

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MARCH QUARTER 1994

NOTE: 1. See Appendix A for an explanation of changes to the treatment of Local government rates and charges.
2. See Appendix B for an explanation of changes to the treatment of fresh fruit and vegetables.

MAIN FEATURES

Weighted average of eight capital cities	Change between—	
	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	Mar qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994
	%	%
Food	0.3	0.7
Clothing	-0.5	-1.1
Housing	0.1	-0.7
Household equipment and operation	0.5	0.9
Transportation	-0.3	1.7
Tobacco and alcohol	1.1	6.7
Health and personal care	2.9	4.1
Recreation and education	0.2	2.1
All groups	0.4	1.4
All groups excluding housing	0.4	1.8
All groups excluding tobacco and alcohol	0.3	0.9

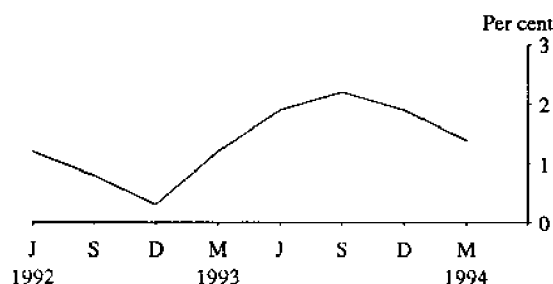
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overview

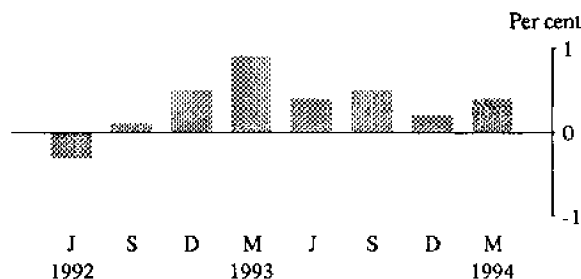
The All groups CPI increased 0.4 per cent between the December quarter 1993 and March quarter 1994, resulting in an annual increase (March quarter 1994 on March quarter 1993) of 1.4 per cent.

Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were the cost of pharmaceuticals (up 14.3%), cigarette and tobacco prices (up 2.4%), fresh vegetables (up 12.0%), the cost of hospital and medical services (up

ALL GROUPS - ANNUAL MOVEMENT



ALL GROUPS - QUARTERLY MOVEMENT



1.9%), vehicle insurance (up 2.9%), and motor vehicle prices (up 1.4%).

Partially offsetting the above were falls in petrol prices (down 4.2%), the cost of overseas holiday travel and accommodation (down 7.2%), consumer credit charges (down 2.9%), and take away food (down 1.3%).

Contributing most to the annual increase in consumer prices were prices of cigarettes and tobacco (up 12.7%), local government rates and charges (up 8.2%), motor vehicle prices (up 4.4%), and the cost of hospital and medical services (up 5.2%), with significant off-sets being provided by mortgage interest charges (down 6.6%), consumer credit charges (down 9.6%), petrol (down 2.3%), and prices of fresh fruit (down 11.1%) and vegetables (down 6.4%).

INQUIRIES • for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact **Information Services** on Canberra (06) 252 6627 or any ABS State office.
• for more detailed information about these statistics, contact **Bohdan Stankewytsch** on Canberra (06) 252 6251 or any ABS State office.

Main contributions to change:**Health and personal care: +2.9%**

The increase in the cost of Health and personal care this quarter is attributable to an increase in the cost of pharmaceuticals (+14.3%, reflecting mainly the reduced effect of the PBS safety net scheme), combined with an increase in the cost of hospital and medical services (+1.9%, largely as a result of increases in health insurance premiums).

Increases in the cost of hospital and medical services were recorded in all cities, ranging from 0.1 per cent in Canberra to 6.2 per cent in Adelaide (where larger increases in health insurance premiums were recorded).

Tobacco and alcohol: +1.1%

Prices of cigarettes and tobacco increased 2.4 per cent nationally largely as a result of an increase in the Commonwealth excise on tobacco products on and from 1 February 1994.

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1994, tobacco and alcohol prices have increased 6.7 per cent overall due to increases in prices of cigarettes and tobacco (+12.7%), beer (+3.4%), wine (+4.1%), and spirits (+2.1%).

Household equipment and operation: +0.5%

Increases in furniture prices (+1.7%), other household non-durables (+4.4%), pet foods (+4.3%), and the cost of telephone services (+1.1%) were partially offset by a fall in consumer credit charges (-2.9%).

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1994, the cost of household equipment and operation has increased 0.9 per cent. The main contributors to the annual increase have been prices of furniture (+4.6%), other household non-durables (+4.2%), and pet foods (+8.7%), partially off set by a fall in consumer credit charges (-9.6%).

Food: +0.3%

Increases in prices of fresh vegetables (+12.0%) and ice cream and ice confectionery (+3.0%) were partially offset by falls in prices of take away food (-1.3%), fresh fruit (-2.2%), poultry (-3.7%), and fresh potatoes (-8.6%).

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1994, food prices have increased 0.7 per cent overall. The main contributors to the annual increase have been increases in prices of milk and cream (+4.9%), confectionery (+3.7%), and ice cream and ice confectionery (+9.8%), partially offset by falls in prices of fresh fruit (-11.1%) and fresh vegetables (-6.4%).

Transportation: -0.3%

Increases in the cost of vehicle insurance (+2.9%), motor vehicle prices (+1.4%), and urban transport fares (+0.9%) were partially offset by a fall in petrol prices (-4.2%).

Increases in the cost of vehicle insurance were recorded in all cities except Melbourne (-0.1%) and Darwin

(-2.9%). The increases in the other cities ranged from 0.2 per cent in Hobart to 6.9 per cent in Sydney.

Motor vehicle prices increased in all cities, ranging from 0.4 per cent in Hobart to 1.8 per cent in Sydney. The 1.4 per cent overall increase this quarter follows a 0.9 per cent fall last quarter, delivering an annual increase (March quarter 1994 on March quarter 1993) of 4.4 per cent.

Petrol prices fell by 4.2 per cent this quarter as a result of an increase in October (+0.9%), falls in November (-1.0%), December (-3.1%) and January (-2.0%), a further increase in February (+0.6%), and a fall in March (-0.8%). Over the 12 months to March quarter 1994, the price of petrol has fallen by 2.3 per cent.

Recreation and education: +0.2%

Increases in education (+3.6%) and child care (+5.6%) fees, and prices of books, newspapers and magazines (+1.4%) were partially offset by falls in the cost of overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-7.2%), video and sound equipment (-1.4%), and holiday travel and accommodation in Australia (-0.6%).

Housing: +0.1%

Increases in Local government rates and charges (+0.5%, due to an increase in water, sewerage and drainage charges in Sydney) and the cost of house insurance (+2.4%) were partially offset by a fall in mortgage interest charges (-0.1%) and the cost of house repairs and maintenance (-0.4%).

