

**PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS  
USED IN COAL MINING**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 21 OCT 1997

**SEPTEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES**

<i>Price indexes of materials used in coal mining</i>	<i>% change Jun Qtr 97 to Sep Qtr 97</i>	<i>% change Sep Qtr 96 to Sep Qtr 97</i>
Open cut mining	-0.5	0.4
Underground mining	-0.1	-0.2

**NOTES**

**INTRODUCTION**

This publication contains price indexes relating to materials used in the mining of coal in Australia. Separate indexes show movements in prices of materials used in open cut and underground coal mining operations.

**INDEX NUMBERS**

Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers. In cases where more complete information is obtained after index numbers for a period have been published, or it is discovered that incorrect prices have been used in compiling the indexes, revisions to index numbers may occur in subsequent issues of this publication. Each index is presented on a reference base of 1987-88=100.0.

**SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES**

.. not applicable  
r revised

**FORTHCOMING ISSUE**

The December Quarter 1997 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 23 January 1998.

**CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE**

Commencing with this issue, the frequency of compilation and publication of the producer and international trade price indexes has been reduced from monthly to quarterly.

W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

**INQUIRIES**

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Wohoro Ndohho on 02 6252 6424, or any ABS Office.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN COAL MINING

Period	OPEN CUT .....			UNDERGROUND.....		
	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period
<b>1993-94</b>	116.2	..	1.6	121.5	..	-0.2
<b>1994-95</b>	116.8	..	0.5	122.7	..	1.0
<b>1995-96</b>	119.8	..	2.6	126.4	..	3.0
<b>1996-97</b>	121.9	..	1.8	129.6	..	2.5
<b>1993</b>						
September	115.1	1.6	-0.3	121.7	0.9	-1.0
December	116.4	2.1	1.1	121.9	0.6	0.2
<b>1994</b>						
March	116.7	1.7	0.3	121.2	-0.7	-0.6
June	116.6	1.0	-0.1	121.1	-1.5	-0.1
September	115.7	0.5	-0.8	120.8	-0.7	-0.2
December	116.8	0.3	1.0	122.5	0.5	1.4
<b>1995</b>						
March	117.1	0.3	0.3	123.3	1.7	0.7
June	117.7	0.9	0.5	124.0	2.4	0.6
September	118.9	2.8	1.0	125.7	4.1	1.4
December	119.3	2.1	0.3	126.0	2.9	0.2
<b>1996</b>						
March	120.7	3.1	1.2	126.6	2.7	0.5
June	120.4	2.3	-0.2	127.2	2.6	0.5
September	119.8	0.8	-0.5	129.9	3.3	2.1
December	123.2	3.3	2.8	129.4	2.7	-0.4
<b>1997</b>						
March	123.5	2.3	0.2	129.5	2.3	0.1
June	120.9	0.4	-2.1	129.7	2.0	0.2
September	120.3	0.4	-0.5	129.6	-0.2	-0.1

(a) Base of each index: 1987-88 = 100.0

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**1** These indexes are fixed weights indexes. The items included in the indexes were selected on the basis of the estimated average values of materials used in the operation of open cut and underground coal mines in Australia during the three years ended June 1987.

### PRICES

**2** The point of pricing is delivered on mine site or to the primary storage area for a group of mines. Prices are obtained from representative suppliers of the materials used in coal mining.

**3** As far as possible, actual transactions prices are used—that is, the prices actually paid by coal mines to suppliers for materials delivered on mine sites. The actual price paid for anything can, of course, be described in various ways. Instead of being described as a single price (as usually happens in retail shops), a price for a mining material may be described in terms of the components that make up the price—for instance, 'list price plus sales tax', 'supplier's price plus freight', 'basic price less (particular types of) discount', and so on. It is these net prices that buyers pay to sellers in exchange for materials that the ABS aims to use in compiling these indexes.

### ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

**4** Care should be exercised when interpreting quarter to quarter movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

**5** Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in 'index points' or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating index points changes and percentage changes between any two periods:

Open cut mining index numbers –

September Qtr 1997	120.3	(see Table 1)
less September Qtr 1996	119.8	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	0.5	
Percentage change	0.5	x 100 = 0.4
	119.8	

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**6** Users may also wish to refer to the following price index publications:

- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (6407.0)
- *Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Australia* (6410.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0)
- *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0)
- *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0).

**7** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

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