

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - MARCH QUARTER 1971

Reference No. 9.1

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March Quarter 1971 increased by 1.1% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +1.0%, Melbourne +1.0%, Brisbane +1.6%, Adelaide +1.0%, Perth +1.1%, Hobart +0.7%, Canberra +0.4%.

3. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

| Quarter   | State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately |          |           |          |          |          |          | Canberra |
|-----------|--|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|           | Six Capitals<br>(a)                            | Sydney   | Melbourne | Brisbane | Adelaide | Perth    | Hobart   |          |
|           | Per cent                                       | Per cent | Per cent  | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent |
| 1968-69 - |  |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |
| March     | +0.7   | +0.8     | +0.6      | +0.5     | +0.3     | +0.7     | +0.7     | +0.9     |
| June      | +0.8   | +0.8     | +0.6      | +0.5     | +0.9     | +1.3     | +0.5     | +0.4     |
| 1969-70 - |  |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |
| September | +0.6   | +0.7     | +0.4      | +0.8     | +0.5     | +0.7     | +0.4     | +0.8     |
| December  | +0.8   | +1.1     | +0.7      | +0.7     | +0.4     | +0.9     | +0.7     | +0.7     |
| March     | +1.0   | +1.6     | +0.6      | +0.9     | +1.0     | +1.1     | +0.7     | +1.2     |
| June      | +1.3   | +1.4     | +1.1      | +0.7     | +1.5     | +1.4     | +0.6     | +0.9     |
| 1970-71 - |  |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |
| September | +0.6   | +0.9     | +0.5      | +1.3     | -0.1     | +0.2     | +0.5     | +0.6     |
| December  | +1.9   | +2.0     | +1.7      | +2.0     | +1.7     | +1.7     | +2.0     | +3.2     |
| March     | +1.1   | +1.0     | +1.0      | +1.6     | +1.0     | +1.1     | +0.7     | +0.4     |

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 4.9% between March Quarter 1970 and March Quarter 1971. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:

| Quarter   | Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities<br>Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter |                            |          |   |                    |               |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|----------|---|--------------------|---------------|
|           | Food   | Clothing<br>and<br>Drapery | Housing  | Household<br>Supplies<br>and<br>Equipment | Miscel-<br>laneous | All<br>Groups |
|           | Per cent   | Per cent                   | Per cent | Per cent                                  | Per cent           | Per cent      |
| 1968-69 - |  |                            |          |   |                    |               |
| March     | +0.2   | +0.3                       | +0.9     | +0.3                                      | +1.1               | +0.7          |
| June      | +0.9   | +0.8                       | +1.4     | +0.7                                      | +0.4               | +0.8          |
| 1969-70 - |  |                            |          |   |                    |               |
| September | ..   | +0.8                       | +1.4     | ..  | +1.0               | +0.6          |
| December  | +0.5   | +1.1                       | +1.7     | +0.2                                      | +0.8               | +0.8          |
| March     | +1.5   | +0.7                       | +1.3     | +0.1                                      | +1.0               | +1.0          |
| June      | +1.3   | +0.9                       | +1.8     | +0.7                                      | +1.3               | +1.3          |
| 1970-71 - |  |                            |          |   |                    |               |
| September | +0.7   | +0.3                       | +1.6     | +0.7                                      | +0.2               | +0.6          |
| December  | +1.0   | +1.6                       | +2.1     | +1.1                                      | +3.3               | +1.9          |
| March     | +0.3   | +1.2                       | +1.4     | +1.1                                      | +1.6               | +1.1          |

5. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 54, 1968 and 1969.

6. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). Six series for short periods, viz., September Quarter 1948 to June Quarter 1952; June Quarter 1952 to June Quarter 1956; June Quarter 1956 to March Quarter 1960; March Quarter 1960 to December Quarter 1963; December Quarter 1963 to December Quarter 1968; and from December Quarter 1968 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern was altered and, in addition, new items (mainly ones that had become significant in household expenditure) were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

7. The quarterly prices for food items used in the index are the averages of prices normally collected as at the middle of each of the three months of the quarter. However, for potatoes and for onions from December quarter 1968, weekly prices are averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices of all non-food items are collected at regular quarterly intervals (or at annual intervals with items such as local government rates and seasonal clothing) normally as at the middle of the mid-month of each quarter. However, for furniture, major household appliances and motoring items (other than motor car) the collection is made during the first month of each quarter to facilitate field collection arrangements.

8. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

9. Table 1 on page 5 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1960-61 to 1969-70 and for each quarter from December Quarter 1966. Table 2 on pages 6 and 7 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December Quarter 1968 to March Quarter 1971.

10. Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percentage changes rather than changes in the "index points" because "index point" changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percentage changes are not. In this bulletin details are given in terms of percentage changes in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. However, the analysis in paragraph 11 shows movements in terms of All Groups "index points". This analysis shows the contribution of selected items and of the five groups to movements in the total indexes. The following example illustrates the computation of "index point" and percentage changes:

All Groups : Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities

| Index Point Change                        |       | Percentage Change   |
|---|-------|---|
| March Quarter 1971 CPI<br>(1966-67 = 100) | 115.2 | Index points difference divided by the<br>index for the previous period<br>$\frac{115.2 - 114.0}{114.0} \times 100 = 1.1\%$ |
| less December Quarter 1970 CPI            | 114.0 |   |
| Index points difference                   | 1.2   |   |

11. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December Quarter 1970 to March Quarter 1971. A supplement (Reference No. 9.7) containing more detailed information for the weighted average of the six State capital cities is available on request.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movements from December Quarter 1970 to March Quarter 1971

Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

| Group                                  | State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately |             |             |             |             |             |             | Canberra    |
|--|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Six<br>Capitals<br>(c)                         | Sydney      | Melbourne   | Brisbane    | Adelaide    | Perth       | Hobart      |             |
| Index Points (a)                       |  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Food - Meat                            | +0.3   | +0.5        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.4        | +0.1        | -0.2        | +0.2        |
| Potatoes                               | -0.2   | -0.2        | -0.3        | ..          | -0.4        | ..          | -0.1        | -0.2        |
| Other                                  | ..   | ..          | -0.1        | +0.1        | +0.2        | +0.4        | +0.1        | -0.2        |
| Clothing & Drapery                     | +0.2   | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        |
| Housing                                | +0.2   | +0.3        | +0.2        | +0.3        | +0.1        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.1        |
| Household Supplies<br>and Equipment    | +0.2   | +0.1        | +0.1        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.1        | ..          |
| Miscellaneous -                        |  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Motoring                               | +0.1   | +0.1        | +0.2        | +0.1        | +0.2        | +0.1        | +0.1        | +0.1        |
| Beer                                   | +0.2   | ..          | +0.4        | +0.5        | +0.2        | ..          | +0.2        | ..          |
| Other                                  | +0.2   | +0.2        | +0.2        | +0.2        | ..          | +0.1        | +0.2        | +0.2        |
| <b>Total Change<br/>(Index Points)</b> | <b>+1.2</b>                                    | <b>+1.2</b> | <b>+1.1</b> | <b>+1.8</b> | <b>+1.1</b> | <b>+1.3</b> | <b>+0.8</b> | <b>+0.4</b> |

(a) See explanation in paragraph 10 on page 2. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base.

(c) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

12. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between December Quarter 1970 and March Quarter 1971 is shown below:

**Food Group.** Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index and of disparate movements between cities. The effects of changes in the price of these items in each city for this quarter are shown in the table in paragraph 11 of this bulletin.

Decreases in prices of a number of grocery items occurred during the quarter mainly in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. The price of milk which rose in Sydney and Hobart in December 1970 and in Perth in February 1971 contributed to the increase in the index this quarter. There were increases in the price of bread in Brisbane (in December 1970), Adelaide and Perth.

The Food Group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed an overall quarterly increase of 0.3%.

**Clothing and Drapery Group.** There were increases in the prices of footwear and smaller increases in all other sections of the group.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.2%.

**Housing Group.** There were increases in all sections of the group except for Local Government Rates and Charges for which section changes in the index do not normally occur in March Quarter.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.4%.

**Household Supplies and Equipment Group.** There were increases in most sections of the group.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.1%.

Miscellaneous Group. The price of beer increased in four cities. There were increases in the price of motor repairs and motor cars and decreases in the price of petrol in all cities. There were increases in the price of drivers' licences in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart. There were increases in most other sections of the Group.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.6%.