The fall in mortgage interest charges this quarter reflects a slight increase in the value of the debt outstanding (+1.3%) combined with a fall in interest rates (-1.5%).

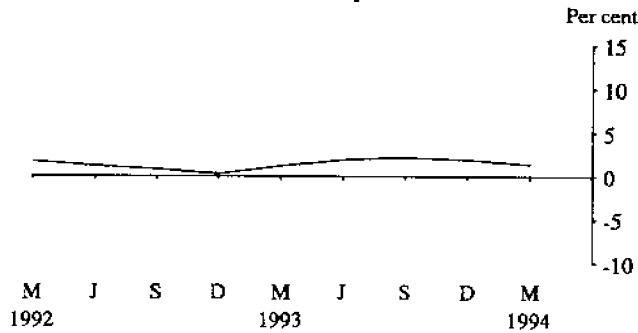
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX- ALL GROUPS
PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	<i>Change between—</i>	
	<i>Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994</i>	<i>Mar qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Sydney	0.3	0.8
Melbourne	0.4	1.6
Brisbane	0.5	1.6
Adelaide	0.7	1.8
Perth	0.1	2.1
Hobart	0.3	2.6
Darwin	-0.3	1.5
Canberra	0.1	1.2
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.4	1.4

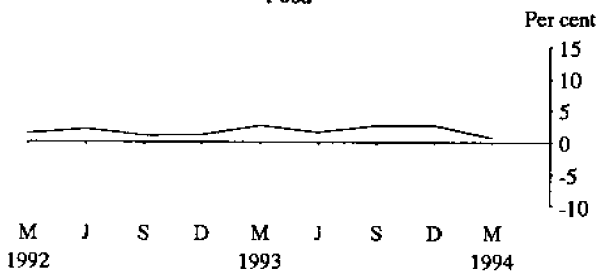
IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

**WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE ON CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR**

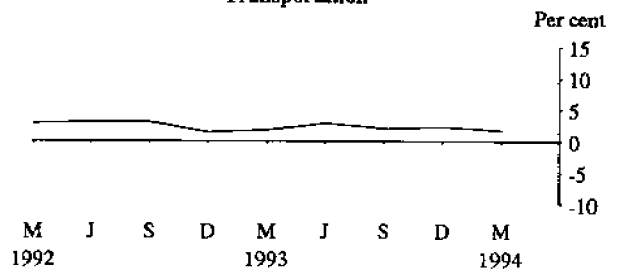
All Groups



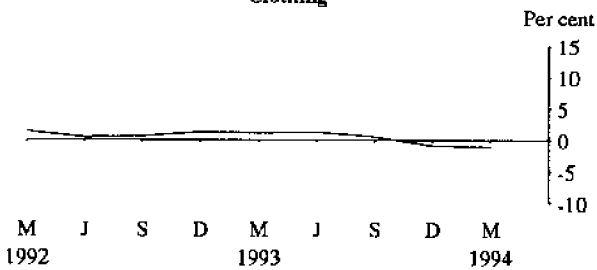
Food



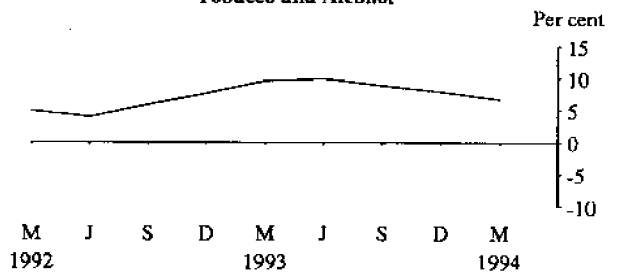
Transportation



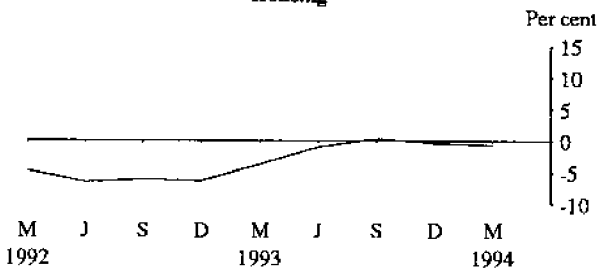
Clothing



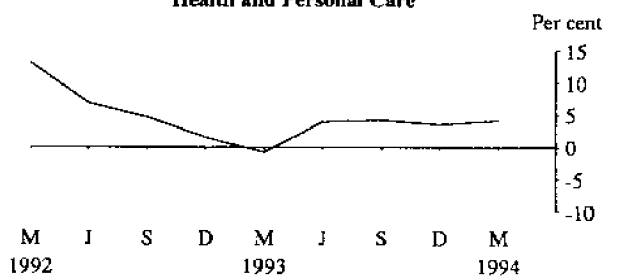
Tobacco and Alcohol



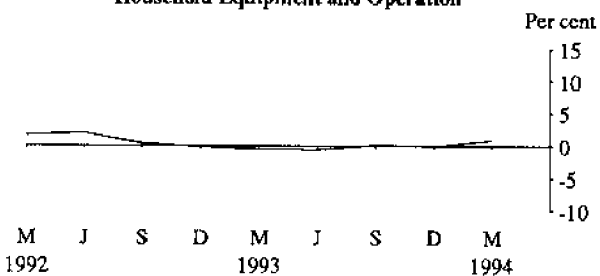
Housing



Health and Personal Care



Household Equipment and Operation



Recreation and Education

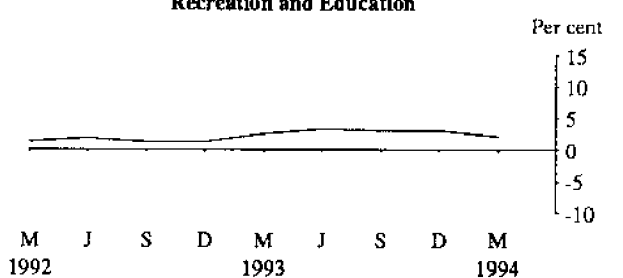


TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	104.9	105.8	104.9	106.2	105.1	104.9	105.7	105.1	105.3
1991-92	106.7	108.1	107.0	108.9	105.9	107.1	108.0	107.8	107.3
1992-93	107.7	108.9	108.5	111.2	106.2	108.5	109.5	109.5	108.4
<i>1989-90—</i>									
March	100.9	100.7	100.8	100.6	101.2	101.0	100.6	101.2	100.9
June	102.5	102.7	102.2	102.5	102.9	101.9	102.4	102.3	102.5
<i>1990-91—</i>									
September	103.1	103.5	102.8	103.8	103.7	103.0	103.5	103.1	103.3
December	105.5	106.6	105.4	106.9	106.2	105.5	106.4	106.0	106.0
March	105.7	106.1	105.7	106.7	105.2	105.2	106.1	105.5	105.8
June	105.4	106.8	105.7	107.3	105.1	105.8	106.6	105.6	106.0
<i>1991-92—</i>									
September	106.0	107.6	106.1	108.0	105.7	106.7	106.9	107.0	106.6
December	107.1	108.4	107.3	108.8	106.1	107.4	108.2	107.9	107.6
March	107.0	108.3	107.5	109.5	106.1	107.4	108.3	108.2	107.6
June	106.5	108.2	107.0	109.4	105.6	107.0	108.4	107.9	107.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.9	107.9	106.9	110.1	105.5	107.6	108.9	108.6	107.4
December	107.4	108.2	108.1	110.7	106.1	108.0	109.2	109.0	107.9
March	108.2	109.5	109.1	111.6	106.4	109.1	109.8	110.1	108.9
June	108.4	110.1	109.7	112.3	106.8	109.4	110.0	110.3	109.3
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	108.7	110.5	109.9	112.7	107.9	111.0	110.6	111.0	109.8
December	108.8	110.8	110.2	112.8	108.5	111.6	111.7	111.3	110.0
March	109.1	111.2	110.8	113.6	108.6	111.9	111.4	111.4	110.4

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Change from previous year									
1990-91	4.9	5.8	4.9	6.2	5.1	4.9	5.7	5.1	5.3
1991-92	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5	0.8	2.1	2.2	2.6	1.9
1992-93	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
June	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
December	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
March	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
June	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.6	2.2	2.2
December	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
March	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
June	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.1
December	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
March	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.9
June	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
December	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.2
March	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.1	0.4

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1993 AND MARCH QUARTER 1994
MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS

Item	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD	0.11	-0.07	0.19	0.13	-0.02	0.19	0.00	0.09	0.06
Milk and cream	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Cheese	0.00	0.00	0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00
Bread	0.01	0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Poultry	0.00	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
Fresh fruit	-0.05	-0.03	-0.01	0.05	0.09	0.01	-0.05	-0.04	-0.02
Fresh potatoes	-0.01	-0.02	0.01	-0.03	-0.02	0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01
Fresh vegetables	0.11	0.02	0.19	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.09	0.12	0.08
Soft drinks and cordials	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Ice cream and ice confectionery	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01
Confectionery	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.01
Meals out	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.01
Take away foods	0.00	-0.12	-0.06	-0.01	0.00	-0.03	0.00	-0.03	-0.04
CLOTHING	-0.04	-0.05	-0.01	-0.07	0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.03
Men's underwear nightwear and socks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Boys' clothing	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.02
Girls' clothing	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	-0.05	0.01	0.02	-0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01	-0.01
Men's footwear	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
HOUSING	0.04	-0.03	0.06	0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.11	-0.09	0.01
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.00	-0.03	-0.04	0.01
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Mortgage interest charges	0.00	-0.03	0.04	-0.02	-0.02	0.03	0.13	-0.02	-0.01
Local government rates and charges	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
House repairs and maintenance	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	0.05	0.01	-0.05	0.02	-0.01	-0.01
House insurance	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.01
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	0.01	0.26	0.11	-0.04	-0.01	0.08	-0.15	0.07	0.09
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gas	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00
Furniture	0.02	0.17	0.04	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.06
Household cleaning agents	-0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.02	0.01	-0.05	0.03	0.01
Other household non-durables	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.04
Pet foods	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.01	-0.06	0.00	0.02
Telephone services	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Consumer credit charges	-0.07	-0.07	-0.08	-0.06	-0.08	-0.04	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06
TRANSPORTATION	0.03	-0.15	-0.05	0.00	-0.04	-0.05	-0.26	-0.31	-0.05
Motor vehicles	0.09	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.06
Automotive fuel	-0.21	-0.24	-0.26	-0.13	-0.17	-0.05	-0.29	-0.40	-0.22
Vehicle insurance	0.16	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.00	-0.05	0.04	0.06
Motoring charges	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tyres and tubes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Vehicle servicing etc.	-0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Urban transport fares	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL	0.11	0.08	0.03	0.19	0.10	0.07	0.13	0.08	0.10
Beer	0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
Wine	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Spirits	0.00	0.01	-0.04	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE	0.15	0.26	0.19	0.50	0.11	0.19	0.14	0.17	0.21
Hospital and medical services	0.02	0.09	0.01	0.33	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.07
Dental services	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Pharmaceuticals	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.14	0.08	0.11	0.12
Toiletries and personal products	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.02
RECREATION AND EDUCATION	-0.05	0.08	0.11	0.12	-0.10	-0.15	-0.33	0.10	0.02
Books newspapers and magazines	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Video and sound equipment	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	0.01	0.01	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	-0.18	-0.28	0.00	-0.01
O' seas holiday travel and accommodation	-0.09	-0.10	-0.03	-0.05	-0.14	-0.05	-0.16	-0.06	-0.09
Entertainment	-0.03	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.00	-0.08	0.01	0.07	0.00
Education fees	0.03	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.04	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.06
Child care fees	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.03
Total change	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.1	0.4
Contribution of selected State and local government charges (a) to total change	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04

(a) Composition of this category is described in footnote (c) Table 8, page 11.

TABLE 4. CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1993 AND MARCH QUARTER 1994 (a)
PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN WEIGHTED AVERAGE EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES ALL GROUP INDEX

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	8.9	-5.0	5.5	3.1	-0.4	0.8	0.0	0.6	13.3
Clothing	-3.3	-3.8	-0.3	-1.6	0.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-8.8
Housing	3.3	-2.4	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	-0.7	2.6
Household equipment and operation	0.7	19.4	3.5	-1.1	-0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.5	23.6
Transportation	2.9	-11.0	-1.3	0.2	-1.3	-0.2	-0.6	-2.2	-13.3
Tobacco and alcohol	9.4	5.9	0.9	4.5	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	24.5
Health and personal care	12.7	19.3	5.7	11.9	3.0	0.8	0.3	1.2	54.6
Recreation and education	-4.1	6.5	3.2	2.8	-2.6	-0.7	-0.7	0.7	5.3
All Groups	31.1	29.3	19.1	20.0	1.8	1.3	-0.8	0.6	100.0

(a) Table 4 shows the percentage contribution of Groups in each city to the change (between December quarter 1993 and March quarter 1994) in the All Groups index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

