

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1961

1. Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities of Australia are shown herein.
2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for September Quarter, 1961 decreased by 0.2% for the weighted average of the six capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney -0.2%, Melbourne -0.2%, Brisbane +0.7%, Adelaide -0.6%, Perth -0.6%, Hobart +0.2%.
3. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Each Capital City and Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter						
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capitals (a)
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1959 September	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
December	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
1960 March	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
June	+ 1.2	+ 2.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.5	+ 1.8
September	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	+ 1.2
December	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.7
1961 March	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.7
June	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
September	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2

(a) Weighted average.

The substantial rises in the indexes of most cities during the year ending March Quarter, 1961 were due largely to rises in prices of meat in June Quarter and September Quarter, 1960 and in potatoes in March Quarter, 1961. The fall in the Consumer Price Indexes for four cities in September Quarter, 1961, was mainly due to a fall in prices of meat as shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this Bulletin.

4. The weighted average retail price index for the six capital cities rose by 1.9 per cent. over the year ended September Quarter, 1961. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1959 September	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
December	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
1960 March	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
June	+ 1.9	+ 0.9	+ 3.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	+ 1.8
September	+ 2.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
December	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 1.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
1961 March	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
June	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
September	- 1.0	..	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2



5. A comprehensive description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Statistical Bulletin 891 issued in January, 1961.

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

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

8. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1948-49 to 1960-61, for June quarters of each year from 1949 to 1959 and for each quarter from September, 1959. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from June, 1960 to September, 1961.

9. The following analysis is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from June Quarter, 1961 to September Quarter, 1961.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (a)

Approximate Number of Points Change, June Quarter, 1961 to September Quarter, 1961

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Brisbane</u>	<u>Adelaide</u>	<u>Perth</u>	<u>Hobart</u>	<u>Weighted Average of Six Capitals</u>
Food							
Meat	-0.6	-0.7	+0.2	-1.2	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6
Potatoes	+0.2	+0.2	+0.5	+0.2	..	-0.1	+0.2
Other	-0.1	+0.1	-0.1	-0.1	+0.1	-0.1	..
Clothing and Drapery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Housing	+0.1	..	+0.1	..	..	+0.2	+0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.4	+0.1
Miscellaneous	..	..	+0.1	+0.2	..	+0.1	..
Total Change (Index Points)	-0.3	-0.3	+0.9	-0.8	-0.7	+0.2	-0.2

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. Sydney - June Quarter, 1961, 123.4, September Quarter, 1961, 123.1 - difference of -0.3 index points). The dissection in this table shows how much each group has contributed to this total movement.

10. The main movements in average quarterly prices affecting group indexes are summarized below:-

In the food group, changes were:- substantial decreases in meat prices in five capital cities and an increase in Brisbane; increases in the price of potatoes in four capital cities and a decrease in Hobart; increases in the price of onions and decreases in the price of eggs in all capitals. The food group of the index (average of six capital cities) showed a quarterly decrease of 1.0%.

The index of prices of the clothing and drapery group for the six capital cities combined did not change.

The index of prices of the housing group for the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.3%.

The index of prices of the household supplies and equipment group for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed an increase of 0.6% for the quarter. Prices of electricity increased in Sydney and Hobart.

The index of prices of the miscellaneous group for the six capital cities combined showed a quarterly increase of 0.2%.

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S.R. CARVER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