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20 APRIL 1971

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

## ALL GROUPS - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :  
Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

| Period    | State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately |        |           |          |          |       |        | Canberra |
|-----------|--|--------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
|           | Six<br>Capitals<br>(b)                         | Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Adelaide | Perth | Hobart |          |
| Year -    |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1960-61   | 89.2   | 89.6   | 89.5      | 87.1     | 89.8     | 87.9  | 90.3   | 90.3     |
| 1961-62   | 89.6   | 89.9   | 89.8      | 88.4     | 89.5     | 88.2  | 90.7   | 91.6     |
| 1962-63   | 89.8   | 90.4   | 89.7      | 88.7     | 89.1     | 88.7  | 90.7   | 91.8     |
| 1963-64   | 90.6   | 91.4   | 90.4      | 89.6     | 90.2     | 89.8  | 91.7   | 92.5     |
| 1964-65   | 94.0   | 94.5   | 94.0      | 93.0     | 93.9     | 92.6  | 94.6   | 95.3     |
| 1965-66   | 97.4   | 97.7   | 97.5      | 97.5     | 97.0     | 96.1  | 98.0   | 98.1     |
| 1966-67   | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0     | 100.0    | 100.0    | 100.0 | 100.0  | 100.0    |
| 1967-68   | 103.3  | 103.2  | 103.7     | 103.3    | 102.9    | 102.9 | 104.6  | 102.6    |
| 1968-69   | 106.0  | 106.2  | 106.2     | 105.5    | 105.3    | 105.5 | 106.1  | 104.4    |
| 1969-70   | 109.4  | 110.6  | 108.7     | 108.4    | 108.2    | 109.4 | 108.5  | 107.4    |
| Quarter - |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1966-67 - |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December  | 99.7   | 99.9   | 99.6      | 99.7     | 99.7     | 99.3  | 99.2   | 99.7     |
| March     | 100.1  | 100.1  | 100.0     | 100.3    | 100.2    | 100.3 | 100.6  | 100.1    |
| June      | 101.3  | 101.1  | 101.6     | 101.0    | 101.5    | 101.6 | 101.5  | 101.3    |
| 1967-68 - |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September | 102.7  | 102.5  | 102.9     | 102.8    | 102.6    | 102.0 | 104.3  | 102.2    |
| December  | 103.0  | 102.9  | 103.3     | 103.0    | 102.1    | 102.5 | 105.0  | 102.4    |
| March     | 103.4  | 103.2  | 103.8     | 103.7    | 102.6    | 103.1 | 104.6  | 102.6    |
| June      | 104.2  | 104.0  | 104.8     | 103.7    | 104.2    | 104.0 | 104.6  | 103.2    |
| 1968-69 - |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September | 104.6  | 104.4  | 105.1     | 104.7    | 104.2    | 104.3 | 105.0  | 103.5    |
| December  | 105.7  | 105.9  | 106.0     | 105.3    | 105.2    | 104.9 | 105.8  | 103.9    |
| March     | 106.4  | 106.7  | 106.6     | 105.8    | 105.5    | 105.6 | 106.5  | 104.8    |
| June      | 107.2  | 107.6  | 107.2     | 106.3    | 106.4    | 107.0 | 107.0  | 105.2    |
| 1969-70 - |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September | 107.8  | 108.4  | 107.6     | 107.2    | 106.9    | 107.7 | 107.4  | 106.0    |
| December  | 108.7  | 109.6  | 108.3     | 107.9    | 107.3    | 108.7 | 108.1  | 106.7    |
| March     | 109.8  | 111.3  | 108.9     | 108.9    | 108.4    | 109.9 | 108.9  | 108.0    |
| June      | 111.2  | 112.9  | 110.1     | 109.7    | 110.0    | 111.4 | 109.6  | 109.0    |
| 1970-71 - |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September | 111.9  | 113.9  | 110.7     | 111.1    | 109.9    | 111.6 | 110.2  | 109.7    |
| December  | 114.0  | 116.2  | 112.6     | 113.3    | 111.8    | 113.5 | 112.4  | 113.2    |
| March     | 115.2  | 117.4  | 113.7     | 115.1    | 112.9    | 114.8 | 113.2  | 113.6    |