TABLE 5. WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES: PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Transportation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation and education	All Groups
Change from previous year									
1990-91	3.3	4.6	3.5	5.0	6.8	8.8	9.6	5.0	5.3
1991-92	2.4	1.7	-4.4	2.3	1.8	5.7	10.7	1.8	1.9
1992-93	1.5	1.0	-4.3	-0.2	2.3	8.2	2.2	2.1	1.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	1.3	1.3	-4.8	1.6	2.9	4.8	13.0	1.2	1.7
June	2.0	0.4	-6.6	1.9	3.1	3.9	6.8	1.8	1.2
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	1.0	0.6	-6.2	0.4	3.1	5.8	4.6	1.3	0.8
December	1.1	1.2	-6.4	-0.2	1.5	7.6	1.5	1.3	0.3
March	2.7	1.1	-3.8	-0.5	1.8	9.5	-0.8	2.5	1.2
June	1.5	1.2	-1.0	-0.6	2.9	9.9	3.9	3.2	1.9
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	2.1	8.8	4.2	3.0	2.2
December	2.6	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	2.3	7.9	3.5	3.0	1.9
March	0.7	-1.1	-0.7	0.9	1.7	6.7	4.1	2.1	1.4
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	0.6	-0.2	-2.3	-0.3	0.0	0.4	4.7	-0.1	0.0
June	0.3	0.5	-1.9	0.6	-0.4	1.1	-3.9	-0.1	-0.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	-0.4	-0.2	-1.7	-0.6	1.8	3.2	-0.2	0.5	0.1
December	0.7	1.1	-0.6	0.1	0.0	2.7	1.1	1.0	0.5
March	2.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.6	0.4	2.2	2.4	1.1	0.9
June	-0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	0.7	-0.9	-0.3	0.1	1.0	2.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
December	0.6	-0.3	-1.4	-0.1	0.3	1.8	0.4	1.1	0.2
March	0.3	-0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.3	1.1	2.9	0.2	0.4

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	106.6	104.9	106.3	106.4	107.4	106.7	106.7	107.2	106.1
June	106.4	106.0	106.2	106.9	107.6	107.2	107.5	107.0	106.4
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	105.6	105.5	105.7	107.3	107.7	107.3	107.1	107.0	106.0
December	106.6	105.5	107.2	108.1	108.2	107.5	108.3	107.5	106.7
March	109.5	107.3	109.4	111.3	110.0	109.0	110.6	110.5	109.0
June	107.8	107.0	108.7	110.4	109.2	109.1	110.1	108.6	108.0
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	108.6	107.8	109.4	110.4	109.8	110.2	111.2	109.8	108.8
December	109.6	108.1	110.1	111.3	110.3	111.7	112.6	111.4	109.5
March	110.2	107.8	111.2	112.0	110.2	112.6	112.6	111.9	109.8
CLOTHING (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	106.1	106.4	105.7	105.2	107.5	105.5	105.3	107.1	106.3
June	106.1	107.5	106.2	106.1	108.5	105.7	105.9	106.6	106.8
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.6	106.8	105.6	106.0	108.0	105.3	106.1	106.1	106.6
December	107.3	108.3	107.5	107.2	109.2	107.3	106.8	107.0	107.8
March	107.3	107.7	106.7	107.2	108.4	107.2	106.5	107.4	107.5
June	108.0	108.4	107.4	107.6	108.9	107.7	107.3	108.1	108.1
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	106.2	107.9	106.3	107.5	108.3	106.9	103.8	108.0	107.1
December	106.3	107.5	105.6	107.1	107.8	106.8	103.7	107.2	106.8
March	105.6	106.7	105.5	106.0	108.2	106.4	103.6	106.9	106.3
HOUSING (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	98.1	97.8	101.6	99.8	93.0	97.7	106.3	101.4	98.1
June	96.8	95.5	100.3	97.3	89.7	96.2	103.9	99.9	96.2
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	95.5	93.3	99.3	95.4	88.1	95.0	102.9	98.7	94.6
December	95.0	92.3	99.0	94.0	87.6	94.4	102.9	99.2	94.0
March	95.4	92.4	100.0	94.0	88.1	95.3	103.8	100.2	94.4
June	96.1	94.5	100.5	93.8	87.9	95.0	104.2	100.4	95.2
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	96.1	93.8	100.4	93.3	87.7	94.9	104.2	100.3	94.9
December	94.5	92.4	99.8	91.6	86.9	93.4	103.0	99.2	93.6
March	94.7	92.2	100.1	91.6	86.9	93.3	103.6	98.8	93.7
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	106.8	107.9	106.9	107.3	107.6	109.1	106.1	107.2	107.4
June	107.6	108.9	107.3	108.1	107.4	109.7	106.2	108.0	108.0
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	107.1	107.8	106.4	108.1	107.1	110.1	106.1	107.9	107.4
December	106.8	108.6	105.7	108.1	107.7	110.4	105.6	107.5	107.5
March	105.8	108.2	105.8	106.7	107.0	110.3	105.1	107.5	106.9
June	106.0	108.7	107.0	107.3	107.7	110.4	104.8	107.8	107.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	105.9	109.0	106.1	107.5	108.6	111.3	105.0	107.1	107.5
December	105.1	109.3	106.5	108.2	108.1	111.8	104.5	107.0	107.4
March	105.1	110.8	107.1	107.9	108.1	112.2	103.7	107.5	107.9

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES — *continued*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
TRANSPORTATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	108.2	110.1	109.2	110.9	109.5	107.1	108.4	111.0	109.3
June	107.0	110.1	108.6	111.2	109.9	106.5	108.0	111.3	108.9
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	109.2	112.0	110.6	113.7	111.2	108.7	110.9	113.8	110.9
December	109.0	112.0	110.1	115.1	110.8	110.0	111.0	114.1	110.9
March	109.1	113.1	110.6	114.9	111.2	110.9	110.6	114.4	111.3
June	109.9	113.7	111.4	116.1	111.6	111.7	110.7	114.8	112.1
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	110.9	115.0	111.8	117.3	113.6	111.6	112.8	116.9	113.2
December	110.6	115.8	112.3	117.6	114.2	112.3	113.4	117.5	113.5
March	110.8	114.9	112.0	117.6	113.9	111.9	111.3	115.4	113.2
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	116.1	116.9	110.6	119.2	110.8	111.6	112.9	114.3	115.2
June	118.3	117.2	112.3	119.6	111.9	112.2	117.3	113.4	116.5
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	125.7	118.0	113.1	126.5	112.6	114.0	119.6	120.0	120.2
December	128.3	118.8	125.9	130.4	113.9	112.4	122.8	122.0	123.4
March	129.1	126.4	126.3	131.3	113.8	116.9	123.6	123.0	126.1
June	130.7	127.7	128.4	136.4	115.6	119.9	124.2	125.2	128.0
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	131.8	129.8	130.7	138.8	123.7	132.1	127.0	127.3	130.8
December	134.0	131.7	131.8	140.0	129.1	133.4	133.1	129.7	133.1
March	135.7	133.0	132.2	142.6	130.4	134.3	134.4	130.9	134.5
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	123.0	131.7	122.1	134.1	122.1	125.2	128.7	122.5	126.6
June	116.2	127.5	117.7	131.6	116.9	122.9	120.9	118.3	121.6
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	115.9	127.2	116.8	131.5	116.5	125.1	121.8	119.0	121.4
December	117.5	128.5	116.2	132.2	119.2	125.6	123.2	121.3	122.7
March	119.8	131.5	120.6	136.8	121.0	129.1	126.2	124.5	125.6
June	120.4	132.1	121.3	138.9	122.3	129.3	126.1	124.4	126.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	120.6	131.9	121.2	138.7	122.1	134.5	126.2	125.2	126.5
December	121.4	132.9	120.5	138.4	122.9	134.5	126.9	125.1	127.0
March	123.8	137.4	124.0	145.5	124.8	137.5	129.5	128.1	130.7
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	106.2	108.7	106.1	108.8	104.6	107.4	103.8	106.5	107.1
June	106.0	108.9	105.2	108.9	105.3	106.0	105.2	107.0	107.0
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.6	109.2	105.7	108.9	105.3	107.0	106.4	107.8	107.5
December	108.0	110.2	106.7	109.9	107.6	108.2	104.4	107.6	108.6
March	109.1	112.0	108.0	111.7	106.5	108.5	103.2	108.3	109.8
June	110.3	111.9	108.5	112.3	107.2	108.2	104.5	109.4	110.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	110.6	112.2	108.9	112.8	107.1	108.7	104.1	110.2	110.7
December	112.0	113.3	110.2	113.0	108.5	111.0	108.1	110.5	111.9
March	111.5	114.1	111.2	114.1	107.5	109.7	105.4	111.3	112.1

