and ham	1.3.5 Bacon and ham	
1.3.6 Processed meat	1.3.6 Processed meat	
1.3.7 Fish	1.3.7 Fish and other seafood	renamed (d)
1.4 Fresh fruit and vegetables	1.4 Fresh fruit and vegetables	
1.4.1 Fresh fruit	1.4.1 Fresh fruit	
1.4.2 Fresh potatoes	1.4.2 Fresh vegetables	new, combination Old 1.4.2, 1.4.3 (c)
1.4.3 Other fresh vegetables		
1.5 Processed fruit and vegetables	1.5 Processed fruit and vegetables	
1.5.1 Processed fruit	1.5.1 Processed fruit	
1.5.2 Fruit juice	1.5.2 Processed vegetables	
1.5.3 Processed vegetables	1.5.3 Fruit and vegetable juices	renamed (Old 1.5.2) (d)
1.6 Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	1.6 Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	
1.6.1 Soft drinks and cordials	1.6.1 Soft drinks and cordials	
1.6.2 Ice cream and ice confectionery	1.6.2 Ice cream and ice confectionery	
1.6.3 Confectionery	1.6.3 Sweet and savoury snacks	renamed (d)
1.7 Meals out and take away foods	1.7 Meals out and take away foods	
1.7.1 Meals out	1.7.1 Restaurant meals	renamed (d)
1.7.2 Take away foods	1.7.2 Take away and fast foods	renamed (d)
1.8 Other food	1.8 Other food	
1.8.1 Eggs	1.8.1 Eggs	
1.8.2 Sugar	1.8.2 Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	
1.8.3 Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	1.8.3 Tea, coffee and food drinks	
1.8.4 Tea, coffee and food drinks	1.8.4 Food additives and condiments	new, combination Old 1.8.2, 1.8.5 (c)
1.8.5 Food additives, sauces and spices	1.8.5 Fats and oils	new, combination Old 1.1.3, 1.8.6, 1.8.7 (c)
1.8.6 Margarine	1.8.6 Food n.e.c.	renamed (Old 1.8.8) (d)
1.8.7 Cooking oils and fats		
1.8.8 Other food		

CONCORDANCE BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH SERIES CPI(a) *continued*

12TH SERIES (Old)		13TH SERIES (New)		Base period
Group, subgroup, and expenditure class	Concordance with 13th series	Group, subgroup, and expenditure class	Concordance with 12th series	
2 CLOTHING		2 CLOTHING		
2.1 Men's and boys' clothing	dropped, split into New 2.1, 2.3	2.1 Men's clothing	new, excludes Old 2.1.5	(c)
2.1.1 Men's outer clothing	dropped, in New 2.1.1	2.1.1 Men's outerwear	new, combination Old 2.1.1, 2.1.2	(c)
2.1.2 Men's knitwear	dropped, in New 2.1.1	2.1.2 Men's shirts		
2.1.3 Men's shirts		2.1.3 Men's underwear, nightwear and socks		
2.1.4 Men's underwear, nightwear and socks				
2.1.5 Boys' clothing	moved to New 2.3.1			
2.2 Women's and girls' clothing	dropped, split into new 2.2, 2.3	2.2 Women's clothing	new, excludes Old 2.2.4	(c)
2.2.1 Women's outer clothing	dropped, in New 2.2.1	2.2.1 Women's outerwear	new, combination Old 2.2.1, 2.2.2	(c)
2.2.2 Women's knitwear	dropped, in New 2.2.1	2.2.2 Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery		
2.2.3 Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery				
2.2.4 Girls' clothing	moved to New 2.3.2	2.3 Children's and infants' clothing	new, split from Old 2.1, 2.2	(c)
2.3 Fabrics and knitting wool	dropped, in New 2.5	2.3.1 Boys' clothing	moved from Old 2.1.5	(d)
2.3.1 Fabrics and knitting wool	moved to New 2.5.2	2.3.2 Girls' clothing	moved from Old 2.2.4	(d)
2.4 Footwear		2.4 Footwear		
2.4.1 Men's footwear		2.4.1 Men's footwear		
2.4.2 Women's footwear		2.4.2 Women's footwear		
2.4.3 Children's footwear		2.4.3 Children's footwear		
2.5 Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	dropped, in New 2.5	2.5 Clothing accessories, supplies and services	new	(b)
2.5.1 Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	moved to New 2.5.3	2.5.1 Clothing accessories	new, Old 4.6.5, 4.6.8, parts 2.1, 2.2, 2.3	(b)
		2.5.2 Fabrics and knitting wool	moved from Old 2.3.1	(d)
		2.5.3 Clothing services and shoe repair	renamed (Old 2.5.1)	(d)
3 HOUSING		3 HOUSING	includes Old 4.1	(d)
3.1 Rents		3.1 Rents		
3.1.1 Privately-owned dwelling rents		3.1.1 Privately-owned dwelling rents		
3.1.2 Government-owned dwelling rents		3.1.2 Government-owned dwelling rents		
3.2 Home ownership	renamed (New 3.3)	3.2 Utilities	renamed, Old 4.1	(d)
3.2.1 Mortgage interest charges	dropped, removed from index	3.2.1 Electricity	moved from Old 4.1.1	(d)
3.2.2 Local government rates and charges	dropped, split into New 3.2.4, 3.3.2	3.2.2 Gas	moved from Old 4.1.2	(d)
3.2.3 House repairs and maintenance		3.2.3 Other household fuel	renamed, Old 4.1.3	(d)
3.2.4 House insurance		3.2.4 Water and sewerage	new, split from Old 3.2.2	(b)
		3.3 Other housing	renamed, Old 3.2 excludes 3.2.1	(d)
		3.3.1 House purchase	new	(b)
		3.3.2 Property rates and charges	new, split from Old 3.2.2	(b)
		3.3.3 House repairs and maintenance		
		3.3.4 House insurance		