20TH OCTOBER, 1961

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

ALL GROUPS - SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six Capitals : Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities(b)
Year ended June -							
1949	60.5	61.0	62.1	61.6	60.6	60.7	60.9
1950	65.6	66.2	67.1	66.2	66.2	64.7	66.0
1951	74.5	74.6	75.1	74.7	74.4	73.3	74.6
1952	91.9	91.0	91.8	91.4	90.4	90.4	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.0
1955	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	102.6
1956	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	106.9
1957	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1958	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1959	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1960	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1961	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
Quarter -							
1949 - June	62.6	62.9	63.8	63.2	63.1	62.8	62.9
1950 "	68.0	68.8	69.0	68.7	68.6	66.3	68.4
1951 "	80.7	80.7	80.5	81.2	80.3	79.6	80.7
1952 "	98.0	96.4	96.8	97.5	96.0	95.5	97.2
1953 "	101.2	101.6	100.9	101.4	101.7	102.3	101.4
1954 "	101.5	102.0	102.1	102.4	104.3	104.4	102.1
1955 "	103.0	103.1	103.9	104.7	106.6	105.9	103.6
1956 "	108.8	112.0	109.5	109.9	110.5	113.6	110.2
1957 "	113.7	114.2	112.6	111.3	114.2	117.5	113.7
1958 "	115.1	114.6	115.9	112.7	114.1	117.3	114.8
1959 - June	115.8	117.9	119.1	115.3	115.5	119.3	116.8
Sept.	116.3	118.2	120.2	116.3	115.9	119.7	117.3
Dec.	117.2	118.8	120.8	116.9	115.7	120.1	118.0
1960 - March	118.2	119.8	121.6	118.3	117.1	120.8	119.0
June	119.6	123.0	122.3	120.6	119.0	122.6	121.1
Sept.	120.8	124.9	123.6	121.5	119.8	125.8	122.5
Dec.	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3
1961 - March	122.5	126.1	126.7	123.4	121.9	128.3	124.2
June	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
Sept.	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8

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

(b) Weighted average.

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TABLE 2.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP INDEXES - SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six Capital Cities :

Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capital Cities (b)
FOOD GROUP							
1960 - June	119.7	124.2	125.3	128.1	121.6	121.4	122.6
Sept.	122.8	129.1	126.9	130.4	122.9	128.4	126.0
Dec.	123.5	129.2	130.0	130.6	122.9	131.7	126.7
1961 - March	125.3	130.4	134.0	132.8	125.3	133.9	128.6
June	126.1	132.0	130.5	134.8	126.4	134.4	129.4
Sept.	124.6	130.9	132.5	131.3	123.8	132.9	128.1
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1960 - June	109.4	111.6	113.9	108.1	109.6	111.6	110.5
Sept.	109.6	111.9	114.1	108.3	109.8	111.6	110.7
Dec.	110.2	112.7	115.0	109.5	110.8	112.3	111.5
1961 - March	110.3	112.9	115.3	109.7	110.9	112.5	111.7
June	111.0	113.6	116.1	110.6	111.6	113.3	112.4
Sept.	111.1	113.6	116.3	110.6	111.6	113.4	112.4
HOUSING GROUP							
1960 - June	136.5	144.3	134.0	141.3	135.6	151.7	139.4
Sept.	138.0	147.2	136.1	143.4	137.0	153.7	141.4
Dec.	139.7	150.2	137.0	149.1	141.6	155.9	144.1
1961 - March	140.7	152.5	138.4	151.1	143.5	158.0	145.7
June	144.4	154.9	139.0	151.3	144.8	158.9	148.0
Sept.	145.0	155.0	139.7	152.0	145.1	160.8	148.5
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1960 - June	109.6	111.9	110.9	106.0	107.0	120.1	110.2
Sept.	110.2	112.3	110.6	106.0	107.4	121.3	110.6
Dec.	111.4	112.4	110.7	105.6	107.3	120.3	111.0
1961 - March	111.8	112.3	111.5	105.9	107.4	120.8	111.3
June	112.4	113.1	112.3	106.7	107.0	121.9	111.9
Sept.	113.2	113.6	113.0	107.1	107.5	124.9	112.6
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1960 - June	126.4	128.9	126.2	121.0	123.3	123.7	126.4
Sept.	126.5	128.9	128.3	121.2	123.7	125.7	126.7
Dec.	126.8	129.2	129.5	121.2	125.6	125.9	127.2
1961 - March	127.4	129.2	129.7	121.6	125.8	126.7	127.5
June	127.7	129.3	130.3	121.4	125.6	126.5	127.7
Sept.	127.8	129.3	130.7	122.3	125.7	127.1	127.9
ALL GROUPS							
1960 - June	119.6	123.0	122.3	120.6	119.0	122.6	121.1
Sept.	120.8	124.9	123.6	121.5	119.8	125.8	122.5
Dec.	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3
1961 - March	122.5	126.1	126.7	123.4	121.9	128.3	124.2
June	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
Sept.	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8

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

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