

CHAPTER 1. RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES

Collection of retail price information

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for years extending back to the year 1901 have been collected by the Commonwealth Statistician, and in some cases were recorded by the Statisticians of various States for earlier years.

Retail prices of a more extensive range of commodities (including clothing) and certain services in common demand have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year from 1914 to 1922 for each of the six State capital cities.

The range of items for which retail price data is obtained was considerably extended in 1948 and in later years.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately two hundred towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942, when collection was discontinued.

The manner in which the main body of commodity prices used in the retail price indexes are ascertained and certain methods adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability from period to period are briefly as follows.

- (i) Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more representative and reputable retailers in each of the cities for which the index is compiled. Whenever necessary, supplementary information is obtained from other retailers.
- (ii) Prices for most food items are collected monthly, normally as at the middle of each month. However, for potatoes and for onions from December quarter 1968, weekly prices are collected and averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices of all non-food items are collected at regular quarterly intervals (or at annual intervals with items such as local government rates and seasonal clothing) normally as at the middle of the mid-month of each quarter. However, for furniture, major household appliances and motoring items (other than motor car) the collection is made during the first month of each quarter to facilitate field collection arrangements.
- (iii) Information is collected under authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905-1966* which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorised officer in respect of the contents of any return.
- (iv) The actual collection of information is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians in the respective States and Canberra. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods etc.
- (v) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned to obtain requisite information. In respect of some articles, where variation of quality may be considerable, Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers personally inspect the relevant goods and ascertain their prices at each informant store.
- (vi) Before each quarter, Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected, after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices are recorded for representative goods of constant quality.

- (vii) The items and their standards are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where changes become necessary, suitable adjustments are made in computing the retail price indexes to ensure that they reflect changes in price with due precision and that they are not vitiated by the influence of other changes. In this way the indexes are kept representative of changes in current patterns of household expenditures and reliable within their definitions.
- (viii) Returns of rents for unfurnished flats (since December quarter 1968) and for unfurnished houses of four, five and six rooms are collected at the middle of each quarter from a representative number (ranging up to forty) of agents in each State capital city covered by the indexes. In addition, particulars are obtained as to costs of building new houses, rates and other charges for local government services including water supply and sewerage, prices of materials and labour for repairs and maintenance, and weekly payments for houses let by government housing authorities. This information provides a broadly based housing component in the Consumer Price Index.

Nature of retail price indexes

1. General

The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

In the simplest method of compiling retail price indexes, the price of each item is multiplied by a fixed quantity or 'weight', the product being an 'expenditure'. The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an 'aggregate expenditure'. The 'aggregate expenditures' for successive periods are converted into an index by representing the aggregate of a selected or 'base' period by an appropriate number (e.g. 100 or 1,000), and calculating index numbers to that base by the proportion which the aggregate of each period bears to the aggregate of the base period. A useful alternative method is to calculate for each item a ratio or 'price relative' showing the price of that item relative to its price in the selected or base period, and to combine all these price relatives into a single index using fixed 'expenditure weights'. Applied to the same basic data, both methods yield the same result. The mathematical formulae are convertible one to the other.

2. Weighting

Weighting is the process by which the prices of commodities are combined into an index in accordance with their relative importance in the field to be covered. This field, in the case of retail price indexes, is usually that of household expenditure.

Obviously, price changes of major items affect household expenditure more than do price changes (in like ratio) of minor items. A 10 per cent rise in the price of butter, for example, will have a greater effect on household expenditure than a 10 per cent rise in the price of sardines. Items are therefore assigned appropriate 'weights' which are used as multipliers in the computation of the index. These may be 'quantity weights' obtained from estimates of household consumption, or 'expenditure (i.e. value) weights' obtained from estimates of the relative importance of the items in household expenditure.

Present-day retail price indexes usually embrace a wide and complex range of goods and services. It is customary to assist users of price indexes by describing the weights, whatever their source, in the form of percentages contributed by the items to the total index in the base period (or in some other specified significant period).

The period from which the weighting pattern is derived does not necessarily coincide with the reference base adopted in calculating and presenting index numbers. Frequently, for example, data extending over several years is used as the basis of weighting, in order to smooth out short-term fluctuations in consumption. The purpose is to establish a weighting pattern that is broadly representative of consumption over the period covered by the index. In practice, the effect of small, or even substantial differences in weighting is often slight, and is only likely to be of moment when the commodities affected show a price movement markedly different from that of other commodities.

3. The list of items

The list of items must be a selected list because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times. It is deemed better to limit the list to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend it by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The list therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen, nor is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. The lists used are simply selected items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained.

4. Essential features

Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are therefore:

- (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;
- (b) that the list of items be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;
- (c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

5. Effects of changing conditions on indexes

Technological development and changes in fashion render it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. Such substitutions help to keep the indexes representative of current conditions and are not injurious to an index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as they arise. No change in principle is involved. The indexes continue to measure, as nearly as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralised by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new items as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

The problem of maintaining an index adequately representative of current usage has intensified since 1950 because of major changes in the pattern of household expenditure and in modes of living. In consequence the Consumer Price Index was devised as a series of linked indexes. (See Consumer Price Index, para. 1 on page 5 and para. 2 on page 6.)

Purpose and use of retail price indexes

1. General

Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a constant standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the absolute

cost of changes in the standard of living. Strictly speaking they measure, as nearly as may be, the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected list of items included in the index. In a broad sense, they measure proportionate change in retail price levels within the field they represent. (See also '(i) General' on page 7.)

2. Price indexes for individual cities

Retail price indexes measure average variations in prices for specified cities individually. They measure proportionate changes from one time to another and not differences in price levels as between cities nor comparative costs of living in different cities. The problems of measuring comparative retail price levels and comparative living costs between cities at any point of time are matters for separate consideration apart from retail price indexes.

3. Price indexes and purchasing power

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 of 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. It is impossible to compile a single general measure that will show, for all purposes and in all classes of transactions, the change in the value of money from one time to another.

4. Use of price indexes by industrial tribunals

Retail price indexes are sometimes used by industrial tribunals and other authorities for the adjustment of wages. These authorities themselves decide, however, what use (if any) they make of available indexes or whether they desire the Statistician to compile a special index or adapt an existing index to suit their purposes. It is not the practice for the Statistician to express any view as to whether such tribunals should use retail price indexes in their deliberations. In the normal course of his duties the Statistician compiles and publishes various price indexes, states what they measure, explains how they are constructed, and gives evidence or public information when required. His function in this regard is frequently misunderstood. It is sometimes erroneously supposed that certain wage rates are determined by ascertaining the aggregate cost of the list of items included by the Statistician in a retail price index, or by calculating separate components of the wage rate from the aggregate cost of the items in separate groups of such an index. The actual position is briefly as follows.

- (i) Tribunals determine a wage rate in the light of relevant evidence, presented by the parties, usually covering a wide range of economic conditions. This may, or may not, include evidence on changes in price levels.
- (ii) In some cases it may be provided by statute or by judgment of the tribunal that the wage rate thus determined shall be adjusted for price change in ratio to the overall movement in a specified retail price index.

The practices followed in the past and at present in Commonwealth jurisdiction and in the various States are described in Chapter 3.

Previous retail price indexes

1. General

Five series of retail price indexes were compiled at various times for Australia by the Commonwealth Statistician prior to 1960. Each of these was continued until changed conditions required the compilation of indexes more directly relevant to current conditions. These indexes were.

- (i) *The 'A' Series Index* (covering food, groceries and house rents) was first compiled in 1912 with the year 1911 as base = 1,000. It was discontinued in June 1938. From 1913 to May 1933 this index was used for wage adjustment purposes by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Some other tribunals continued to use it until 1938 in certain localities.

- (ii) *The 'B' Series Index* (covering food, groceries and rent of four and five roomed houses) was first compiled in 1925 and continued until the December quarter 1953. It was the food and rent constituent of the 'C' Series Index and was designed to replace the 'A' Series Index for general statistical purposes. The 'B' Series Index was not used by industrial tribunals in connection with the adjustment of wages. Its publication was discontinued as from the December quarter 1953.
- (iii) *The 'C' Series Index* (covering food and groceries, rent of four and five roomed houses, clothing, household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting, fares; smoking and some other miscellaneous items) was first compiled in 1921. It was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for purposes of quarterly wage adjustments from May 1934 to August 1953. Some State tribunals continued to use or consider it in their proceedings until it was discontinued. It was last issued on its original basis for December quarter 1960. For certain transitional purposes a 'C' Series Index was issued for March, June and September quarters of 1961. (See Section III. of appendix to Labour Report No. 48, 1960).
- (iv) *The 'D' Series Index*, derived by combining the 'A' and 'C' Series Indexes, was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from May 1933 to May 1934 and then discontinued.
- (v) *The Interim Index* (covering food and groceries, rent of four and five roomed houses, clothing, household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting, fares, smoking, certain services and some other miscellaneous items) was first compiled in 1954 with the year 1952-53 as base = 100. As its title indicated, it was constructed as a transitional index. Its compilation was discontinued following its replacement by the Consumer Price Index in June quarter 1960.

An index of retail price movements from 1901 to 1970 is shown on page 41 of this Labour Report. It is derived by linking together successive indexes (the 'A' Series, the 'C' Series, and the Consumer Price Index) available for that period.

2. The 'Court' Index

In 1937 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration introduced a 'Court' Index for the purpose of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage within its jurisdiction. A 'Court' Index (Second Series) was created by the Court in 1946 and a 'Court' Index (Third Series) in November 1950 to provide for automatic adjustment of the increased amounts of adjustable basic wage then determined by the Court at those dates. By decision of the Court the 'Court' Index ceased to be issued by the Industrial Registrar as at the December quarter 1953. These 'Court' Indexes were an arithmetical conversion of the 'C' Series Retail Price Index.

Consumer Price Index

1. 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 official statistical publications of the Bureau. Initially, series were compiled for the six State capital cities, with a series for Canberra being first published in 1964.

The title 'Consumer Price Index' is used for purposes of convenience and does not imply that the index differs in definition or purpose from previous retail price indexes. A longer but more completely descriptive title would be 'Consumer Series Retail Price Index Numbers'. For practical purposes the terms 'retail prices' and 'consumer prices' are synonymous. The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure quarterly variations in retail prices of goods and services representing a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. (See '(i) General' on page 7.)

The incidence and frequency of changes in the pattern of household expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct not one but a series of new indexes introducing additional items and changes in weighting patterns at short intervals. To obtain a continuously representative measure of retail price change it has been necessary to replace the types of indexes which had a constant list of items and a constant set of weights for extensive periods. The Consumer Price Index therefore consists of a sequence of six short term retail price indexes chain-linked at June quarter 1952, June quarter 1956, March quarter 1960, December quarter 1963 and December quarter 1968, into one series with reference base year 1966-67 = 100.0.

2. Origin

The list of component items and the weighting pattern of the 'C' Series Retail Price Index, first adopted in 1921, were slightly revised by Conference of Statisticians in 1936, but otherwise continued almost unchanged until the index was discontinued in 1960. The reasons for this, and the circumstances which led to the present Consumer Price Index, appear from ensuing paragraphs.

From the outbreak of war in 1939 to late in 1948, periodic policy changes in various war-time controls (including rationing) caused recurrent changes in consumption and in the pattern of expenditure. This rendered changes desirable but made it impracticable either to produce a new index, or to revise the old one, on any basis that would render the index more representative than it already was of the changing pattern of household expenditure in those years. When commodity rationing had virtually ceased in the latter part of 1948, action was taken by the Statistician to collect price data of about 100 additional items and to gather information as to current consumption and expenditure patterns. This was done to facilitate review of the component items and weighting system of the 'C' Series Retail Price Index, in the light of the new pattern of wage-earner expenditure and consumption that appeared to be then emerging. But there supervened, in the next few years, conditions which caused wide price dispersion coupled with a very rapid rise in prices and a new sequence of changes in consumption and in the pattern of wage earner expenditure. Under these conditions it was not possible to devise any new weighting pattern likely to be more continuously representative of conditions then current than was the existing 'C' Series Index on the 1936 revision.

A Conference of Statisticians considered the matter in June 1953 and resolved (in part) as follows.

- (a) That, in view of the persistence of recurrent changes in the pattern of consumer expenditure in the post-war period, it is undesirable to make a general revision of the list of items and weighting system of the 'C' Series Retail Price Index at present, unless industrial tribunals expressly desire some revision for special purposes.
- (b) That an Interim Retail Price Index be compiled with putative weights and components representative, as nearly as may be, of the post-war pattern of consumer usage and expenditure.

The 'C' Series Index continued to be compiled on its pre-war basis without significant change in procedures. The Interim Retail Price Index was introduced in 1954 and continued until March quarter 1960.

The Interim Index was a transitional index designed to measure retail price variations on the 'C' Series model in terms of post-war consumption weights, as emerging in the early 1950s. It embraced a wider range of commodities and services than did the 'C' Series Index, but it did not take into account successive major changes in the pattern of expenditure and modes of living that occurred between 1950 and 1960. These changes could not, in fact, be detected and measured promptly, and incorporated into an index, concurrently with their happening. Nor was it envisaged as desirable to adopt fundamentally new procedures in price index construction until it was fully evident that far-reaching procedural changes were necessary to meet the situation.

In this period, home-owning largely replaced house-renting, the use of the motor car greatly increased and partly replaced use of public transport, and various items of electrical household equipment and television came into widespread use. The impact of these (and other) changes in usage upon the pattern of household expenditure was heightened by disparate movements in prices. Together they rendered nugatory the attempt to meet the situation by devising a single Interim Retail Price Index. As studies progressed and new data became available, it was clear that no single list of items and no single set of fixed weights would be adequately representative as a basis for measuring retail price changes at all times throughout the post-war period. In consequence, the situation was met by compiling the Consumer Price Index constructed as a chain of linked indexes with significant changes in composition and weighting effected at short intervals.

3. Purpose, scope, and composition

(i) *General.* The Consumer Price Index is a quarterly measure of variations in retail prices for goods and services representing a high proportion of the expenditures of wage-earner households. The weighting pattern relates to estimated aggregates of wage-earner household expenditures and not to estimated expenditures of an 'average' or individual household of specified size, type, or mode of living. In this way it is possible to give appropriate representation to owner-occupied houses as well as rented houses and to include motor cars, television sets, and other major expenditures which relate to some households and not to others.

Consumer (retail) price indexes are sometimes loosely called 'cost of living indexes' and are thought to measure changes in the 'cost of living'. Neither the Consumer Price Index, nor any other retail price index, measures changes in the cost of living that result directly from changes in the mode or level of living. Changes of that kind are matters for consideration apart from price indexes. But the change in prices of goods and services is a very important part of the change in the cost of living and this part is measured by consumer (retail) price indexes. (See also 1. *General* on page 3.)

