

PRICES AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

INTRODUCTION

As part of the interactive process between suppliers and consumers of goods and services, decisions about whether to enter into business transactions can be identified at the production stage, or at the point of wholesaling or retailing. Insofar as price is a factor influencing these decisions the "price mechanism" is said to operate.

For the purposes of economic planning and decision making, whether by individuals, government and its agencies, or private enterprise, prices and price movements are a constant subject of study and measurement. Included in a range of available techniques of measurement is the method of calculating indexes. This chapter outlines particular applications of the index method, namely, movements in retail and wholesale prices, with special reference to those indexes currently produced by the Australian Statistician.

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES

General background

It must be emphasised that retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used to indicate the effect of price change on the cost of living, they do not in fact measure the absolute cost of living nor the extent of changes in the cost of living. They measure, as nearly as may be, the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the items included in the index.

Retail price indexes are sometimes used as a measure of change in the "purchasing power of money". Strictly speaking, such a measure relates only to purchasing power over the list of items in the index combined in their specified proportions. The validity of its use in any broader sense or in dealing with a particular problem is a question for judgment by prospective users on the facts of the case and in the light of the definition of the index.

Retail price indexes may also be used by industrial tribunals and other authorities for the adjustment of wages and salaries. The Australian Statistician has an important function in stating explicitly what such indexes measure and how they are constructed, in order that authorities using them may be fully informed as to their suitability for particular purposes.

Retail price index numbers for Australian cities are compiled by the Australian Statistician. The retail price index at present prepared by the Australian Statistician is known as the Consumer Price Index.

Past retail price indexes

Information concerning past retail price indexes can be found on pages 631-2 of the *Victorian Year Book 1977* and *Labour Report (6.7)* last published in 1973.

Consumer Price Index

Introduction

This retail price index was first compiled in 1960, retrospective to September quarter 1948. It replaced both the "C" Series Retail Price Index and the Interim Retail Price Index in the official statistical publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The incidence of change in the pattern of household expenditure has been such as to make it necessary to construct not one but a series of new indexes introducing additional items and changes in weighting patterns at short intervals. The Consumer Price Index, therefore, consists of a sequence of nine short-term retail price indexes, chain-linked at June quarter 1952, June quarter 1956, March quarter 1960, December quarter 1963, December quarter 1968, December quarter 1973, September quarter 1974, and September quarter 1976 into one series with reference base year 1966-67 = 100.0.

The Consumer Price Index has always been regarded as an important economic indicator. In recent years it has become even more important through its use as a starting point by parties to the national wage hearings and by the Arbitration Commission in determining the size and nature of wage adjustments. Some pension and superannuation payments are automatically adjusted or "indexed", using movements in the Index. The Index is also used in the indexation of income ranges for income tax purposes. Many business contracts are regularly adjusted to take account of changes in the Index or in some components of it. Rental agreements, insurance coverages, alimony, and child support payments are frequently tied in some manner to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Price and other data used to construct the Consumer Price Index are one source used in compiling quarterly and annual estimates of current price expenditure on gross domestic product and are also used to revalue certain constant price estimates in the national accounting field.

The Consumer Price Index measures changes in the cost of purchasing a constant basket of goods and services representative of purchases made by a particular population group in a specified time period. It is important to remember that the Consumer Price Index measures "price movements" and not "price levels". The Consumer Price Index is often loosely called the cost-of-living index, but strictly speaking this is not correct. No country has yet been able to produce a truly valid cost-of-living index. A true cost-of-living index among other things would need to be concerned with changes in the standard of living and with substitutions that consumers tend to make in order to maintain their standard of living in the face of changing world conditions. The Consumer Price Index, between revisions, assumes the purchase of a constant basket of goods and services and measures price changes in that basket alone. From time to time, the basket of goods and services is revised to ensure that it continues to reflect the actual spending patterns of the population to which the Index relates.

Composition, weighting pattern, and collection

The Consumer Price Index measures price changes affecting a large proportion of metropolitan employee households. This group is termed "the Consumer Price Index population group". For this purpose, employee households have been defined as those households which obtain at least three quarters of their total income from wages and salaries, but excluding the top 10 per cent (in terms of income) of such households. Metropolitan means the State capital cities and Canberra.

Information on the spending habits of a representative cross-section of Australian households is obtained from household expenditure surveys. The 1974-75 survey was used to obtain estimates of spending patterns for the consumer population group, and the current series (the ninth) of the Index introduced in September 1976, was based on these estimates.

The items in the Consumer Price Index basket cannot include every item bought by households but it does include all the important kinds of items. The items are chosen not only because they were representative of metropolitan household spending habits but also because the items were those whose prices could be associated with an identifiable and specific commodity or service.

The total basket is divided into the following groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation. These groups are divided into sub-groups and the sub-groups are divided into expenditure classes. Index numbers are also produced for various special groupings of goods and services in the Index, such as "motor vehicle operation", "all groups, goods component" and "all groups, excluding food".

Every expenditure class in the Consumer Price Index has a "weight" (or measure of its relative importance). In calculating the Index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights. From time to time the Index is reviewed and new fixed weights introduced to reflect up-to-date expenditure patterns. Within each expenditure class there are also weights for each individual item. The weights at this level are varied whenever necessary to reflect changed buying patterns. These weight changes can, and do, take place between periodic revision of the Consumer Price Index. However, the weight changes are introduced into the Index in such a way that they do not, in themselves, affect the level of the Index. The weights for all groups and sub-groups are shown in the following table indicating the relative importance of them at the March quarter 1978. While the underlying weights are changed only at about five-yearly intervals, the percentage compositions vary from quarter to quarter, because prices for expenditure classes change at different rates.

**AUSTRALIA—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: COMPOSITION AND
WEIGHTING PATTERN AT MARCH QUARTER 1978:
SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED**

Group, sub-group	Percentage contribution to total index aggregate (a)		Group, sub-group	Percentage contribution to total index aggregate (a)	
	Sub-group (b)	Group		Sub-group (b)	Group
FOOD		20.839	Drapery	1.129	
Dairy produce	2.114		Household utensils and tools	1.467	
Cereal products	2.309		Household supplies and services	3.209	
Meat and seafoods	4.926		Postal and telephone services	1.299	
Fruit and vegetables	2.717				
Soft drinks, ice-cream and confectionery	2.092		TRANSPORTATION		17.761
Meals out, take-away food	4.371		Private transport	15.769	
Other food	2.310		Public transport fares	1.992	
CLOTHING		10.280	TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL		9.348
Men's and boys'	2.978		Alcoholic beverages	6.414	
Women's and girls'	4.583		Cigarettes and tobacco	2.934	
Piecegoods and other clothing	0.566		HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE		6.625
Footwear	1.624		Health services	4.179	
Clothing and footwear services	0.529		Personal care products	1.743	
HOUSING		13.258	Personal care services	0.703	
Rent	5.131		RECREATION		7.719
Home ownership	8.127		Books, newspapers, magazines	1.501	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION		14.170	Other recreational goods	2.948	
Fuel and light	2.165		Holiday accommodation	0.936	
Furniture and floor coverings	3.157		Other recreational services	2.334	
Appliances	1.744		TOTAL (ALL GROUPS)	100.000	100.000

(a) Percentage contribution to the Index aggregate, based on expenditures in 1974-75, valued at relevant prices in March quarter 1978.

