

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1966

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

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for September Quarter, 1966, increased by 0.4% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +0.5%, Melbourne +0.4%, Brisbane +0.6%, Adelaide +0.4%, Perth +0.7%, Hobart -0.1%, Canberra +0.5%.

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

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

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

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 2.7% over the year ended September Quarter, 1966. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows: -

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1964-September	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.6	+ 2.1	+ 1.2
December	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.6	+ 1.2
1965-March	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
June	+ 2.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.1	+ 0.4	..	+ 0.9
September	+ 2.5	..	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
December	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 3.6	+ 1.3
1966-March	- 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	..	+ 1.4	+ 0.1
June	+ 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 1.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
September	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	+ 0.4

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

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

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 1956-57 to 1965-66 and for each quarter from June Quarter, 1962. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from June Quarter, 1965 to September Quarter, 1966.

9. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from June Quarter, 1966 to September Quarter, 1966.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from June Quarter, 1966 to September Quarter, 1966

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

Group	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)
Food								
Meat	- 0.1	..	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.1
Potatoes	- 0.1	..	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1	..	- 0.1	..
Other	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	..	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Clothing and Drapery	..	+ 0.1	..	..	+ 0.1	..	..	+ 0.1
Housing	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	..	..	+ 0.1	..	..	+ 0.1	..	..
Miscellaneous	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Total Change (Index Points)	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	- 0.1	+ 0.6

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups Index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities : June Quarter, 1966, 136.5; September Quarter, 1966, 137.1; difference of + 0.6 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement.

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

Food Group

Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index and of disparate movements between cities. The effects of changes in the price of these items in each city are shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this bulletin and the corresponding paragraph of preceding bulletins.

Prices of eggs decreased in six cities. The price of milk increased in Sydney and Canberra and decreased in Hobart.

The Food Group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed a quarterly decrease of 0.1%.

Clothing and Drapery Group

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.2% predominantly due to increases in prices of footwear.

Housing Group

Rents and house price increased in all cities.

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.7%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The price of gas increased in Melbourne.

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.2%.

Miscellaneous Group

The price of cigarettes and tobacco increased in all cities. Fares increased in Melbourne and the price of beer increased in Brisbane.

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 1.5%.

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ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

21ST OCTOBER, 1966

NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63.9111 Extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXALL GROUPSSIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

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

Period	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
Year -								
1956-57	113.1	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.3
1957-58	114.2	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.0
1958-59	116.0	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	115.4
1959-60	118.9	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	117.8
1960-61	123.8	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	121.4
1961-62	124.3	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	123.1
1962-63	124.5	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	123.4
1963-64	125.7	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	124.3
1964-65	130.4	128.8	132.2	133.9	128.6	127.6	133.6	128.1
1965-66	135.2	133.1	137.1	140.4	132.7	132.5	138.3	131.9
Quarter -								
1962 - June	124.0	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	123.1
September	124.3	122.7	126.2	127.5	121.9	122.1	127.6	123.4
December	124.4	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	123.7
1963 - March	124.5	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	123.2
June	124.9	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	123.4
September	125.1	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	124.1
December	125.0	123.9	126.4	128.2	122.7	123.1	129.0	123.8
1964 - March	125.8	124.6	127.1	129.2	123.5	124.2	129.8	124.2
June	127.0	125.8	128.3	130.2	125.1	125.3	130.1	125.1
September	128.5	127.3	129.6	131.9	126.9	126.6	131.7	126.6
December	130.0	128.4	131.8	133.4	128.6	126.6	133.4	128.0
1965 - March	130.9	129.1	132.9	134.6	128.9	128.0	134.0	128.4
June	132.1	130.3	134.4	135.7	129.9	129.3	135.2	129.5
September	133.5	131.8	135.6	138.3	130.7	130.0	137.0	130.8
December	135.2	133.3	137.2	140.0	132.7	131.7	138.8	132.3
1966 - March	135.4	133.3	137.2	141.4	133.1	132.8	138.1	132.0
June	136.5	134.0	138.5	141.7	134.4	135.3	139.3	132.4
September	137.1	134.7	139.1	142.5	135.0	136.3	139.2	133.0

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

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TABLE 2.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

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

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
FOOD GROUP								
1965 - June	135.9	132.7	136.7	145.0	139.4	133.3	137.2	132.4
September	139.3	136.7	139.9	149.7	141.0	134.4	140.9	135.9
December	139.5	137.0	140.0	151.0	140.6	133.9	142.6	136.2
1966 - March	138.4	135.6	138.0	151.7	140.0	135.8	140.0	134.7
June	139.8	135.5	139.9	151.1	143.3	142.1	142.2	134.8
September	139.7	136.4	138.5	151.0	143.4	143.1	140.9	135.5
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP								
1965 - June	116.3	114.9	117.5	120.1	115.0	114.7	117.3	113.8
September	116.3	114.9	117.5	120.2	115.0	114.7	117.2	113.8
December	116.6	115.2	117.7	120.6	115.3	115.0	117.5	114.0
1966 - March	116.9	115.5	118.1	120.9	115.6	115.4	117.9	114.5
June	118.0	116.6	119.1	122.2	116.2	116.5	118.9	115.4
September	118.2	116.9	119.2	122.4	116.8	116.6	118.9	115.7
HOUSING GROUP								
1965 - June	167.2	168.3	172.4	150.4	166.5	161.5	183.5	165.0
September	168.6	168.7	173.3	157.1	167.2	162.9	184.5	165.4
December	171.4	171.1	177.1	157.7	171.5	165.5	185.9	166.6
1966 - March	172.4	172.6	177.6	158.8	172.6	166.5	186.0	167.4
June	175.3	176.7	180.8	159.7	173.2	167.6	187.0	168.3
September	176.6	178.0	181.7	161.1	175.5	170.2	187.8	169.2
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP								
1965 - June	112.9	110.8	117.7	113.1	105.2	106.9	124.9	113.0
September	113.4	111.2	118.2	114.2	105.6	107.9	125.6	113.3
December	113.7	111.6	118.4	114.7	106.1	108.0	125.2	113.4
1966 - March	113.7	111.1	118.7	115.1	106.2	107.9	125.4	113.1
June	114.5	111.8	119.4	116.1	107.0	108.5	126.7	113.6
September	114.7	111.8	120.0	116.0	106.7	108.9	127.0	113.5
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1965 - June	137.3	135.8	140.1	142.4	130.2	136.2	134.7	130.5
September	137.8	136.3	140.5	143.1	130.7	136.4	136.2	130.4
December	142.7	140.9	145.1	147.8	137.3	142.8	141.6	135.9
1966 - March	144.7	142.1	147.4	152.0	138.9	144.6	141.5	136.3
June	144.8	142.3	147.6	152.0	138.8	144.6	141.7	136.4
September	146.9	143.2	151.3	154.7	139.8	146.1	142.6	137.3
ALL GROUPS								
1965 - June	132.1	130.3	134.4	135.7	129.9	129.3	135.2	129.5
September	133.5	131.8	135.6	138.3	130.7	130.0	137.0	130.8
December	135.2	133.3	137.2	140.0	132.7	131.7	138.8	132.3
1966 - March	135.4	133.3	137.2	141.4	133.1	132.8	138.1	132.0
June	136.5	134.0	138.5	141.7	134.4	135.3	139.3	132.4
September	137.1	134.7	139.1	142.5	135.0	136.3	139.2	133.0

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