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SELECTED EXPENDITURE CLASSES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	Mar 1993	Dec 1993	Mar 1994	Dec 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	Mar qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec 1993	Mar 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	
	Mar 1993	Dec 1993	Mar 1994	Dec 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	Mar qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1994	Dec 1993	Mar 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	
FOOD	109.0	109.5	109.8	109.8	0.3	0.7	20.23	20.29	0.06	0.01	0.06	
Dairy products	112.0	115.6	116.4	116.4	0.7	3.9	1.66	1.67	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Cereal products	114.8	116.1	116.2	116.2	0.1	1.2	2.32	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Meat and seafoods	100.7	102.6	102.4	102.4	-0.2	1.5	3.29	3.28	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	
Beef and veal	105.6	104.0	105.1	105.1	1.1	4.4	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.00	
Lamb and mutton	102.5	105.0	104.6	104.6	-0.4	2.0	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.00	
Pork	87.9	86.2	83.0	83.0	-3.7	-5.6	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.00	
Poultry	103.3	107.2	106.9	106.9	-0.3	3.5	0.41	0.40	0.40	0.40	-0.01	
Bacon and ham	106.0	105.6	105.6	105.6	0.0	-0.4	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.00	
Processed meat	97.8	100.0	99.7	99.7	-0.3	1.9	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.00	
Fish	95.1	84.3	87.0	87.0	3.2	-8.5	1.55	1.60	0.05	0.05	0.00	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	107.5	108.6	107.9	107.9	-0.6	0.4	0.90	0.89	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	
Processed fruit and vegetables	116.1	119.1	120.1	120.1	0.8	3.4	3.23	3.25	0.02	0.02	0.00	
Soft drinks - ice cream and confectionery	114.3	115.0	114.3	114.3	-0.6	0.0	5.44	5.41	-0.03	-0.03	0.00	
Meals out and take away foods	108.1	109.8	110.6	110.6	0.7	2.3	1.85	1.86	0.01	0.01	0.00	
Other foods	107.5	106.8	106.3	106.3	-0.5	-1.1	6.71	6.68	-0.03	-0.03	0.00	
CLOTHING	108.9	108.1	107.6	107.6	-0.5	-1.2	1.82	1.81	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	
Men's and boy's clothing	107.2	106.9	106.9	106.9	0.0	-0.3	2.73	2.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Women's and girls' clothing	106.1	103.6	101.6	101.6	-1.9	-4.2	0.79	0.78	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	
Fabrics and knitting wool	104.1	103.7	102.7	102.7	-1.0	-1.3	1.11	1.10	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	
Footwear	117.1	118.9	119.2	119.2	0.3	1.8	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	94.4	93.6	93.7	93.7	0.1	-0.7	16.60	16.61	0.01	0.01	0.01	
HOUSING	107.2	107.9	108.0	108.0	0.1	0.7	5.26	5.27	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Rents	106.6	107.1	107.2	107.2	0.1	0.6	4.83	4.84	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Privately-owned dwelling rents	112.5	115.7	115.8	115.8	0.1	2.9	0.43	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Government-owned dwelling rents	89.0	87.7	87.8	87.8	0.1	-1.3	11.34	11.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Home ownership	75.7	70.8	70.7	70.7	-0.1	-6.6	6.23	6.22	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	
Mortgage interest charges	120.5	129.8	130.4	130.4	0.5	8.2	2.62	2.64	0.02	0.02	0.02	
Local government rates and charges	110.9	113.8	113.3	113.3	-0.4	2.2	2.02	2.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	
House repairs and maintenance	121.3	128.2	131.3	131.3	2.4	8.2	0.46	0.47	0.01	0.01	0.01	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	106.9	107.4	107.9	107.9	0.5	0.9	19.59	19.68	0.09	0.09	0.09	
Fuel and light	116.6	117.8	117.9	117.9	0.1	1.1	2.67	2.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Furniture and floor coverings	107.6	110.5	112.0	112.0	1.4	4.1	4.69	4.69	0.06	0.06	0.06	
Appliances	104.1	105.6	106.0	106.0	0.4	1.8	1.67	1.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Household textiles	106.8	107.4	106.7	106.7	-0.7	-0.1	0.82	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Household utensils and tools	104.1	105.9	106.3	106.3	0.4	2.1	1.31	1.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Household supplies and services	110.2	112.1	113.8	113.8	1.5	3.3	4.36	4.43	0.07	0.07	0.07	
Postal and telephone services	107.2	105.6	106.7	106.7	1.0	-0.5	1.84	1.84	0.02	0.02	0.02	
Consumer credit charges	94.8	88.3	85.7	85.7	-2.9	-9.6	2.25	2.19	-0.06	-0.06	-0.06	

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SELECTED EXPENDITURE CLASSES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES — continued

