

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS  
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

DECEMBER QUARTER, 1961

- Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities of Australia are shown herein.
- Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for December Quarter, 1961 decreased by 0.4% for the weighted average of the six capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney -0.5%, Melbourne -0.2%, Brisbane +0.1%, Adelaide -0.8%, Perth -0.3%, Hobart -0.6%.
- 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	Six Capitals (a)
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1959 December	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
1960 March	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
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

(a) Weighted average.

A large part of the substantial rises in the indexes for the year ended March Quarter, 1961 was due to rises in prices of meat and potatoes. The falls in Brisbane in June Quarter, 1961, in four cities in September Quarter, 1961, and in five cities in December Quarter, 1961 were mainly due to decreases in prices of meat. (See table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this and recent Bulletins).

- The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six capital cities rose by 0.8 per cent. over the year ended December Quarter, 1961. 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
1959 December	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
1960 March	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
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



5. A comprehensive description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Bulletins 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. 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 1960-61 and for each quarter from September, 1958. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from September, 1960 to December, 1961.

9. The following analysis is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from September Quarter, 1961 to December Quarter, 1961.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (a)

Approximate Number of Points Change, September Quarter, 1961 to December Quarter, 1961

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Brisbane</u>	<u>Adelaide</u>	<u>Perth</u>	<u>Hobart</u>	<u>Weighted Average of Six Capitals</u>
Food							
Meat	-0.4	-0.9	..	-1.0	-0.2	-1.3	-0.6
Potatoes	-0.2	+0.1	-0.7	..	..	+0.3	-0.1
Other	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
Clothing and Drapery	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	..	+0.1	+0.1
Housing	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	..	+0.3	+0.2
Household Supplies and Equipment	..	+0.1	..	-0.1	..	-0.1	..
Miscellaneous	..	+0.1	+0.8	..	..	..	+0.1
Total Change (Index Points)	-0.6	-0.3	+0.1	-1.0	-0.4	-0.8	-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. Sydney - ~~December Quarter, 1961,~~ 123.1, December Quarter, 1961, 122.5 - difference of -0.6 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 group indexes are summarized below:-

In the food group, these changes were:- substantial decreases in meat prices in five capital cities (see paragraph 9 on page 2); decreases in the prices of potatoes in Sydney and Brisbane and increases in Melbourne and Hobart; decreases in the prices of eggs in all capital cities; an increase in the price of milk in Melbourne. The food group of the index (average of six capital cities) showed a quarterly decrease of 2.2%.

The index of prices of the clothing and drapery group for the six capital cities combined showed a quarterly increase of 0.4% mainly due to increases in prices of footwear and summer seasonal items.

In the housing group there were increases in all capital cities in rents of privately owned houses. Local Governmental rates and charges increased in four cities. The movement of the housing group as a whole was +1.3% for the weighted average of the six capital cities.

The index of prices of the household supplies and equipment group for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed an increase of 0.1% for the quarter.

In the miscellaneous group, the main change was an increase in fares in Brisbane. The overall group movement for the weighted average of the six capital cities was an increase of 0.3%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 19TH JANUARY, 1962

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
Quarter -							
1958 - Sept.	114.8	114.9	116.7	113.5	114.4	117.7	114.9
Dec.	115.2	116.4	117.9	114.2	114.3	118.7	115.8
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

(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 :

Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
FOOD GROUP							
1960 - Sept.	122.8	129.1	126.9	130.4	122.9	128.4	126.0
Dec.	123.5	129.2	130.0	130.6	122.9	131.7	126.7
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
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1960 - Sept.	109.6	111.9	114.1	108.3	109.8	111.6	110.7
Dec.	110.2	112.7	115.0	109.5	110.8	112.3	111.5
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
HOUSING GROUP							
1960 - Sept.	138.0	147.2	136.1	143.4	137.0	153.7	141.4
Dec.	139.7	150.2	137.0	149.1	141.6	155.9	144.1
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
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1960 - Sept.	110.2	112.3	110.6	106.0	107.4	121.3	110.6
Dec.	111.4	112.4	110.7	105.6	107.3	120.3	111.0
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
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1960 - Sept.	126.5	128.9	128.3	121.2	123.7	125.7	126.7
Dec.	126.8	129.2	129.5	121.2	125.6	125.9	127.2
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
ALL GROUPS							
1960 - 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

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