The Consumer Price Index covers a wide range of commodities and services arranged in the following five major groups:

- Food
- Clothing and Drapery
- Housing
- Household Supplies and Equipment
- Miscellaneous.

These groups do not include every item of household spending. It is both impracticable and unnecessary for them to do so. Prices are collected regularly for specified quantities and qualities of a large and representative selection of commodities and services. Movements in the prices of these items, when combined in suitable proportions, provide a representative measure of price change as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households.

The index is designed to measure the proportionate change in prices as combined in the individual groups and the total of the groups in the index. (See also (iv) *Sub-groups and special groupings* on page 9.)

(ii) *Composition and weighting.* A comprehensive view of the present composition and weighting of the Consumer Price Index is given in the table on page 8 and a more detailed table including the list of items and their weights appears on pages 34-40. The weights shown are those comprised in the index for the six State capital cities combined. Broadly, they are in proportion to estimated consumption in 1967-68 (see '(iii) *Basis of weighting*' on page 11) valued at the relevant prices of December quarter 1968. They indicate the relative influence given to the various components in measuring the degree of price change in the index from December quarter 1968 (i.e. from the beginning of the current linked series).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

COMPOSITION AND WEIGHTING PATTERN AS AT DECEMBER QUARTER 1968
FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

Group, sub-group	Percentage weight	
	Sub-group	Group
FOOD—		31.3
Cereal products	4.1	
Dairy produce	6.0	
Potatoes, onions, preserved fruit and vegetables	2.7	
Soft drink, ice cream and confectionery	4.3	
Other food (except Meat)	3.3	
Meat—Butcher's	8.4	
Processed, including poultry	2.5	
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—		14.1
Men's clothing	3.6	
Women's clothing	5.0	
Boys' clothing	0.6	
Girls' clothing	0.8	
Piecegoods, etc.	0.8	
Footwear	2.5	
Household drapery	0.8	
HOUSING—		14.2
Rent—Privately owned houses	2.1	
Privately owned flats	3.1	
Government owned houses	0.9	
Home ownership—House price	3.4	
Rates	2.7	
Repairs and maintenance	2.0	
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT—		12.5
Fuel and light—Electricity	2.4	
Gas	1.0	
Other (firewood, heating oil, briquettes and kerosene)	0.6	
Household appliances	2.6	
Other household articles—		
Furniture and floor coverings	1.9	
Household and other utensils, gardening and small tools	0.7	
Household sundries (household soaps, etc.)	1.0	
Stationery	0.2	
Personal requisites (toilet soap, cosmetics, etc.)	1.2	
Proprietary medicines	0.9	
MISCELLANEOUS—		27.9
Fares—Train	1.0	
Bus and tram	1.5	
Motoring—Goods	6.4	
Services and charges	2.8	
Tobacco and cigarettes	3.6	
Beer	3.7	
Services—Health (dental, medical, hospital)	3.3	
Hairdressing	0.7	
Drycleaning	0.5	
Shoe repairs	0.2	
Postal and telephone services	1.1	
Cinema admission	0.8	
Other—Radio and television operation	1.1	
Newspapers and magazines	1.2	
Total	100.0	100.0

NOTE. The weights should not be regarded as dissecting total household expenditure into its component parts (see page 13).

(iii) *Index numbers compiled.* The index has been compiled for each quarter from September quarter 1948, and for each financial year from 1948-49. (See tables on pages 22-30.)

'All Groups' index numbers, and Group index numbers for each of the five major groups, are compiled and published regularly for the six State capital cities combined and separately, and for Canberra. The reference base for each of these indexes is: Year 1966-67 = 100.0. Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. This does not imply that the indexes are accurate to the order of one-tenth of an index point. Price indexes do not necessarily measure aggregate price variations to this fine order of accuracy.

The separate city indexes measure price movements within each city individually. They enable comparisons to be drawn between cities as to differences in degree of price movement from period to period, but not as to differences in price level.

The separate group indexes measure price movements of each group individually. They enable comparisons to be drawn as to differences in the degree of price change in the different groups, but do not show the comparative cost of the different groups.

The index for the six State capital cities combined is a weighted average of individual city indexes. From the beginning of the current linked series (i.e. December quarter 1968) the relative weighting of the cities concerned is in proportion to their populations at the 1966 Census. These were as follows:

	'000
Sydney	2,446
Melbourne	2,110
Brisbane	719
Adelaide	728
Perth	500
Hobart	120
Total	6,623

(iv) *Sub-groups and special groupings.* Index numbers for sub-groups and special groupings have been compiled and published for the weighted average of the six State capital cities combined for each quarter from December quarter 1963 and for each financial year from 1964-65. (See tables on pages 31-2.) From December quarter 1968 onwards, information of contributions by index sub-groups to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points has also been published. (For recent quarters, see table on page 33.)

Users of these figures should bear in mind that the Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the proportionate change in retail prices as combined in the five major groups and more particularly the total of the groups. For sub-groups or particular items, the index does not necessarily provide comprehensive and valid measures of price changes in those particular fields. Nor does it necessarily measure the relative influences of those classes of items in aggregate variations in prices. The Consumer Price Index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts.

The figures contained in the tables referred to above are published to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index and also to provide additional data of changes in retail prices.

Major changes in composition of the published indexes, resulting from the December quarter 1968 link, have been indicated in the footnotes to the tables. According to standard procedure the old and the new combinations have been linked to provide continuous series of index numbers across this point of time (December quarter 1968), but it should be remembered that all sub-groups were affected by changes at the link and some significantly so.

Each series of index numbers links the average price movement shown by one combination of items up to December quarter 1968 to that shown by a different combination from December quarter 1968.

Although both the old and new sets of items and weights are computed to give the same All Groups Index number as at December quarter 1968 (i.e. 105.7 on base 1966-67 = 100.0), straight comparison of contributions before and after the link by respective components in terms of 'All Groups Index Points' is prevented by the effect of changes made at the link.

4. Structure

(i) *A chain of linked indexes.* Substantial changes have occurred in consumer usage and patterns of expenditure since the 1939-45 War. In order to keep the weighting pattern representative of current expenditures it has been necessary to construct indexes with additional items and changes in the weighting pattern at intervals, rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights that remained unchanged throughout the whole period covered. For the six State capital cities, six series for short periods (namely, from September quarter 1948 to June quarter 1952; from June quarter 1952 to June quarter 1956; from June quarter 1956 to March quarter 1960; from March quarter 1960 to December quarter 1963; from December quarter 1963 to December quarter 1968; and from December quarter 1968 onwards) have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series known as the Consumer Price Index.

The changes effected in the March quarter 1960 link in the six State capital cities were those associated with the introduction of television into the index. In Canberra, television did not operate until 1962 and the inclusion of this item in the index series for Canberra was incorporated in the link of December quarter 1963. With this exception, the points of linking and the nature of changes in composition and weighting effected at these points of time have been the same for Canberra as for the six State capital cities.

During each period between links the items and weighting remained unchanged. At times of linking, the weighting pattern was altered and new items (mainly ones that had become significant in household expenditure) were introduced. (See table on page 12.) Under this method, average percentage price movements are assessed on one pattern up to the time of the link and on another pattern thereafter. The process of linking ensures that the index reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index.

(ii) *Comparison of the linked series.* The Consumer Price Index is a chain of 'fixed weight aggregative' indexes, with significant changes in composition and weighting effected at June quarter 1952, June quarter 1956, March quarter 1960, December quarter 1963 and December quarter 1968. The principal changes have been:

- (a) the introduction of private motoring (June quarter 1952), of television (March quarter 1960 for the six State capital cities and December quarter 1963 for Canberra), the introduction of furniture (December quarter 1963) and the introduction of health services (December quarter 1968);
- (b) altered proportions of houses under the various modes of occupancy (June quarters 1952 and 1956 and December quarters 1963 and 1968); and
- (c) changes in weights of fuel and light and fares (June quarters 1952 and 1956 and December quarters 1963 and 1968), and of motoring (June quarter 1956 and December quarters 1963 and 1968).

It is envisaged that future links will be made in the index when significant changes in the pattern of household expenditure render it necessary to do so.

The table on page 12 indicates the weighting patterns for groups and certain sub-groups in the index at the beginning of each linked period together with their proportionate contribution to total index at the end of each of the first five linked periods. The differences between the proportions at the beginning and end of each linked period reflect disparate price movements over that period. The differences in proportions between the end of one period and the beginning of the next reflect changes in composition or weighting.

(iii) *Basis of weighting.* For most of the items included in the index, the weights used from the beginning of the current linked series (i.e. from December quarter 1968) are based on the pattern of consumption of the years 1962-63 to 1966-67. The pattern of consumption of the years 1952-53 to 1956-57 was the basis for such items for periods up to December quarter 1963; while for the period December quarter 1963 to December quarter 1968 the weights were based on the pattern of consumption of the years 1957-58 to 1961-62. In some important fields, weights relevant to short-term conditions have been used in each of the linked series which constitute the Consumer Price Index. The principal fields affected are fuel and light, fares, motoring, household appliances, and housing.

The resultant sets of index weights are broadly typical of the patterns of consumption of:

1948-49: for periods up to June quarter 1952;

1952-53: for periods from June quarter 1952 to June quarter 1956;

1956-57: for periods from June quarter 1956 to March quarter 1960;

1956-57 (adjusted to incorporate television in the case of the six State capital cities):
for periods from March quarter 1960 to December quarter 1963;

1961-62: for periods from December quarter 1963 to December quarter 1968;

1966-67: for periods from December quarter 1968.

The sets of weights used for the successive periods covered by the index have been derived from analyses of statistics of production and consumption, the Population Censuses, the Censuses of Retail Establishments and the continuing Survey of Retail Establishments, from information supplied by manufacturing, commercial and other relevant sources, and from special surveys.

In the main, the weights for items are derived from estimates of average household consumption or expenditure for the community as a whole. The principal exceptions are:

- (a) The proportionate weighting of the various modes of occupancy of houses (and flats from December quarter 1968), and the weighting generally in the Housing Group, are as estimated for wage and salary-earner households (in the individual cities).
- (b) The weights for motoring, tobacco and cigarettes, beer and some services have been adapted to accord with notional estimates of expenditure by wage-earner households.
- (c) Local weights for the individual cities are used for some items.

A common pattern of consumption for all cities is used as the basis of weighting in most fields of the index. But there are some important exceptions. Local weights for individual cities are used for the following:

- (a) *Housing.* As described above.
- (b) *Fuel and light, and fares.* The weight for each item included is as estimated from particulars of consumption, revenue, etc., in the individual cities. For each item the several price series used, and their combining weights, are representative of local usage.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: COMPARISON OF THE SIX LINKED SERIES

For interpretation of this Table see paragraph 4 (ii) on page 10.

Group, sub-group	Percentage Contribution to Total Index (Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities)										
	First linked series		Second linked series		Third linked series		Fourth linked series		Fifth linked series		Sixth linked series
	June quarter 1949 ^(a)	June quarter 1952	June quarter 1952	June quarter 1956	June quarter 1956	March quarter 1960	March quarter 1960	December quarter 1963	December quarter 1963	December quarter 1968	December quarter 1968
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Food Group	31.3	35.7	33.6	34.3	33.7	33.0	32.1	31.6	32.1	32.8	31.3
Clothing and Drapery Group	22.8	23.0	21.6	20.0	19.7	19.5	19.0	18.8	16.9	15.8	14.1
Housing Group—											
Home ownership	5.4	5.1	6.5	7.2	7.8	8.1	7.8	8.4	9.0	9.4	8.1
Rent—											
Privately owned houses	5.7	3.9	2.2	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.1
Government owned houses	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
Privately owned flats	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	3.1
Household Supplies and Equipment Group—											
Fuel and light	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.0
Household appliances	4.2	3.6	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.5	4.5	4.0	3.6	2.8	2.6
Other household articles	5.4	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	(c)6.3	6.0	5.9
Miscellaneous Group—											
Fares	6.3	6.1	4.4	4.8	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.7	3.7	2.5
Motoring	(b)	(b)	6.1	5.8	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.6	7.4	7.3	9.2
Tobacco and cigarettes	5.6	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.6
Beer	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.0	3.7
Services, cinema, radio and television licences, and newspapers, etc.	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.1	(d)8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Originally compiled as start of first linked series. This series subsequently taken back (on this basis) to September Quarter 1948. (b) Not included. (c) Furniture included as from December Quarter 1963 with percentage contribution to total index of 1.7 per cent. (d) Health services included as from December Quarter 1968 with percentage contribution to total index of 3.3 per cent.

- (c) *Meat.* In Brisbane and Hobart (only) the sub-groups beef, mutton, lamb and pork are combined in local proportions.
- (d) *Motoring.* In Canberra, the weight for the motoring section is higher than the common weight used in the State capital cities, in accordance with the higher level of consumption estimated for Canberra.
- (e) For some minor items in one or more cities.

Basic data for many of the item weights were obtained initially from particulars of quantities consumed. Refinements were made where necessary so that item weights would reflect the approximate relative importance of the items (sometimes including similar items not directly priced) in terms of expenditure. Group and sub-group weights were checked as far as possible against independent estimates of expenditure. Nevertheless, the index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts. The weights should not be regarded as direct estimates of the pattern of household expenditure. They differ from estimates of that kind because:

- (a) Some items carry the weight of others not directly priced.
- (b) Group and sub-group weights do not necessarily include expenditure on all items that could be classified under the headings used. For example, the fares sub-group covers only suburban travel by rail, bus and tram. It does not include travel to other cities or towns. The Food Group does not include fresh fruit or fresh vegetables other than potatoes and onions. In the Housing Group the expenditure weight for rent of privately owned houses adopts the level of rents of four, five and six roomed houses let unfurnished and it does not take account of different levels of rents for smaller or larger houses or for furnished houses. Home ownership is represented only by house price, rates, etc., and repairs and maintenance. Costs of land and interest charges on instalment purchase transactions are not included.
- (c) Some fields of expenditure are not represented at all, e.g. hire-purchase charges.

Tables showing the item and group weights of the index are provided herein to assist prospective users in an understanding of the index. The weights are designed as suitable for measuring changes in retail prices within the definition of the index, and do not purport to be valid estimates for any other purpose.

5. Prices and standards

(i) *General.* The manner in which the main body of prices used in the index are ascertained and methods used to ensure accuracy and the comparability of prices from period to period, are briefly described on pages 1 and 2 of this chapter. The following paragraphs describe in more detail certain of these aspects. Special features of particular components of the index are also dealt with in para. 6 and para. 7 on pages 15 to 20.

