

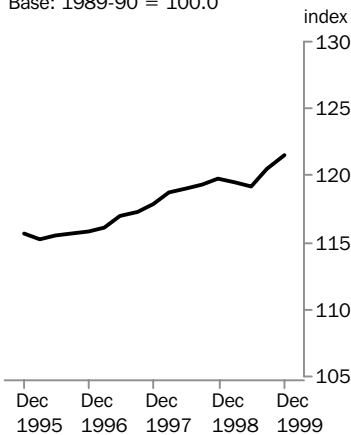
**PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS  
USED IN HOUSE BUILDING**

**SIX STATE  
CAPITAL  
CITIES**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 21 JAN 2000

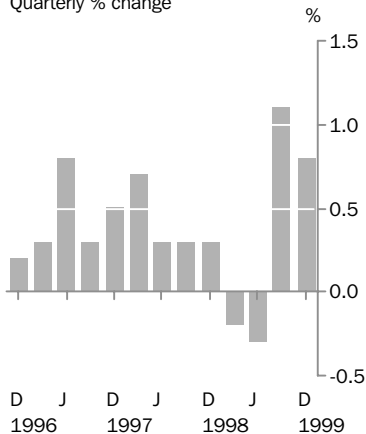
**All groups**

Base: 1989-90 = 100.0



**All groups**

Quarterly % change



**DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES**

	<b>% change Sep Qtr 1999 to Dec Qtr 1999</b>	<b>% change Dec Qtr 1998 to Dec Qtr 1999</b>
<b>Weighted average of six State capital cities</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Sydney	0.6	2.1
Melbourne	1.1	2.0
Brisbane	1.4	1.1
Adelaide	0.4	0.6
Perth	0.2	0.7
Hobart	0.4	0.2

**DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS**

**WEIGHTED AVERAGE INDEX**

- Price increases for structural timber, aluminium windows and doors, and cupboards and fittings were the main contributors to the increase in the index.
- These increases were partly offset by price decreases for reinforcing steel.

**CAPITAL CITIES INDEXES**

- Structural timber prices increased in all cities.
- Prices for aluminium windows and doors increased in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, decreased in Perth and remained unchanged in Adelaide and Hobart.
- Cupboards and fittings prices rose in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide, and remained unchanged in the other cities.
- Prices for reinforcing steel decreased in all cities.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robert Adams on Canberra 02 6252 6198, or Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

*ISSUE (Quarter)*

*RELEASE DATE*

March 2000

20 April 2000

June 2000

20 July 2000



## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



## RELATED STATISTICS

For more information about the statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Robert Adams on fax (02) 6252 7060, or email [robert.adams@abs.gov.au](mailto:robert.adams@abs.gov.au).



W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

## HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS PRICE INDEX(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>
<b>1995-1996</b>	115.7	115.9	115.4	115.1	118.2	114.8	120.7
<b>1996-1997</b>	116.1	116.3	115.3	115.3	120.6	115.3	120.1
<b>1997-1998</b>	118.2	119.7	117.1	117.1	123.3	115.9	121.0
<b>1998-1999</b>	119.5	121.6	118.0	118.2	125.0	116.1	122.2
<b>1995</b>							
December	115.7	115.6	115.3	115.5	118.0	114.9	120.8
<b>1996</b>							
March	115.3	115.5	115.1	114.4	118.0	114.6	120.7
June	115.5	116.2	115.1	114.0	118.3	114.6	120.6
September	115.6	115.9	114.9	114.4	119.6	115.0	120.5
December	115.8	115.8	115.2	114.8	120.4	115.0	119.8
<b>1997</b>							
March	116.1	116.0	115.1	115.4	120.8	115.3	120.1
June	117.0	117.3	115.8	116.5	121.5	115.8	120.1
September	117.3	117.8	116.1	116.8	122.4	116.0	120.3
December	117.9	119.4	116.6	116.7	122.9	115.8	120.6
<b>1998</b>							
March	118.7	120.8	117.6	117.0	123.7	115.7	121.2
June	119.0	120.7	118.0	117.9	124.1	115.9	122.0
September	119.4	120.8	118.6	118.4	124.4	116.1	122.5
December	119.7	121.8	118.1	118.6	125.2	116.3	122.3
<b>1999</b>							
March	119.5	122.0	117.7	118.4	125.1	116.0	122.1
June	119.2	121.8	117.4	117.5	125.2	115.9	121.9
September	120.5	123.7	119.2	118.3	125.5	116.9	122.1
December	121.5	124.4	120.5	119.9	126.0	117.1	122.6

