

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - MARCH QUARTER, 1966

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. The customary procedure of pricing food index items as at the 15th of each month and those of virtually all other index items as at the 15th of the mid-month of the quarter continued to apply during the current quarter. Prices collected subsequent to the introduction of decimal currency (14th February, 1966) were obtained in terms of whichever currency, the old or the new, was the basis of operation in the separate shops or outlets. The index continues to measure the proportionate changes in prices actually being charged for the specified quantities and qualities of the items included in the index.

3. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March Quarter, 1966, increased by 0.1% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney no change, Melbourne no change, Brisbane +1.0%, Adelaide +0.3%, Perth +0.8%, Hobart -0.5%, Canberra -0.2%.

4. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:-

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1964-March	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
June	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 1.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
September	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.3	+ 1.4	+ 1.0	+ 1.2	+ 1.2
December	+ 1.2	+ 0.9	+ 1.7	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	..	+ 1.3	+ 1.1
1965-March	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
June	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
September	+ 1.1	+ 1.2	+ 0.9	+ 1.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 1.0
December	+ 1.3	+ 1.1	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 1.5	+ 1.3	+ 1.3	+ 1.1
1966-March	+ 0.1	..	..	+ 1.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.2

5. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 3.4% over the year ended March Quarter, 1966. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1964-March	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
June	+ 2.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
September	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.6	+ 2.1	+ 1.2
December	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.6	+ 1.2
1965-March	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
June	+ 2.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.1	+ 0.4	..	+ 0.9
September	+ 2.5	..	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
December	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 3.6	+ 1.3
1966-March	- 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	..	+ 1.4	+ 0.1

6. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 50, 1962-63.

7. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). Five series for short periods, viz.: September Quarter, 1948 to June Quarter, 1952; June Quarter, 1952 to June Quarter, 1956; June Quarter, 1956 to March Quarter, 1960; March Quarter, 1960 to December Quarter, 1963; and from December Quarter, 1963 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern was altered and, in addition, new items (mainly ones that had become significant in household expenditure) were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

8. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

9. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1948-49 to 1964-65 and for each quarter from December Quarter, 1962. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December Quarter, 1964 to March Quarter, 1966.

10. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December Quarter, 1965 to March Quarter, 1966.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from December Quarter, 1965 to March Quarter, 1966

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

Group	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)
Food								
Meat	- 0.1	- 0.2	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.1
Potatoes	- 0.7	- 0.6	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 1.0	- 0.7
Other	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Clothing and Drapery	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Housing	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	..	- 0.1	..	+ 0.1	..	..	..	- 0.1
Miscellaneous	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	..	+ 0.1
Total Change (Index Points)	+ 0.2	..	..	+ 1.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.1	- 0.7	- 0.3

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups Index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. weighted average of Six State Capital Cities: December Quarter, 1965, 135.2; March Quarter, 1966, 135.4; difference of + 0.2 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement.

11. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between December Quarter, 1965 and March Quarter, 1966 is shown below:-

Food Group

Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index. The effects of changes in the price of these items in each city are shown in the table in paragraph 10 on page 2 of this and paragraph 9 of preceding bulletins. For this quarter, in the weighted average of the six State capital cities, decreases in potato prices resulted in a decrease of 0.7 index points which almost offset an increase of 0.9 index points in the remainder of the index.

Prices of bread and eggs increased in all cities and the price of milk increased in four cities. Prices of onions decreased in each city.

The Food Group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed a quarterly decrease of 0.8%.

Clothing and Drapery Group

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.3% mainly due to increases in prices of footwear.

Housing Group

House price and rents of privately owned houses increased in five State capital cities.

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.6%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities did not change.

Miscellaneous Group

Fares increased in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Newspaper prices increased in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Beer prices increased in Melbourne and Perth. There were increases in prices of motor car registration and drivers' licences in Perth.

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.4%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 22ND APRIL, 1966

NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 70413 Extension 490 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.
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 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Period	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
Year ended June -								
1949	60.9	60.5	61.0	62.1	61.6	60.6	60.7	60.4
1950	66.0	65.6	66.2	67.1	66.2	66.2	64.7	65.1
1951	74.6	74.5	74.6	75.1	74.7	74.4	73.3	74.0
1952	91.4	91.9	91.0	91.8	91.4	90.4	90.4	91.1
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	102.0	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.9
1955	102.6	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	104.2
1956	106.9	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	107.8
1957	113.1	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.3
1958	114.2	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.0
1959	116.0	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	115.4
1960	118.9	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	117.8
1961	123.8	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	121.4
1962	124.3	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	123.1
1963	124.5	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	123.4
1964	125.7	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	124.3
1965	130.4	128.8	132.2	133.9	128.6	127.6	133.6	128.1
Quarter -								
1962 - December	124.4	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	123.7
1963 - March	124.5	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	123.2
June	124.9	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	123.4
September	125.1	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	124.1
December	125.0	123.9	126.4	128.2	122.7	123.1	129.0	123.8
1964 - March	125.8	124.6	127.1	129.2	123.5	124.2	129.8	124.2
June	127.0	125.8	128.3	130.2	125.1	125.3	130.1	125.1
September	128.5	127.3	129.6	131.9	126.9	126.6	131.7	126.6
December	130.0	128.4	131.8	133.4	128.6	126.6	133.4	128.0
1965 - March	130.9	129.1	132.9	134.6	128.9	128.0	134.0	128.4
June	132.1	130.3	134.4	135.7	129.9	129.3	135.2	129.5
September	133.5	131.8	135.6	138.3	130.7	130.0	137.0	130.8
December	135.2	133.3	137.2	140.0	132.7	131.7	138.8	132.3
1966 - March	135.4	133.3	137.2	141.4	133.1	132.8	138.1	132.0

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number.

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TABLE 2.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :
Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
FOOD GROUP								
1964 - December	132.1	128.5	133.5	140.3	136.6	128.4	134.2	128.7
1965 - March	133.1	129.8	133.8	142.7	136.8	130.1	135.0	129.4
June	135.9	132.7	136.7	145.0	139.4	133.3	137.2	132.4
September	139.3	136.7	139.9	149.7	141.0	134.4	140.9	135.9
December	139.5	137.0	140.0	151.0	140.6	133.9	142.6	136.2
1966 - March	138.4	135.6	138.0	151.7	140.0	135.8	140.0	134.7
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP								
1964 - December	115.4	113.9	116.6	119.2	114.2	113.9	116.4	112.9
1965 - March	115.8	114.4	116.9	119.7	114.6	114.3	116.9	113.3
June	116.3	114.9	117.5	120.1	115.0	114.7	117.3	113.8
September	116.3	114.9	117.5	120.2	115.0	114.7	117.2	113.8
December	116.6	115.2	117.7	120.6	115.3	115.0	117.5	114.0
1966 - March	116.9	115.5	118.1	120.9	115.6	115.4	117.9	114.5
HOUSING GROUP								
1964 - December	164.4	166.2	167.9	148.7	164.5	159.9	180.9	164.4
1965 - March	165.3	166.8	169.4	149.5	165.4	160.4	182.4	164.7
June	167.2	168.3	172.4	150.4	166.5	161.5	183.5	165.0
September	168.6	168.7	173.3	157.1	167.2	162.9	184.5	165.4
December	171.4	171.1	177.1	157.7	171.5	165.5	185.9	166.6
1966 - March	172.4	172.6	177.6	158.8	172.6	166.5	186.0	167.4
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP								
1964 - December	111.3	110.8	113.5	112.8	104.6	106.2	124.3	113.5
1965 - March	112.5	110.7	117.0	112.7	104.9	106.6	124.3	113.2
June	112.9	110.8	117.7	113.1	105.2	106.9	124.9	113.0
September	113.4	111.2	118.2	114.2	105.6	107.9	125.6	113.3
December	113.7	111.6	118.4	114.7	106.1	108.0	125.2	113.4
1966 - March	113.7	111.1	118.7	115.1	106.2	107.9	125.4	113.1
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1964 - December	136.5	135.5	139.4	140.7	130.0	133.2	133.5	129.6
1965 - March	137.3	135.9	140.1	141.7	130.2	136.0	133.9	130.4
June	137.3	135.8	140.1	142.4	130.2	136.2	134.7	130.5
September	137.8	136.3	140.5	143.1	130.7	136.4	136.2	130.4
December	142.7	140.9	145.1	147.8	137.3	142.8	141.6	135.9
1966 - March	144.7	142.1	147.4	152.0	138.9	144.6	141.5	136.3
ALL GROUPS								
1964 - December	130.0	128.4	131.8	133.4	128.6	126.6	133.4	128.0
1965 - March	130.9	129.1	132.9	134.6	128.9	128.0	134.0	128.4
June	132.1	130.3	134.4	135.7	129.9	129.3	135.2	129.5
September	133.5	131.8	135.6	138.3	130.7	130.0	137.0	130.8
December	135.2	133.3	137.2	140.0	132.7	131.7	138.8	132.3
1966 - March	135.4	133.3	137.2	141.4	133.1	132.8	138.1	132.0

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