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)				Change between Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	
	Mar qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	Mar qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 and Mar qtr 1994	
TRANSPORTATION														
Private motoring	111.3	113.5	113.2	-0.3	1.7	17.86	17.81						-0.05	
Motor vehicles	110.3	112.5	112.0	-0.4	1.5	16.46	16.40						-0.06	
Automotive fuel	109.3	112.5	114.1	1.4	4.4			4.60	4.66				0.06	
Vehicle insurance	110.9	113.1	108.3	-4.2	-2.3			5.16	4.94				-0.22	
Motoring charges	127.3	109.1	112.3	2.9	4.3			2.29	2.35				0.06	
Tyres and tubes	102.8	129.4	130.4	0.8	2.4			1.00	1.01				0.01	
Vehicle service repairs and parts	116.8	103.1	103.6	0.5	0.8			0.38	0.38				0.00	
Urban transport fares	129.3	132.3	133.5	0.9	3.2	1.40	1.41	3.04	3.05				0.01	
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL														
Alcoholic drinks	126.1	133.1	134.5	1.1	6.7	9.16	9.26						0.10	
Beer	114.5	117.8	118.1	0.3	3.1	5.68	5.70						0.02	
Wine	115.5	118.8	119.4	0.5	3.4			3.29	3.30				0.01	
Spirits	105.9	109.9	110.2	0.3	4.1			1.15	1.15				0.00	
Cigarettes and tobacco	119.7	122.4	122.2	-0.2	2.1			1.25	1.24				-0.01	
	154.1	169.6	173.6	2.4	12.7	3.48	3.56						0.08	
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE														
Health services	125.6	127.0	130.7	2.9	4.1	7.68	7.89						0.21	
Personal care products	133.9	137.9	140.2	1.7	4.7	4.59	4.67						0.08	
Hairstressing services	115.8	112.7	119.8	6.3	3.5	2.22	2.36						0.14	
	111.7	113.3	113.7	0.4	1.8	0.86	0.86						0.00	
RECREATION AND EDUCATION														
Books newspapers and magazines	109.8	111.9	112.1	0.2	2.1	12.17	12.19						0.02	
Recreational goods	126.7	130.4	132.2	1.4	4.3	1.37	1.39						0.02	
Holiday travel and accommodation	102.3	101.4	101.2	-0.2	-1.1	2.75	2.75						0.00	
Recreational services	94.6	102.0	98.4	-3.5	4.0	2.69	2.59						-0.10	
Education and child care	119.6	120.0	120.5	0.4	0.8	3.17	3.18						0.01	
	124.6	124.8	129.8	4.0	4.2	2.19	2.28						0.09	
ALL GROUPS	108.9	110.0	110.4	0.4	1.4	110.0	110.4						0.4	

TABLE 8. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — SPECIAL SERIES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	Mar qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993 Mar qtr 1994	Mar qtr 1993 Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994	Dec qtr 1993	Mar qtr 1994
ALL GROUPS	108.9	110.0	110.4	110.4	0.4	1.4	110.0	110.4	110.0	110.4	0.4	0.4
All groups - excluding food	108.9	110.1	110.6	110.6	0.5	1.6	89.78	90.12	89.78	90.12	0.34	0.34
All groups - excluding clothing	109.0	110.2	110.7	110.7	0.5	1.6	103.30	103.73	103.30	103.73	0.43	0.43
All groups - excluding housing	111.6	113.2	113.6	113.6	0.4	1.8	93.41	93.80	93.41	93.80	0.39	0.39
All groups - excluding household equipment and operation	109.3	110.6	111.0	111.0	0.4	1.6	90.42	90.73	90.42	90.73	0.31	0.31
All groups - excluding transportation	108.4	109.4	109.9	109.9	0.5	1.4	92.15	92.60	92.15	92.60	0.45	0.45
All groups - excluding tobacco and alcohol	107.5	108.2	108.5	108.5	0.3	0.9	100.85	101.15	100.85	101.15	0.30	0.30
All groups - excluding health and personal care	107.9	109.0	109.2	109.2	0.2	1.2	102.33	102.52	102.33	102.52	0.19	0.19
All groups - excluding recreation and education	108.8	109.8	110.3	110.3	0.5	1.4	97.84	98.22	97.84	98.22	0.38	0.38
All groups - excluding home ownership	111.5	113.0	113.5	113.5	0.4	1.8	98.67	99.07	98.67	99.07	0.40	0.40
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	80.5	75.3	74.6	74.6	-0.9	-7.3	8.53	8.45	8.53	8.45	-0.08	-0.08
All groups - excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	112.1	114.0	114.6	114.6	0.5	2.2	101.48	101.96	101.48	101.96	0.48	0.48
All groups - excluding hospital and medical services	108.1	109.2	109.5	109.5	0.3	1.3	106.34	106.68	106.34	106.68	0.34	0.34
All groups - goods component (a)	111.0	112.7	113.1	113.1	0.4	1.9	68.03	68.27	68.03	68.27	0.24	0.24
All groups - services component (b)	105.6	105.9	106.3	106.3	0.4	0.7	41.98	42.14	41.98	42.14	0.16	0.16
Selected State and local government charges (c)	119.3	123.6	124.1	124.1	0.4	4.0	7.51	7.55	7.51	7.55	0.04	0.04
All groups - excluding selected State and local government charges (c)	108.2	109.2	109.6	109.6	0.4	1.3	102.50	102.86	102.50	102.86	0.36	0.36

(a) The special series 'All groups, goods component' comprises the Food group (except meals out); Clothing group (except dry cleaning and shoe repairs); Household equipment and operation group (except veterinary services, house contents insurance, repairs to appliances, postal and telephonic services and consumer credit charges); Tobacco and alcohol group; materials used in house repairs and maintenance; motor vehicles; automotive fuel; tyres and tubes; parts used in vehicle service and repairs; personal care products; books, newspapers and magazines; and recreational goods. (b) The 'All groups, services component' comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'. (c) Selected State and local government charges comprise: government-owned dwelling rents; water and sewerage rates; council property rates and charges; electricity prices; gas prices (Melbourne and Perth only); motor vehicles third party insurance premiums (except Canberra and in part only in Sydney and Brisbane); motor vehicle registration fees; drivers' licence fees; urban bus fares (government bus fares only in Sydney and Melbourne); council fares only in Brisbane); urban rail and tram fares (not applicable in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin). The derivations and limitations of these figures was described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