(b) Composition and weighting pattern by expenditure classes is also available.

The sets of weights used for different periods covered by the Consumer Price Index have been derived from the analysis of statistics of production and consumption, censuses of population and retail establishments, the Survey of Motor Vehicle Usage, the continuing

Survey of Retail Establishments, from information supplied by manufacturing, commercial, and other relevant sources, from special surveys, and from the Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75.

Prices are calculated from many sources and around 80,000 separate price quotations are collected each quarter. Food items are priced at the middle of each month except in the case of some fresh items (fruit, vegetables, and fish) where prices are collected more frequently and averaged to obtain monthly prices. Most of the other items are priced quarterly, usually at the middle of the mid-month of the quarter. However, to smooth out collection workloads, some items are collected during the first month of each quarter. Some items, such as local authority rates, need to be priced only once each year.

As the Index aims to measure price changes of a constant basket of goods and services over time, identical or equivalent items are priced in successive time periods as far as possible. However, products do change and the effects of quality changes are evaluated separately from price change to give a "pure" price. This need to account for changes in quality sometimes poses difficult or even insoluble problems.

Periodic revisions

The Consumer Price Index is revised from time to time in order to ensure it continues to be relevant to current conditions. The revisions have been usually carried out at approximately five-yearly intervals. Following each revision, the new series are linked to the old to form a continuous series. This linking is carried out in such a way that the resulting continuous series reflect only price variations and not differences in prices of the old and new baskets.

At less frequent intervals, the reference base period is also updated in order to focus on a closer and more meaningful period of time. Such changes in reference base periods have no effect on percentage changes calculated from the index numbers.

Using the Consumer Price Index

In addition to the All Groups Consumer Price Index for the weighted average of six State capitals, there is also published a separate Consumer Price Index for each capital city including Canberra, and for the weighted average of seven capital cities. Each city index measures price change over time for that city; together they enable comparisons to be made between cities in the degree of price measurement, but not about the differences in price level. Similarly, the separate group indexes measure price movements of each group individually. They enable comparisons to be made about differences in the degree of price change in the different groups, but do not show the comparative cost of the different groups.

To sum up, the Consumer Price Index is designed to provide a "broad measure" of changes in retail prices encountered by metropolitan employee households as a group, and should not be expected to reflect exactly the experience of any particular household. Particular households within the group may not purchase every single item in the Index and may have very different spending patterns from the group average.

The Consumer Price Index is regarded as a good general measure of the effect of price change on the purchasing power of the dollar for metropolitan employee households overall. However, it is not the only measure of price change available and its use must be considered in regard to its suitability for particular needs. The Australian Bureau of Statistics also compiles and publishes a number of wholesale price indexes, including indexes for materials used and articles produced by manufacturing industry, and materials used in building. These indexes are referred to in the following pages. For some purposes users consider that the Implicit Price Deflators (IPDs) derived from national accounting aggregates (see Appendix B) such as Private Final Consumption Expenditure are an appropriate measure of price changes for broad categories of goods and services.

Further information and a more comprehensive indication of the statistics available on the current Consumer Price Index can be found in the Bureau's publications—*Consumer Price Index* (6401.0); *Consumer Price Index, monthly food group index* (6402.0); and *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index*.

AUSTRALIA—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)

Year	Six capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
1973-74	146.6	151.3	144.0	146.1	143.9	140.6	142.6	142.8
1974-75	171.1	176.1	167.9	168.7	169.7	166.1	166.7	164.9
1975-76	193.3	199.0	189.5	190.9	190.5	189.6	190.0	187.3
1976-77	220.0	223.4	216.6	218.0	220.1	219.4	217.7	212.9
1977-78	241.0	243.2	238.2	238.4	241.8	243.1	239.1	232.3

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

MELBOURNE—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base of each index: year 1966-67 = 100.0 except Health and Personal Care: December quarter 1968 = 100.0 Recreation: September quarter 1976 = 100.0)

Year	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Transportation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation	All groups
1973-74	148.8	142.3	148.3	124.8	139.0	146.9	151.0		144.0
1974-75	161.7	172.0	180.6	147.2	164.4	173.7	188.1		167.9
1975-76	177.8	200.4	214.0	169.5	194.1	214.0	149.3		189.5
1976-77	198.9	232.4	242.6	188.0	216.8	229.3	(a)266.1	103.7	216.6
1977-78	220.9	257.7	263.0	204.2	236.7	241.6	321.5	113.0	238.2

(a) Note effects of arrangements concerning Medibank on net prices payable by households for medical and hospital services.

Long-term price movements

The index numbers shown in the following table give only a broad indication of long-term trends in retail price levels. They are derived by linking a number of indexes that differ markedly in scope.

The successive indexes used are: from 1901 to 1914, the "A" Series Retail Price Index; from 1914 to 1946-47, the "C" Series Retail Price Index, from 1946-47 to 1948-49, a composite of the Consumer Price Index Housing Group (partly estimated) and the "C" Series Retail Price Index, excluding rent; and from 1948-49 onwards, the Consumer Price Index.

AUSTRALIA—RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS, 1901 TO 1976:
SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED
(Base: year 1911 = 100)

Year	Index number	Year	Index number	Year	Index number	Year	Index number
1901	88	1921 (a)	168	1941	167	1961	471
1906	90	1926	168	1946	190	1966	517
1911	100	1931	145	1951	313	1971	621
1916 (a)	132	1936	141	1956	419	1976	1083

(a) November.

The prices shown in the following table for the June quarter 1978 are averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc., charged by a number of selected retailers in Melbourne. These specified grades, etc., and the retailers, have been selected as representative to measure price changes over time. Average prices such as these were published by month until December 1977. Since March 1978, they have been published as average prices for the quarter and now include additional items such as fresh fruit, confectionery, household supplies, alcoholic beverages, and personal care products. The selected items come within the Food Group and the following sub-groups of the Consumer Price Index: Household supplies and services, Alcoholic beverages, and Personal care products, but they do not comprise "all" the items and varieties incorporated in the respective groups of the Consumer Price Index.

The prices are approximate indicators of price levels and price changes and do not purport to be the actual averages of all retail sales of these items. Prices for the food items are collected as at the middle of each month excepting the case of some fresh items (fruit, vegetables, and fish) where prices are collected more frequently and averaged to obtain monthly prices. The average prices shown for food items are quarterly averages of average monthly prices. Prices for non-food items are collected as at the middle of the mid-month of each quarter.

Past average retail prices in Melbourne of selected commodities in selected years can be found on page 637 of the *Victorian Year Book 1977*.