A1

CONCORDANCE BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH SERIES CPI *continued*

CONCORDANCE BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH SERIES CPI(a) *continued*

12TH SERIES (Old)	Concordance with 13th series	13TH SERIES (New)	Concordance with 12th series	Base period
Group, subgroup, and expenditure class		Group, subgroup, and expenditure class		
4 HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION		4 HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION		
4.1 Fuel and light	renamed (New 3.2)			
4.1.1 Electricity	moved to New 3.2.1			
4.1.2 Gas	moved to New 3.2.2			
4.1.3 Other fuel	renamed (New 3.2.3)			
4.2 Furniture and floor coverings		4.1 Furniture and floor coverings		
4.2.1 Furniture		4.1.1 Furniture	includes part Old 4.6.5	(d)
4.2.2 Floor coverings		4.1.2 Floor coverings		
4.3 Appliances	dropped, in New 4.3			
4.3.1 Appliances				
4.4 Household textiles		4.2 Household textiles		
4.4.1 Bedding		4.2.1 Bedding		
4.4.2 Towels, linen and curtains		4.2.2 Towels, linen and curtains		
4.5 Household utensils and tools	dropped, in New 4.3	4.3 Household appliances, utensils and tools	new, combination Old 4.3, 4.5	(c)
4.5.1 Tableware, glassware and cutlery		4.3.1 Appliances		
4.5.2 Kitchen and cooking utensils	dropped, in New 4.3.3	4.3.2 Tableware, glassware and cutlery		
4.5.3 Cleaning utensils	dropped, in New 4.3.3	4.3.3 Household utensils	new, combination Old 4.5.2, 4.5.3	(c)
4.5.4 Tools		4.3.4 Tools		
4.6 Household supplies and services	dropped, split into New 4.4, 4.5	4.4 Household supplies	new, split from Old 4.6	(c)
4.6.1 Household cleaning agents		4.4.1 Household cleaning agents		
4.6.2 Household paper products	dropped, in New 4.4.3	4.4.2 Pet foods, pets and supplies	renamed, Old 4.6.7	(d)
4.6.3 Other household non-durables	dropped, in New 4.4.3	4.4.3 Other household supplies	new, combination Old 4.6.2, 4.6.3	(c)
4.6.4 Stationery	moved to New 8.1.3	4.5 Household services	new, split from Old 4.6	(c)
4.6.5 Watches and clocks	dropped, in New 2.5.1, 4.1.1	4.5.1 Pet services including veterinary	renamed, Old 4.6.6	(d)
4.6.6 Veterinary services	renamed (New 4.5.1)	4.5.2 House contents insurance		
4.6.7 Pet foods	renamed (New 4.4.2)	4.5.3 Repairs to household durables	renamed, Old 4.6.10	(d)
4.6.8 Travel goods	dropped, in New 2.5.1	4.5.4 Domestic services	new	(b)
4.6.9 House contents insurance				
4.6.10 Repairs to appliances	renamed (New 4.5.3)			
4.7 Postal and telephone services	renamed (New 4.6)	4.6 Postal and communication services	renamed (Old 4.7)	(d)
4.7.1 Postal services		4.6.1 Postal services		
4.7.2 Telephone services	renamed (New 4.6.2)	4.6.2 Communication services	renamed (Old 4.7.2)	(d)
4.8 Consumer credit charges	dropped, removed from index			
4.8.1 Consumer credit charges	dropped, removed from index			
5 TRANSPORTATION		5 TRANSPORTATION		
5.1 Private motoring		5.1 Private motoring		
5.1.1 Motor vehicles		5.1.1 Motor vehicles		
5.1.2 Automotive fuel		5.1.2 Automotive fuel		
5.1.3 Vehicle insurance		5.1.3 Vehicle insurance		
5.1.4 Motoring charges	renamed (New 5.1.6)	5.1.4 Motor vehicle repair and servicing	renamed, split from Old 5.1.6	(d)
5.1.5 Tyres and tubes	renamed, in New 5.1.5	5.1.5 Motor vehicle parts and accessories	renamed, combination Old 5.1.5, part 5.1.6	(d)
5.1.6 Vehicle servicing, repairs and parts	renamed, in New 5.1.4, 5.1.5	5.1.6 Other motoring charges	renamed (Old 5.1.4)	(d)
5.2 Urban transport fares		5.2 Urban transport fares		
5.2.1 Urban transport fares		5.2.1 Urban transport fares		