**TABLE 9. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS:
ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOUSING, INDEX NUMBERS (a)**
(Base of each index : 1989-90 =100)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Australia	New Zealand
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	105.5	103.4	102.7	105.6	107.7	110.9	109.1	104.0	105.6	104.0
1991-92	108.7	105.9	106.9	109.0	115.0	121.7	117.9	107.6	108.8	106.5
1992-93	112.1	106.8	110.4	110.9	118.6	130.9	123.4	111.4	111.0	108.7
<i>1989-90—</i>										
September	98.2	99.0	98.9	98.7	97.5	97.0	97.1	99.4	97.6	98.2
December	99.1	99.7	99.4	99.3	99.0	98.1	98.2	100.3	99.2	99.6
March	100.9	99.9	100.7	100.6	100.4	101.0	100.3	99.2	100.8	100.4
June	101.9	101.3	101.1	101.4	103.2	103.9	104.4	101.1	102.4	101.8
<i>1990-91—</i>										
September	103.4	101.6	101.3	102.6	104.7	106.1	106.0	104.6	103.2	102.6
December	105.6	103.3	102.3	104.0	106.7	108.6	106.5	103.3	106.3	103.9
March	106.2	103.8	103.1	107.4	107.4	112.3	110.7	103.8	106.3	104.6
June	106.9	104.9	103.9	108.4	111.9	116.4	113.1	104.3	106.6	104.7
<i>1991-92—</i>										
September	107.5	104.7	105.5	108.9	113.0	118.1	115.2	105.5	107.7	105.6
December	108.4	106.1	106.1	108.4	114.5	119.5	116.6	106.6	108.9	105.9
March	108.9	105.6	107.4	108.9	115.2	123.3	118.6	107.8	109.4	107.0
June	110.0	107.0	108.4	109.7	117.3	126.0	121.0	110.5	109.3	107.5
<i>1992-93—</i>										
September	110.7	106.3	108.6	110.1	117.1	127.5	122.1	110.1	109.8	108.1
December	111.8	106.7	109.6	110.5	118.0	128.8	121.6	110.8	110.6	108.6
March	112.5	106.6	111.1	111.4	118.4	132.2	123.4	111.3	111.6	108.9
June	113.3	107.6	112.1	111.7	120.8	135.0	126.4	113.5	112.0	109.1
<i>1993-94—</i>										
September	114.1	108.2	113.0	112.1	121.1	136.1	127.2	112.2	112.6	109.3
December	114.6	107.6	113.1	112.7	121.4	139.3	128.3	113.4	113.2	109.4
March	115.1	n.y.a.	114.7	n.y.a.	121.9	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	113.6	n.y.a.

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 14.

(b) The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany).

**TABLE 10. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS:
ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOUSING, PERCENTAGE CHANGES (a)**

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Australia	New Zealand
Change from previous year										
1990-91	5.5	3.4	2.7	5.6	7.7	10.9	9.1	4.0	5.6	4.0
1991-92	3.0	2.4	4.1	3.2	6.8	9.7	8.1	3.5	3.0	2.4
1992-93	3.1	0.8	3.3	1.7	3.1	7.6	4.7	3.5	2.0	2.1
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
<i>1991-92—</i>										
September	4.0	3.1	4.1	6.1	7.9	11.3	8.7	0.9	4.4	2.9
December	2.7	2.7	3.7	4.2	7.3	10.0	9.5	3.2	2.4	1.9
March	2.5	1.7	4.2	1.4	7.3	9.8	7.1	3.9	2.9	2.3
June	2.9	2.0	4.3	1.2	4.8	8.2	7.0	5.9	2.5	2.7
<i>1992-93—</i>										
September	3.0	1.5	2.9	1.1	3.6	8.0	6.0	4.4	1.9	2.4
December	3.1	0.6	3.3	1.9	3.1	7.8	4.3	3.9	1.6	2.5
March	3.3	0.9	3.4	2.3	2.8	7.2	4.0	3.2	2.0	1.8
June	3.0	0.6	3.4	1.8	3.0	7.1	4.5	2.7	2.5	1.5
<i>1993-94—</i>										
September	3.1	1.8	4.1	1.8	3.4	6.7	4.2	1.9	2.6	1.1
December	2.5	0.8	3.2	2.0	2.9	8.2	5.5	2.3	2.4	0.7
March	2.3	n.y.a.	3.2	n.y.a.	3.0	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	1.8	n.y.a.
Change from previous quarter										
<i>1991-92—</i>										
September	0.6	-0.2	1.5	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.2	1.0	0.9
December	0.8	1.3	0.6	-0.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.3
March	0.5	-0.5	1.2	0.5	0.6	3.2	1.7	1.1	0.5	1.0
June	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.5	-0.1	0.5
<i>1992-93—</i>										
September	0.6	-0.7	0.2	0.4	-0.2	1.2	0.9	-0.4	0.5	0.6
December	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.0	-0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5
March	0.6	-0.1	1.4	0.8	0.3	2.6	1.5	0.5	0.9	0.3
June	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.3	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	0.4	0.2
<i>1993-94—</i>										
September	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	-1.1	0.5	0.2
December	0.4	-0.6	0.1	0.5	0.2	2.4	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.1
March	0.4	n.y.a.	1.4	n.y.a.	0.4	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.4	n.y.a.

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 14.

(b) The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Brief description of the CPI

1. The CPI measures quarterly changes in the price of a *basket* of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (ie metropolitan wage and salary earner households). This *basket* covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. Pensioners and other social welfare recipients are not included in the CPI population group and the index does not reflect concessional prices paid by these people such as subsidised government dwelling rents, public transport fares and the like.

2. The capital city indexes measure price movements over time in each city individually. They do not measure differences in retail price levels between cities.

3. Further information about the CPI is contained in a booklet entitled *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0) which is available from the ABS on request. A more detailed account is contained in *The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6461.0).

Prices

4. Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are generally collected quarterly. However, some important items are priced monthly or more frequently (e.g. bread, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, petrol, alcohol and tobacco) and a small number annually (e.g. seasonal clothing, local government rates and charges).

5. In order to facilitate a more even spread of field collection workload the bulk of the items for which prices are collected quarterly are priced in the first two months of each quarter (ie July/August, October/November, January/February, April/May). With a few exceptions items priced in the third month are those subject to price changes at discrete points of time (e.g. electricity and postal charges, milk); in these cases information about any changes in price during the quarter is obtained so that an average price for the whole quarter can be calculated.

Weighting pattern

6. There are 107 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) in the twelfth series CPI and each expenditure class has its own weight, or measure of relative importance. In calculating the index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights.

7. Changes in the weighting pattern have been made at approximately five-yearly intervals to take account of changes in household spending patterns. The CPI now comprises twelve series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series.

Analysis of CPI changes

8. 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:

All Groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities

Index numbers:

Dec quarter 1993:	110.0	(see Table 1)
less: Sep quarter 1993:	109.8	(see Table 1)
Change in index points:	0.2	

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.2}{109.8} \times 100 = 0.2\%$$

9. In this publication, percentage changes are calculated to illustrate 3 different kinds of movements in index numbers :

- movements between consecutive financial years (where the index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers),
- movements between corresponding quarters of consecutive years, and
- movements between consecutive quarters.

10. Table 7 provides a detailed analysis, for the weighted average of eight capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for subgroups and for selected expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each group and subgroup makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy products subgroup contributed 1.66 index points to the total All Groups index number of 110.0 for December quarter 1993. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group and subgroup.

11. Table 8 provides summary information about a range of Special series in a similar format to that provided in Table 7.

12. Information on the impact of changes in Selected State and local government charges on the CPI is included in Tables 3 and 8. Table 3 shows the contribution made by changes in these charges to the CPI for each capital city, while Table 8 shows index numbers for two special series *Selected State and local government charges* and *All Groups excluding selected State and local government charges*. An explanation of the derivation and limitations of these figures was published in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

International comparisons

13. In analysing price movements in Australia, an important consideration is Australia's performance relative to other countries. However, due to the many differences in the structure of the housing sector in different countries and in the way that housing is treated in their CPIs, a simple comparison of All groups (or headline) CPIs is often inappropriate. To provide a better basis for international comparisons, the Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a resolution which called for countries to "provide for dissemination at the international level of an index which excludes shelter, in addition to the all-items index."

