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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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*H. G. G. G.*

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

JUNE QUARTER, 1962

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

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for June Quarter, 1962 decreased by 0.1% for the weighted average of the six capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney -0.1%, Melbourne no change, Brisbane -0.3%, Adelaide -0.2%, Perth +0.2%, Hobart no change.

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

Quarter	Each Capital City and Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter						
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1960 June	+ 1.2	+ 2.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.5	+ 1.8
September	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	+ 1.2
December	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.7
1961 March	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.7
June	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
September	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2
December	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.4
1962 March	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.2
June	- 0.1	..	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.2	..	- 0.1

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six capital cities decreased by 0.8 per cent. over the year ended June Quarter, 1962. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1960 June	+ 1.9	+ 0.9	+ 3.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	+ 1.8
September	+ 2.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
December	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 1.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
1961 March	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
June	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
September	- 1.0	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2
December	- 2.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.4
1962 March	- 0.5	..	+ 0.3	..	- 0.2	- 0.2
June	- 0.8	..	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1

5. A bulletin containing a full description of the Consumer Price Index is available on request.

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 remain unchanged throughout the period). Four 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; and from March Quarter, 1960 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 that had become significant in household expenditure were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

7. 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.

8. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1948-49 to 1961-62 and for each quarter from March Quarter, 1959. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from March Quarter, 1961 to June Quarter, 1962.

9. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from March Quarter, 1962 to June Quarter, 1962.

#### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

##### Movement from March Quarter, 1962 to June Quarter, 1962

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

Group	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
Food							
Meat	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	..
Potatoes	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.1	..	- 0.2	- 0.2
Other	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Clothing and Drapery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Housing	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Household Supplies and Equipment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	..	+ 0.1	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total Change (Index Points)</b>	- 0.1	..	- 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.3	..	- 0.1

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. Sydney: March Quarter, 1962, 122.4; June Quarter, 1962, 122.3; difference of - 0.1 index points). The dissection in this table shows how much each group has contributed to this total movement.

10. The main movements in average quarterly prices, affecting the index from March Quarter, 1962 to June Quarter, 1962, are summarized below:-

Food Group. Movements in meat and potato prices frequently have major effect. The effects of changes in prices of these items in each capital city are shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this and preceding Bulletins. For this quarter meat prices decreased in two cities and increased in three cities, and potato prices decreased in five cities. The food group of the index (average of six capital cities) showed a quarterly decrease of 0.8%.

Clothing and Drapery Group. The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities did not change.

Housing Group. Rents of privately owned houses increased in all capital cities. Local Government rates and charges increased in three cities. The movement of the housing group as a whole was + 1.1%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.1%.

Miscellaneous Group. The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.2%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

20TH JULY, 1962

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics can be made in Canberra by telephoning UO413 Extension 455 or, in State Capitals, by telephoning the offices of the Deputy Commonwealth Statisticians.

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXALL GROUPS - SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six Capitals : Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
Year ended June -							
1949	60.5	61.0	62.1	61.6	60.6	60.7	60.9
1950	65.6	66.2	67.1	66.2	66.2	64.7	66.0
1951	74.5	74.6	75.1	74.7	74.4	73.3	74.6
1952	91.9	91.0	91.8	91.4	90.4	90.4	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.0
1955	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	102.6
1956	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	106.9
1957	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1958	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1959	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1960	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1961	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1962	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
Quarter -							
1959 - March	115.5	117.1	119.0	115.0	114.7	119.1	116.3
June	115.8	117.9	119.1	115.3	115.5	119.3	116.8
Sept.	116.3	118.2	120.2	116.3	115.9	119.7	117.3
Dec.	117.2	118.8	120.8	116.9	115.7	120.1	118.0
1960 - March	118.2	119.8	121.6	118.3	117.1	120.8	119.0
June	119.6	123.0	122.3	120.6	119.0	122.6	121.1
Sept.	120.8	124.9	123.6	121.5	119.8	125.8	122.5
Dec.	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3
1961 - March	122.5	126.1	126.7	123.4	121.9	128.3	124.2
June	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
Sept.	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8
Dec.	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.3
1962 - March	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	124.1
June	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted mainly to avoid the minor distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number.

(b) Weighted average.

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TABLE 2.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

## GROUP INDEXES - SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six Capital Cities 1

Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
FOOD GROUP							
1961 - March	125.3	130.4	134.0	132.8	125.3	133.9	128.6
June	126.1	132.0	130.5	134.8	126.4	134.4	129.4
Sept.	124.6	130.9	132.5	131.3	123.8	132.9	128.1
Dec.	121.9	128.1	129.7	127.2	122.5	129.5	125.3
1962 - March	121.2	126.6	131.4	126.3	123.4	127.2	124.7
June	120.0	125.6	129.4	125.7	124.2	126.5	123.7
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1961 - March	110.3	112.9	115.3	109.7	110.9	112.5	111.7
June	111.0	113.6	116.1	110.6	111.6	113.3	112.4
Sept.	111.1	113.6	116.3	110.6	111.6	113.4	112.4
Dec.	111.5	114.1	116.7	111.2	111.9	114.0	112.9
1962 - March	111.5	114.2	116.8	111.4	111.8	114.2	112.9
June	111.5	114.2	116.8	111.5	111.5	114.2	112.9
HOUSING GROUP							
1961 - March	140.7	152.5	138.4	151.1	143.5	158.0	145.7
June	144.4	154.9	139.0	151.3	144.8	158.9	148.0
Sept.	145.0	155.0	139.7	152.0	145.1	160.8	148.5
Dec.	147.1	157.7	140.2	153.7	145.5	163.7	150.5
1962 - March	147.6	158.1	140.3	154.2	147.1	164.6	151.0
June	150.2	159.2	141.9	153.9	147.8	166.1	152.6
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1961 - March	111.8	112.3	111.5	105.9	107.4	120.8	111.3
June	112.4	113.1	112.3	106.7	107.0	121.9	111.9
Sept.	113.2	113.6	113.0	107.1	107.5	124.9	112.6
Dec.	113.2	114.3	112.9	106.5	107.4	124.1	112.7
1962 - March	113.1	114.2	113.2	106.5	107.1	123.9	112.7
June	113.3	114.4	113.0	106.7	107.2	124.2	112.8
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1961 - March	127.4	129.2	129.7	121.6	125.8	126.7	127.5
June	127.7	129.3	130.3	121.4	125.6	126.5	127.7
Sept.	127.8	129.3	130.7	122.3	125.7	127.1	127.9
Dec.	127.9	129.5	134.0	122.2	125.5	127.0	128.3
1962 - March	128.0	129.0	134.3	121.5	124.9	126.8	128.0
June	128.0	129.5	134.3	121.6	124.9	126.9	128.2
ALL GROUPS							
1961 - March	122.5	126.1	126.7	123.4	121.9	128.3	124.2
June	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
Sept.	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8
Dec.	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.3
1962 - March	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	124.1
June	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0

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