MELBOURNE—AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS,
JUNE QUARTER 1978

Item	Unit	Price	Item	Unit	Price
		cents			cents
Dairy produce			Potatoes	1kg	24
Milk, bottled, delivered	2x600ml	50	Tomatoes	1kg	148
Milk, evaporated	410g can	28	Carrots	1kg	49
Cheese, processed	250g pkt	54	Onions	1kg	42
Butter	500g	86	Peaches	825g can	64
Cereal Products			Pineapple, pieces	450g can	42
Bread, milk loaf, sliced	680g	48	Peas, frozen	500g pkt	55
Biscuits, dry	225g pkt	41	Confectionery		
Breakfast cereal, corn based	500g pkt	69	Chocolate, block	200g	79
Flour, self-raising	1kg pkt	48	Other food		
Rice	500g pkt	36	Eggs	55g, 1 dozen	110
Meat and seafoods			Sugar	2kg pkt	64
Beef			Jam, strawberry	500g jar	82
Rib (without bone)	1kg	200	Tea	250g pkt	84
Rump steak	1kg	340	Coffee, instant	150g jar	277
T-bone steak, without fillet	1kg	283	Tomato sauce	600ml bottle	68
Chuck steak	1kg	154	Margarine, table, poly-unsaturated	500g pkt	73
Silverside, corned	1kg	205	Baked beans (in tomato sauce)	450g can	36
Sausages	1kg	135	Baby food	125g can	18
Lamb			Household supplies		
Leg	1kg	228	Laundry detergent	750g pkt	108
Loin chops	1kg	271	Dishwashing detergent	750ml	96
Forequarter chops	1kg	194	Facial tissues	pkt of 150	63
Pork			Toilet paper	2x500 sheet rolls	60
Leg	1kg	292	Pet food	405g can	32
Chops	1kg	301	Alcoholic beverages		
Chicken, frozen	1kg	187	Beer	740ml bottle	73
Bacon	250g pkt	130	Draught beer, public bar	285ml glass	43
Beef, corned	340g can	99	Scotch, nip, public bar	30ml	54
Salmon, pink	220g can	98	Personal care products		
Fruit and vegetables			Toilet soap	2x125g	51
Oranges	1kg	47	Toothpaste	110g tube	61
Bananas	1kg	87			

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES

General background

Earlier indexes of wholesale prices compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics were the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index and the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

In the following section particulars are given of indexes recently developed relating to building and materials used in, and articles produced by, manufacturing industry. In addition to the usefulness of these indexes in themselves, they are also of use in the Bureau's constant price estimates in the national accounting field.

Specific indexes

Melbourne Wholesale Price Index

Past wholesale prices information can be found on page 638 of the *Victorian Year Book 1977*.

Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index

Past wholesale prices information can be found on page 638 of the *Victorian Year Book 1977*.

Price Indexes of Materials used in Building

The first of the two monthly indexes in this series, Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, was introduced in April 1969 and the second, Materials Used in House Building, in November 1970. They are compiled for each State capital city for each

month from July 1966, and for the financial years from 1966-67. The reference base of the indexes is the year 1966-67 = 100.0, and each index is a fixed weights index calculated by the method known as "the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives".

Prices for use in these indexes are collected at the mid-point of the month to which the index refers, or as near to it as practicable. They relate to specified standards of each commodity and are obtained in all State capital cities from representative suppliers of materials used in building.

Price Index of Materials used in Building Other than House Building

This Index measures changes in the wholesale prices of selected materials used in the construction of buildings other than houses and low-rise flats (in general those up to three storeys). Since the weights are based on an average materials usage over a range of types of building within the defined area, the Index is not necessarily applicable to any specific building or type of building included in that area.

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING
OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING
(Base of each index: year 1966-67 = 100.0)

Group	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Concrete mix, cement, sand, etc.	135.6	162.6	191.8	216.2	235.9
Cement products	145.0	176.7	215.3	237.3	261.0
Bricks, stone, etc.	146.0	169.3	189.8	205.4	221.2
Timber, board, and joinery	156.7	189.9	212.0	238.1	256.7
Steel and iron products	155.5	197.8	239.6	272.3	296.3
Aluminium products	149.6	174.2	194.1	217.1	235.5
Other metal products	153.2	152.7	164.3	183.5	185.3
Plumbing fixtures	167.7	210.2	249.9	267.5	270.0
Miscellaneous materials	133.6	164.8	187.6	203.0	216.4
Electrical installation materials	138.3	157.4	177.4	199.6	215.3
Mechanical services components	144.3	181.4	201.6	225.6	247.3
All groups	148.0	180.6	209.4	234.8	254.4

Price Index of Materials used in House Building

This Index measures changes in the prices of selected materials used in the construction of houses. Its composition is in accordance with the usage of materials in actual houses which were selected as representative for the purpose. The Index does not purport to represent buildings of any kind other than houses. The house building construction types included are those which have brick, brick veneer, timber, or asbestos cement sheeting as the principal material for the outer walls.

MELBOURNE—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS
USED IN HOUSE BUILDING
(Base of each index: year 1966-67 = 100.0)

Group	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Concrete mix, cement, and sand	132.8	159.7	189.4	213.1	232.0
Cement products	160.6	205.2	241.1	279.1	303.4
Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	148.7	172.4	192.3	209.4	223.7
Timber, board, and joinery	158.7	190.5	207.3	233.5	247.2
Steel products	154.5	196.5	231.9	269.4	295.8
Other metal products	147.1	168.5	185.4	206.2	219.9
Plumbing fixtures, etc.	146.4	177.4	204.6	218.7	221.7
Electrical installation materials	145.3	165.9	181.0	200.3	213.8
Installed appliances	115.1	145.3	166.8	181.9	195.4
Plaster and plaster products	124.2	151.4	168.1	175.8	187.7
Miscellaneous materials	135.8	161.6	186.7	208.2	221.4
All groups	147.8	178.4	200.1	223.6	238.6

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1977*, pp. 638-40

Price Indexes of Metallic Materials

Each of the two indexes in this monthly series was introduced in December 1972 and has been compiled for each month from July 1968, and for financial years from 1968-69.

Separate indexes have not been calculated for each capital city. Each of the indexes is a fixed weights index compiled on the reference base 1968-69 = 100.0, using the method known as "the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives". Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the relevant monthly index numbers.

In the main, prices are collected at the mid-point of each month. Prices collected are, as far as possible, those normally charged to representative manufacturers for goods delivered into their stores.

Price Index of Metallic Materials used in Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products

This Index includes important metallic materials selected and combined in accordance with a weighting pattern reflecting value of usage as reported at the 1968-69 Census of Manufacturing Establishments for establishments classified to the Fabricated Metal Products Sub-division of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification, Sub-division 31). Index numbers are compiled on an Australia-wide basis for four groupings and an All Groups combination as shown in the following table:

AUSTRALIA—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF METALLIC MATERIALS
USED IN MANUFACTURE OF FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Group	Value weight	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	per cent					
Iron and steel	83.2	131.7	161.1	200.2	227.8	248.9
Aluminium	8.9	118.2	141.9	158.0	176.9	193.7
Copper and brass	5.7	138.1	131.1	137.5	158.1	153.9
Other metallic materials	2.2	151.3	192.4	207.8	231.2	244.7
All groups	100.0	131.3	158.4	193.1	219.4	238.5

Price Indexes of Copper Materials used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment

Prices for each item included in the Index relate to representative goods of fixed specification and are collected each month from major Australian manufacturers of the relevant material.