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

## HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS PRICE INDEX, Percentage Changes

Period	Weighted average of six State capital cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous year)							
<b>1995-1996</b>	0.3	0.8	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5	1.9	2.9
<b>1996-1997</b>	0.3	0.3	-0.1	0.2	2.0	0.4	-0.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	1.8	2.9	1.6	1.6	2.2	0.5	0.7
<b>1998-1999</b>	1.1	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.2	1.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)							
<b>1995</b>							
December	0.4	0.7	-0.3	-0.4	-0.7	2.5	3.6
<b>1996</b>							
March	-0.5	0.0	-1.2	-1.5	-1.2	1.3	2.4
June	-0.9	0.1	-1.6	-2.2	-0.4	0.4	0.9
September	-0.5	-0.4	-0.9	-1.6	1.0	0.0	-0.2
December	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.6	2.0	0.1	-0.8
<b>1997</b>							
March	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.9	2.4	0.6	-0.5
June	1.3	0.9	0.6	2.2	2.7	1.0	-0.4
September	1.5	1.6	1.0	2.1	2.3	0.9	-0.2
December	1.8	3.1	1.2	1.7	2.1	0.7	0.7
<b>1998</b>							
March	2.2	4.1	2.2	1.4	2.4	0.3	0.9
June	1.7	2.9	1.9	1.2	2.1	0.1	1.6
September	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.4	1.6	0.1	1.8
December	1.5	2.0	1.3	1.6	1.9	0.4	1.4
<b>1999</b>							
March	0.7	1.0	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.7
June	0.2	0.9	-0.5	-0.3	0.9	0.0	-0.1
September	0.9	2.4	0.5	-0.1	0.9	0.7	-0.3
December	1.5	2.1	2.0	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)							
<b>1995</b>							
December	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5	-0.7	-0.3	-0.1	0.0
<b>1996</b>							
March	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-1.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.1
June	0.2	0.6	0.0	-0.3	0.3	0.0	-0.1
September	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.4	1.1	0.3	-0.1
December	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.0	-0.6
<b>1997</b>							
March	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
June	0.8	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.0
September	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2
December	0.5	1.4	0.4	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.2
<b>1998</b>							
March	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.3	0.7	-0.1	0.5
June	0.3	-0.1	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.7
September	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
December	0.3	0.8	-0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	-0.2
<b>1999</b>							
March	-0.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2
June	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.8	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
September	1.1	1.6	1.5	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.2
December	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.4	0.4	0.2	0.4

## HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS PRICE INDEX(a), Contribution to All Groups Index

<i>Category</i>	<i>September Qtr 1999(b)</i>	<i>December Qtr 1999(b)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<b>Weighted average of six State capital cities</b>	<b>120.5</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
GROUPS: Contribution to Weighted average of six State capital cities index (index points)			
Concrete mix, cement and sand	8.51	8.48	-0.03
Cement products	7.12	7.17	0.05
Ceramic products	16.25	16.29	0.04
Timber, board and joinery	33.01	33.72	0.71
Steel products	5.65	5.57	-0.08
Other metal products	19.48	19.63	0.15
Plumbing products	8.60	8.63	0.03
Electrical equipment	4.50	4.55	0.05
Installed appliances	4.84	4.84	0.00
Other materials	12.54	12.58	0.04

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 15 of the Explanatory Notes

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

# 4

## HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS PRICE INDEX(a), By Materials Group

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Concrete mix, cement and sand</i>	<i>Cement products</i>	<i>Ceramic products</i>	<i>Timber, board and joinery</i>	<i>Steel products</i>	<i>Other metal products</i>	<i>Plumbing products</i>	<i>Electrical equipment</i>	<i>Installed appliances</i>	<i>Other materials</i>
<b>1995-1996</b>	113.4	116.0	113.7	116.4	115.6	113.0	113.9	116.0	124.6	117.7
<b>1996-1997</b>	112.8	116.6	113.1	116.2	118.3	113.6	114.4	115.1	128.7	119.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	114.0	117.2	115.2	118.8	120.1	115.3	118.3	115.1	130.4	122.4
<b>1998-1999</b>	112.8	117.5	116.9	120.6	119.5	117.3	116.7	116.3	130.6	125.4
<b>1995</b>										
December	113.9	116.3	113.8	116.4	115.9	112.8	114.3	116.1	123.8	117.2
<b>1996</b>										
March	113.0	115.8	113.1	115.9	116.5	112.7	113.5	115.5	124.5	117.5
June	111.9	115.1	112.9	116.0	116.1	113.5	114.1	115.2	126.1	118.1
September	112.1	116.4	112.9	116.1	117.2	112.4	114.3	115.5	127.5	118.6
December	112.3	116.5	112.9	116.0	118.0	113.4	113.4	114.7	128.4	119.1
<b>1997</b>										
March	113.0	116.9	113.0	115.8	118.7	114.1	113.6	114.8	129.5	119.2
June	113.9	116.5	113.7	116.9	119.1	114.3	116.3	115.5	129.3	121.1
September	114.2	116.2	114.3	117.3	119.1	114.6	117.9	115.0	130.0	121.3
December	114.2	117.1	114.4	118.3	120.1	115.1	118.2	114.9	130.8	122.1
<b>1998</b>										
March	113.9	117.9	115.8	119.9	120.6	115.0	119.0	114.6	130.0	122.5
June	113.8	117.7	116.1	119.8	120.5	116.5	118.2	115.7	130.6	123.5
September	113.4	117.6	117.0	121.0	119.0	116.8	117.7	115.6	130.7	124.0
December	113.1	117.5	116.9	121.3	120.4	117.3	115.8	116.3	130.9	125.5
<b>1999</b>										
March	112.4	117.0	117.0	120.7	119.8	117.5	116.5	116.5	130.6	125.5
June	112.4	117.7	116.5	119.4	118.9	117.7	116.6	116.6	130.3	126.6
September	112.3	119.4	116.6	121.2	117.9	119.7	120.2	118.2	131.7	127.1
December	111.9	120.2	116.9	123.9	116.2	120.6	120.6	119.6	131.5	127.5

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of selected materials used in the construction of houses in the Statistical Division for each State capital city—the *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building*. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989–90 = 100.0 for the six State capital cities.

### SCOPE

**2** A house is defined as a detached building predominantly used for long-term residential purposes and consisting of only one dwelling unit. The index does not represent buildings of any kind other than detached houses.

### ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**3** The index is a fixed weights index. The items and weights were derived from reported values of each material used in selected representative houses constructed in the 3 years ending 1992–93. Each capital city has an individual weighting pattern which reflects the differences in the relative usage of different materials in the various cities and differences in price levels between the cities.

**4** The weighting pattern for the six State capital cities is set out in Appendix A of the December 1995 issue of this publication.

### PRICE MEASUREMENT

**5** Prices used relate to precise standards for each material. The aim of the index is to measure price changes for materials of constant quality.

**6** In general, the point of pricing is ‘delivered on site’. However, in some cases it is necessary to use the nearest realistic price available, e.g. that for materials supplied and fixed. Prices are obtained in each capital city from representative suppliers of materials used in house building.

**7** As far as possible, actual transaction prices are used in this index—that is, prices actually paid by building contractors or sub-contractors to material suppliers for materials delivered on building sites. The actual price paid for anything can be described in various ways. Instead of being described as a single price (as usually happens in retail shops) a price for a building material may be described in terms of the components that make up the price—for instance ‘list price plus sales tax’, ‘suppliers price plus freight’, ‘basic price less (particular types of) discount’ and so on. It is these net prices that the ABS aims to use in compiling this price index.

**8** The ABS asks respondent businesses to report details of the discounts they offer so that actual transaction prices can be calculated. However, as building material suppliers offer many different types of discounts to buyers (e.g. trade discounts, settlement discounts, quantity discounts, competitive discounts), the identification of discounts and the way in which they are applied by sellers pose considerable problems for the ABS. To the extent that discounts are identified and measured, their effects are taken into account in calculating the index. Sometimes new discounts, or changes in the way discounts are applied by sellers, are identified only after index numbers for a period have been published. In such cases, or in any other case where it has been discovered that incorrect prices have been used in compiling the indexes, revisions to index numbers may occur in subsequent issues of this publication.

**9** Sales taxes levied on building materials are included in the prices used to compile this index. Materials used in the construction of Commonwealth, State and Local Government owned houses are exempt from sales tax. At any particular time, when there is a change in the rate of sales tax on building materials, the index is calculated to take into account the proportions of materials sold subject to sales tax at that time and the proportion of materials exempt from sales tax.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INDEX NUMBERS

**10** Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers.

**11** The separate city indexes measure price movements within each capital city individually. They enable comparisons to be drawn between cities as to *differences in degree of price movement* from period to period. They do not measure differences in price levels between cities.

### REVISIONS

**12** In cases where more complete information is obtained after index numbers for a period have been published, or it is discovered that incorrect prices have been used in compiling the indexes, revisions to index numbers may occur in subsequent issues of this publication.

### ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

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

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

Weighted average of six State  
capital cities index numbers —

December Quarter 1999      121.5 (See Table 1)

less December Quarter 1998   119.7 (See Table 1)

Change in index points        1.8

Percentage change               $\frac{1.8}{119.7} \times 100 = 1.5$

**15** Table 3 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of materials make to the total Weighted average of six State capital cities index. For example, Timber, board and joinery contributed 33.72 index points to the total Weighted average of the six State capital cities index number of 121.5 for the December Quarter 1999 and 0.71 index points to the net change of 1.0 index points.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

**16** The Appendix to the December 1995 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index and its relationship with previous indexes.

**17** Further information on the index is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 6419.0).

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6407.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6411.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 6412.0).



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

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### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

*continued*

**19** Other ABS publications that may be of interest include:

- *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (Cat. no. 6302.0).

**20** 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.

### UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

**21** 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 Robert Adams on 02 6252 6198 or to any ABS office.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

r revised





**SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS**

- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
  
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