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

TABLE 2.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXGROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :  
Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

| Quarter                           | State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately |        |           |          |          |       |        | Canberra |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
|                                   | Six<br>Capitals<br>(b)                         | Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Adelaide | Perth | Hobart |          |
| <b>FOOD GROUP</b>                 |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1968-69 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December                          | 105.5  | 104.4  | 107.4     | 104.1    | 106.3    | 103.3 | 105.3  | 105.0    |
| March                             | 105.7  | 105.0  | 107.1     | 105.1    | 105.8    | 104.1 | 105.1  | 104.8    |
| June                              | 106.6  | 105.9  | 107.8     | 105.5    | 106.7    | 106.9 | 105.8  | 105.3    |
| 1969-70 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                         | 106.6  | 105.5  | 107.9     | 106.2    | 106.3    | 106.9 | 105.6  | 105.7    |
| December                          | 107.1  | 106.7  | 108.2     | 106.9    | 106.3    | 106.1 | 106.0  | 106.3    |
| March                             | 108.7  | 109.0  | 109.2     | 108.6    | 107.1    | 108.4 | 106.9  | 107.4    |
| June                              | 110.1  | 110.0  | 110.9     | 109.1    | 108.6    | 111.0 | 106.9  | 108.5    |
| 1970-71 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                         | 110.9  | 110.8  | 112.2     | 110.5    | 108.2    | 111.2 | 108.4  | 109.5    |
| December                          | 112.0  | 112.2  | 112.8     | 112.8    | 108.8    | 111.3 | 110.1  | 110.7    |
| March                             | 112.3  | 113.0  | 112.1     | 113.9    | 109.4    | 112.7 | 109.5  | 110.1    |
| <b>CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP</b> |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1968-69 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December                          | 104.1  | 104.0  | 104.1     | 104.1    | 104.3    | 104.4 | 104.5  | 104.0    |
| March                             | 104.4  | 104.4  | 104.3     | 104.4    | 104.6    | 104.7 | 104.7  | 104.3    |
| June                              | 105.2  | 105.0  | 105.1     | 105.2    | 105.6    | 105.5 | 105.3  | 105.0    |
| 1969-70 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                         | 106.0  | 106.0  | 105.9     | 105.8    | 106.2    | 106.4 | 106.2  | 105.9    |
| December                          | 107.2  | 107.1  | 107.0     | 107.0    | 107.8    | 107.5 | 107.6  | 107.0    |
| March                             | 107.9  | 107.9  | 107.8     | 107.7    | 108.4    | 108.0 | 108.2  | 107.9    |
| June                              | 108.9  | 108.8  | 108.8     | 108.8    | 109.8    | 109.1 | 109.4  | 109.0    |
| 1970-71 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                         | 109.2  | 109.2  | 109.0     | 109.2    | 110.0    | 109.4 | 109.5  | 109.2    |
| December                          | 110.9  | 110.9  | 110.7     | 110.9    | 111.6    | 111.2 | 111.0  | 110.7    |
| March                             | 112.2  | 112.4  | 111.8     | 112.1    | 112.8    | 112.7 | 112.0  | 111.8    |
| <b>HOUSING GROUP</b>              |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1968-69 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December                          | 108.7  | 110.0  | 107.7     | 109.2    | 104.2    | 112.3 | 108.4  | 101.5    |
| March                             | 109.7  | 111.2  | 108.4     | 110.0    | 105.3    | 113.7 | 109.4  | 102.1    |
| June                              | 111.2  | 113.3  | 109.7     | 110.7    | 106.3    | 115.1 | 110.1  | 102.4    |
| 1969-70 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                         | 112.8  | 115.7  | 110.5     | 112.7    | 107.4    | 117.0 | 110.6  | 102.7    |
| December                          | 114.7  | 118.3  | 111.8     | 113.0    | 108.9    | 119.9 | 112.3  | 103.2    |
| March                             | 116.2  | 120.8  | 112.6     | 113.6    | 109.9    | 121.2 | 113.2  | 106.0    |
| June                              | 118.3  | 124.8  | 113.7     | 114.1    | 111.0    | 122.1 | 114.1  | 106.4    |
| 1970-71 -                         |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                         | 120.2  | 128.1  | 114.4     | 115.9    | 111.7    | 122.7 | 115.0  | 106.9    |
| December                          | 122.7  | 130.1  | 117.6     | 116.8    | 116.0    | 125.5 | 117.0  | 118.8    |
| March                             | 124.4  | 132.4  | 118.7     | 118.9    | 117.2    | 126.9 | 118.2  | 119.4    |