14. Table 9 presents indexes for selected countries on a basis consistent with the above resolution and comparable to the Australian series *All groups excluding housing*. To facilitate comparisons all indexes in this table have, where necessary, been converted to a quarterly basis and re-referenced to a base of 1989-90 = 100.0.

15. In producing this table, the ABS is grateful for the assistance of the relevant national statistical agencies which have either directly supplied indexes for all items excluding shelter or data to enable their derivation.

Related publications

16. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts Sources and Methods (6461.0)

A Guide to the Consumer Price Index (6440.0)

Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges (6442.0)

House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (6416.0)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)

Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: 12th Series Review (6450.0)

Next issue

17. The Consumer Price Index - June quarter 1994 (6401.0) is scheduled to be released on Wednesday 27 July 1994.

18. 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 *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

n.a.	not available
r	revised
n.y.a.	not yet available

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this publication are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by subgroup or group index numbers in Table 7 do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.

APPENDIX A

TREATMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES AND CHARGES

Following recent changes in the administration of the rating process by some local government authorities, the ABS has reviewed the basis on which rating changes are recorded in the CPI.

The outcome of this review is that the recording, in the CPI, of changes in local government rates and charges will no longer be restricted to the June and December quarters. In future, the timing of rating changes in the CPI will more closely reflect the changing practice of local government authorities.

This Appendix provides a general explanation of the treatment of local government rates and charges in the CPI.

Background

The CPI expenditure class *local government rates and charges* includes both council rates and charges, and water, sewerage and drainage rates. To the extent that rates are directly related to the use made by households of specific services, they belong in the CPI as the price for those services. For the rest, they represent an inescapable expense of home ownership (for example, the State Deficit Levy introduced by the Victorian State Government in the December quarter of 1992).

Price changes for local government rates and charges are measured by obtaining details of the rates payable by a sample of owner-occupied residential properties in each city. The sample of properties reflects appropriate proportions of owner-occupied properties in a representative sample of local government areas within each city. In calculating the change in rates from one year to the next a matched sample approach is used; that is, total rates payable are calculated for identical samples of properties in two successive years. Rating changes associated with changes in quality or quantity of services provided are eliminated as far as possible; for example, an additional charge to cover an additional garbage collection would not be reflected as a price change. Changes in rates payable as a result of changes in the quality of a particular property (e.g. higher rateable value because of house extension) are also excluded from the measure of price change.

Water, sewerage and drainage rates and charges are priced in the CPI using a similar sampling approach. For each property in the sample a fixed quantity of water is priced (representing the average quantity of water consumed by the property over a number of years). Thus any changes in water rates caused by variation in the quantity of water actually consumed from one year to the next do not affect price movements for CPI purposes.

Current Practice

To date, local government authorities have assessed rates once per year and the assessment has related to a defined rating year. In these circumstances, the date from which the new "price" applies is the beginning of the rating year - in CPI terms, the first quarter of the rating year.

However the majority of rating authorities do not issue rate notices until some time after the beginning of the rating year and, in many cases, the rating assessments for individual properties are not known until the third or fourth month of the rating year.

For purely practical reasons, the ABS adopted the convention of reflecting changes in annual rates in specific quarters. In the December quarter, the CPI has included changes in water, sewerage and drainage charges, as well as changes in general rates and charges, for all cities except Sydney and Melbourne. In Sydney and Melbourne, changes in general rates and charges have been measured in the June quarter.

Changed Circumstances

The recent trend has been for local government and water supply authorities to shorten their billing periods and/or to change the basis of their rating period from a calendar to a financial year.

These developments increase the possibility of more frequent changes to local government rates and charges (for example, biannually or quarterly rather than only once a year) or the introduction of price changes at times other than at the beginning of a traditional rating period.

New Practice

Where changes have been announced well in advance of when they will impact on the consumer and where the nature of their impact on individual properties is certain, the ABS will endeavour to reflect those changes in the same quarter as the one in which they first impact on the consumer.

However, as it will still be necessary to follow the matched sample approach in order to eliminate any quality changes from the measure, the recording of rating changes in the same quarter as the one in which they first impact is likely to be the exception rather than the rule. In most cases, changes to rating schedules and other local government charges will be recorded in the CPI with a lag of one quarter.

The net effect of the new practice will be that, as authorities change the time of the year when they introduce rating changes, the time of recording those changes in the CPI will also vary.

APPENDIX B

CHANGES IN THE TREATMENT OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN THE CPI

As part of an ongoing programme of CPI sample reviews, the ABS has recently completed a review of the samples used to construct the indexes for fresh fruit and vegetables. As a result, the range of fresh fruit and vegetables priced will be expanded and some fresh fruits and vegetables previously priced only in certain months of the year will now be priced throughout the year.

This Appendix provides a general explanation of the method used to measure price changes for fresh fruit and vegetables and an outline of the most recent changes to procedures.

Although the CPI is a quarterly series, for items such as fresh fruit and vegetables (which are priced weekly) price movements are calculated on a monthly basis with the quarterly series being derived from the monthly series.

Up to the end of the 10th series CPI (December quarter 1986) the coverage of fresh fruit and vegetables was restricted to items available all through the year in all cities. The items included were: oranges, apples, bananas, pears, pineapples, potatoes, beans, carrots, cabbages, lettuces, tomatoes, pumpkins and onions.

With the introduction, in March quarter 1987, of the 11th series CPI the coverage of fresh fruit and vegetables was extended to include a range of seasonal items, that is, items not available in all months of the year. In the fresh

fruit expenditure class the items added were: peaches, plums, grapes, strawberries, mandarins and watermelons. For the fresh vegetables expenditure class one seasonal item, cauliflower, was added. At the same time, some additional items of fresh fruit and vegetables available all year round in all cities were added. These items were grapefruit, celery and mushrooms.

Recent investigations by the ABS have shown that some of the items which were previously available only in certain months of the year are now available all through the year. From March quarter 1994 onwards these items will be priced in all months of the year in all cities. The items affected are: strawberries, watermelons and cauliflower. The pricing of other items previously treated as seasonal is unaffected.

In addition, further items of fresh fruit and vegetables which are available all year round have been added to the index. These items are broccoli, capsicum, kiwi fruit and rockmelon.

As of March quarter 1994 the fresh fruits and vegetables priced for the CPI are: beans, cabbage, carrots, celery, lettuce, mushrooms, tomatoes, pumpkin, cauliflower, broccoli, capsicum, onions, potatoes, apples, bananas, grapefruit, oranges, pears, pineapples, strawberries, grapes, mandarins, peaches, plums, watermelon, kiwi fruit and rockmelon.



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