AUSTRALIA—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS
USED IN MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Copper materials used in manufacture of —	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Electric motors and motor control equipment	136.0	133.1	139.7	156.7	153.1
High voltage and low voltage switch gear	148.0	137.1	145.3	167.3	163.0
Distribution transformers	130.1	122.4	128.1	145.6	140.0
Power transformers	128.0	116.3	122.4	144.3	138.9
General transformers	137.0	128.9	135.3	153.4	148.0

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1978*, p. 553

Price Index of Materials used in Manufacturing Industry

This monthly Index was introduced in July 1975 and relates to materials (including fuels) used in manufacturing industry. It completes the presentation of a set of price indexes which replaces the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index, publication of which was discontinued in December 1970. Index numbers have been published for the financial years from 1968-69 onwards and for the months from July 1968 onwards. The reference base of the Index is the year 1968-69 = 100.0. The Index is a fixed weights index and is calculated by the method known as "the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives". Index numbers for financial years are simple monthly averages of the relevant monthly index numbers.

The composition of this Index is based on materials used by establishments classified to Division C, Manufacturing, of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC). The Index is on a net basis, i.e., it relates in concept only to those materials which are

used by establishments within the Manufacturing Division in Australia and which have been produced by establishments outside that Division. Such outside establishments are either Australian establishments classified to other divisions of Australian industry (e.g., mining or agriculture) or are overseas establishments (including overseas manufacturing establishments).

Materials purchased by establishments classified to the Australian Manufacturing Division from other establishments in that Division are outside the scope of the Index and are excluded, but similar materials when purchased from overseas are included. A material which undergoes transformation at a number of stages during manufacturing will be, at each stage, an input to particular manufacturing industries. However, in keeping with the scope and net basis of the Index, the material is priced only at the stage it first enters manufacturing. The pricing and the weights for the Index reflect usage of materials at the point of entry to the Manufacturing Division.

The items included in the Index were selected on the basis of values of materials used, in 1971-72, by establishments classified to the Manufacturing Division of ASIC. The selection was made from data reported in the 1971-72 Census of Manufacturing Establishments, and on 1971-72 import statistics. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with estimated manufacturing usage in the year 1971-72.

The selected items have been published into broad index groups using two different classifications. Index numbers are published for each of the groups derived in this way. The classifications used for this purpose are: (1) Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), and (2) Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). In effect, the index numbers for index groups based on ASIC are on an "industry of origin basis", and in addition, the distinction between home produced and imported materials is made. Index numbers for index groups based on SITC are on a "commodity basis". The percentage contributions for each of the index items, groups, and categories are based on estimated usage in 1971-72, valued at the relevant prices applying in the reference base 1968-69.

Prices incorporated in the Index are obtained from representative suppliers and users in all States. Prices of home produced items are generally obtained from principal users (manufacturers) but in some cases from major suppliers (producers or wholesalers). Prices of imported items are obtained from suppliers (importers) and users (manufacturers). In concept, pricing for the Index is at the point at which the materials physically enter the manufacturing sector. Therefore, as far as possible, prices are on a "delivered into store basis". Prices relate to "goods of fixed specifications" with the aim of incorporating in the Index price changes for representative materials of constant quality.

Prices collected are mainly "monthly average prices" rather than prices relating to the mid-point of one month. This is because there is a high frequency of price changes for many of the materials included in the Index, and prices at one point of time within a month are not always representative of average prices for the month. Price series for electricity and gas are based on the average realised cost per unit of actual monthly sales to "industrial" users by selected major suppliers and are therefore subject to fluctuation due to changing usage patterns. In general, prices recorded in the Index for a given month refer to materials delivered to manufacturers in that month.

The treatment of the prices of transferred goods and seasonal items is explained in previous *Year Books*.

**AUSTRALIA—PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS BASED ON AUSTRALIAN STANDARD
INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION**
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Group	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Home produced materials—					
Agriculture	147.9	132.2	132.3	152.5	162.4
Forestry and fishing	157.3	187.8	213.7	245.2	273.5
Mining	119.0	129.0	163.3	r189.2	211.4
Electricity	109.9	124.6	137.9	148.8	160.9
Total home produced materials	137.6	131.6	142.0	r163.2	176.7

AUSTRALIA—PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS BASED ON AUSTRALIAN STANDARD
INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION—*continued*
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Group	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Imported materials—					
Agriculture	130.6	149.3	166.5	258.6	303.4
Mining	196.3	357.8	423.6	479.5	515.3
Manufacturing	113.1	149.5	162.6	182.1	201.6
Total imported materials	127.1	181.5	202.9	233.2	257.0
All groups	134.7	145.1	158.6	182.2	198.5

AUSTRALIA—PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS BASED ON STANDARD
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Group	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Home produced and imported materials—					
Food, live animals, and tobacco	145.9	132.4	132.5	154.9	166.6
Raw materials (excluding fuels)	140.7	149.3	163.0	191.7	199.4
Electricity, gas, and fuels	126.2	179.5	229.0	254.8	291.0
Imported manufacturing materials—					
Chemicals	96.3	141.9	149.4	160.3	170.7
Metal manufactures, machinery, transport, equipment, and parts	118.6	148.7	179.6	211.6	246.6
Other manufactured goods	106.1	137.4	148.4	164.5	185.1
All groups	134.7	145.1	158.6	182.2	198.6

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1978*, pp. 549-51

Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry

These monthly indexes were first published in October 1976 and index numbers have been compiled from July 1968 onwards. These indexes measure changes in prices of articles produced by establishments classified to the Manufacturing Division of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC). The indexes are on a net sector basis; that is, they relate in concept only to those articles which are produced in defined "sectors" of Australian manufacturing industry for sale or transfer to other sectors or for export or for use as capital equipment. Articles which are sold or transferred to other establishments within the sector for further processing (as materials, components, fuels, etc.) are excluded. Capital equipment produced is within the scope of the index even if sold or transferred to other manufacturing establishments in the sector.

A net index is provided for the Manufacturing Division of ASIC and also net indexes for each of the twelve sub-divisions within the Manufacturing Division. In addition, indexes are published for three special groupings which are components of particular net sub-division indexes.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index represents price movements of goods which are produced by establishments in the Manufacturing Division, for sale or transfer to establishments outside the Manufacturing Division or for use as capital equipment. Articles sold or transferred by establishments in the Manufacturing Division to other establishments in that division for further processing are outside the scope of this index. In other words, the pricing and weights for the All Manufacturing Industry Index reflect sales and transfers of articles at the point of exit from the Manufacturing Division.

The net sub-division indexes for each of the twelve sub-divisions represent movements in prices of goods produced by establishments in the respective sub-divisions, for sale or transfer to other sub-divisions within Manufacturing or to establishments outside the Manufacturing Division or for use as capital equipment. The pricing and weights for the net sub-division indexes reflect, in general, sales and transfers of articles at the point of exit from the respective sub-divisions.

For ASIC sub-divisions 21-22, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, and 33, only a minor proportion of sales and transfers is to other Manufacturing sub-divisions. Therefore, the relevant components of the All Manufacturing Industry Index are regarded as providing valid indicators of price movement for these sub-divisions. For ASIC sub-divisions 23, 26, 27, 29, and 34, there is a significant proportion of sales to other sub-divisions of Manufacturing. To compile net indexes for these sub-divisions, it has therefore been necessary to price additional items to represent transactions between these and other sub-divisions, and also to establish weights appropriate to each sub-division (i.e., weights based on all articles produced by the sub-division for sale or transfer outside the sub-division).