CONCORDANCE BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH SERIES CPI(a) *continued*

12TH SERIES (Old)		13TH SERIES (New)		Base period
Group, subgroup, and expenditure class	Concordance with 13th series	Group, subgroup, and expenditure class	Concordance with 12th series	
6 TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL	renamed	6 ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO	renamed	(d)
6.1 Alcoholic drinks		6.1 Alcoholic drinks		
6.1.1 Beer		6.1.1 Beer		
6.1.2 Wine		6.1.2 Wine		
6.1.3 Spirits		6.1.3 Spirits		
6.2 Cigarettes and tobacco		6.2 Cigarettes and tobacco		
6.2.1 Cigarettes and tobacco		6.2.1 Cigarettes and tobacco		
7 HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE		7 HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE		
7.1 Health services		7.1 Health services		
7.1.1 Hospital and medical services		7.1.1 Hospital and medical services		
7.1.2 Optical services		7.1.2 Optical services		
7.1.3 Dental services		7.1.3 Dental services		
7.2 Personal care products		7.2 Personal care products		
7.2.1 Pharmaceuticals		7.2.1 Pharmaceuticals		
7.2.2 Toiletries and personal products		7.2.2 Toiletries and personal products		
7.3 Hairdressing services	renamed	7.3 Hairdressing and personal care services	renamed	(d)
7.3.1 Hairdressing services	renamed	7.3.1 Hairdressing and personal care services	renamed	(d)
8 RECREATION AND EDUCATION		8 RECREATION AND EDUCATION		
8.1 Books, newspapers and magazines	dropped, in New 8.1	8.1 Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	new, combination Old 8.1, 4.6.4	(c)
8.1.1 Books, newspapers and magazines	dropped, split into New 8.1.1, 8.1.2	8.1.1 Books	new, split from Old 8.1.1	(b)
		8.1.2 Newspapers and magazines	new, split from Old 8.1.1	(b)
		8.1.3 Stationery	moved from Old 4.6.4	(d)
8.2 Recreational goods	dropped, in New 8.2	8.2 Recreation	new, combination Old 8.2, 8.4	(c)
8.2.1 Video and sound equipment	renamed (New 8.2.1)	8.2.1 Audio, visual and computing equipment	renamed, Old 8.2.1, parts 8.2.3, and computers	(d)
8.2.2 Records, cassettes and tapes	dropped, in New 8.2.2	8.2.2 Audio, visual and computing media and services	new, combination Old 8.2.2, 8.4.1, and software	(c)
8.2.3 Sports and photographic equipment and toys	dropped, split into New 8.2.1, 8.2.3, 8.2.4	8.2.3 Sports and recreational equipment	new, split from Old 8.2.3	(b)
		8.2.4 Toys, games and hobbies	new, split from Old 8.2.3	(b)
		8.2.5 Repairs to recreational goods	moved from Old 8.4.2	(d)
		8.2.6 Sports participation	new, split from Old 8.4.3	(b)
		8.2.7 Other recreational activities	new, split from Old 8.4.3	(b)
8.3 Holiday travel and accommodation		8.3 Holiday travel and accommodation		
8.3.1 Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	renamed	8.3.1 Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	renamed	(d)
8.3.2 Holiday travel and accommodation overseas	renamed	8.3.2 Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	renamed	(d)
8.4 Recreational services	dropped, in New 8.2			
8.4.1 Photographic services	dropped, in New 8.2.2			
8.4.2 Repairs to recreational goods	moved to New 8.2.5			
8.4.3 Entertainment	dropped, split into New 8.2.6, 8.2.7			
8.5 Education and child care		8.4 Education and child care		
8.5.1 Education fees	renamed	8.4.1 Education	renamed, Old 8.5.1, includes tertiary	(d)
8.5.2 Child care fees	renamed	8.4.2 Child care	renamed (Old 8.5.2)	(d)