(ii) *Bargain and sale prices, etc.* Prices used in the index are those actually being charged for normal cash purchases of new articles. Prices of grocery etc 'specials' are therefore included in the index measure. 'Bargains' or 'sale' prices of imperfect goods or discontinued lines are not used.

Prices of some goods are at times, or generally, subject to special discounts, nominal trade-ins, etc. Unless the proportion of such discounts increases or decreases cumulatively the precision of the price index as a measure of ratio of price change is not materially affected. If the proportion changes significantly, its effect on transaction prices is estimated and reflected in the index.

Methods of selling are kept under review. Significant changes such as the widespread growth of self-service sales of groceries are taken into account in the index. (See '(ii) Groceries' on page 15).

(iii) *Specification of standards.* To maintain comparability, prices must obviously be collected for specified standards of the commodities and services listed. In general, the standards selected are those which command a considerable volume of sales and which appear likely to remain representative.

Specifications for an item define, where applicable, the unit of quantity to be priced, the grade, quality, size, style, etc., and in some cases the brand and the particular line or model of that brand. For items (e.g. some of the staple foods) where significant variations in quality do not normally occur the specifications are fairly simple and define only the quantity and grade to be priced. For some items a number of brands, etc., are specified as acceptable equivalents. In some cases the officers engaged in collecting prices are equipped with a sample article of the specified standard to ensure uniform treatment at all times.

In the case of many manufactured goods there is a variety of brands and lines spread over a wide range of qualities and prices. For some of these no single standard is sold in sufficient quantity to be representative of the whole field. Some lines have a relatively short life before they are replaced in production by other lines. Where these circumstances exist separate specifications are prepared, and prices are collected separately, for a number of selected lines of various brands. This ensures that information on price changes is available to construct series of price relatives for use in the index.

(iv) *Continuity of standards.* As long as the articles and standards originally specified remain available and representative, there is no difficulty in compiling continuous price series. In practice, however, it often becomes necessary to alter specifications, particularly for those manufactured goods that are subject to fashion changes, technological developments, or frequent changes of model.

When a change in specifications is superficial only, or where an article can be replaced in the index by another of equivalent quality, the prices of the new article are treated as being directly comparable with the former series. That is, the new article is directly substituted for the old because no change in quality is involved.

When a significant change in specifications 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.

In those cases where both the old and the new articles have been selling in reasonable quantities, side by side in the same market over a reasonable period of time, the common practice is to neutralise the price difference by the simple device of 'splicing' the price series for the new article to the price series for the old. The level of the price series is not affected at the point of splicing. A continuous price series is built up using the old article for measuring price changes up to the time of the splice and the new article thereafter.

In some cases, simple splicing of the prices of the new article to the existing price series is not a satisfactory way of neutralising changes in quality. This situation occurs, e.g. when the price of a new model of an article reflects not only the extent of modifications but also a degree of price change, upwards or downwards, for reasons quite distinct from these modifications. In these circumstances a simple splicing of the old and new prices would eliminate the elements of pure price changes as well as the elements of change in quality. It is necessary in such cases to assess the degree of pure price change involved and reflect this in the price series before splicing.

Such assessments must of necessity be a matter of some judgment, but they are made only after careful consideration of as much relevant information as can be obtained. The types of information considered include details of physical changes (e.g. weight or quantity of food-stuffs); price changes for similar items; detailed cost and price data concerning components or features of manufactured goods.

Maintenance of continuity in prices and standards is based on assessment of relevant facts gathered by the Supervising Field Officers and specialist investigators. Manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers co-operate in this work.

Problems in this field are intensified by the growing complexity of consumer goods and by the wider coverage of the list of items of the Consumer Price Index. The procedures outlined are designed to keep margins of error within relatively small limits, with no cumulative tendency in either direction. These problems continued to receive close attention.

6. Notes on some index components

(i) *General.* The procedures already described apply generally throughout the index. The following paragraphs outline certain special features of particular index sections. A comprehensive account of the Housing Group is given in para. 7 on pages 16 to 20.

(ii) *Groceries.* Prices used for groceries are obtained from both service and self-service stores. In each city the numbers of stores chosen from each type are in approximate proportion to their relative importance in retail grocery sales in that city. Regular checks are made and the proportions are varied when necessary. By these means due weight is given to each type of store in the averaging of prices.

(iii) *Seasonal clothing items.* Normally, summer seasonal and winter seasonal items are priced, in accordance with long standing practice, only in one relevant seasonal quarter. Price changes since the corresponding quarter of the previous year are then taken into the index. Price changes for winter and summer seasonal clothing affect the index in the June and December quarters respectively.

(iv) *Fuel and light.* Significant changes in the weights for this sub-group, and in the proportionate weightings of its items, were effected as at the links of June quarters 1952 and 1956, and December quarters 1963 and 1968. Individual city weights are used. Present weightings are as estimated for 1966-67 by analysis of consumption statistics and by special inquiries and surveys. For the pricing of electricity and gas, particulars of rates charged under various domestic tariffs are ascertained each quarter from major distributors in each capital city. These rates are combined according to their estimated relative importance in 1966-67 in accounts of domestic consumers. Prices used are those applying to accounts issued on the 15th of the middle month of the quarter. Where discounts for prompt payment are allowed, prices net of discount are used.

(v) *Household appliances.* Prices are ascertained for representative models of various brands. The average percentage change in prices of these models is used to vary a basic expenditure weight for each item. Generally, minor modifications in the models are regarded as not significantly affecting standards. Where distinctive and important features are added or removed, the procedures described in '(iv) Continuity of standards' on page 14 are applied. Prices used in the index are cash prices for new articles. (See also '(ii) Bargain and sale prices, etc.' on page 13.) Hire purchase charges are not taken into account.

(vi) *Fares.* The sub-group 'fares' in the index relates to train, bus and tram fares in the city and suburban areas. It does not include travel beyond the metropolitan area. Separate price indexes are compiled for train fares and for bus and tram fares. These are applied to basic expenditure weights determined for each city individually. Significant changes in weighting were effected at the links of June quarters 1952 and 1956, and December quarters 1963 and 1968. The present weighting is as estimated for 1966-67 in each city. For each fares index, changes in fares are ascertained for about 40 selected representative journeys. The list of journeys is revised from time to time to meet changing conditions but corresponding journeys are always used for price comparisons between successive quarters. The journeys are specified as between defined points, usually one in the city and the other in the suburbs. For bus and tram fares, points are selected at representative picking-up and setting-down points whether or not they are section stops. Journeys are chosen to give due representation to the various routes and to both short and long trips. In post-war years, buses have replaced trams on many routes, and government bus services have replaced privately-owned services. These have usually been regarded as cases of replacement by equivalent services and the specified point-to-point journeys have been 'priced' in the usual manner. For the index of train fares, prices are obtained for single and return tickets and the various periodical tickets. These are combined in fixed proportions using weights derived from ticket sales.

(vii) *Motoring.* New motor cars are priced in the same way as household appliances and the same procedures are followed in collection and compilation. Pricing of new motor

cars to a constant standard has become more complex in recent years because of the installation of safety features which have sometimes been required by legislation. These features have been treated as quality improvements and the amount of price increase due to them has been spliced out of the index.

For the remainder of the sub-group, a basic expenditure weight is distributed over the items represented in accordance with their estimated relative importance.

(viii) *Health services.* Services by dentists, doctors, hospitals and health insurance funds were added to the list of items at December quarter 1968. The weighting of these items is in accordance with estimates of expenditure by wage earner households during the years 1962-63 to 1966-67, adjusted to December quarter 1968 prices. Commonwealth benefits are not included in the weights. As contributions by members to health insurance funds, overall, are returned to fund members except for the proportion of contributions retained by the funds for management expenses and reserves, transactions between members and funds do not affect the weighting and pricing of the health service items except for this retained portion.

Prices used are those for representative specific services by dentists and doctors, for bed-days in hospitals, and for the operation of insurance funds. Where Commonwealth benefits operate, these are subtracted to give net prices as payable by households.

It is considered that this method provides a satisfactory basis for the measurement of price change in this field of expenditure, at least in the short term. However, the problem of measuring long-term changes in price of some of these items in terms of constant quality is intractable, and, in addition, any marked changes in the elements of the situation may necessitate altered procedures in the index.

7. The Housing Group

Parts (i) to (viii) of this paragraph contain a detailed description of the Housing Group of the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities. The same principles are followed in the construction of the Housing Group of the Consumer Price Index for Canberra, but see part (ix) of this paragraph concerning special aspects of the Canberra Housing Group.

(i) *General.* The Housing Group of the index is constructed as a combination of four (three prior to December quarter 1968) sectors comprising four principal modes of occupancy of houses and flats. Flats were introduced into the index at the link of December quarter 1968. Shares of houses and furnished dwellings are not taken into account because they have not hitherto been relatively numerous in respect of wage-earner households. The four sectors of households directly represented are:

- (a) Those renting an unfurnished house from a private owner;
- (b) those renting an unfurnished flat from a private owner (Government owned in Canberra);
- (c) those occupying a house let by a State housing authority under a government rental-housing scheme; and
- (d) those that own or are purchasing the house which they occupy.

These are combined in appropriate proportions in each city. The combining weights used are in proportion to the numbers of wage and salary earner households in the respective sectors in each city. At times of linking, the weights have been changed. For periods up to June quarter 1952 proportions as at 1947 Census were adopted. For periods from June quarter 1952 to June quarter 1956 proportions as at 1954 Census were used. For periods from June quarter 1956 to December quarter 1963 the proportions as estimated for the year 1956-57 were used. For periods from December quarter 1963 to December quarter 1968 the proportions as at 1961 Census were used. For periods from December quarter 1968 the proportions are as at 1966 Census. These proportions will be reviewed periodically.

At the time of first compilation of the Consumer Price Index extensive investigations had indicated that no single housing component such as rent or house price was likely to prove adequate as a measure of price changes affecting the housing expenditure of wage-earner households in the period 1950-1960. Not only were housing price changes highly diverse but modes of house occupancy changed radically. Over a period of about seven to ten years private house renting diminished from a major to a minor mode of house occupancy. It also became evident that private house renting was unlikely to revive quickly. This made it essential to undertake the task of devising relevant measures of price changes as affecting owner-occupied houses. The method adopted was the practical one of using in the housing component those prices or charges that could be periodically ascertained for goods and services which have an important influence on housing expenditure of wage-earner households. Cost of land is not considered to be relevant to the retail price index defined herein, and is excluded. Interest charges present special difficulties of concept and measurement for which no generally acceptable solution has been found. They are not included in the index. It is considered that the resultant items included form a sufficiently broad and representative housing component for a retail price index over the period covered. The elements of the situation may change and will be kept under review.

(ii) *Rent of privately owned houses.* Returns of weekly rents for unfurnished houses of four, five and six rooms are obtained at the middle of each quarter from house agents in each city. These returns cover an extensive sample of houses (currently numbering about 3,000 for all cities) selected by the field officers as being of reasonable standard and suitable for inclusion. Information thus obtained is used to compile measures of percentage price change for rents. The sample is reviewed from time to time. Corresponding groups of houses are used to compare rental charges from quarter to quarter. Separate measures are calculated for categories covering four, five and six roomed houses with external walls of brick and of wood. Average percentage changes shown by these measures are applied to basic average rentals. Four and five-roomed houses only were used in index calculations up to December quarter 1963. Since then six-roomed houses have been included in index calculations. Both the basic rentals and the proportionate weights for combining the categories are derived from Census particulars of wage and salary-earner households in each city individually. The Census of 1947 provided the basis of weighting used up to the link of June quarter 1952; the Census of 1954 provided the basis from June quarter 1952 to December quarter 1963; the Census of 1961 provided the basis from December quarter 1963 to December quarter 1968; and the Census of 1966 provides the basis for periods from December quarter 1968. Periodically since the Census of 1954, variations in house rents, so ascertained, have been checked by field surveys covering samples of privately rented houses. These samples have been derived from 1954, 1961 and 1966 Census records.

(iii) *Rent of privately owned flats.* Privately owned (Government owned in Canberra) flat rentals have been included in the index measure as from December quarter 1968. Collection procedures are similar to those used for the rents of privately owned houses but, because of the difficulty of defining the number of rooms, the flats are not classified according to size. As with houses, corresponding groups of flats are used to compare rental changes from quarter to quarter. There are approximately 2,000 flats in all cities used to measure price movement for the index. The initial rent levels in the index were based on 1966 Census particulars of wage and salary earner households in each city, adjusted to the rent level of December quarter 1968.

(iv) *Rent of government owned houses.* In most cases, tenancy of a government owned house includes an option to purchase. When the option is taken up, the tenant becomes a purchaser by instalments and is usually regarded as having made some payment of principal on the house by virtue of the weekly payments previously made as 'rentals'. The index measure used for government 'rents' relates to weekly payments for houses where the option to purchase has not been taken up.

Information on changes of rents for metropolitan houses is obtained each quarter from State Housing authorities. Normally they are the rents actually paid, but no account is taken

of rebates granted to certain tenants with small incomes. The measure relates only to those houses let for general housing purposes. Government owned houses used for employee housing by certain government departments are not taken into account.

In the main, 'rents' of tenanted government houses are not varied except at the time of infrequent general reviews (in some cities) or upon review after tenancy changes. However, over the period covered by the index, there have been relatively large increases in numbers of government-owned rented houses, and 'rents' for newly completed houses have generally been substantially higher than those for the older houses because of rises in building costs. In these circumstances it is difficult to devise any overall measure of average 'price' change in the rents of government houses. The method adopted has been to average all rents paid in each of a number of appropriate categories of houses (classified by size and type) and to combine the percentage changes so derived in constant proportions. Within categories the newly built houses are currently of much the same standard as the old. This measure of change in 'rents' of government owned houses relates to the average of a changing stock of houses. Thus it may not be strictly a measure of price changes only and it may need reconsideration as circumstances alter. New combining proportions were calculated at June quarters 1952 and 1956, and December quarters 1963 and 1968. Dwellings of inferior standard, e.g. 'temporary' and 'emergency' dwellings, have been excluded throughout.

(v) *Home ownership, general.* This section covers three important elements in the cost of home ownership, namely, house price; municipal, water and sewerage rates; and repairs and maintenance. The impact of price changes on the costs that are represented is measured by applying to a basic expenditure weight for each item the percentage movement shown by an index of price change for that item. The three components of the Home Ownership section are described in the following paragraphs.

(vi) *House price.* Few home-owner households are affected in a material sense at any particular time by the current prices of houses, but all are affected at some time or another and in any particular period there are some households that enter into new transactions at current prices. Accordingly the total, and therefore the average, expenditure of home-owner households is directly influenced by changes in prices of houses. Because home ownership has become a predominant mode of house-occupancy for wage and salary earners, the impact of house price changes, appropriately weighted, is represented in the index. Although obscured by the longevity of houses, the principle followed is closely akin to that employed for other items, and changes in current prices of houses are reflected in the index. The weight of the item is a compound of a normal rate of purchase and a basic average price. The normal rate of purchase is regarded as being the rate of acquisition of new houses by the community as a whole (in the capital cities) over the period covered by the index. The average annual percentage rate of acquisition of new houses from year to year was calculated by expressing numbers of new houses each year as a percentage of the existing stock of houses at the beginning of the year. This crude rate was refined to give the acquisition rate for a constant population. The estimates currently used were derived from census data and statistics of new building over the period between the Population Censuses of 1947 and 1966. The acquisition rate was multiplied by a basic average price to obtain the basic average expenditure weight for the item. The basic average price was derived from details of costs of houses built during appropriate periods. The expenditure weight is common for all State capital cities.

Prices and other particulars are ascertained each quarter from private and governmental bodies engaged in constructing, or financing the purchase of, houses for home ownership. The prices collected are contract prices, sale prices (adjusted to exclude land), or, in some cases, estimated building costs per square (i.e. per 100 square feet). These are obtained for houses in selected representative categories classified by size, type of construction and material of walls. Houses within each category are believed to be comparable over relatively short periods. To smooth out random fluctuations inherent in this sort of measure for short periods, twelve-month (or four-quarter) moving averages are computed.

Price series derived for representative models of houses built by project builders have been developed in recent years and progressively included in the index measure. Many of the

selected models remain basically unchanged for reasonable periods of time and thus changes in specifications can be treated in the same way as other items in the index (See (iv) continuity of standards, page 14).

(vii) *Rates.* This item covers rates and charges levied on home owners by local government authorities (including water and sewerage authorities) in each metropolitan area to meet the costs of the various services provided (e.g. water supply, sewerage, garbage disposal, street and footpath maintenance, drainage, street lighting, and health services) as well as amenities (such as parks, gardens, swimming pools and bathing facilities, libraries, etc.) and the costs of administration.

Rates and charges for each year are ascertained from the local authorities for an extensive sample of metropolitan house properties (currently numbering about 4,500 for all cities) selected from census records of houses of four to six rooms, occupied by wage and salary-earner households and owned or being purchased on instalments by the occupier. The sample used until 1962-63 was selected from the Census of 1954, the sample used from 1962-63 to 1967-68 was selected from the Census of 1961 while the sample used since then was selected from the Census of 1966. The sample excludes properties in predominantly rural areas and in newly developing areas where changes in the valuations on which rates are assessed are largely associated with provision of additional services and facilities.

Indexes of price change for rates are calculated from the amounts of rates payable on the sample properties, using identical properties with unchanged services for the comparison between successive periods. These indexes are used to vary basic average amounts of rates payable in an appropriate base year for each Local Government Area, and a weighted average is derived therefrom. The basic average amounts used for the period from December quarter 1968 are based on the average amounts of annual rates paid by the 1966 sample house properties in the year ending December quarter 1968.

Different practices exist between cities, and between authorities in the same city, as to fiscal or rating years (e.g. some commence in January and some in June), the times of issue of rates notices, and the dates on which rates fall due for payment. Broadly, changes in rates are reflected in the Consumer Price Index in the quarters during which the majority of accounts are paid.

(viii) *Repairs and maintenance.* For the weighting of this sub-group estimates of average expenditure by home owners on house repairs and maintenance, and of the relative importance of various items, were obtained by sample surveys in the capital cities. The estimates of expenditure cover only actual payments and do not impute a value to the home-owner's labour. Expenditure on alterations and additions is excluded from the index.

Prices used are the retail prices of paints, paint brushes, and certain other materials used for repairs and maintenance. In addition, since December quarter 1968, price changes in tradesman's labour have also been included. Price series for these are combined in proportion to their relative importance as indicated by the surveys. The resultant average percentage price change is applied to the basic expenditure weight for the sub-group as a whole.

(ix) *Special aspects of Canberra Housing Group.* The Canberra Housing Group is constructed as a combination of three (two prior to December quarter 1968) sectors comprising the three principal modes of occupancy. The three sectors of households directly represented are:

- (a) those renting a house from the Commonwealth Government;
- (b) those renting a flat from the Commonwealth Government; and
- (c) those that own or are purchasing the house which they occupy.

Houses rented from private owners are not included because they are a relatively unimportant mode of occupancy and because of the difficulty of measuring price change to a constant standard for this item in local conditions. The elements of the situation may change and will be kept under review.

At points of linking, the weights used to combine the three sectors represented have been changed in the same way as for the State capital cities. From the beginning of the current linked series (i.e. from December quarter 1968) the proportions used in Canberra relate to occupancy at 30 June 1966.

The following items in the Canberra Housing Group require special mention.

- (a) *House price.* The common basic average expenditure weight used in the State capital cities is a compound of a normal rate of purchase and a basic average price. In Canberra, a higher basic average price is used and the compounded weight for house price (before application of occupancy proportions) is therefore higher.
- (b) *Rates.* Prior to 1967, in Canberra's circumstances of infrequent revaluations of properties for rating purposes, and of higher valuations generally applying to the significant number of new properties, the method adopted to measure average price change for general rates was to average the amounts of general rates paid by the stock of private home owners in each successive period. During 1967, the practice widely followed elsewhere in Australia of revaluing all rateable land as at a common date, to bring all values into a uniform relationship was adopted in the Australian Capital Territory. Therefore the method of measuring price change for rates and charges in the six State capital cities (See '(vii) Rates' on page 19) was adopted to measure price change in rates and charges in Canberra. The sample of house properties used was selected from the Census of 1966.
- (c) *Land rent.* This item which was relevant to the Canberra Housing Group only was included in the index for the period up to and including December quarter 1970. It covered land rent paid to the Commonwealth Government by home owners in Canberra for the lease of their home sites. Change in this item was calculated from the average amount of land rent paid by the stock of private home owners in each successive period. This was deleted from the index when the Commonwealth Government ceased the practice of levying land rent in Canberra as from 1 January 1971. The general rates charge was varied from the same date following a re-determination of values and an increase in the rate in the dollar.

8. Publication of Consumer Price Index numbers

(i) *General.* Index numbers for each quarter are first issued in mimeographed statistical bulletins available from the Commonwealth Statistician about three weeks after the end of the quarter. These bulletins contain comment on the index and on significant price movements that have occurred in the quarter under review. Tabular statements of index numbers show current figures together with a summary of index numbers for previous quarters and years.

Tables of Consumer Price Index numbers appear regularly in the *Labour Report* and also in the *Digest of Current Economic Statistics* (monthly), *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*, *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics*, and *Official Year Book*.

(ii) *Tabular statements of index numbers.* The tables on pages 22—30 show 'Group' and 'All Groups' Index Numbers of the Consumer Price Index, for the six State capital cities, combined and separately, and for Canberra, for each quarter from September quarter 1964 and each year from 1948—49. The table on pages 31—2 show index numbers for sub-groups and special groupings of the Consumer Price Index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities, for each quarter from March quarter 1969 and for each financial year from 1964—65. In addition, information of contributions by index sub-groups (and special groupings) to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points are shown in the table on page 33 for periods since March quarter 1970. (See 3 (iv) on page 9.)

9. Change of reference base

Up to and including December quarter 1968 the reference base of the Consumer Price Index was 1952—53 = 100.0. Since March quarter 1969 the Index has been compiled and published on the reference base 1966—67 = 100.0.

All the Consumer Price Index numbers which were published prior to March quarter 1969 on the 1952-53 reference base have been re-calculated on the new 1966-67 reference base and were shown in Section XVII of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 53, 1967. Quarterly index numbers from September quarter 1964 to December quarter 1970 and annual index numbers from 1948-49 to 1969-70 are shown on the new reference base in the tables on pages 22-30. Apart from slight differences caused by rounding, index numbers for past periods show exactly the same percentage movement on either reference base.

The method of converting the quarterly index numbers on base 1952-53 = 100.0 to base 1966-67 = 100.0 was set out in detail in Section XVI of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 53, 1967.

10. List of Items and weights

The table on pages 34-40 sets out the List of Items of the Consumer Price Index as from December quarter 1968. Although the items are enumerated therein in considerable detail, the total number of items listed falls appreciably short of the total number of grades, types, brands, models, etc., for which prices are obtained.

The table also sets out the weights of the groups, sub-groups and items as comprised in the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities combined. The weights shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. They indicate the relative influence given to the various components in measuring the degree of price change in the index from December quarter 1968 (i.e. from the beginning of the current linked series).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS

SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

NOTE. The separate city indexes measure price movements within each city individually. They do not compare price levels as between cities.

Period	State capital cities—combined and separately							Canberra
	Six State capital cities(b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Year—								
1948-49	43.9	44.4	43.3	43.1	45.0	44.0	43.0	45.0
1949-50	47.6	48.1	47.1	46.6	48.4	48.0	45.8	48.5
1950-51	53.8	54.6	53.1	52.2	54.6	53.9	51.9	55.1
1951-52	65.9	67.4	64.7	63.8	66.8	65.6	64.0	67.7
1952-53	72.1	73.4	71.1	69.5	73.1	72.5	70.9	74.4
1953-54	73.5	74.5	72.5	70.9	74.7	74.6	74.4	76.5
1954-55	74.0	75.0	72.5	71.4	75.6	76.3	74.3	77.5
1955-56	77.0	77.5	76.8	73.8	78.1	78.3	78.1	80.2
1956-57	81.5	82.8	81.0	77.8	81.2	81.8	82.8	84.3
1957-58	82.3	84.0	81.3	79.4	81.8	82.4	82.9	84.8
1958-59	83.6	84.6	82.9	82.1	83.6	83.2	84.1	85.8
1959-60	85.7	86.5	85.3	84.2	86.2	84.8	85.6	87.6
1960-61	89.2	89.6	89.5	87.1	89.8	87.9	90.3	90.3
1961-62	89.6	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	91.6
1962-63	89.8	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	91.8
1963-64	90.6	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	92.5
1964-65	94.0	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	95.3
1965-66	97.4	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	98.1
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	103.3	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	102.6
1968-69	106.0	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	104.4
1969-70	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	107.4
Quarter—								
1964-65—								
September	92.6	93.4	92.1	91.6	92.7	91.8	93.3	94.2
December	93.7	94.2	93.7	92.6	93.9	91.8	94.5	95.2
March	94.3	94.7	94.5	93.5	94.2	92.8	94.9	95.5
June	95.2	95.6	95.5	94.2	94.9	93.8	95.8	96.3
1965-66—								
September	96.2	96.7	96.4	96.0	95.5	94.3	97.0	97.3
December	97.4	97.8	97.5	97.2	96.9	95.5	98.3	98.4
March	97.6	97.8	97.5	98.2	97.2	96.3	97.8	98.2
June	98.4	98.3	98.4	98.4	98.2	98.1	98.7	98.5
1966-67—								
September	98.8	98.8	98.9	99.0	98.6	98.8	98.6	98.9
December	99.7	99.9	99.6	99.7	99.7	99.3	99.2	99.7
March	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.3	100.2	100.3	100.6	100.1
June	101.3	101.1	101.6	101.0	101.5	101.6	101.5	101.3
1967-68—								
September	102.7	102.5	102.9	102.8	102.6	102.0	104.3	102.2
December	103.0	102.9	103.3	103.0	102.1	102.5	105.0	102.4
March	103.4	103.2	103.8	103.7	102.6	103.1	104.6	102.6
June	104.2	104.0	104.8	103.7	104.2	104.0	104.6	103.2
1968-69—								
September	104.6	104.4	105.1	104.7	104.2	104.3	105.0	103.5
December	105.7	105.9	106.0	105.3	105.2	104.9	105.8	103.9
March	106.4	106.7	106.6	105.8	105.5	105.6	106.5	104.8
June	107.2	107.6	107.2	106.3	106.4	107.0	107.0	105.2
1969-70—								
September	107.8	108.4	107.6	107.2	106.9	107.7	107.4	106.0
December	108.7	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	106.7
March	109.8	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	108.0
June	111.2	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	109.0
1970-71—								
September	111.9	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	109.7
December	114.0	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	113.2

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscellaneous	All groups
Year—						
1948-49	38.2	48.9	40.5	58.3	44.7	43.9
1949-50	41.4	56.4	42.5	61.8	46.8	47.6
1950-51	48.4	65.1	45.2	67.8	51.3	53.8
1951-52	63.5	78.3	49.7	80.7	62.0	65.9
1952-53	70.7	83.7	55.8	86.9	67.2	72.1
1953-54	73.2	84.3	58.5	88.3	67.1	73.5
1954-55	73.7	84.5	60.5	88.1	67.1	74.0
1955-56	77.8	85.4	64.2	88.3	71.1	77.0
1956-57	81.5	86.9	68.1	92.0	79.3	81.5
1957-58	80.1	89.5	71.0	93.4	80.4	82.3
1958-59	81.6	90.5	72.9	94.4	81.4	83.6
1959-60	84.7	91.5	75.4	95.4	83.2	85.7
1960-61	90.2	93.4	80.8	96.6	85.5	89.2
1961-62	88.6	94.4	84.0	97.9	86.1	89.6
1962-63	87.8	94.7	86.5	97.7	86.6	89.8
1963-64	89.0	95.3	89.1	96.4	87.3	90.6
1964-65	93.9	96.8	92.0	97.2	91.4	94.0
1965-66	98.4	97.9	95.9	98.9	95.8	97.4
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	104.7	102.2	104.5	101.2	102.8	103.3
1968-69	105.8	104.3	109.1	102.9	107.5	106.0
1969-70	108.1	107.5	115.5	104.1	111.6	109.4
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	92.3	96.2	90.9	96.2	89.4	92.6
December	93.3	96.6	91.7	96.7	91.7	93.7
March	94.0	96.9	92.2	97.8	92.2	94.3
June	96.0	97.3	93.3	98.1	92.2	95.2
1965-66—						
September	98.4	97.3	94.1	98.5	92.6	96.2
December	98.6	97.6	95.6	98.8	95.9	97.4
March	97.8	97.8	96.2	98.8	97.2	97.6
June	98.8	98.7	97.8	99.5	97.3	98.4
1966-67—						
September	98.7	98.9	98.5	99.7	98.7	98.8
December	99.4	99.8	99.5	100.0	100.0	99.7
March	100.0	100.2	100.1	99.9	100.3	100.1
June	101.9	101.1	101.8	100.4	101.0	101.3
1967-68—						
September	104.8	101.4	102.9	100.6	101.8	102.7
December	103.9	102.1	104.2	101.1	102.8	103.0
March	104.6	102.3	104.7	101.1	103.1	103.4
June	105.6	102.8	106.0	101.9	103.6	104.2
1968-69—						
September	105.3	103.3	106.7	102.1	105.1	104.6
December	105.5	104.1	108.7	102.7	107.3	105.7
March	105.7	104.4	109.7	103.0	108.5	106.4
June	106.6	105.2	111.2	103.7	108.9	107.2
1969-70—						
September	106.6	106.0	112.8	103.7	110.0	107.8
December	107.1	107.2	114.7	103.9	110.9	108.7
March	108.7	107.9	116.2	104.0	112.0	109.8
June	110.1	108.9	118.3	104.7	113.5	111.2
1970-71—						
September	110.9	109.2	120.2	105.4	113.7	111.9
December	112.0	110.9	122.7	106.6	117.5	114.0

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

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
SYDNEY**

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscel- laneous	All groups
Year—						
1948-49	37.9	49.0	41.1	59.7	46.5	44.4
1949-50	41.0	56.9	42.6	63.8	48.6	48.1
1950-51	48.7	66.1	44.9	70.1	53.4	54.6
1951-52	65.7	79.0	48.8	83.6	64.2	67.4
1952-53	72.6	84.6	55.3	89.2	68.7	73.4
1953-54	74.2	85.1	58.3	91.1	68.5	74.5
1954-55	74.9	85.3	60.2	90.7	68.5	75.0
1955-56	78.9	85.8	63.2	90.3	71.4	77.5
1956-57	82.9	87.5	66.3	94.9	82.2	82.8
1957-58	81.8	89.9	69.8	97.5	83.7	84.0
1958-59	82.3	91.0	72.0	97.2	83.7	84.6
1959-60	85.3	91.8	74.0	97.7	85.1	86.5
1960-61	90.3	93.3	77.8	99.4	87.3	89.6
1961-62	88.5	94.2	81.6	100.9	87.9	89.9
1962-63	87.9	94.6	84.8	100.5	88.8	90.4
1963-64	89.0	95.2	88.5	99.2	89.3	91.4
1964-65	94.1	96.6	92.1	98.7	92.8	94.5
1965-66	98.8	97.7	95.3	99.3	96.4	97.7
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	103.9	102.2	105.0	101.2	103.0	103.2
1968-69	104.9	104.2	110.5	103.0	108.5	106.2
1969-70	107.8	107.5	119.9	104.8	113.7	110.6
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	92.5	96.1	91.2	98.3	91.4	93.4
December	93.2	96.3	91.9	98.8	93.1	94.2
March	94.2	96.8	92.2	98.7	93.3	94.7
June	96.3	97.2	93.1	98.8	93.3	95.6
1965-66—						
September	99.2	97.2	93.3	99.1	93.6	96.7
December	99.4	97.4	94.6	99.5	96.8	97.8
March	98.4	97.7	95.4	99.0	97.6	97.8
June	98.3	98.6	97.7	99.7	97.7	98.3
1966-67—						
September	99.0	98.9	98.4	99.7	98.4	98.8
December	99.9	99.8	99.3	99.8	100.4	99.9
March	100.0	100.1	100.0	99.9	100.4	100.1
June	101.2	101.1	102.3	100.5	100.8	101.1
1967-68—						
September	104.0	101.4	103.3	100.8	101.7	102.5
December	103.5	102.1	104.5	100.9	103.1	102.9
March	103.8	102.4	105.1	100.9	103.2	103.2
June	104.1	102.9	107.0	102.1	103.8	104.0
1968-69—						
September	104.1	103.3	107.5	102.0	105.2	104.4
December	104.4	104.0	110.0	102.3	108.7	105.9
March	105.0	104.4	111.2	103.3	109.8	106.7
June	105.9	105.0	113.3	104.3	110.2	107.6
1969-70—						
September	105.5	106.0	115.7	104.3	111.6	108.4
December	106.7	107.1	118.3	104.5	112.8	109.6
March	109.0	107.9	120.8	105.0	114.3	111.3
June	110.0	108.8	124.8	105.5	116.1	112.9
1970-71—						
September	110.8	109.2	128.1	106.5	116.4	113.9
December	112.2	110.9	130.1	108.6	120.4	116.2

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

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
MELBOURNE**

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Year— Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscel- laneous	All groups
1948-49	38.9	48.6	41.3	55.0	42.2	43.3
1949-50	42.1	56.0	43.4	58.2	44.7	47.1
1950-51	49.5	64.1	45.9	63.8	48.8	53.1
1951-52	63.5	77.2	50.0	76.5	59.5	64.7
1952-53	71.0	83.0	54.4	83.2	65.5	71.1
1953-54	74.1	83.5	55.9	84.1	65.4	72.5
1954-55	73.7	83.9	57.3	83.6	65.3	72.5
1955-56	79.7	85.3	61.9	84.5	70.9	76.8
1956-57	83.6	87.0	66.8	87.5	77.2	81.0
1957-58	81.1	89.9	69.2	88.3	77.8	81.3
1958-59	82.4	90.9	70.3	90.7	80.1	82.9
1959-60	85.7	91.9	73.8	92.2	82.2	85.3
1960-61	92.4	93.6	82.2	93.6	84.6	89.5
1961-62	90.7	94.6	85.6	94.9	84.7	89.8
1962-63	89.4	94.9	87.6	94.8	84.9	89.7
1963-64	90.3	95.5	89.4	93.6	85.7	90.4
1964-65	95.1	96.9	92.0	95.8	90.6	94.0
1965-66	99.0	98.0	96.3	98.7	95.1	97.5
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	106.3	102.1	103.8	101.4	102.5	103.7
1968-69	107.3	104.2	107.9	102.9	107.3	106.2
1969-70	109.1	107.4	112.2	103.5	110.2	108.7
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	93.4	96.5	90.7	93.6	87.4	92.1
December	94.8	96.7	91.3	94.4	91.3	93.7
March	95.0	97.0	92.1	97.3	91.8	94.5
June	97.0	97.5	93.7	97.8	91.8	95.5
1965-66—						
September	99.3	97.5	94.2	98.3	92.0	96.4
December	99.4	97.7	96.3	98.4	95.0	97.5
March	98.0	98.0	96.5	98.7	96.5	97.5
June	99.3	98.8	98.3	99.3	96.7	98.4
1966-67—						
September	98.3	98.9	98.8	99.8	99.1	98.9
December	99.1	99.9	99.4	100.3	99.7	99.6
March	100.0	100.1	100.0	99.8	99.9	100.0
June	102.5	101.1	101.8	100.3	101.3	101.6
1967-68—						
September	106.1	101.3	102.1	100.5	101.7	102.9
December	105.3	102.1	103.7	101.4	102.2	103.3
March	106.1	102.2	104.1	101.5	102.8	103.8
June	107.6	102.8	105.4	102.2	103.4	104.8
1968-69—						
September	107.0	103.3	105.8	102.2	105.3	105.1
December	107.4	104.1	107.7	103.1	106.6	106.0
March	107.1	104.3	108.4	102.8	108.6	106.6
June	107.8	105.1	109.7	103.6	108.6	107.2
1969-70—						
September	107.9	105.9	110.5	103.5	109.1	107.6
December	108.2	107.0	111.8	103.6	109.9	108.3
March	109.2	107.8	112.6	103.1	110.3	108.9
June	110.9	108.8	113.7	103.8	111.5	110.1
1970-71—						
September	112.2	109.0	114.4	104.4	111.6	110.7
December	112.8	110.7	117.6	105.1	115.0	112.6

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

RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
 BRISBANE

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscellaneous	All groups
Year						
1948-49	36.8	47.8	41.3	58.9	44.4	43.1
1949-50	39.7	54.9	45.1	62.3	45.2	46.6
1950-51	44.7	63.3	49.1	68.7	49.7	52.2
1951-52	58.7	76.1	54.5	79.9	60.0	63.8
1952-53	65.2	80.9	61.5	85.9	64.2	69.5
1953-54	67.4	81.6	62.4	87.3	65.3	70.9
1954-55	67.8	81.9	64.3	88.0	65.5	71.4
1955-56	70.1	82.7	67.9	88.1	69.4	73.8
1956-57	72.7	84.7	72.8	91.5	76.4	77.8
1957-58	73.7	87.2	76.1	92.9	77.4	79.4
1958-59	78.1	88.5	78.9	93.6	79.4	82.1
1959-60	80.9	90.5	81.5	95.0	80.6	84.2
1960-61	84.9	93.1	84.6	95.5	83.1	87.1
1961-62	85.2	94.4	86.3	97.0	85.6	88.4
1962-63	84.6	94.6	88.5	96.9	86.3	88.7
1963-64	86.7	95.3	89.2	95.9	86.8	89.6
1964-65	92.2	96.6	91.5	96.8	90.4	93.0
1965-66	98.4	97.8	97.3	98.8	95.5	97.5
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	103.7	102.4	105.8	101.2	103.2	103.3
1968-69	104.7	104.3	109.6	104.3	106.0	105.5
1969-70	107.7	107.3	113.4	103.5	109.2	108.4
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	89.9	96.1	90.4	96.4	89.0	91.6
December	91.4	96.4	91.4	96.8	90.3	92.6
March	93.0	96.8	91.9	96.7	91.0	93.5
June	94.5	97.1	92.4	97.1	91.4	94.2
1965-66—						
September	97.6	97.2	96.5	98.0	91.9	96.0
December	98.4	97.5	96.9	98.5	94.9	97.2
March	98.9	97.8	97.6	98.8	97.6	98.2
June	98.5	98.8	98.1	99.7	97.6	98.4
1966-67—						
September	98.4	99.0	99.0	99.6	99.3	99.0
December	99.6	99.8	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.7
March	100.6	100.1	100.3	100.0	100.1	100.3
June	101.5	101.2	100.9	100.6	100.7	101.0
1967-68—						
September	103.6	101.6	105.1	100.9	102.3	102.8
December	102.7	102.4	105.6	101.0	103.4	103.0
March	104.6	102.6	105.9	101.1	103.4	103.7
June	103.7	103.1	106.5	101.7	103.7	103.7
1968-69—						
September	103.9	103.6	108.6	103.5	105.0	104.7
December	104.1	104.1	109.2	104.2	106.1	105.3
March	105.1	104.4	110.0	104.7	106.3	105.8
June	105.5	105.2	110.7	104.8	106.6	106.3
1969-70—						
September	106.2	105.8	112.7	105.2	107.9	107.2
December	106.9	107.0	113.0	105.2	108.5	108.9
March	108.6	107.7	113.6	105.5	109.5	108.9
June	109.1	108.8	114.1	105.9	110.7	109.7
1970-71—						
September	110.5	109.2	115.9	106.5	112.9	111.1
December	112.8	110.9	116.8	107.5	116.6	113.3

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
ADELAIDE

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscellaneous	All groups
Year—						
1948-49	38.6	49.4	38.4	64.9	47.1	45.0
1949-50	41.7	56.5	40.0	67.2	48.8	48.4
1950-51	48.2	64.9	42.5	74.0	54.4	54.6
1951-52	62.5	79.3	47.6	86.7	64.5	66.8
1952-53	68.7	84.7	55.9	93.4	70.2	73.1
1953-54	71.2	85.8	61.5	94.0	69.5	74.7
1954-55	72.9	86.1	63.2	93.8	69.5	75.6
1955-56	76.2	86.0	67.6	93.4	73.0	78.1
1956-57	78.9	86.1	72.3	96.4	78.3	81.2
1957-58	76.9	88.4	74.9	97.1	80.1	81.8
1958-59	80.7	88.4	76.7	98.1	80.4	83.6
1959-60	84.6	90.5	78.3	99.0	83.3	86.2
1960-61	90.9	92.7	83.2	99.1	85.1	89.8
1961-62	87.7	94.1	85.9	99.7	85.5	89.5
1962-63	86.6	94.6	86.7	99.2	85.3	89.1
1963-64	88.8	95.5	88.7	97.5	85.8	90.2
1964-65	93.9	96.9	92.1	98.0	90.9	93.9
1965-66	97.1	97.8	95.7	99.2	95.7	97.0
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	104.7	102.2	102.1	102.1	102.6	102.9
1968-69	106.4	104.5	104.7	101.1	107.0	105.3
1969-70	107.1	108.1	109.3	102.0	112.0	108.2
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	91.8	96.4	90.6	97.8	89.8	92.7
December	93.9	96.7	92.0	97.7	91.2	93.9
March	94.0	97.0	92.5	98.0	91.3	94.2
June	95.8	97.4	93.1	98.3	91.3	94.9
1965-66—						
September	96.9	97.4	93.5	98.6	91.7	95.5
December	96.6	97.6	95.9	99.1	96.3	96.9
March	96.2	97.9	96.5	99.2	97.4	97.2
June	98.5	98.4	96.9	99.9	97.3	98.2
1966-67—						
September	98.6	98.9	98.2	99.7	98.0	98.6
December	99.2	99.9	100.2	100.0	99.8	99.8
March	99.8	100.2	100.7	100.0	100.7	100.2
June	102.4	101.1	101.0	100.2	101.5	101.5
1967-68—						
September	105.0	101.3	101.5	100.4	101.9	102.6
December	102.3	102.1	102.0	100.2	102.5	102.1
March	103.7	102.3	102.3	100.2	102.8	102.6
June	107.7	102.9	102.5	100.5	103.0	104.2
1968-69—						
September	106.8	103.4	102.9	100.6	103.8	104.2
December	106.3	104.3	104.2	101.0	107.0	105.2
March	105.8	104.6	105.3	101.4	107.9	105.5
June	106.7	105.6	106.3	101.5	109.2	106.4
1969-70—						
September	106.3	106.2	107.4	101.5	110.4	106.9
December	106.3	107.8	108.9	101.6	110.5	107.3
March	107.1	108.4	109.9	101.9	112.4	108.4
June	108.6	109.8	111.0	102.9	114.8	110.0
1970-71—						
September	108.2	110.0	111.7	103.5	114.2	109.9
December	108.8	111.6	116.0	104.3	117.3	111.8

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS

PERTH

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscellaneous	All groups
Year—						
1948-49	38.4	50.6	36.1	60.4	45.4	44.0
1949-50	42.5	58.3	38.2	64.6	46.6	48.0
1950-51	48.8	66.7	42.9	71.0	50.4	53.9
1951-52	60.8	80.8	50.2	84.2	60.8	65.6
1952-53	69.7	84.8	57.6	90.9	67.1	72.5
1953-54	74.0	84.8	62.0	92.7	66.8	74.6
1954-55	76.1	84.9	68.6	92.8	66.8	76.3
1955-56	77.4	86.0	71.3	92.7	70.8	78.3
1956-57	80.9	87.4	71.1	95.0	78.5	81.8
1957-58	79.7	89.6	72.5	96.0	79.4	82.4
1958-59	80.3	90.8	75.0	96.3	79.6	83.2
1959-60	82.5	91.7	76.9	97.3	81.1	84.8
1960-61	86.7	93.9	81.6	97.5	84.0	87.9
1961-62	86.1	94.7	84.3	97.6	84.0	88.2
1962-63	86.4	95.0	86.9	97.3	84.2	88.7
1963-64	87.4	95.7	89.8	95.7	86.2	89.8
1964-65	91.0	96.8	92.1	96.7	90.0	92.6
1965-66	95.2	97.9	95.4	98.3	95.3	96.1
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	102.9	102.1	105.8	100.7	103.2	102.9
1968-69	104.5	104.5	112.7	102.1	105.6	105.5
1969-70	108.1	107.8	120.1	103.7	109.8	109.4
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	90.8	96.3	91.0	96.2	88.2	91.8
December	89.5	96.6	92.1	96.5	89.3	91.8
March	90.7	96.9	92.3	96.9	91.2	92.8
June	92.9	97.3	93.0	97.2	91.4	93.8
1965-66—						
September	93.7	97.3	93.8	98.1	91.5	94.3
December	93.3	97.5	95.3	98.2	95.8	95.5
March	94.6	97.8	95.9	98.1	97.0	96.3
June	99.0	98.8	96.5	98.6	97.0	98.1
1966-67—						
September	99.7	98.9	98.0	99.0	98.0	98.8
December	98.2	99.9	99.4	100.1	100.0	99.3
March	99.9	100.1	100.5	100.3	100.7	100.3
June	102.2	101.1	102.2	100.6	101.3	101.6
1967-68—						
September	102.8	101.4	103.4	100.4	101.5	102.0
December	101.6	102.0	105.5	100.4	103.6	102.5
March	102.9	102.3	106.5	100.6	103.8	103.1
June	104.2	102.8	107.8	101.3	104.0	104.0
1968-69—						
September	103.7	103.4	109.7	101.5	104.5	104.3
December	103.3	104.4	112.3	101.9	105.4	104.9
March	104.1	104.7	113.7	102.3	105.9	105.6
June	106.9	105.5	115.1	102.6	106.5	107.0
1969-70—						
September	106.9	106.4	117.0	102.7	107.5	107.7
December	106.1	107.5	119.9	103.6	109.8	108.7
March	108.4	108.0	121.2	103.8	110.5	109.9
June	111.0	109.1	122.1	104.8	111.5	111.4
1970-71—						
September	111.2	109.4	122.7	105.8	110.9	111.6
December	111.3	111.2	125.5	106.7	115.2	113.5

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS

HOBART

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscellaneous	All groups
Year—						
1948-49	39.1	48.2	36.8	53.4	43.5	43.0
1949-50	41.3	56.4	38.2	54.9	43.8	45.8
1950-51	47.1	65.2	41.7	60.5	50.0	51.9
1951-52	60.9	78.4	46.1	72.4	63.2	64.0
1952-53	69.9	83.1	52.3	78.4	68.9	70.9
1953-54	75.5	84.6	56.0	80.8	71.6	74.4
1954-55	74.9	84.8	57.9	81.3	70.3	74.3
1955-56	79.5	85.8	63.7	85.2	73.6	78.1
1956-57	82.9	88.2	69.7	90.3	81.7	82.8
1957-58	80.5	90.4	71.8	91.0	82.3	82.9
1958-59	81.7	91.3	73.8	91.6	83.5	84.1
1959-60	82.8	92.0	77.6	92.9	85.0	85.6
1960-61	92.4	93.5	81.9	94.9	87.0	90.3
1961-62	90.2	94.7	85.6	97.5	87.5	90.7
1962-63	88.9	95.2	88.2	97.1	87.6	90.7
1963-64	90.1	95.7	90.9	97.1	88.4	91.7
1964-65	94.0	97.0	94.5	97.6	92.0	94.6
1965-66	98.9	98.0	97.1	98.6	96.7	98.0
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	106.8	102.4	103.6	102.9	104.5	104.6
1968-69	105.3	104.5	108.4	104.5	108.0	106.1
1969-70	106.4	107.9	112.6	106.1	111.0	108.5
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	92.0	96.5	92.2	97.6	90.8	93.3
December	93.8	96.8	94.5	97.5	92.0	94.5
March	94.4	97.2	95.3	97.5	92.3	94.9
June	95.9	97.5	95.9	97.9	92.8	95.8
1965-66—						
September	98.5	97.4	96.4	98.5	93.9	97.0
December	99.7	97.7	97.2	98.2	97.6	98.3
March	97.9	98.0	97.2	98.3	97.5	97.8
June	99.4	98.9	97.7	99.4	97.7	98.7
1966-67—						
September	98.5	98.9	98.1	99.6	98.3	98.6
December	98.8	99.9	99.8	99.7	99.0	99.2
March	100.7	100.1	100.6	99.9	101.2	100.6
June	102.1	101.2	101.5	100.8	101.5	101.5
1967-68—						
September	108.6	101.5	101.7	101.2	103.2	104.3
December	107.5	102.3	103.7	103.4	104.7	105.0
March	105.9	102.3	104.1	103.3	104.8	104.6
June	105.1	103.1	104.7	103.7	105.3	104.6
1968-69—						
September	105.1	103.5	105.5	104.1	106.3	105.0
December	105.3	104.5	108.4	104.1	107.3	105.8
March	105.1	104.7	109.4	104.7	109.0	106.5
June	105.8	105.3	110.1	105.2	109.4	107.0
1969-70—						
September	105.6	106.2	110.6	105.5	110.0	107.4
December	106.0	107.6	112.3	105.8	110.4	108.1
March	106.9	108.2	113.2	106.3	111.2	108.9
June	106.9	109.4	114.1	106.9	112.5	109.6
1970-71—						
September	108.4	109.5	115.0	107.6	112.2	110.2
December	110.1	111.0	117.0	108.4	116.3	112.4

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEX NUMBERS

CANBERRA

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(a)

Period	Food	Clothing and drapery	Housing	Household supplies and equipment	Miscellaneous	All groups
Year—						
1948-49	37.6	49.5	41.8	61.4	50.2	45.0
1949-50	40.5	57.5	43.8	63.6	52.1	48.5
1950-51	47.9	67.2	47.7	70.9	55.4	55.1
1951-52	64.8	80.2	52.8	82.5	65.5	67.7
1952-53	72.4	85.6	59.1	88.0	72.0	74.4
1953-54	74.7	86.4	63.1	93.6	72.4	76.5
1954-55	76.4	86.5	64.9	94.5	72.1	77.5
1955-56	80.9	86.7	67.7	95.1	74.7	80.2
1956-57	85.6	88.3	69.9	97.6	82.0	84.3
1957-58	83.7	90.5	71.4	99.0	83.7	84.8
1958-59	85.3	91.5	73.1	99.4	83.9	85.8
1959-60	88.0	92.1	74.3	101.5	85.4	87.6
1960-61	93.0	93.6	75.4	102.6	87.1	90.3
1961-62	90.2	94.5	90.8	100.3	87.5	91.6
1962-63	88.5	95.0	95.8	99.6	87.7	91.8
1963-64	89.2	95.4	96.0	99.2	89.4	92.5
1964-65	93.7	96.8	97.1	99.6	93.1	95.3
1965-66	98.0	97.9	98.6	99.7	97.1	98.1
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	104.3	102.3	100.4	100.4	103.0	102.6
1968-69	105.1	104.2	101.9	100.6	107.0	104.4
1969-70	107.0	107.5	104.6	101.9	112.4	107.4
Quarter—						
1964-65—						
September	92.1	96.3	96.4	99.4	91.3	94.2
December	93.2	96.6	97.1	99.8	93.3	95.2
March	93.7	96.9	97.3	99.6	93.9	95.5
June	95.9	97.4	97.4	99.4	94.0	96.3
1965-66—						
September	98.4	97.4	97.7	99.6	93.9	97.3
December	98.6	97.5	98.4	99.7	97.9	98.4
March	97.5	98.0	98.9	99.5	98.2	98.2
June	97.6	98.7	99.4	99.9	98.2	98.5
1966-67—						
September	98.1	99.0	99.9	99.8	98.9	98.9
December	99.6	99.8	100.2	99.9	99.2	99.7
March	100.2	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.3	100.1
June	102.1	101.2	100.0	100.3	101.5	101.3
1967-68—						
September	104.7	101.5	99.3	100.4	101.7	102.2
December	103.7	102.3	100.5	100.3	103.1	102.4
March	103.8	102.5	100.6	100.4	103.4	102.6
June	104.8	102.8	101.2	100.3	103.9	103.2
1968-69—						
September	105.3	103.4	101.4	100.3	104.5	103.5
December	105.0	104.0	101.5	100.5	105.7	103.9
March	104.8	104.3	102.1	100.7	108.7	104.8
June	105.3	105.0	102.4	101.0	108.9	105.2
1969-70—						
September	105.7	105.9	102.7	101.4	110.4	106.0
December	106.3	107.0	103.2	101.7	111.6	106.7
March	107.4	107.9	106.0	101.9	113.1	108.0
June	108.5	109.0	106.4	102.5	114.3	109.0
1970-71—						
September	109.5	109.2	106.9	104.0	114.7	109.7
December	110.7	110.7	118.8	104.2	119.3	113.2

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: INDEX NUMBERS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS(a)

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(b)

Group, sub-group	Year						Quarter							
	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	Mar. 1969	June 1969	Sept. 1969	Dec. 1969	Mar. 1970	June 1970	Sept. 1970	Dec. 1970
Food Group—														
Cereal products	92.5	96.1	100.0	105.9	110.5	115.6	112.2	112.9	113.4	114.6	116.5	117.9	118.5	119.7
Dairy produce	93.9	96.7	100.0	100.3	102.4	104.7	102.0	105.3	105.5	104.0	104.2	104.9	103.6	103.6
Preserved fruit and vegetables	98.0	99.5	100.0	100.7	101.6	103.4	100.8	103.2	103.7	102.6	103.2	103.9	103.6	104.6
Potatoes and onions	145.7	131.9	100.0	130.9	123.4	97.3	113.1	93.4	84.5	104.4	99.0	101.1	136.6	151.3
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	96.2	98.6	100.0	106.3	111.7	119.1	112.0	113.5	115.0	118.5	120.7	122.0	124.8	126.7
Other food (except meat)	97.9	99.0	100.0	104.5	104.9	105.4	105.1	105.2	105.0	105.8	105.7	106.2	106.2	106.9
Meat	88.0	97.1	100.0	104.6	103.4	105.8	103.5	104.7	104.3	103.6	106.6	108.7	108.0	108.2
Beef	84.3	95.1	100.0	105.9	108.2	111.6	108.3	109.6	109.6	109.3	112.4	115.0	115.7	117.2
Mutton	85.7	95.1	100.0	100.5	97.9	98.9	98.3	98.9	97.7	96.5	99.3	102.0	99.5	97.8
Lamb	92.9	104.7	100.0	104.1	96.0	99.7	96.4	99.9	97.4	95.3	101.4	104.6	100.6	97.4
Pork	96.1	97.7	100.0	108.6	103.8	103.8	103.8	102.5	102.5	104.1	104.6	104.0	103.5	105.4
Processed(c)	92.7	97.3	100.0	103.7	102.7	103.7	102.2	102.4	103.4	102.7	103.9	104.9	105.0	106.1
Food Group	93.9	98.4	100.0	104.7	105.8	108.1	105.7	106.6	106.6	107.1	108.7	110.1	110.9	112.0
Clothing and Drapery Group—														
Predominantly summer seasonal(d)	96.7	98.1	100.0	102.3	103.8	105.6	104.1	104.1	104.1	106.1	106.1	106.1	106.1	111.8
Predominantly winter seasonal(e)	97.7	98.6	100.0	102.6	104.5	107.3	103.9	106.4	106.4	106.4	106.4	109.8	109.8	109.8
Predominantly non-seasonal	98.4	98.9	100.0	102.3	103.3	106.0	103.5	103.7	104.4	105.7	106.9	106.8	107.2	108.8
Footwear	91.7	94.0	100.0	101.4	106.4	113.2	107.4	107.8	110.8	112.9	113.9	115.1	115.9	117.2
Clothing and Drapery Group	96.8	97.9	100.0	102.2	104.3	107.5	104.4	105.2	106.0	107.2	107.9	108.9	109.2	110.9
Housing Group—														
Rent, privately owned dwellings(f)	92.0	95.6	100.0	104.8	110.4	119.6	111.3	112.8	115.7	118.3	121.0	123.4	126.7	128.7
Rent, government owned houses	90.7	94.7	100.0	102.8	106.4	109.2	107.1	107.6	108.4	109.0	109.5	109.8	113.1	117.4
Home ownership(g)	92.2	96.1	100.0	104.4	108.9	113.9	109.3	110.9	111.8	113.3	114.2	116.4	117.1	119.9
House price and repairs and maintenance	94.6	97.0	100.0	102.6	103.3	109.3	105.8	106.7	107.7	108.6	109.9	111.0	112.0	113.0
Local government rates and charges	86.8	94.2	100.0	108.5	116.6	124.2	117.0	120.1	121.0	123.7	123.7	128.3	128.6	135.1
Housing Group	92.0	95.9	100.0	104.5	109.1	115.5	109.7	111.2	112.8	114.7	116.2	118.3	120.2	122.7

For footnotes see next page.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: INDEX NUMBERS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS(a)—continued

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES

(Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)(b)

Group, sub-group	Year						Quarter							
	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	Mar. 1969	June 1969	Sept. 1969	Dec. 1969	Mar. 1970	June 1970	Sept. 1970	Dec. 1970
Household Supplies and Equipment Group—														
Fuel and light	96.7	99.0	100.0	101.8	104.5	104.6	104.0	105.3	105.1	104.9	104.1	104.4	104.4	105.1
Electricity	97.9	100.0	100.0	102.2	104.6	105.6	104.3	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.4	107.0
Gas	96.4	97.6	100.0	101.2	104.6	102.4	104.7	104.7	103.9	102.9	101.9	100.9	100.0	98.9
Other(h)	94.0	98.4	100.0	101.8	104.1	104.4	101.4	105.3	105.1	105.3	101.4	105.6	107.5	107.7
Household appliances	101.0	99.7	100.0	98.6	96.2	95.1	95.9	95.9	95.3	94.9	94.9	95.2	95.2	96.9
Furniture and floor coverings	98.2	98.6	100.0	101.6	105.5	108.9	107.1	107.6	108.1	108.5	109.1	109.9	112.1	113.4
Other household utensils, sundries and stationery	93.2	97.7	100.0	102.8	105.0	108.2	105.6	105.7	106.7	107.6	108.6	109.7	111.3	111.8
Personal requisites and proprietary medicines	95.4	99.1	100.0	101.9	104.9	107.6	105.3	106.3	106.3	107.1	107.8	109.0	110.3	112.4
<i>Household Supplies and Equipment Group</i>	97.2	98.9	100.0	101.2	102.9	104.1	103.0	103.7	103.7	103.9	104.0	104.7	105.4	106.6
Miscellaneous Group—														
Fares(i)	83.7	88.3	100.0	102.2	111.4	117.7	116.1	116.1	116.1	116.9	118.8	118.9	121.8	123.4
Motoring	95.1	97.8	100.0	102.4	108.2	110.9	108.6	108.7	110.0	110.2	111.4	111.8	112.8	115.7
Goods(j)	97.4	99.0	100.0	101.6	103.6	105.4	103.6	103.6	105.1	105.1	105.7	105.8	106.7	110.2
Services and charges(k)	89.9	95.1	100.0	104.3	118.6	123.9	120.2	120.5	121.7	122.4	125.0	126.4	127.3	128.9
Tobacco and cigarettes	92.0	96.4	100.0	100.0	101.7	103.3	102.0	102.3	102.4	102.4	102.4	106.0	106.1	114.5
Beer	88.3	95.8	100.0	104.2	107.4	111.1	107.6	107.7	108.2	111.6	112.2	112.3	112.7	115.7
Postal and telephone services	97.5	100.4	100.0	106.6	108.8	108.8	108.8	108.8	108.8	108.8	108.8	108.8	108.8	122.9
Radio and television operation	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	105.9	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8
Newspapers and magazines	88.8	95.8	100.0	105.3	107.2	116.4	108.1	108.5	108.6	112.0	114.3	130.7	133.9	135.0
Other services(l)	91.2	95.2	100.0	105.9	110.0	117.1	111.1	112.5	115.1	116.2	118.0	119.0	116.3	118.9
<i>Miscellaneous Group</i>	91.4	95.8	100.0	102.8	107.5	111.6	108.5	108.9	110.0	110.9	112.0	113.5	113.7	117.5
All groups	94.0	97.4	100.0	103.3	106.0	109.4	106.4	107.2	107.8	108.7	109.8	111.2	111.9	114.0
Special Groupings—														
All groups, excluding Food group	94.0	96.9	100.0	102.7	106.1	110.0	106.7	107.4	108.4	109.4	110.3	111.7	112.4	114.9
All groups, excluding Housing group	94.2	97.6	100.0	103.2	105.6	108.4	105.9	106.6	107.0	107.8	108.8	110.1	110.6	112.7

RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES

(a) See para. 3 (iv.) Sub-groups and special groupings, page 9. (b) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (c) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968. (d) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's summerweight underwear. (e) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets. (f) Includes flats as from December quarter 1968. (g) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase. (h) Includes heating oil and briquettes as from December quarter 1968. (i) City and suburban train, bus and tram. (j) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading and battery. (k) Lubrication service, repairs, registrations, third party insurance and driver's licence. (l) Hairdressing, drycleaning, shoe repairs and cinema admission. Includes health services as from December quarter 1968.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS CONTRIBUTED BY GROUPS
SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS TO TOTAL INDEX(a)(b)**
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES—Base: Year 1966-67 = 100.0.

Group, sub-group	Index Points Contribution			
	March Quarter 1970	June Quarter 1970	September Quarter 1970	December Quarter 1970
Food Group—				
Cereal products	4.57	4.62	4.64	4.69
Dairy produce	6.52	6.56	6.46	6.48
Preserved fruit and vegetables	1.53	1.54	1.53	1.55
Potatoes and onions	0.86	0.87	1.18	1.31
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	4.93	4.98	5.10	5.18
Other food (except meat)	3.53	3.53	3.55	3.57
Meat	12.13	12.38	12.29	12.32
Beef	5.24	5.36	5.39	5.46
Mutton	1.40	1.44	1.40	1.38
Lamb	2.04	2.10	2.02	1.96
Pork	0.81	0.80	0.80	0.81
Processed	2.65	2.67	2.67	2.70
Food Group	34.07	34.48	34.75	35.09
Clothing and Drapery Group—				
Predominantly summer seasonal(c)	2.01	2.01	2.01	2.12
Predominantly winter seasonal(d)	3.85	3.97	3.97	3.97
Predominantly non-seasonal	6.78	6.78	6.80	6.91
Footwear	2.84	2.87	2.89	2.92
Clothing and Drapery Group	15.48	15.63	15.67	15.91
Housing Group—				
Rent, privately owned dwellings	6.07	6.19	6.36	6.45
Rent, government owned houses	0.98	0.98	1.01	1.05
Home ownership(e)	9.01	9.18	9.24	9.46
House price and repairs and main- tenance	5.98	6.04	6.09	6.15
Local government rates and charges	3.03	3.14	3.15	3.31
Housing Group	16.06	16.36	16.61	16.97
Household Supplies and Equipment Group—				
Fuel and light	4.19	4.20	4.20	4.23
Electricity	2.53	2.53	2.52	2.56
Gas	1.05	1.04	1.03	1.02
Other	0.62	0.64	0.65	0.65
Household appliances	2.76	2.77	2.77	2.81
Furniture and floor coverings	2.13	2.15	2.19	2.22
Other household utensils, sundries and stationery	2.02	2.04	2.07	2.08
Personal requisites and proprietary medi- cines	2.28	2.31	2.34	2.38
Household Supplies and Equipment Group	13.38	13.46	13.56	13.72
Miscellaneous Group—				
Fares(f)	2.81	2.81	2.88	2.92
Motoring	9.97	10.01	10.10	10.36
Goods(g)	6.89	6.90	6.96	7.18
Services and charges(h)	3.08	3.11	3.14	3.18
Tobacco and cigarettes	3.80	3.93	3.94	4.25
Beer	4.15	4.16	4.17	4.28
Postal and telephone services	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.31
Radio and television operation	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22
Newspapers and magazines	1.32	1.51	1.53	1.56
Other services(i)	6.37	6.43	6.28	6.42
Health	3.81	3.83	3.64	3.68
Other	2.57	2.60	2.64	2.74
Miscellaneous Group	30.82	31.24	31.31	32.33
All Groups	(b) 109.8	(b) 111.2	(b) 111.9	(b) 114.0
Special Groupings—				
All groups, excluding Food Group	75.75	76.69	77.15	78.93
All groups, excluding Housing Group	93.75	94.81	95.29	97.05

(a) See para. 3 (iv) *Sub-groups and special groupings*, page 9. (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points. (c) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's and girls' summerweight underwear. (d) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets. (e) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase. (f) City and suburban rail, bus and tram. (g) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading and battery. (h) Lubrication service, repairs, registrations, third-party insurance and driver's licence. (i) Hairdressing, dry cleaning, shoe repairs, cinema admission and health services.

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

NOTE. The weights should not be regarded as dissecting total household expenditure into its component parts (See para. 4 (iii) *Basis of weighting* on pages 11-13)

List of items	Percentage weights(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
FOOD			31.248
Cereal products		4.043	
Bread	2.086		
Flour—			
Plain	0.275		
Self-raising	0.090		
Cake mix	0.125		
Biscuits	0.841		
Oats, rolled	0.101		
Rice	0.071		
Prepared breakfast foods	0.454		
Dairy produce		5.993	
Milk—			
Fresh	2.453		
Powdered	0.468		
Condensed and evaporated	0.146		
Cheese	0.538		
Butter	1.420		
Eggs	0.968		
Preserved fruit and vegetables		1.412	
Canned fruit	0.440		
Dried fruit	0.230		
Fruit juice	0.157		
Vegetables—canned	0.230		
—frozen	0.355		
Potatoes and onions		1.276	
Potatoes	1.128		
Onions	0.148		
Soft drink, ice cream and confectionery		4.304	
Soft drink	1.483		
Ice cream	1.041		
Chocolate confectionery	1.079		
Sugar confectionery	0.701		
Other food (except meat)		3.309	
Sugar	0.810		
Jams	0.207		
Honey	0.069		
Sandwich spreads	0.111		
Baked beans, canned	0.060		
Spaghetti, canned	0.060		
Margarine	0.312		
Sauce	0.153		
Pickles	0.054		
Sardines	0.040		
Herrings, canned	0.034		
Salmon, canned	0.144		
Soup, canned and packet	0.252		
Baby foods	0.160		
Tea	0.454		
Coffee	0.313		
Cocoa	0.076		
Meat		10.911	
Beef—			
Rib roast	0.705		

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—continued
SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

List of items	Percentage weights(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
FOOD—continued			
Meat—continued			
Beef—continued			
Steak—			
Rump	0.736	..	..
T-bone	0.799	..	..
Blade	0.610	..	..
Chuck	0.448	..	..
Sausages	0.241	..	..
Mince	0.344	..	..
Corned silverside	0.500	..	..
Corned brisket	0.321	..	..
Mutton—			
Leg	0.457	..	..
Chops—			
Loin	0.387	..	..
Leg	0.140	..	..
Forequarter	0.290	..	..
Lamb—			
Leg	0.586	..	..
Chops—			
Loin	0.513	..	..
Leg	0.164	..	..
Forequarter	0.443	..	..
Pork—			
Leg	0.304	..	..
Loin	0.225	..	..
Chops	0.222	..	..
Processed—			
Poultry	0.726	..	..
Bacon	0.816	..	..
Cooked corned beef	0.257	..	..
Frankfurts	0.119	..	..
Canned meat	0.248	..	..
Other	0.310	..	..
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY	..	..	14.126
Men's clothing	..	3.611	..
Suit	0.489	..	..
Sports coat	0.227	..	..
Sports trousers	0.582	..	..
Pullover and cardigan	0.280	..	..
Work trousers	0.214	..	..
Shorts	0.134	..	..
Overalls	0.173	..	..
Shirt, ordinary wear	0.223	..	..
Shirt, work	0.049	..	..
Shirt, sports	0.406	..	..
Singlets	0.130	..	..
Underpants	0.138	..	..
Pyjamas	0.148	..	..
Socks	0.272	..	..
Hat	0.045	..	..
Handkerchief	0.101	..	..

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—*continued*
 SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
 IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

List of items	Percentage weights(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—<i>continued</i>			
Women's clothing		5.018	..
Costume	0.167	..	..
Skirt	0.790	..	..
Overcoat	0.691	..	..
Raincoat	0.031	..	..
Hats	0.144	..	..
Frocks	0.679	..	..
Pullover, cardigan, etc.	0.656	..	..
Slip	0.232	..	..
Undervests	0.070	..	..
Panties, etc.	0.264	..	..
Brassiere	0.331	..	..
Girdle	0.198	..	..
Stockings	0.440	..	..
Nightdress	0.131	..	..
Pyjamas	0.097	..	..
Umbrella	0.022	..	..
Handkerchief	0.075	..	..
Boys' clothing		0.544	..
Knickers	0.081	..	..
Jeans	0.067	..	..
Shorts	0.037	..	..
Raincoat	0.015	..	..
Pullover and cardigan	0.064	..	..
Shirt	0.124	..	..
Singlets	0.022	..	..
Underpants	0.029	..	..
Socks	0.063	..	..
Pyjamas	0.028	..	..
Swim trunks	0.014	..	..
Girls' clothing		0.803	..
Tunic	0.169	..	..
Overcoat	0.086	..	..
Blazer	0.046	..	..
Pullover, cardigan, etc.	0.078	..	..
Frock	0.149	..	..
Slip	0.020	..	..
Undervests	0.025	..	..
Panties, etc.	0.042	..	..
Pyjamas	0.045	..	..
Socks	0.056	..	..
Stockings	0.033	..	..
Hats	0.054	..	..
Piecegoods etc.		0.836	..
Dress materials	0.519	..	..
Nursery squares	0.033	..	..
Knitting wool	0.284	..	..
Footwear		2.512	..
Men's—			
Shoes	0.711	..	..
Slippers	0.071	..	..
Working boots	0.114	..	..
Women's—			
Shoes	1.153	..	..
Slippers	0.159	..	..

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—*continued*
 SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
 IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

List of items	Percentage weights(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—<i>continued</i>			
Footwear—<i>continued</i>			
Children's—			
Boys'	0.113	..	..
Girls'	0.096	..	..
Sandshoes, etc.	0.095	..	..
Household drapery . . . . .	..	0.802	..
Blankets	0.246	..	..
Bedsread	0.075	..	..
Sheets	0.116	..	..
Pillow slip	0.057	..	..
Towel	0.178	..	..
Table cloth	0.033	..	..
Tea towel	0.049	..	..
Plastic sheeting	0.048	..	..
HOUSING . . . . .	..	..	14.209
Rent, privately owned dwellings . . . . .	..	5.207	..
Houses	2.092	..	..
Flats	3.115	..	..
Rent, government owned houses	0.901	0.901	..
Home ownership . . . . .	..	8.101	..
House price	3.429	..	..
Local government rates and charges	2.712	..	..
Repairs and maintenance	1.960	..	..
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT . . . . .	..	..	12.490
Fuel and light . . . . .	..	3.977	..
Electricity	2.357	..	..
Gas	1.019	..	..
Firewood	0.056	..	..
Kerosene	0.130	..	..
Heating oil	0.160	..	..
Briquettes	0.255	..	..
Household appliances . . . . .	..	2.640	..
Globe, electric	0.042	..	..
Iron, electric	0.100	..	..
Toaster, electric	0.048	..	..
Jug, electric	0.015	..	..
Fry pan, electric	0.070	..	..
Mixer, electric	0.073	..	..
Shaver, electric	0.061	..	..
Refrigerator	0.439	..	..
Washing machine	0.330	..	..
Vacuum cleaner	0.121	..	..
Stoves	0.240	..	..
Radio set	0.261	..	..
Television set	0.840	..	..
Furniture and floor coverings . . . . .	..	1.938	..
Kitchen table and chairs	0.206	..	..
Cupboard unit	0.172	..	..
Mattress	0.122	..	..
Bed base	0.069	..	..
Lounge suite	0.885	..	..
Carpet	0.382	..	..
Linoleum	0.102	..	..

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—continued
SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

List of items	Percentage weights ^(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT—			
<i>continued</i>			
Other household utensils, sundries and stationery . . . . .	..	1.844	..
Household utensils—			
Cup and saucer	0.065	..	..
Dinner plate	0.044	..	..
Jug	0.023	..	..
Tumbler	0.020	..	..
Mixing bowl	0.020	..	..
Casserole	0.014	..	..
Cutlery	0.070	..	..
Teapot	0.022	..	..
Kettle	0.018	..	..
Saucepans	0.095	..	..
Cake tin	0.011	..	..
Brooms	0.069	..	..
Polishing mop	0.015	..	..
Gardening and small tools—			
Hammer	0.025	..	..
Spade	0.015	..	..
Fork	0.008	..	..
Lawnmower, power	0.145	..	..
Hose	0.031	..	..
Household sundries—			
Soap, household	0.177	..	..
Soap powder	0.118	..	..
Detergents	0.358	..	..
Cleanser powder	0.039	..	..
Steel wool	0.020	..	..
Matches	0.096	..	..
Boot polish	0.024	..	..
Toilet paper	0.116	..	..
Stationery—			
Lead pencil	0.018	..	..
Pens	0.041	..	..
Exercise books	0.061	..	..
Writing pad	0.031	..	..
Envelopes	0.035	..	..
Personal requisites and proprietary medicines . . . . .	..	2.091	..
Personal requisites—			
Toilet soap	0.250	..	..
Toothpaste	0.165	..	..
Shaving cream	} 0.242	..	..
Razor blades			
Hair creams, etc.	} 0.297	..	..
Face powder			
Face cream, etc.			
Lipstick	} 0.257	..	..
Talcum powder			
Deodorant			
Antiseptic			
Sanitary napkins			

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—*continued*
 SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
 IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

List of items	Percentage weights(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT—<i>continued</i>			
Personal requisites and proprietary medicines— <i>continued</i>			
Proprietary medicines—			
Adhesive bandage	0.073	..	..
Cough mixtures	0.213	..	..
Cough drops	0.076	..	..
Fruit salts	0.127	..	..
Aspirin, etc.	0.144	..	..
Ointments	0.051	..	..
Indigestion powder	0.061	..	..
Pills	0.135	..	..
MISCELLANEOUS . . . . .	..		27.927
Fares . . . . .	..	2.483	..
Train	0.989	..	..
Bus and tram	1.494	..	..
Motoring . . . . .	..	9.143	..
Goods—			
Motor car	3.381	..	..
Petrol	2.137	..	..
Oil	0.153	..	..
Tyres	0.338	..	..
Tubes	0.024	..	..
Tyre retreading	0.217	..	..
Battery	0.136	..	..
Services and charges—			
Lubrication service	0.128	..	..
Repairs	1.587	..	..
Registration	0.394	..	..
Third party insurance	0.556	..	..
Driver's licence	0.092	..	..
Tobacco and cigarettes . . . . .	..	3.580	..
Cigarettes	3.221	..	..
Tobacco—			
Cigarette	0.298	..	..
Pipe	0.038	..	..
Cigarette papers	0.023	..	..
Beer . . . . .	..	3.757	..
Draught	2.332	..	..
Bottled	1.425	..	..
Postal and telephone services . . . . .	..	1.098	..
Postage	0.221	..	..
Telegram	0.039	..	..
Telephone calls	0.350	..	..
Telephone rental	0.488	..	..
Radio and television operation . . . . .	..	1.157	..
Radio and television licence	0.555	..	..
Television maintenance	0.602	..	..
Newspapers and magazines . . . . .	..	1.163	..
Morning newspapers	0.455	..	..
Evening newspapers	0.288	..	..
Sunday newspapers	0.063	..	..
Magazines	0.357	..	..

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

LIST OF ITEMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—continued
SHOWING THE WEIGHTS OF THE GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND ITEMS INCLUDED
IN THE INDEX FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

List of items	Percentage weights ^(a)		
	Item	Sub-group total	Group total
MISCELLANEOUS—continued			
Other services . . . . .	..	5.546	..
Health—			
Dental—			
Filling	0.645	..	..
Extraction	0.090	..	..
Dentures	0.186	..	..
Medical—			
Home and surgery visits	0.849	..	..
Other doctors' services	0.250	..	..
Insurance fund, retained portion	0.132	..	..
Hospital—			
Bed—day	1.060	..	..
Insurance fund, retained portion	0.148	..	..
Other—			
Hairdressing—			
Man's haircut	0.282	..	..
Boy's haircut	0.063	..	..
Woman's—			
Trim	0.190	..	..
Set, shampoo, etc.	0.104	..	..
Permanent wave	0.058	..	..
Drycleaning—			
Suit	0.057	..	..
Sports trousers	0.087	..	..
Sports coat	0.062	..	..
Frock	0.149	..	..
Skirt	0.026	..	..
Overcoat	0.098	..	..
Shoe repairs			
Men's	0.081	..	..
Women's	0.077	..	..
Children's	0.042	..	..
Cinema admission—			
Adult	0.787	..	..
Children	0.023	..	..
Total	100.000	100.000	100.000

(a) The weights here shown are in proportion to estimated consumption at or about 1966-67 valued at relevant prices of December quarter 1968. (See para. 10 on page 21.)

Retail price index numbers, 1901 to 1970

The index numbers shown below are presented as a continuous series, but they give only a broad indication of long-term trends in retail price levels. They are derived by linking a number of indexes that differ greatly 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 Consumer Price Index Housing Group (partly estimated) and 'C' Series Index excluding Rent; and from 1948-49 onwards, the Consumer Price Index.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED

(Base: Year 1911 = 100)

Year	Index number	Year	Index number	Year	Index number	Year	Index number
1901 . .	88	1919 (a) . .	170	1937 . .	145	1955 . .	394
1902 . .	93	1920 (a) . .	193	1938 . .	149	1956 . .	419
1903 . .	91	1921 (a) . .	168	1939 . .	153	1957 . .	429
1904 . .	86	1922 (a) . .	162	1940 . .	159	1958 . .	435
1905 . .	90	1923 . .	166	1941 . .	167	1959 . .	443
1906 . .	90	1924 . .	164	1942 . .	181	1960 . .	459
1907 . .	90	1925 . .	165	1943 . .	188	1961 . .	471
1908 . .	95	1926 . .	168	1944 . .	187	1962 . .	469
1909 . .	95	1927 . .	166	1945 . .	187	1963 . .	472
1910 . .	97	1928 . .	167	1946 . .	190	1964 . .	483
1911 . .	100	1929 . .	171	1947 . .	198	1965 . .	502
1912 . .	110	1930 . .	162	1948 . .	218	1966 . .	517
1913 . .	110	1931 . .	145	1949 . .	240	1967 . .	534
1914 (a) . .	114	1932 . .	138	1950 . .	262	1968 . .	548
1915 (a) . .	130	1933 . .	133	1951 . .	313	1969 . .	564
1916 (a) . .	132	1934 . .	136	1952 . .	367	1970 . .	586
1917 (a) . .	141	1935 . .	138	1953 . .	383		
1918 (a) . .	150	1936 . .	141	1954 . .	386		

(a) November.

International comparisons: retail price index numbers

The following tables show index numbers of consumer (retail) prices for various countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices for the year 1963 are taken as base (= 100.0). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

INDEX NUMBERS OF CONSUMER (RETAIL) PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations)

(Base of each Index: Year 1963 = 100.0)

ALL GROUPS INDEXES

Period	AUSTRALIA(a)	BELGIUM(b)	BRAZIL (Sao Paulo)	CANADA	FRANCE	GERMANY (Fed. Rep.)	INDIA(c)	INDONESIA (Jakarta)	ITALY	JAPAN	NETHERLANDS(d)
1966	109.6	112.9	443	108.2	108.9	109.5	137	9,502	113.3	116.4	117
1967	113.1	116.2	574	112.0	111.8	111.4	156	25,612	117.5	121.0	121.2
1968	116.1	119.4	714	116.6	116.9	113.1	160	57,712	119.1	127.5	125.7
1969	119.5	123.8	879	121.8	124.4	116.1	175	61,250	122.2	134.1	135.0
1970	124.1	128.7	1,047	125.9	130.9	120.5	184	68,806	128.2	144.4	141.0
Quarter— 1969—											
March	118.2	122.0	812	119.2	121.6	115.3	170	61,212	120.3	130.4	133.4
June	119.1	123.3	859	121.5	123.2	115.9	174	59,298	121.5	132.8	135.5
September	119.8	124.3	907	122.9	124.6	116.0	179	60,873	122.9	135.8	135.0
December	120.8	125.7	946	123.7	126.5	117.0	177	63,616	124.1	137.5	136.2
1970—											
March	122.0	127.2	986	124.9	128.5	119.4	178	69,284	126.0	141.1	137.9
June	123.5	128.4	1,025	125.9	130.3	120.4	183	68,319	127.7	142.9	140.1
September	124.3	129.2	1,065	126.6	131.9	120.6	187	68,392	128.7	144.6	142.2
December	126.7	129.8	1,113	126.3	133.3	121.8	188	69,228	130.6	149.2	144.0

Period	NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	PAKISTAN(e) (Karachi)	PHILIPPINES(f) (Manila)	SINGAPORE(g)	SOUTH AFRICA(h)	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	WEST MALAYSIA(i)
1966	110.0	113.8	117.9	145	103.9	110.1	115.5	111.7	112.5	106.0	100.9
1967	116.6	118.8	126.0	155	107.3	113.8	120.5	116.1	115.3	109.0	105.1
1968	121.6	123.0	126.2	156	108.1	115.8	122.8	118.9	120.7	113.6	105.3
1969	127.6	126.8	130.2	161	107.8	119.2	126.1	122.0	127.2	119.7	104.2
1970	136.0	140.2	137.2	169	108.1	125.4	135.0	126.3	135.3	126.8	105.6
Quarter— 1969—											
March	125.8	125.1	128.7	159	107.3	117.8	124.6	121.3	125.2	116.9	103.8
June	127.2	126.2	128.8	160	107.6	118.7	125.5	121.5	127.2	119.0	103.7
September	128.5	127.3	131.1	160	107.7	119.0	126.7	122.0	127.4	120.6	104.4
December	129.0	128.4	132.8	162	108.4	121.5	127.8	123.0	129.1	122.3	104.8
1970—											
March	131.8	136.6	134.0	165	108.3	122.4	131.9	124.1	131.5	124.2	105.8
June	134.0	138.4	136.2	169	107.5	125.3	133.9	125.1	134.7	126.1	105.2
September	136.0	141.4	138.8	170	108.4	126.5	136.0	126.8	136.2	127.6	105.1
December	141.9	144.3	140.4	173	108.4	127.8	138.0	129.4	139.0	129.3	106.3

(a) Consumer Price Index as converted to base 1963 = 100.0 by Commonwealth Statistician. (b) Rent is not included. (c) Beginning March quarter 1969, new index; base: 1960 = 100. (d) Excluding compulsory social insurance and wage tax. (e) Industrial workers. (f) New index; base: 1961 = 100. (g) All races. (h) White population. (i) White population.

Note. Symbol — on each side of an index number (e.g. -95-) indicates that two series have been linked at (or during) that period. Symbol — between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (because of change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

INDEX NUMBERS OF CONSUMER (RETAIL) PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES—continued

(Base of each Index: Year 1963 = 100.0)

FOOD GROUP INDEXES

Period	AUSTRALIA(a)	BELGIUM	BRAZIL (Sao Paulo)	CANADA	FRANCE	GERMANY(b) (Fed. Rep.)	INDIA(c)	INDONESIA (Jakarta)	ITALY(b)	JAPAN	NETHERLANDS
1966	112.2	115.3	437	110.9	108.9	109.1	141	9,374	112.9	117.3	118
1967	116.7	118.2	539	112.4	110.8	109.0	164	26,294	114.8	122.9	120.7-
1968	119.6-	120.2	650	116.1	114.2	108.1	170	62,876	115.2	130.8	123.7
1969	121.1	125.7	812	120.9	121.4	111.0	190	64,816	118.4	138.7	131.8
1970	125.5	130.1	951	123.7	128.5	114.2	200	70,809	123.5	151.2	137.5
Quarter— 1969—											
March	120.1	123.2	734	118.2	117.6	110.1	183	66,713	116.4	134.2	131.0
June	121.2	125.2	773	119.8	119.6	111.5	189	63,565	117.9	136.4	131.6
September	121.1	126.6	838	123.0	121.2	111.2	196	62,511	119.6	141.9	131.9
December	121.8	127.9	901	122.5	123.2	111.3	193	68,411	119.9	142.2	132.6
1970—											
March	123.6	129.8	913	124.3	126.0	113.8	192	73,812	121.5	148.7	135.6
June	125.1	130.3	924	124.5	128.2	114.9	199	70,630	123.3	148.8	136.8
September	126.1	130.5	958	124.8	129.7	114.2	205	69,218	124.2	150.6	139.3
December	127.3	130.0	1,011	121.0	130.8	113.9	205	69,576	125.2	156.8	138.3

Period	NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	PAKISTAN(d) (Karachi)	PHILIPPINES(e) (Manila)	SINGAPORE(f)	SOUTH AFRICA(g)	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND(h)	TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA(i)	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	WEST MALAYSIA(j)
1966	110.7	114.1	123.2	148	103.3	114.8	117.8	108.8	107.7	110.3	108.7	99.6
1967	118.8	119.1	132.3	168	108.8	118.8	121.8	100.0	109.7	113.1	109.6	105.4
1968	122.5	123.0	131.2	161	109.0	120.7	123.0	100.0	111.7	117.6	113.6	104.4
1969	128.4	127.9	135.3	164	106.8	122.6	127.2	101.7	111.3	125.0	119.4	103.4
1970	136.8	144.4	145.3	180	106.1	128.1	138.0	104.3	111.6	133.7	126.0	103.4
Quarter— 1969—												
March	127.1	125.5	133.2	163	106.3	123.2	124.7	101.8	111.1	122.0	116.2	102.5
June	128.2	127.0	133.9	158	106.5	122.6	125.8	101.5	110.9	126.3	118.1	102.5
September	129.4	128.9	136.8	163	106.4	121.2	128.2	101.8	111.4	125.3	121.0	103.1
December	128.9	130.1	138.8	170	107.6	123.4	130.2	101.9	111.4	126.4	122.2	103.8
1970—												
March	132.3	138.9	140.6	174	106.9	124.8	134.0	103.2	111.6	130.0	124.9	103.4
June	135.8	141.8	145.4	175	104.8	127.0	137.0	103.2	112.0	134.4	126.0	102.5
September	136.9	147.0	147.0	178	106.4	129.6	140.5	104.3	112.5	134.3	126.9	102.5
December	142.2	149.8	150.1	194	106.4	130.8	140.5	106.2	115.2	136.1	126.3	104.1

(a) Consumer Price Index (Food Group) as converted to base 1963 = 100.0 by Commonwealth Statistician. (b) Including Tobacco. (c) Beginning March quarter 1969, new index; base: 1960 = 100. (d) Industrial workers. (e) New index; base: 1961 = 100. (f) All races. (g) White population. (h) Beginning 1967, new index; base: 1967 = 100.0. (i) Base year: 1961-62 = 100.0. Annual figures relate to year ended 30 June. (j) Source: Index published by T.P.N.G. Statistician.

NOTE. Symbol - on each side of an index number (e.g. -95-) indicates that two series have been linked at (or during) that period. Symbol — between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (because of change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.