In the case of sub-division 21-22, "Food, beverages, and tobacco", an index series is also published for the special groupings "Food, beverages, and tobacco, excluding meat and abattoir by-products, and raw sugar", in order to isolate some of the more uneven price movements which frequently occur in this sub-division. The other two special groupings, "Appliances and electrical equipment" and "Industrial machinery and equipment, etc." were first published in June 1977 following requests for a dissection of the other industrial machinery and equipment and household appliances sub-division index.

The items included in these indexes were selected on the basis of values of articles produced in 1971-72, by establishments classified to the Manufacturing Division of ASIC. The selection was made from data reported in the 1971-72 Census of Manufacturing Establishments.

The indexes are fixed weights indexes and are calculated by the method known as "the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives". The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with estimated net sector production in the year 1971-72 valued at the relevant prices applying in the reference base year 1968-69. Many of the selected items carry not only the weights of directly priced articles but also the weight of unpriced articles whose prices are considered to move similarly to those of directly priced articles.

Most of the prices used in these indexes relate to the mid-point of the month. Prices are manufacturers' selling prices exclusive of excise and sales tax, and reflect the effects of subsidies and bounties paid to manufacturers.

The prices reflect industry selling practices. For example, if costs such as handling and distribution are included in the manufacturer's selling price, this is the price used in the index. Where handling and distribution charges are paid separately by the purchaser the prices used exclude such charges.

Prices in general relate to a standard representative set of transactions (in terms of quantity discounts, delivery arrangements, destination, etc.) in order to avoid variations in price that are attributable solely to a changing mix of transactions over time.

A technique known as model pricing is used to measure price change in cases where the same (i.e., constant quality) items are not produced and sold repetitively over time. This technique involves selecting a product of some recent period which is typical of a firm's output and which becomes the "model".

Price series used in these indexes relate to goods of fixed specifications in order to measure price changes for representative products of constant quality. When a significant change in specification occurs, the prices of the new article must be suitably adjusted to make them comparable with prices for the old standard before they are used in the index.

For the purpose of these indexes the aim is to determine actual transaction prices. It is therefore necessary to obtain information on discounts and reflect their effects in the indexes.

**AUSTRALIA—PRICE INDEX OF ARTICLES PRODUCED BY
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY: INDEXES FOR MANUFACTURING
DIVISION AND SELECTED NET SUB-DIVISIONS OF MANUFACTURING
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)**

Manufacturing Division and sub-division	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Manufacturing Division	134.6	158.1	177.8	196.9	213.8
Net Sub-divisions (a)					
Food, beverages, and tobacco (21-22)	142.8	153.0	163.5	180.0	195.6

AUSTRALIA—PRICE INDEX OF ARTICLES PRODUCED BY
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY: INDEXES FOR MANUFACTURING
DIVISION AND SELECTED NET SUB-DIVISIONS OF MANUFACTURING—*continued*
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Manufacturing Division and sub-division	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Textiles (23)	129.6	142.4	159.7	178.6	193.3
Clothing and footwear (24)	136.7	161.3	185.2	208.1	225.2
Wood, wood products, and furniture (25)	148.8	190.0	219.9	246.8	264.0
Paper, paper products, and printing (26)	134.6	168.5	196.3	212.8	231.7
Chemical, petroleum, and coal products (27)	111.6	142.4	168.2	182.4	200.7
Glass, clay, and other non-metallic mineral products (28)	129.6	158.3	183.2	202.5	219.8
Basic metal products (29)	129.4	151.9	174.0	200.6	214.0
Fabricated metal products (31)	142.3	183.2	217.1	244.9	268.7
Transport equipment (32)	124.9	151.2	175.8	195.0	211.6
Other industrial machinery and equipment and household appliances (33)	132.4	158.9	179.2	199.4	215.3
Miscellaneous manufacturing products (34)	120.6	143.7	159.0	176.0	192.4

(a) ASIC sub-division codes are shown in brackets.

AUSTRALIA—PRICE INDEXES OF ARTICLES PRODUCED BY
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—SPECIAL GROUPINGS (a)
(Base of each index: year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Special groupings	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Food, beverages, and tobacco, excluding meat and abattoir by-products, and raw sugar	129.5	151.7	168.5	184.8	203.5
Other industrial machinery and equipment and household appliances (33)					
Appliances and Electrical Equipment (332)	126.0	146.1	159.9	176.7	186.0
Industrial machinery and equipment, etc. (b) (331 and 333)	140.4	175.2	203.6	228.3	252.5

(a) ASIC sub-division codes are shown in brackets.

(b) Includes photographic, professional, and scientific equipment.

NOTE: A full description of the Manufacturing Division and selected sub-divisions is available in *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1978*, pp. 551-53

Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials

This special purpose index was introduced in 1964, and index numbers were published at quarterly intervals from August 1959 to February 1969, when monthly publication commenced. The Index has direct value as a measure of changes in aggregate cost of materials used in an important part of the building industry (other than house building).

AUSTRALIA—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF ELECTRICAL
INSTALLATION MATERIALS
(Base of each index: year 1959-60 = 100.0)

Group	Value weight	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	per cent					
Conductors	40	165.1	168.2	178.1	197.5	199.3
Conduit and accessories	25	138.5	169.6	199.0	227.8	253.1
Switchboard and switchgear material	35	156.6	192.3	224.5	252.8	283.2
All groups	100.0	155.5	177.0	199.6	224.4	242.1

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1978*, p. 554

EXPORT PRICE INDEX

An annual index of export prices was published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from 1901 to 1962. The current monthly Export Price Index was first published in October 1962, but index numbers were compiled back to July 1959. The reference base of the Index is year 1959-60 = 100.0. Index numbers from June 1969 have been compiled on an interim basis which incorporates a re-weighting of the items contained in the original Index, and the inclusion of some additional items. The interim basis was introduced pending completion of a comprehensive review and re-basing of the Index as a whole.

The Export Price Index is a fixed weights index, and its purpose (as was that of the previous fixed weights index) is to provide monthly comparisons, over a limited number of years, of the level of export prices of the selected items, making no allowance for variations in quantities exported. The index numbers thus measure price changes only. The price series used in the Index relate to specified standards for each commodity and in most cases are combinations of prices for a number of representative grades, types, etc.

Index numbers for each of the groups and for All Groups are shown in the following table. The yearly index numbers are simple averages of the twelve monthly index numbers in each year.

AUSTRALIA—EXPORT PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of each index: year 1959-60 = 100.0)

Year	Wool	Meats	Dairy produce	Cereals	Dried and canned fruits	Sugar	Hides and tallow	Metals and coal (a)	Gold	All groups
1973-74	172	201	109	184	152	176	161	196	289	160
1974-75	121	132	127	256	176	378	141	263	391	181
1975-76	127	150	122	240	162	335	151	286	359	187
1976-77	164	169	128	219	184	314	203	329	370	206
1977-78	168	212	147	196	237	273	224	340	472	213

(a) Comprises coal, iron and steel, copper, zinc, lead, and silver. Does not include iron ore, bauxite, alumina, and mineral sands which, however, have been included in the All Groups index from July 1969.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1978*, pp. 554-5

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS

General

During the financial years 1974-75 and 1975-76, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted two surveys in order to obtain information about the expenditure patterns of private households. The 1974-75 survey was confined to a sample of households in the six State capital cities and Canberra (collection in Darwin being suspended in December 1974 due to cyclone Tracy), while the coverage of the 1975-76 survey was extended to include other urban and rural regions. Apart from limited attempts in 1910-11 and 1913 to assess the spending patterns of Australian households, these surveys were the first official collections of household expenditure statistics conducted in this country.

Perhaps the most important reason for the collection of data relating to expenditure at the household level is to provide information for use in improving the representativeness of the items and the weighting pattern used to compile the Consumer Price Index (see page 494). Household expenditure statistics also provide a rich source of data needed for a wide range of policy and research purposes. These include the planning of welfare services; assessing the need for, and effect of, programmes in fields such as housing, education, and health; assessing the impact of taxation and government benefits; and improving estimates of private final consumption expenditure in the National Accounts.

Scope and coverage

The 1974-75 survey obtained data from a sample of 9,095 households in the six State capital cities and Canberra, while the 1975-76 survey sampled 5,869 households in all regions of Australia. Apart from this difference in geographic coverage, the subject content and general methodology of the two surveys were virtually identical.

Only private dwellings were sampled, including houses, home units, flats, caravans, garages, tents, and any other structures being used as private places of residence at the time of the survey. Hotels, boarding houses, institutions, etc. were defined as special dwellings outside the scope of the survey.

All categories of households (or persons) in selected private dwellings were included in the survey except: foreign diplomats and their staff; foreign servicemen and their families stationed in Australia; persons from overseas countries touring or holidaying in Australia; visitors staying with the household for less than six weeks after the initial interview (four weeks in the 1974-75 survey); usual residents absent at the time of the initial interview and not returning within seven days; and usual residents who were going away during the first half of the diary keeping and not returning before the end of the diary keeping.

Data collection and processing

Trained interviewers approached selected households to obtain their co-operation in the completion of several questionnaires. Each household was asked for details of large or infrequent items of expenditure (e.g., purchase of vehicles and property, and the payment of household bills such as electricity and gas) and for details of income from all sources. In addition, a diary was provided to each household member aged 15 years or more, in which they were requested to record, on a daily basis, a description and value for all items purchased over the following two weeks. (Because of anticipated differences in spending patterns in rural areas compared with metropolitan and other urban areas, members of rural households selected in the 1975-76 survey were issued with four-week diaries).

Apart from expenditure and income information, particulars of the composition of the household were also obtained, together with basic demographic information about the members of the household such as their age, sex, marital status, occupation, and employment status. This information enabled households to be classified according to size, composition, etc.

Processing of the data was carried out in three phases. First, during the collection phase, the interviewer checked the returns for any apparent inaccuracies and inconsistencies. Second, on receipt in the ABS Central Office, all returns were clerically edited and all payments in the diary were assigned a commodity code. Third, data was transferred to magnetic tape and various computer operations were performed to ensure, as far as possible, that the data was correct. In addition, expenditure and income data was converted to a weekly equivalent, and expenditure, income, and other totals and the classificatory variables required for tabulation purposes were derived. Expansion factors ("weights") were inserted in respondent household records to enable the sample data to be expanded to obtain estimates for the total population.

Definitions

A Household was defined as a group of people who live together as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements; i.e., they have some common provision for food and other essentials of living. A person or persons living in the same dwelling but having separate catering arrangements constituted a separate household.

Expenditure was defined as all payments for goods and services for private use made by all members of the selected household aged 15 years and over. In general, expenditure was collected on the basis of payments made during the reference period rather than on the basis of goods and services "acquired" or "consumed" during the period. Expenditure was net of refunds or expected refunds (e.g., payments for health services were net of any refunds received or expected to be received). Information was collected on a household basis because many items of expenditure such as food, accommodation, and household goods and appliances relate to the household as a unit rather than to individual persons.

Income was defined as gross income from all sources before taxation and other deductions were made, and was collected from all members of the selected household aged 15 years and over. The main components of income are: wages and salaries (including income-in-kind received from an employer); income derived from self-employment (including wages and income-in-kind taken from the business); Government social service benefits; income from investments (including interest, dividends, royalties, and rent); and other regular income (including educational grants and scholarships received in cash,

benefits received from an overseas government, income received for professional advice outside the normal job situation, superannuation, worker's compensation, alimony or maintenance, and any other allowances regularly received).

The *Head of household* was taken to be that person nominated by the member(s) of the household as the "head". This person was usually the male "breadwinner".

Adults/children were, respectively, household members aged 18 years or more and household members aged less than 18 years.

Workers were defined as those persons aged 15 years or over who reported any "earned" income in the survey (i.e., income from self-employment, or wage and salary income from part-time or full-time employment). The following categories of persons were asked to report earned income: persons who worked in a job or business at any time during the four weeks prior to the week of interview; persons who did not work during the four weeks prior to the week of interview but who received income from a job or business for any of the four weeks (e.g., a person on paid holiday, sickness or long-service leave, a silent partner in a business); and persons who did not work or earn income from a job or business in the four weeks prior to the week of interview but who were commencing work in the week of interview (these persons were asked to report expected income).

Retired persons were defined as those persons who reported no "earned" income and who described themselves as being retired (e.g., having retired from work for reasons of age or sickness).

Other payments included payments such as income tax, life insurance premiums, superannuation contributions, purchases of and deposits on land and dwellings, and gambling payments. Receipts from sale of property and gambling winnings were offset against payments.

Reliability of results

Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete enumeration of the population using the same questionnaires and procedures. These differences are called sampling errors. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error per cent, i.e., the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate. The size of the percentage standard error depends on:

- (1) The size of the sample on which the estimate is based (the smaller the sample, the larger is the standard error percent); and
- (2) the variability in the frequency of reporting and in the size of the reported values (e.g., expenditure on household appliances would be more variable, and hence have a higher standard error per cent, than expenditure on meat).

A more detailed discussion of standard errors may be found in ABS publication *Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75, Bulletin 3 (Standard Errors)* (6509.0). Imprecision arising from sampling errors should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur for other reasons, e.g., errors in response and reporting. Such errors are known as non-sampling errors and may occur in any enumeration whether it be a complete enumeration ("census") or a sample. The most significant types of non-sampling errors are:

- (1) *Non-response biases* caused by differences in the characteristics of income and expenditure between respondent and non-respondent households. Some attempt was made to minimise non-response bias, but in practice it was not possible to remove all bias. (In 1974-75, 72 per cent of all eligible households co-operated fully during the survey, while in 1975-76 the figure was 73 per cent);
- (2) *Response errors* caused by incorrect data supplied by informants; and
- (3) *Processing errors* caused by misinterpretation of the data supplied, incorrect classification of data, errors in transcription of data to computer readable format, etc.

Summary of results

In the lower income ranges, average expenditure exceeded average income as defined (this does not imply that all households in the lower income ranges have expenditure which exceeds income), while in the higher income ranges average income substantially

exceeded average expenditure (see below). It should be noted that some households will have financed some items of expenditure from savings and from other sources such as loans, receipts of maturing insurance policies, gifts, windfall gains, and profits from the sale of assets which are not included as income as defined for the survey. In addition, some households classified to the lower income ranges may have had lower than usual income during the data reference period, while still maintaining their normal level of expenditure. For the medium and higher income ranges, income tax payments (included in other payments) are a large part of the difference between income and expenditure as defined.

The larger items of average weekly household expenditure in Victoria in 1975-76 were transport and communication (\$34.14), food (\$35.07), and current housing costs (\$24.18). In rural regions, however, expenditure on current housing costs was substantially lower than in the capital city and urban regions.

The 1975-76 survey shows that in Victoria both household income and expenditure were lower in rural and urban regions compared with the capital cities. In urban regions, household income and expenditure were, respectively, 14.2 per cent and 13.0 per cent less than for capital cities, while for rural regions the difference was 15.5 per cent and 29.3 per cent, respectively. Variations in expenditure can be observed over a range of characteristics, e.g., between capital cities, quarter of year, household income, household composition, and age of household head. Detailed results of the two surveys have been published in a series of bulletins available on request to the ABS. Some unpublished tables are also available on request.

**VICTORIA—HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1975-76:
HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Particulars	Weekly household income						
	Under \$80	\$80 and under \$140	\$140 and under \$200	\$200 and under \$260	\$260 and under \$340	\$340 or more	All households
Number of households in sample	201	179	278	219	224	226	1,327
Estimated total number of households in population ('000)	166.6	144.3	241.9	200.0	189.7	220.5	1163.0
Average number of persons per household	1.74	2.74	3.19	3.35	3.35	3.82	3.10
Average age of household head (years)	62.69	51.04	41.35	40.39	40.87	44.44	45.95
Average weekly household income (\$)	51.35	107.82	168.89	230.06	296.42	465.83	232.10
	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE (\$)						
Commodity or service—							
Current housing cost (a)	10.71	16.16	23.36	27.45	27.22	34.90	24.18
Fuel and power	3.25	3.74	5.17	4.55	4.89	6.13	4.75
Food	17.66	26.74	32.42	36.30	40.55	50.74	35.07
Bread, cakes, and cereals	2.38	3.40	3.98	3.98	4.21	5.00	3.91
Meat and fish	4.94	7.05	8.31	8.70	9.50	12.05	8.64
Dairy products, oils, and fats	3.26	4.71	5.56	5.75	5.54	6.19	5.27
Fruit and vegetables	2.89	4.04	4.56	5.34	5.50	6.53	4.92
Other food	4.20	7.55	10.02	12.53	15.80	20.98	12.34
Alcohol and tobacco	2.85	5.52	9.54	11.36	13.27	18.73	10.75
Clothing and footwear	6.01	8.86	11.90	16.43	19.16	32.57	16.56
Household equipment and operation	8.33	5.74	10.67	19.47	29.74	29.50	17.92
Medical care and health expenses	2.26	4.25	5.25	6.82	5.80	7.81	5.54
Transport and communication	8.30	20.05	26.02	34.01	49.05	59.10	34.14
Recreation and education	5.34	8.01	11.18	17.52	18.99	36.03	17.02
Miscellaneous goods and services	7.10	9.39	9.86	14.88	16.68	26.64	14.56
Total expenditure	71.80	108.46	145.37	188.78	225.35	302.15	180.49
Selected other payments (b)	2.90	16.42	29.66	40.94	61.56	109.33	46.43

(a) Included in current housing costs are both principal and interest components of any housing loan repayments. Excluded are outright purchase of, or deposit on, dwellings or land, and other payments of a capital nature.

(b) The main components of this item are income tax, superannuation contributions, life insurance premiums, purchase of and deposits on dwellings and land, and gambling payments. Receipts from sales of dwellings and land, and gambling winnings, are offset against payments.

**AUSTRALIA—HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES,
1975-76**

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Number of households in sample	1,583	1,327	846	550	506	422	324	311	5,869
Estimated total number of households in population ('000)	1,471.2	1,163.0	607.2	374.6	355.4	121.8	12.7	53.7	4,159.5
Average number of persons per household	3.11	3.10	3.09	2.86	3.12	3.24	3.25	3.34	3.09
Average age of household head (years)	46.20	45.95	46.61	45.82	43.79	45.68	36.82	38.06	45.80
Average weekly household income (\$)	220.78	232.10	220.39	217.27	226.85	210.11	336.51	315.52	225.35
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE (\$)									
Commodity or service									
Current housing costs (a)	24.98	24.18	20.91	19.80	25.12	18.34	30.43	34.26	23.65
Fuel and power	3.87	4.75	3.40	3.43	3.58	4.42	3.35	5.64	4.02
Food	34.05	35.07	31.56	31.93	32.24	31.35	45.08	38.34	33.64
Bread, cakes, and cereals	4.05	3.91	3.53	3.62	3.44	3.77	3.75	3.90	3.83
Meat and fish	7.92	8.64	8.08	7.20	7.44	7.88	9.74	8.91	8.06
Dairy products, oils, and fats	5.18	5.27	5.04	4.53	5.10	5.02	5.87	5.52	5.12
Fruit and vegetables	4.94	4.92	4.82	4.22	4.67	4.18	8.24	5.66	4.82
Other food	11.96	12.34	10.10	12.37	11.59	10.49	17.50	14.35	11.80
Alcohol and tobacco	10.72	10.75	8.57	9.16	10.47	9.03	20.26	11.56	10.24
Clothing and footwear	14.14	16.56	11.17	14.23	12.92	15.01	11.42	17.84	14.35
Household equipment and operation	16.68	17.92	16.00	17.25	17.66	18.88	23.09	27.03	17.28
Medical care and health expenses	5.37	5.54	5.11	5.36	4.74	4.45	4.48	5.42	5.30
Transport and communication	33.98	34.14	30.94	32.42	33.52	35.47	49.97	43.99	33.62
Recreation and education	14.50	17.02	14.47	17.26	16.68	13.99	21.44	25.28	15.78
Miscellaneous goods and services	14.47	14.56	15.39	14.03	12.22	13.53	27.60	18.76	14.47
Total expenditure	172.78	180.49	157.52	164.87	169.15	164.48	237.12	228.13	172.35
Selected other payments (b)	52.30	46.43	44.35	41.68	51.23	41.24	54.32	104.94	48.81

(a) Included in current housing costs are both principal and interest components of any housing loan repayments. Excluded are outright purchase of, or deposit on, dwellings or land, and other payments of a capital nature.

(b) The main components of this item are income tax, superannuation contributions, life insurance premiums, purchases of and deposits on dwellings and land, and gambling payments. Receipts from sales of dwellings and land, and gambling winnings are offset against payments.