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

## TABLE 2. - continued

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

## GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :

Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

| Quarter                                       | State Capital Cities - Combined and Separately |        |           |          |          |       |        | Canberra |
|---|--|--------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
|   | Six<br>Capitals<br>(b)                         | Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Adelaide | Perth | Hobart |          |
| <b>HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP</b> |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1968-69 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December                                      | 102.7  | 102.3  | 103.1     | 104.2    | 101.0    | 101.9 | 104.1  | 100.5    |
| March   | 103.0  | 103.3  | 102.8     | 104.7    | 101.4    | 102.3 | 104.7  | 100.7    |
| June  | 103.7  | 104.3  | 103.6     | 104.8    | 101.5    | 102.6 | 105.2  | 101.0    |
| 1969-70 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                                     | 103.7  | 104.3  | 103.5     | 105.2    | 101.5    | 102.7 | 105.5  | 101.4    |
| December                                      | 103.9  | 104.5  | 103.6     | 105.2    | 101.6    | 103.6 | 105.8  | 101.7    |
| March   | 104.0  | 105.0  | 103.1     | 105.5    | 101.9    | 103.8 | 106.3  | 101.9    |
| June  | 104.7  | 105.5  | 103.8     | 105.9    | 102.9    | 104.8 | 106.9  | 102.5    |
| 1970-71 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                                     | 105.4  | 106.5  | 104.4     | 106.5    | 103.5    | 105.8 | 107.6  | 104.0    |
| December                                      | 106.6  | 108.6  | 105.1     | 107.5    | 104.3    | 106.7 | 108.4  | 104.2    |
| March   | 107.8  | 109.6  | 106.1     | 109.2    | 105.6    | 108.4 | 109.1  | 104.5    |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS GROUP</b>                    |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1968-69 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December                                      | 107.3  | 108.7  | 106.6     | 106.1    | 107.0    | 105.4 | 107.3  | 105.7    |
| March   | 108.5  | 109.8  | 108.6     | 106.3    | 107.9    | 105.9 | 109.0  | 108.7    |
| June  | 108.9  | 110.2  | 108.6     | 106.6    | 109.2    | 106.5 | 109.4  | 108.9    |
| 1969-70 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                                     | 110.0  | 111.6  | 109.1     | 107.9    | 110.4    | 107.5 | 110.0  | 110.4    |
| December                                      | 110.9  | 112.8  | 109.9     | 108.5    | 110.5    | 109.8 | 110.4  | 111.6    |
| March   | 112.0  | 114.3  | 110.3     | 109.5    | 112.4    | 110.5 | 111.2  | 113.1    |
| June  | 113.5  | 116.1  | 111.5     | 110.7    | 114.8    | 111.5 | 112.5  | 114.3    |
| 1970-71 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                                     | 113.7  | 116.4  | 111.6     | 112.9    | 114.2    | 110.9 | 112.2  | 114.7    |
| December                                      | 117.5  | 120.4  | 115.0     | 116.6    | 117.3    | 115.2 | 116.3  | 119.3    |
| March   | 119.4  | 121.4  | 118.0     | 119.5    | 118.9    | 116.1 | 118.3  | 120.7    |
| <b>ALL GROUPS</b>                             |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| 1968-69 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| December                                      | 105.7  | 105.9  | 106.0     | 105.3    | 105.2    | 104.9 | 105.8  | 103.9    |
| March   | 106.4  | 106.7  | 106.6     | 105.8    | 105.5    | 105.6 | 106.5  | 104.8    |
| June  | 107.2  | 107.6  | 107.2     | 106.3    | 106.4    | 107.0 | 107.0  | 105.2    |
| 1969-70 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                                     | 107.8  | 108.4  | 107.6     | 107.2    | 106.9    | 107.7 | 107.4  | 106.0    |
| December                                      | 108.7  | 109.6  | 108.3     | 107.9    | 107.3    | 108.7 | 108.1  | 106.7    |
| March   | 109.8  | 111.3  | 108.9     | 108.9    | 108.4    | 109.9 | 108.9  | 108.0    |
| June  | 111.2  | 112.9  | 110.1     | 109.7    | 110.0    | 111.4 | 109.6  | 109.0    |
| 1970-71 -                                     |  |        |           |          |          |       |        |          |
| September                                     | 111.9  | 113.9  | 110.7     | 111.1    | 109.9    | 111.6 | 110.2  | 109.7    |
| December                                      | 114.0  | 116.2  | 112.6     | 113.3    | 111.8    | 113.5 | 112.4  | 113.2    |
| March   | 115.2  | 117.4  | 113.7     | 115.1    | 112.9    | 114.8 | 113.2  | 113.6    |

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities.