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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - DECEMBER QUARTER 1968

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 December Quarter 1968, increased by 1.0% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were Sydney +1.4%, Melbourne +0.9%, Brisbane +0.6%, Adelaide +1.0%, Perth +0.6%, 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 - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1966 - December	+0.9	+1.1	+0.7	+0.8	+1.1	+0.4	+0.6	+0.8
1967 - March	+0.4	+0.1	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	+1.0	+1.4	+0.4
June	+1.2	+1.0	+1.6	+0.8	+1.2	+1.3	+0.9	+1.2
September	+1.4	+1.4	+1.3	+1.7	+1.2	+0.4	+2.7	+0.9
December	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.2	-0.6	+0.4	+0.7	+0.2
1968 - March	+0.4	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.6	+0.6	-0.4	+0.2
June	+0.8	+0.7	+1.0	..	+1.5	+0.8	+0.1	+0.5
September	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	+0.9	..	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4
December	+1.0	+1.4	+0.9	+0.6	+1.0	+0.6	+0.7	+0.4

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 2.7% over the year ended December Quarter 1968. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State 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
1966 - December	+0.7	+0.9	+1.0	+0.3	+1.4	+0.9
1967 - March	+0.6	+0.3	+0.6	-0.1	+0.3	+0.4
June	+1.8	+0.9	+1.7	+0.5	+0.7	+1.2
September	+2.8	+0.3	+1.0	+0.2	+0.7	+1.4
December	-0.9	+0.7	+1.2	+0.4	+1.1	+0.3
1968 - March	+0.7	+0.2	+0.5	+0.1	+0.3	+0.4
June	+0.9	+0.5	+1.3	+0.8	+0.5	+0.8
September	-0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+0.2	+1.4	+0.4
December	+0.2	+0.7	+1.9	+0.6	+2.1	+1.0

5. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 52, 1965 and 1966.

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). Five 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; and from December Quarter 1963 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 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 1958-59 to 1967-68 and for each quarter from September Quarter 1965. Table 2 on pages 5 and 6 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from September Quarter 1966 to December Quarter 1968.

9. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from September Quarter 1968 to December Quarter 1968.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from September Quarter 1968 to December Quarter 1968

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

Group	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)
Food - Meat	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2	-1.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.6
Potatoes	+0.4	+0.3	+0.6	+0.2	+0.6	..	+0.3	+0.4
Other	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	..	+0.1
Clothing and Drapery	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1
Housing	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.5	+0.5	..
Household Supplies and Equipment	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	..	+0.1
Miscellaneous - Fares	+0.4	+0.9	+0.2	..	+0.4
Other	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4	+0.7	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4
Total Change (Index Points)	+1.5	+2.0	+1.3	+0.9	+1.4	+0.9	+1.1	+0.5

(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. Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities: September Quarter 1968, 145.2; December Quarter 1968, 146.7; difference of +1.5 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement.

10. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between September Quarter 1968 and December Quarter 1968 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 are shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this bulletin and the corresponding paragraph of preceding bulletins. For this quarter decreases in the price of meat tended to be offset by increases in the price of potatoes. Prices of onions decreased in all capital cities and the price of bread increased in five capitals.

The Food Group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed an overall quarterly increase of 0.2%.

Clothing and Drapery Group - The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.7%, mainly due to increases in the prices of footwear.

Housing Group - Local Government rates and charges increased in five State capital cities. Increases also occurred in other sections of the group.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.9%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group - The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.6%.

Miscellaneous Group - Fares increased in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, radio and television licences and motoring charges increased in all cities. The price of beer increased in Adelaide.

The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 2.1%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600 21 JANUARY 1969

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 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 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							Canberra
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP								
1966 - September	114.7	111.8	120.0	116.0	106.7	108.9	127.0	113.5
December	115.1	112.0	120.6	116.2	107.1	110.1	127.1	113.6
1967 - March	115.0	112.1	120.0	116.5	107.1	110.3	127.4	113.7
June	115.6	112.8	120.6	117.2	107.3	110.7	128.5	114.0
September	115.8	113.1	120.9	117.6	107.5	110.4	129.0	114.1
December	116.3	113.2	122.0	117.7	107.3	110.4	131.9	114.0
1968 - March	116.4	113.2	122.1	117.8	107.3	110.7	131.7	114.2
June	117.3	114.6	123.0	118.5	107.6	111.4	132.3	114.0
September	117.5	114.4	123.0	120.6	107.7	111.6	132.7	114.0
December	118.2	114.8	124.0	121.4	108.1	112.1	132.8	114.3
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1966 - September	146.9	143.2	151.3	154.7	139.8	146.1	142.6	137.3
December	148.9	146.2	152.2	155.5	142.3	149.1	143.6	137.8
1967 - March	149.3	146.2	152.5	156.0	143.6	150.2	146.9	139.3
June	150.4	146.7	154.7	156.9	144.7	151.0	147.3	141.0
September	151.5	148.0	155.2	159.4	145.3	151.4	149.7	141.2
December	153.1	150.1	156.1	161.0	146.2	154.4	151.9	143.2
1968 - March	153.5	150.3	156.9	161.1	146.6	154.7	152.1	143.6
June	154.3	151.1	157.9	161.5	146.9	155.0	152.8	144.2
September	156.4	153.2	160.7	163.5	148.0	155.8	154.3	145.1
December	159.7	158.3	162.7	165.3	152.6	157.1	155.7	146.7
ALL GROUPS								
1966 - September	137.1	134.7	139.1	142.5	135.0	136.3	139.2	133.0
December	138.4	136.2	140.1	143.6	136.5	136.9	140.1	134.0
1967 - March	138.9	136.4	140.7	144.4	137.2	138.3	142.0	134.6
June	140.6	137.8	142.9	145.5	138.9	140.1	143.3	136.2
September	142.5	139.7	144.8	148.0	140.5	140.7	147.2	137.4
December	142.9	140.3	145.3	148.3	139.7	141.3	148.2	137.7
1968 - March	143.5	140.7	146.0	149.4	140.5	142.2	147.6	138.0
June	144.6	141.7	147.4	149.4	142.6	143.4	147.7	138.7
September	145.2	142.3	147.9	150.7	142.6	143.8	148.3	139.2
December	146.7	144.3	149.2	151.6	144.0	144.7	149.4	139.7

(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.

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