**VICTORIA—HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION,
1975-76**

Particulars	1 adult	2 adults	3 or more adults	1 adult with children	2 adults 1 child	2 adults 2 children	2 adults 3 or more children	3 or more adults with children	All households (a)
Number of households in sample	201	347	109	44	132	197	178	118	1,327
Estimated total number of households in population ('000)	187.5	313.4	96.8	39.9	102.2	177.8	140.9	103.4	1,163.0
Average number of persons per household	1.00	2.00	3.28	3.16	3.00	4.00	5.62	5.19	3.10
Average age of household head (years)	56.33	50.54	54.33	38.04	34.92	36.04	37.21	48.56	45.95
Average weekly household income (\$)	118.71	219.23	330.65	125.30	223.39	256.77	228.71	397.20	232.10
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE (\$)									
Commodity or service—									
Current housing costs (b)	22.40	21.44	24.53	19.57	30.02	28.52	24.04	24.02	24.18
Fuel and power	2.95	4.33	4.94	4.38	4.80	5.52	6.05	6.12	4.75
Food	17.00	27.67	43.05	27.84	35.65	40.57	47.63	58.47	35.07
Bread, cakes, and cereals	1.51	2.89	4.39	3.67	3.49	4.93	6.09	6.69	3.91
Meat and fish	4.06	7.45	10.65	6.70	8.17	9.46	11.73	14.29	8.64
Dairy products, oils, and fats	2.05	3.66	5.58	5.48	6.27	6.43	8.27	8.61	5.27
Fruit and vegetables	2.36	4.04	6.03	3.30	5.18	5.80	6.63	7.69	4.92
Other food	7.03	9.62	16.41	8.69	12.53	13.95	14.92	21.18	12.34
Alcohol and tobacco	5.53	8.95	17.77	4.48	11.88	10.68	13.06	17.15	10.75
Clothing and footwear	6.39	13.00	28.91	7.88	16.66	19.63	17.48	31.12	16.56
Household equipment and operation	8.72	16.63	16.46	18.36	29.62	23.04	15.48	22.77	17.92
Medical care and health expenses	2.33	4.97	7.51	2.32	7.30	7.01	5.81	7.97	5.54
Transport and communication	15.85	30.31	47.65	18.09	33.58	35.16	35.16	70.23	34.14
Recreation and education	9.30	12.54	29.88	6.67	19.06	16.98	16.66	35.01	17.02
Miscellaneous goods and services	12.06	12.99	19.92	6.06	12.35	16.31	13.87	22.39	14.56
Total expenditure	102.53	152.82	240.63	115.65	200.92	203.42	195.25	295.26	180.49
Selected other payments (c)	16.75	51.96	67.72	13.45	47.47	51.96	39.94	75.01	46.43

(a) Includes one household where no person was either married or aged 18 years or over. (This household is not included elsewhere in this table.)

(b) Included in current housing costs are both principal and interest components of any housing loan repayments. Excluded are outright purchases of, or deposit on, dwellings or land, and other payments of a capital nature.

(c) The main components of this item are income tax, superannuation contributions, life insurance premiums, purchases of and deposits on dwellings and land, and gambling payments. Receipts from sales of dwellings and land, and gambling winnings, are offset against payments.

VICTORIA—HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY REGIONS

Particulars	1974-75		1975-76		Victoria
	Melbourne	Melbourne	Urban regions (a)	Rural regions (b)	
Number of households in sample	2,544	653	498	176	1,327
Estimated total number of households in population ('000)	822.0	837.4	239.9	85.7	1,163.0
Average number of persons per household	3.15	3.08	3.09	3.38	3.10
Average age of household head (years)	45.03	45.92	45.02	48.83	45.95
Average weekly household income (\$)	212.22	241.97	207.54	204.41	232.10
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE (\$)					
Commodity or service—					
Current housing costs (c)	22.95	26.41	21.06	11.03	24.18
Fuel and power	4.38	4.90	4.53	3.92	4.75
Food	33.24	36.64	31.56	29.57	35.07
Bread, cakes, and cereals	3.66	4.00	3.63	3.83	3.91
Meat and fish	8.30	9.09	7.62	7.12	8.64
Dairy products, oils, and fats	4.81	5.39	4.78	5.55	5.27
Fruit and vegetables	4.77	5.26	3.94	4.32	4.92
Other food	11.69	12.91	11.59	8.76	12.34
Alcohol and tobacco	9.04	11.73	8.49	7.40	10.75
Clothing and footwear	15.65	17.98	14.22	9.27	16.56
Household equipment and operation	14.87	18.82	16.51	13.05	17.92
Medical care and health expenses	6.21	5.59	5.27	5.82	5.54
Transport and communication	25.90	35.35	31.03	31.06	34.14
Recreation and education	14.67	17.11	18.77	11.25	17.02
Miscellaneous goods and services	14.88	15.13	13.64	11.64	14.56
Total expenditure	161.83	189.66	165.08	134.02	180.49
Selected other payments (d)	43.47	48.19	43.45	37.62	46.43

(a) All towns and urban centres with a population of more than 500 persons (excluding the capital cities) as defined for purposes of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing.

(b) Localities with a population of less than 500 persons were excluded from the survey.

(c) Included in current housing costs are both principal and interest components of any housing loan repayments. Excluded are outright purchase of, or deposit on, dwellings or land, and other payments of a capital nature.

(d) The main components of this item are income tax, superannuation contributions, life insurance premiums, purchases of and deposits on dwellings and land, and gambling payments. Receipts from sales of dwellings and land, and gambling winnings are offset against payments. These figures are subject to large sampling errors and should be treated with caution.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ABS publications

Victorian Office

Monthly summary of statistics (1303.2)

Central Office

A guide to the Consumer Price Index

Australian National Accounts: Outline of principal sources and methods (5212.0)

Average retail prices of selected items, six State capital cities and Canberra (quarterly) (6403.0)

Consumer Price Index, monthly food group index, Darwin (6413.0)

Consumer Price Index, monthly food group index, six State capital cities and Canberra (6402.0)

Consumer Price Index (quarterly) (6401.0)

Export Price Index (monthly) (6405.0)

Household Expenditure Survey 1974-75

Bulletin No. 1. An outline of concepts, methodology and procedures (6507.0)

Bulletin No. 2. Preliminary results (6508.0)

Bulletin No. 3. Standard errors (6509.0)

Bulletin No. 4. Expenditure classified by income of household (6510.0)

Bulletin No. 5. Quarterly expenditure patterns (6511.0)

Bulletin No. 6. Expenditure classified by household composition (6512.0)

Bulletin No. 7. Income distribution (6513.0)

Bulletin No. 8. Expenditure classified by selected household characteristics (6514.0)

House Expenditure Survey 1975-76

Bulletin No. 1. Summary of results (6516.0)

Bulletin No. 2. Expenditure patterns of households of differing characteristics and compositions (6517.0)

- Bulletin No. 3. Expenditure and income by States and Territories (6518.0)
Bulletin No. 4. Expenditure and income by regions (6519.0)
Labour report (last issue No. 58, 1973, ref. No. 6.7)
Monthly review of business statistics (1304.0)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry (monthly) (6412.0)
Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials (monthly) (6408.0)
Price Index of Materials used in Building Other than House Building (monthly) (6407.0)
Price Index of Materials used in House Building (monthly) (6408.0)
Price Index of Materials used in Manufacturing Industry (monthly) (6411.0)
Price Indexes of Metallic Materials (monthly) (6410.0)