

# SUPPLEMENT

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## INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS

Pages 280-1

### National Wage Cases, 1976

The principles of wage fixation laid down in the national wage decision of 30 April 1975 were applied with minor modifications during 1976. These principles were restated with the changes in the national wage decision of 28 May 1976. Apart from clarifying certain ambiguities, the most important change was the addition of a new principle, 7 (c), related to the determination of "anomalies" as follows: "The resolution of anomalies and special and extraordinary problems by means of the conferences already established to deal with anomalies and in accordance with the procedures laid down for them".

There were four national wage cases during 1976, all dealing with the quarterly Consumer Price Index movements. The February decision, which dealt with the 5.6 per cent Consumer Price Index increase for the December 1975 quarter, resulted in a uniform 6.4 per cent increase for all Federal awards. This figure included the carry-over of 0.8 per cent for the September 1975 quarter in accordance with Principle 5.

In relation to the 3 per cent Consumer Price Index increase for the March 1976 quarter, the May national wage decision awarded an increase of 3 per cent to all award wage and salary rates up to \$125 per week, this figure being approximately the average male award rate. The increase above this level was a flat \$3.80 per week.

The August national wage decision dealt with the 2.5 per cent June 1976 quarter Consumer Price Index increase by applying this percentage to \$98, the lowest wage in the metal industry award for Melbourne; the resulting increase of \$2.50 being payable uniformly to those earning up to and including \$166 per week. For those above this amount, the increase was 1.5 per cent.

Finally, in the November national wage case, the September 1976 quarter Consumer Price Index increase of 2.2 per cent was applied fully to all Federal awards.

The impact of these decisions are reflected in the movement of the weighted average minimum weekly wage rates index. In the year ended November 1976, 95 per cent of the increase in the adult male wage rate was attributable to indexation increases. The corresponding figure for adult females was 93 per cent.

## PRICES

Pages 632-7

### Consumer Price Index

The following changes in the composition and weighting pattern of the Consumer Price Index are given in addition to those shown on pages 633 and 634 of the *Year Book*.

September quarter, 1974. Radio and television licences were deleted following the abolition of radio and television licences with effect from 18 September 1974. September quarter, 1976. The structure of the ninth series introduced from this quarter was derived from the Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75, having in mind the past general description of the Consumer Price Index as a measure of variations in prices of goods and services as affecting a high proportion of expenditure of wage earner households in the aggregate.

Special tabulation of data from the Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75 for a target group of households substantially supplied the basic weighting pattern for each of the seven cities for which index numbers are compiled. The target group related to metropolitan wage and salary earner households (households which derived at least 75 per cent of total income from wages and salaries) with a total income of more than the minimum adult wage (in the respective capital cities) but excluding the top 10 per cent of such households. The households included had average weekly total household incomes which ranged from approximately \$60 to \$370 in 1974-75.

A new group and sub-group structure was adopted, the main changes being: the subdivision of the former Miscellaneous Group into four groups—Transportation, Health and Personal Care, Recreation, Tobacco and Alcohol; transfer of dry cleaning and shoe repairs to the Clothing Group; transfer of postal and telephone services to the Household Equipment and Operation Group; transfer of drapery sub-group from the former Clothing and Drapery Group to the Household Equipment and Operation Group.

The new series adds the following to the directly represented areas of expenditure: Food Group—meats out, fresh and frozen fish, cakes, oils and fats, fresh fruit and fresh vegetables; Household Equipment and Operation Group—fertiliser, seeds etc., insurance of dwelling and contents, travel goods, repairs to household goods; Transportation Group—motor vehicle comprehensive and third party property insurance, taxi and air fares, motor cycle; Recreation Group—books, sound equipment, sports equipment, caravans, bicycles, toys, games, holiday accommodation, television hire, spectator admission, charges for sports services.

More detailed information is currently available in the appendix to the publication *Consumer Price Index—December Quarter 1976* (reference number 9.1).

## MELBOURNE—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base of each index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Transportation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation	All groups
							(a)	(b)	
1974-75	161.7	172.0	180.6	147.2	164.4	173.7	188.1	..	167.9
1975-76	177.8	200.4	214.0	169.5	194.1	214.0	(c)149.3	..	189.5
1976—									
September qr	189.9	217.7	232.4	181.0	207.9	225.7	163.7	100.0	203.2
December qr	197.0	232.3	239.1	184.0	212.5	228.4	(c)295.0	101.2	215.3
1977—									
March qr	200.8	235.6	245.4	191.2	220.7	230.5	300.5	105.1	221.0

(a) Base : December quarter 1968 = 100.0

(b) Base : September quarter 1976 = 100.0

(c) Note effects of arrangements concerning Medibank on net prices payable by households for medical and hospital services.

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**Census Enumerations**

It was not possible to include preliminary results of the Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1976, in this supplement.

Figures relating to this Census will be issued progressively in a series of bulletins the first of which is to be released towards the end of 1977.

**YEAR BOOK INDEX**

The full index to this book appears on pages 999-1,065, preceding the Supplement.