(a) 12th and 13th series are numbered independently - the numbers are to assist readability only
 (c) new series calculated with a reference base of 1989-90 = 100.0

(b) new series will have a reference base of June quarter 1998 = 100.0
 (d) continuous series linked to the 12th series equivalent with a reference base of 1989-90 = 100.0

VICTORIAN WINTER POWER BONUS AND WINTER ENERGY CONCESSION

INTRODUCTION

There are a range of concessions that apply to the supply of household electricity and gas in States and Territories. Specific allowance has had to be made in the September quarter 1998 CPI for two concessions applying in Victoria. In one case it is a new scheme, and in the other case the concession is of a seasonal nature.

The September quarter 1998 CPI series for the expenditure classes Electricity and Gas in Melbourne reflect the effects of the Victorian Winter Power Bonus and Winter Energy Concession schemes. This Appendix provides an explanation of how the two schemes have been treated in the CPI.

THE WINTER POWER BONUS

The introduction of the Winter Power Bonus from 17 August 1998 has resulted in a \$60 fall in the annual electricity bill of Victorian households for each of the next three years. The bonus is to be paid by netting it off each household's winter electricity bill. However, if after all other charges and concessions, the winter electricity bill is less than \$60, the balance will apply as a rebate on the householder's subsequent electricity bill.

In concept, the CPI measures, each quarter, the annual cost of a basket of goods and services at the prices prevailing each quarter. The effect of the introduction of the Winter Power Bonus is to record a fall of \$60 between the June and September quarters 1998 in the annual cost of electricity for Melbourne households. The bonus component of the annual electricity cost will remain at \$60 in the December quarter and for all subsequent quarters until such time as the bonus amount is changed (or removed).

Treatment of the Winter Power Bonus in this way is entirely consistent with the pricing of all other items in the CPI. For example, local government rates and most public school fees are levied once a year. The annual amounts of those rates and charges are kept constant until such time as changes are announced. In other words, the CPI series for education fees may rise in March quarter to reflect an increase in annual school fees but it does not fall in June quarter because households only pay the fees at the start of the school year.

THE WINTER ENERGY CONCESSION

The Winter Energy Concession has resulted in a fall in the winter electricity and gas accounts paid by concession card holders.

With the introduction of the 13th series CPI, the population coverage has expanded beyond wage and salary earners to all private households in the eight capital cities. This means that concession card holders are now in the CPI target population. Consequently, the effects of the Winter Energy Concession are now included in the 13th series CPI.

The Winter Energy Concession, available on both electricity and gas accounts, takes the form of a 17.5% discount. The concession is calculated on both the service and consumption components on the bill. The effect of the concession is to temporarily reduce the price of electricity and gas to concession card holders.

Unlike the Winter Power Bonus, the Winter Energy Concession is equivalent to a supplier offering an item at a 'special' price. The only difference between this form of 'special' price and those normally observed in the CPI is that this special price applies to particular households based on income rather than those households who happen to shop at a particular outlet.

As with all other instances of items going on special or sale prices, the concessional rebate is treated as a reduction in price for all quarters in which the rebate is available. The impact on the CPI of the Winter Energy Concession will be to lower the index level for the expenditure classes Electricity and Gas in Melbourne in the September and December quarters 1998.

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